



The Gift of Catholic Curriculum Professional Activity Day Opening Prayer

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love. Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship

Introduction

As we begin this day of professional activity, let us take a moment to reflect on the gift of our Catholic school curriculum, and to ask God's blessing on our day.

Opening Prayer

Let us begin then, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord God, as we begin this day, we ask you to bless our presenters and participants. May what we learn and share increase our appreciation for the gift of Catholic curriculum, through which you call us to serve the children and youth of our schools. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

Let us listen to the word of God.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians: (1Cor 1, 4-9)

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind -just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Reflection

The paragraphs below are taken from the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association document *Build Bethlehem Everywhere*:

We preach a word that is not our own, but which we help others to own fully. We are servants of the Good News, never taking liberties with it. Our teaching and preaching conform to the content and style of Jesus' own word, thus ensuring that we are not harsh, overly demanding, excessively moralizing and filled with self-righteousness. We do not resort to condemnation where Jesus used persuasion. We do not impose discipline and censure where Jesus preferred mercy and compassion.

On the other hand, we preach the Lord who is living water for us, never the Lord of watered-down living. We raise children to the highest ideals of the Gospel. We help them to seek the higher things of the spirit. The biblical saturation of Catholic Education is not merely about biblical information, but a commitment to biblical formation. We break the word open for our children, helping them to apply it to their lives. We open the eyes of a new generation to the meaning and mystery of God's Word, so that they might see all the places in their lives where the word of the printed page wants to become flesh in their actions, behaviour and choices. (CCSTA, *Build Bethlehem Everywhere*, 2002, p. 20)

Our Father

Let us now pause for a moment to reflect on our hopes and needs for this day and bring them before the Father, using the words that Jesus taught us: *Our Father...*

Closing Prayer

We thank you Lord, for what you are about to do for us this day. May what we receive today increase our understanding and compassion for those you have called us to serve through our Catholic curriculum. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, our Teacher and Lord. Amen.
And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.