

Stewards of God's Gifts

Prayer to Begin a Professional Activity Day

INTRODUCTION: Good morning, and welcome to our prayer to begin this day of professional activity. The theme for this morning's prayer is, *Stewards of God's Gifts*. Each of us has been chosen to serve the body of Christ, and uniquely equipped by God with gifts to do so. As stewards of these gifts, it is only fitting that we pause to reflect and give thanks for all God is doing through our efforts to serve in our Catholic schools.

OPENING PRAYER: Let us begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord God, we praise You for having called us to share in the unfolding of Your Kingdom in the lives of those we serve. May our stewardship of Your gifts be a joyful reflection of Your goodness, which sustains us in all we do. We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen. And now, let us be attentive to God's word.

READING: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 3:14-19)
I bow on my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: As members of the baptized, we have been called to a wonderful divine project that is bigger than all of us, and even beyond our ability to fully comprehend. We have been equipped as stewards of God's gifts for service to the body of Christ. The impact of our labours of love ripples through many lives, and across generations, as the kindness we show is passed on over the course of a lifetime. We don't always get the chance to stand back and ponder how our efforts to serve can be so important. In this busy world, we move quickly from one situation to the next in our personal, family and professional lives. St. Paul reminds us that all the good we do is sustained by the Holy Spirit, abundantly poured out on us by God in Christ. This same Spirit is the driving force that grounds and flows through our service to one another. In this way, the small things we do as stewards of God's gifts can be infused with great love. We can be confident that each act of kindness is adorning the body of believers with a beauty that we will one day contemplate in awe and thanksgiving. God is indeed glorified by our stewardship exercised in love. Knowing this, St. Paul reassures us with his words: *Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen*

CLOSING PRAYER: Let us unite the prayers of our hearts today with the prayer of Jesus using the words He gave us: ***Our Father...***

And let us pray: Lord, in Your infinite goodness, You have made us stewards of Your rich gifts. We ask You to bless this day of professional activity. May it help us continue to pour out these gifts in service to one another in faith, hope and love. We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen.

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