

Planting in Hope, Nurturing in Love

Prayer to Begin a Day of Professional Activity

INTRODUCTION

Good Morning, and welcome to our day of professional development. As is customary in our Catholic schools each morning, let us begin by commending our work to God's guidance and care.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this new day - an opportunity for us to grow in love as your Son's disciples, rooted in hope by the grace of his risen life we share through Baptism. May all that we do this day help us to foster this same love and hope in the lives of those we serve. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

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

READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 15:13)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

So much of what we do and teach in Catholic schools is rooted in the gift of Christian hope. Hope is more than optimism. It is that unshakeable confidence that has been engrained into our hearts and souls by being joined with the crucified and risen Jesus. Hope moves us to strive for the Gospel's higher ideals and to teach our children to do the same. Hope tells us that loving relationships are worth building and that gifts are meant for sharing. We know this because Christ himself has bound us to one another in relationship as members of his body and furnished us with the gifts of his Spirit to share in love, just as he has loved us. At the end of each day, we can look back at the many seeds we have sown. Some will germinate quickly, and others much later than we are able to see or understand. As disciples of the risen Lord, we labour confidently onward, sowing in hope, nurturing in love, for a harvest beyond our imagining that will come due in God's time.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the Church, that all who share a common Baptism might find their relationships strengthened by sharing the gifts they have received from the one Lord.

We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world. That all God's children might build a world of peace and understanding in all their activities.

We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for persons who suffer, especially among those we are called to serve in our Catholic schools. May our commitment to hope exercised in love help ease their uncertainties and pain.

We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might recognize the gift of one another's talents and strive to build relationships that support and encourage our ministry in Jesus' name.

We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all our needs, using the words that Jesus gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

We thank you Lord for the gift of hope you have poured out on us in Christ. May it pervade all that we do, and help awaken those we serve to the giftedness of their lives that will unfold as they share what you have so graciously bestowed on them in love. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, the Lord. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.