

## Messengers of God's Mercy: A Prayer for Catholic Educators

### INTRODUCTION

Good morning. Conscious of this (approaching) jubilee year, let us begin our day by briefly reflecting on what it means for us to educate as messengers of God's mercy.

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin 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. O God, you sent Jesus to be your merciful face to a human family thirsting for knowledge of your peace. Send your Holy Spirit upon us today, we pray. Bless our presenter with your wisdom; open our hearts and minds to grow in love and understanding, that we might in turn be messengers of your mercy by passing on the riches we receive this day. We ask this through the same Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

And now, let us listen to God's word.

### READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 11: 2-5)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### REFLECTION

Jesus is the merciful face of the Father. United to him at Baptism, we share in his mission as Messenger of the Father's mercy to a thirsting world.

Please take a moment to recall a time when you were the merciful hands and face of Jesus. Some suggestions to consider... (1 min)

- A time when you helped a student to see their way through a difficult problem;
- A time when you helped a distressed student walk with dignity;
- A time when you helped restore a student's sense of belonging;
- A time when you helped revive a student's joy.

OPTIONAL: Take a moment, if you feel comfortable in so doing, to share with a neighbour one such experience. (2 min.)

## **PRAYER RESPONSE**

The response to each invocation is, *We give you thanks.*

For special moments in our relationships, when we were called to be messengers of your mercy,  
*We give you thanks.*

For special students whose needs became a gift, calling us to become messengers of your mercy –  
*We give you thanks.*

For the mysterious ways your call to teach in the light of faith has unfolded in our lives, leading us to become messengers of your mercy,  
*We give you thanks.*

For all those whose kindness and dedication have helped us grow as messengers of your mercy,  
*We give you thanks.*

For the gift of our faith and the chance to share it with others in the ordinary witness of our lives, as messengers of your mercy,  
*We give you thanks.*

And now, let us gather the praise of our hearts, together with our needs, those of our loved ones and neighbours and bring them before the merciful Father, using the words that Jesus taught us: *Our Father...*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, we thank you for the call to be messengers of your mercy. Expand our hearts with your joy as we grow in knowledge and understanding; fill us with your confidence and courage, that we might use what we learn this day to live and work as messengers of your mercy in all things. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

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