



Renfrew County Catholic School Board

New Employee Orientation

Opening Prayer

Virtue Link: Faith, Love Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

As we begin our New Employee Orientation this morning, let us take a few moments to reflect on our call to work in Catholic schools and to ask God's blessing on our session.

Please join in our opening song: (Sugg: **Lord of Creation, to You be All Praise**, CBW III No. 498 Verses 1-3)

OPENING PRAYER

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

Lord, you call us to use wisely the gifts you have given. In so doing, we give glory to your name. We ask you to bless our gathering. May today's presentations and reflections help us grow in readiness to give you glory by placing our gifts and talents at the service of your Son's Gospel through Catholic education. We ask you this in Jesus' name. Amen

Let us be attentive to God's word:

READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION

Catholic education's distinctive identity is rooted in baptism. Our new life in Christ through baptism makes us sharers in the Church's mission to preach the Lord's Good News. Each of us is called to be a light to the world.

Everything we do in our Catholic schools is about bringing the light of Christ's Gospel to student learning in all its dimensions. We are called to let the joy of our faith shine forth through the gifts and talents we bring to our labours. We are called to draw on our strengths to bring out the best in one another and in the children entrusted to our care. At the same time, we recognize that in our weaknesses and imperfections, it is Christ himself who is there to nurture and heal us and illumine our way. Whether it is in the sacraments, in quiet prayer, in our work or in the relationships of our lives, he is there with the grace we need to be his light for one another. May all that we do in our schools give others cause to marvel at the blessings God continues to pour out on his people through our Catholic schools.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, that all who share a common baptism might work together to bring the light of Christ's Gospel to a world hungering for God's word. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the world, that leaders of nations will look for ways to build peace among all God's children. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who suffer in our communities and homes, that they may find comfort in our show of compassion and care for their needs. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves, that we might find ways to support one another as we seek to live Christ's message and spread his light in our work and lives. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our personal intentions,.... We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite our prayers with one voice using the words that Jesus gave us: ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER

Please join together in praying our **Prayer for Our Vision:**

God our Father,
You inspire us through a heritage that is rich in blessings,
You challenge us to grow, as we remember the struggles of our past,
You call us as partners in the Catholic educational community
To be inclusive of all who seek to learn in the light of faith.

Grant that your Holy Spirit might continue to guide us
So that by the power of Your grace,
Our share in the Church's mission
To spread the Good News of Jesus
May be relevant in the world today,
And point to a future that is filled with hope.

We ask you to bless our work,
That it may serve to protect, nurture and rightly guide
In the Catholic faith
Those children You have entrusted to our care,
To the glory of Your name.

We make this prayer
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song: (Sugg: ***Lord of Creation, to You be All Praise*** Verses 3-5)

