

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Catholic Education Week 2014 February 2014

*“Serve with compassion”*

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our prayer service in preparation for Catholic Education Week in May of this year. Our theme for February is: *Serving in the Love of Christ – Serve With Compassion.*

Optional: Please join in our opening song...

### SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS:

*Open my Eyes, Lord.* (Jesse Manibusan #196 Spirit & Song); *Gather Us In* (Marty Haugen #587 CBWIII); *We Are Many Parts* (Marty Haugen); *All Are Welcome* (David Haas); *As We Gather At Your Table* (Carl P. Daw Jr.) #583 CBWIII; *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (Michael W. Smith or Paul Baloche)

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. Let us pray...

### OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, open our eyes  
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.  
Lord, open our ears  
that we may hear the cries of the hungry,  
the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.  
Lord, open our hearts  
that we may love each other as you love us.  
Renew in us your Spirit.  
Lord, free us and make us one.  
Amen.  
~Blessed Mother Teresa

### READING: Luke 10:29-37

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.*

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers who stripped him, beat him and went away leaving him half dead. Now by chance, a priest was going down that road and when he saw him, passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, while travelling, came near him and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said, “Take care of him and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him. “Go and do likewise.”  
The Gospel of the Lord. **R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

Who are my neighbours?

How do I show them compassion?

## **OPTIONAL READING:**

### **The Good Samaritan, Pope Francis and Encounter ... Fr. Michael Cummins**

Maybe the proper question is not, "And who is my neighbour?" Maybe the proper question is, "How do I become neighbour?" Maybe the proper prayer is, "Lord, teach me how to be neighbour."

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is doing his best I believe to lead us as Church to the proper question and the proper prayer. He is calling us as Church to the 'Culture of Encounter' which in essence, is the culture of the Good Samaritan. Whether in visiting poor migrants on the tiny island of Lampedusa, washing the feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday, inviting the poor for a meal at the Vatican, or challenging economic systems that deny the dignity of people and corrupt the earth, the Holy Father is calling us to take notice, to see the ones lying on the side of the road who are in need. He is inviting us to be moved with compassion, because he knows that this is what it means to be disciple and this is what it means to be Church and it is this type of Church that the world needs. To paraphrase the Holy Father, "A Church closed in on itself; a Church that hurries by too busy to be bothered; is a sick and weak Church."

~Source: <http://www.wordonfire.org/Wof-Blog/Wof-Blog/July-2013/Scripture-The-Good-Samaritan-Pope-Francis-and-En.aspx>

## **OPTIONAL: QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:**

How can our school(s) grow as community (communities) of compassion?

How can we encourage our schools to be better neighbours?

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Dear God, you hold all people in your compassionate heart;

You see everyone through eyes of love –

Each of us, adorned by your Holy Spirit, with gifts waiting to be revealed.

Let your wisdom guide us when we are tempted to fear the stranger.

Let your compassion and understanding move us to accept one another in our differences.

Let your strength empower us to seek justice for all people.

Let your love give us eyes to see you dwelling within all people.

We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name.

Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Vicky Thompson)

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

## **SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS:**

See suggested list at beginning of prayer.

Additional suggestions: *Compassion Hymn* (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townsend);

*You Are Mine* (David Haas); *Christians, Let Us Love One Another* (Picardy); *Litany of Peace*

(Barbara Bridge)