

Opening Prayer

Teaching and Learning in the Spirit

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon. As we begin this meeting, let us take a moment to reflect on our call to teach and learn in the Spirit, in light of our sacred story.

OPENING SONG

Please join in singing our opening song:

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord, you called us at Baptism to share in your abundant life of grace. You have poured the gift of your Spirit into our hearts that its fruits might overflow into the lives of those you have called us to serve. We ask you to open our eyes more fully today to the wonders of teaching and learning as one holy people, united in your gift of the Spirit. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us listen to the Word of God

READING

A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

(2 Thess 2, 13-17)

[W]e must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

As members of the baptized, we are part of something much larger than ourselves: a living communion of saints, united in the gift of the Spirit. Each of us has been called to a unique role in nurturing what the Spirit has begun at baptism in students' lives. Together with members of the home and parish, we seek to pass on what we ourselves received from others who held fast to their faith.

Our Catholic schools are places where the life of the Spirit can pervade every aspect of teaching and learning, from the moment our students set foot in the school yard until the end of the day. The fertile ground for teaching and learning in the Spirit is all around us: in the youngsters energetically jostling through our hallways, playing in our school yards, looking to us

for guidance and seeking reassurance. We see the Spirit at work in the cheerful comments of colleagues, the mentorship of the seasoned and in the shared faith of those who have learned to carry heavy burdens with joy. Coming together to share and receive what we have been freely given, we are like a brilliant mosaic of many colours. Never static, always changing, we are constantly re-created as teachers and learners by the divine Artist Who blows through our lives, moving us along a river of grace that flows forward in time and into eternity. Let us never doubt the wonder of our calling to teach and learn in the Spirit, Whose animating Presence gives profound meaning to all that we do in our Catholic schools.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all who share a common baptism might be always open to teaching and learning from one another in the love and joy of the Spirit. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. Let us pray for the world. That all God's children might embrace the Spirit's call to live in peace and unity. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. Let us pray for those who suffer in our homes, schools, communities and nations. That they might be comforted by our generous response to the Spirit's call to justice, love and compassion. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*
4. Let us pray for our Catholic schools. That they may be places where the fruits of the Spirit will flourish and grow. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*
5. Let us pray for our speaker and presenters today, that their messages will be blessed and received in the Spirit's gifts of truth and understanding. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*
6. For all our personal intentions... *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite all our prayers with the prayer of Jesus using the words that He gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray: Lord, you have called us to build communities of teaching and learning in the gift of your Spirit. May the fruits of the Spirit always be present our efforts to pass on the Good News in our Catholic schools. We make this prayer to you through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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

CLOSING SONG

Please join our choir in singing our closing song: