

***Integrating the Catholic Faith
Through Critical Analysis
of the Arts, Media and Technology***

INTRODUCTION

Good morning. Summer's warmth and easy pace are slowly giving way to preparations for change. The earth and its creatures instinctively seem to know that now is the time to plan for the months ahead. Leaves wax golden in the fading August light, squirrels and honeybees gather while they can, and frost begins to kiss what remains of spring's planting. Hay and alfalfa have been cut two, sometimes three times; potatoes, carrots, cabbage, squash and corn will soon be harvested. There is an energetic bustle as people plan for new beginnings. With perspectives regained and vision refreshed, we move forward, our spirits ringing with the sense that God is doing something new – something gracious, mysterious and beautiful that invites our "yes" to its unfolding plan. As we begin this day of looking ahead to the coming school year, let us take a few moments to pray. Let us invite God to guide us as we seek to understand what it means to integrate the Catholic faith into curriculum through a critical analysis of the arts, media and technology.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
And let us pray: Lord God, by our Baptism into Christ, you have given us *faith* to see as you see, *hope* to confidently work and pray for the sake of your Kingdom, and *love* to open our hearts to you and our neighbour. May these gifts permeate our efforts to help staff and students integrate the Catholic faith through a critical analysis of the arts, media and technology in today's world. We make this prayer to you through this same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

And now, let us be attentive to God's word.

READING

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 1: 15-20a)
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

How have the arts helped me grow in my Christian faith?

(e.g., song, poetry, movies, plays, visual art, graphic design, posters, school and church decoration, dance...)

Which Christian principles guide my critical analysis and use of the arts?

(e.g., reverence for God and human dignity; chastity; fostering community, wonder and awe, joy...)

Where have I encountered a message of Christian hope in the media?

(e.g., in newspapers, magazines, flyers; in digital media; radio; television...)

Which Christian principles guide my critical analysis and use of the media?

(e.g., responsible/truthful reporting; serving the common good; promoting peace, unity, compassion or division?; upholding reverence for God and human dignity; chastity...)

When has the use of technology helped me grow in Christian love?

(e.g., computer, internet, websites, online video, Powerpoint, smart board, LCD projector, e-book, social media, Skype, cell phone...)

Which Christian principles guide my critical analysis and use of use of technology?

(e.g., discipline, accountability, adequate rest, moral integrity, family/social responsibility; upholding truth; ...)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us take a moment to remember the needs of our human family, those of the Church, of persons who suffer near and far, of colleagues, friends and all who will look to us this year for guidance and support in our educational community of faith.

(pause)

United in the Spirit, let us join our remembrance of their needs to the constant prayer of Jesus on our behalf before the Father, using the words he gave us: ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, we thank you for allowing us to share in the Church's mission to go out and preach the Good News of Jesus. We ask you to strengthen the faith, hope and love poured into our hearts at Baptism. May they guide us as a board family as we strive to integrate the Catholic faith through critical analysis of the arts, media and technology in today's world. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.