

Opening Prayer

Learning Together in Wonder and Awe

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

INTRODUCTION

Good morning. Welcome to our prayer service to begin this professional activity day. The theme of our prayer is *learning together in wonder and awe*. All that we do in our Catholic schools comes from the inner conviction that the wonders God has done for us in Christ must be shouted from the rooftops for all to hear. We stand in wonder and awe at Christ, through whom the universe was made, who came to reveal God's love as a human person of humble birth, who died to conquer death and rose that we might share his gift of everlasting life. In Christ, we see life through new eyes: We share a child's wonder and excitement as they begin to read; we share our youth's amazement as their gifts and potential unfold; we stand in awe at the profound insights and wisdom of childlike hearts that are already familiar with God's wondrous love. As we share what has been handed down to us by our community of faith, we begin to see that every bush is burning; every person is sacred, and that every truth grasped allows our students to gaze a little further into the wondrous mystery of God's ongoing creative presence in our world. Here in our Catholic schools, wonder and awe take on new and eternal meaning in the light of our faith.

Let us begin our prayer this morning by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please join in singing our opening song:
(Sugg. *O God Beyond All Praising*)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, yours is the earth and all its fullness. Open our hearts this day that we might contemplate your divine Presence in everyone and in everything you have made; for all that is good, all that is beautiful and all that is true comes from you in Christ. May our wonder and awe at your goodness draw us closer to one another in you and lead us to eternal life. We make prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING

A reading from the book of Sirach,
(Sirach 42: 25 43: 33)

We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: "He is the all." Where can we find the strength to praise him? For he is greater than all his works. Awesome is the Lord and very great, and marvelous is his power. Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you can, for he surpasses even that. When you exalt him, summon all your strength, and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him enough. Who has seen him and can describe him? Or who can extol him as he is? Many things greater than these lie hidden, for I have seen but few of his works. For the Lord has made all things, and to the godly he has given wisdom.

(pause)

The word of the Lord

RESPONSE

(Sugg: A suitable song/hymn or presentation on theme of *wonder and awe*)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

The response to our prayers is: *Hear us O Lord, as we pray.*

For the Church, that it might never cease to contemplate with wonder and awe the face of Christ in every human life.

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

For the world, that wonder and awe at God's Presence in all peoples and creation might guide its leaders' decisions.

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

For those who suffer among our families, colleagues, students and neighbours, that God's wondrous goodness and compassion might be present to them in our compassion and care.

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

For ourselves here today, that the enthusiasm of our sharing might increase our capacity for wonder and awe, our growth in faith and joy.

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

For our presenters today, that their words and sharing might inspire us to seek the divine wisdom that comes from standing in wonder and awe of God's truth and love.

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

For our own personal intentions....

We pray... *Hear us O Lord, as we pray*

Let us unite our prayers and concerns using the prayer the Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, we give you thanks for the gift of wonder and awe. The marvels we experience now are but a glimmer of what you hold in store for us. May our work and lives never cease to lead those we serve to your love, which is beyond all imagining. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

CLOSING SONG:

Please join us in our closing hymn: (Sugg: *How Great Thou Art*)