

School Improvement Planning and Safe Schools

Opening Prayer

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Compassion, Discipleship, Reverence, Solidarity, Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

Everything we undertake in our Catholic schools bears the mark of our mission to educate in the light of the Catholic faith. In faith, then, let us take a few moments to encounter Christ in his Gospel, and to pray for the Spirit's guidance through our activities this day.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, in your goodness, you have made us stewards of your gifts and called us in freedom to use them wisely. We ask you to guide our minds and hearts with your wisdom this day. May our school improvement and safe schools planning be a faithful reflection of your Son's Gospel message. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

(Matt 19, 13-15)

Little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Reflection:

Jesus reminds us that children are at home with his preaching of the Kingdom. In their simplicity, they embrace its message, and are quick to make it their own. Very often, it is we who must learn from the child-likeness of the world's people who have no social or economic status. In their vulnerability and openness, they remind us of our own need for God, our hunger for friendship, acceptance and love; they show us that we all need to belong, and that our fundamental nature is to be in relationship.

In everything we do in our Catholic schools, we remain conscious of the fact that each of us has been made in the image and likeness of the perfect communion of love –the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our faith is made concrete as we model and cultivate this communion through school and classroom activities that foster values such as friendship, acceptance, love and belonging. Guided by the our Lord's Gospel message, and in union with the pilgrim Church, may all that we do in our schools be a witness to the Good News of Jesus and his Kingdom at work in our hearts.

Prayer of the Faithful:

For the Church, that all who share a common baptism might grow in childlike trust of God.

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

For the world, that all God's children might find ways to live in peace with one another.

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

For students and staff who struggle in our midst, that they might recognize Christ's Kingdom in our patience, compassion and care. We pray.... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves today, that our school improvement and safe schools planning will be guided by the Holy Spirit's wisdom and understanding. We pray.... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite all our prayers, spoken aloud and in the silence of our hearts using the words that Jesus gave us: *Our Father...*

Closing Prayer

We thank you Lord for the wonderful call to be part of your children's journey of faith. May all that we do reflect the message of your Kingdom and help lead the children in our care to its fullness in you. We make this prayer to you

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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