

# Servants of the Good News

## Opening Prayer

Virtue Link: Faith, Love

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Stewardship

### INTRODUCTION

Let us begin our meeting in the spirit of prayer, asking God's blessing on our activities and presentations today.

Please join in our opening song: (Sugg: *You are the Voice*, vv. 1-2)

### 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 as Catholic educators to share in the Church's mission to spread the Gospel. We ask you to bless our discussions and presentations this day. May they strengthen our efforts to live and work as servants of your Son's Good News. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us listen to God's word.

### READING

(Mk 9, 33-37)

A reading from the Gospel of Mark,

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### REFLECTION

Jesus tells us that those who serve are first in his Kingdom. We are called serve the educational needs of children and youth in the name of the believing community. We strive to welcome them as we would welcome Christ, and to help them learn and grow as his disciples. God knows our work isn't always easy. We are constantly challenged by influences beyond our control. Thankfully, we are not alone in our labours. Our Lord is with us as a people gathered in his name – strengthening us with the wisdom and courage of his Spirit, who unites us as members of his body.

We have each other. What may be lacking in one, the Spirit gives to another to share. None of us is capable of doing or knowing it all. It is only in working together that we are able to accomplish great things. As we collaborate with members of our school communities, miracles begin to happen, and lives are transformed before our eyes.

Jesus tells us that love of God and love of children are woven together in mystery. As we reflect on our call to serve young people's educational needs in the light of faith, we can take comfort in

knowing that our efforts to help them grow in knowledge and Christian discipleship are never in vain. No effort to reach out to a child ever goes to waste, and in God's eyes, no kindness toward them is ever forgotten.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

For the Church, that all who share a common baptism might find new and fruitful ways to work with together to bring the light of Christ's Gospel to the world. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the world, that the peoples of all nations will heed the deepest desire for God's peace planted in every human heart. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For children who suffer in our communities and world, that persons everywhere might put their needs first. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves, that we might embrace the Spirit's call to freely share the gifts and talents we have been given. *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 closing prayer:

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  
(RCCDSB *Prayer for Our Vision*)

### **CLOSING SONG:**

Please join in our closing song: (Sugg: *You are the Voice*, v. 3)