

Putting out into the Deep

A Prayer for Catholic Educators in the New Evangelization

INTRODUCTION

Good morning and welcome to this prayer to start our day. The theme for our prayer this morning is *Putting out into the Deep*.

The imagery for our theme comes from the Gospel of Luke, which recounts how after a night of unsuccessful fishing, Peter and his companions were called by Jesus to *put out into the deep* and let their nets down for a catch. They trusted Christ's words and caught a number of fish so great that their nets were at the point of breaking. After calling their friends for help, they loaded the catch into their boats, filling them so that they were close to sinking. (Lk 5:6)

The call and promise of Luke's story is the scriptural starting point for the Church's pastoral activity in the third millennium. It points to the abundant fruits of our participation in a *New Evangelization* of young hearts and minds in this post-Christian culture. For our part, we are asked to allow the joy of our encounter with the risen Jesus to overflow from our hearts, and permeate everything we do in our Catholic schools.

As members of the Catholic educational community, we are called to *Put out into the Deep* with Peter and his companions. Let us reflect on this imagery as we begin this day of professional activity and renewal.

Optional: **OPENING SONG**

Please join in our opening song... (Sugg. *The Treasure*, Ralph Peter; *Blest are They*, David Haas)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And let us pray...

Lord God, you Son's Gospel presents us with a vision of life that is overflowing in abundance. Give us your courage to heed his call to *put out into the deep* through a *new evangelization* in our Catholic schools, trusting in his promise of abundant life. We make this prayer to you through this same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

READING

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Is 6: 1-8)

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” and I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

(Based on the seven arenas of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations)

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *discerning believers* who celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of your presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *effective communicators* who speak, write and listen honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of Gospel values.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *reflective, creative and holistic thinkers* who solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners* who develop and demonstrate their God-given potential.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *collaborative contributors* who find meaning, dignity and vocation in work, respecting the rights of all and contributing to the common good.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *caring family members* who attend to family, school, parish and the wider community.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

Leader: You seek educators who will lead young people to become *responsible citizens* who give witness to Catholic Social Teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

All: *Here am I, send me.*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Once, while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" for he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTION FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Please take a minute for the following short reflection on the Gospel.

In my life (this week, month or year), is there an "all night long" when I seem to have accomplished little or nothing despite my best efforts?

(pause)

Lord Jesus, I give you my work, my talents, my life.
Help me to trust that you are walking with me
As I put out into the deep with you each day.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the body of Christ, the Church. That all might come to greater unity through a shared joyful proclamation of Christ's Gospel.

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

Let us pray for peoples of all nations and their leaders, that they might embrace the call to peace written by God on every human heart.

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

Let us pray for all in leadership in our Catholic education system. That they might embrace the Church's call to a *new evangelization* and *put out into the deep* with Christ

in their decisions affecting our Catholic schools.
We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all who suffer in our schools, homes, communities and world. That they might know Christ's abundant love more fully through our renewed response to their needs. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for one another. That we might recognize and celebrate the unique contributions each of us make to the distinctive character of Ontario's Catholic schools in this time of *new evangelization*. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might be strengthened with the sure hope and knowledge that Christ and his Spirit are at work with us in our efforts to spread the Gospel through Catholic education. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite the prayers we have spoken and those remaining in our hearts to the constant prayer of Jesus on our behalf, using the words he gave us: ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we praise and thank you for the gift of abundant life in Christ that is ours through Baptism. As we venture forth in our discussions and reflections this day, grant us openness of mind to imagine what this abundant life could look like in our Catholic schools, discerning hearts to recognize the Spirit's prompting in this time of *new evangelization*, and readiness to follow Jesus as he bids *put out into the deep*. We make this prayer to you in his holy name. Amen.

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

Optional: CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song... (Sugg. *The Treasure*, Ralph Peter; *Blest are They*, David Haas)