

ASKING GOD'S BLESSING ON THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

**A wise person will hear, and will increase learning;
and a person of understanding shall attain wise counsel.
Proverbs 1:5**



**Let us pause and recall that the All-Knowing and Ever Present God
is here with us.**

Glory to You, God of All Creation.

**Glory to You, O Christ, our Model and Teacher,
Glory to You, O Spirit Most Holy Who leads us to knowledge,
creativity and holiness.**

HYMN: GATHER US IN by Marty Haugen

**Here in this place, new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Refrain**

**Gather us in the lost and forsaken
Gather us in the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for you face
We have been sung throughout all of
history**

**Called to be light to the whole human race
Refrain**

**Gather us in the rich and the haughty
Gather us in the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven, light-years away
here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day
Refrain**

**Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in all peoples together
Fire of love in our peoples together**



SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 11:2-5, 61:1-2

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;

to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as He wishes.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

REFLECTION

TO THE STUDENTS

We love you as you are. You are human just like us and capable of right and wrong. Yet, we challenge you this school year to grow intellectually and spiritually, to be like Christ. You are our hope for the future church – and you are servants and leaders even now. We believe in you. Faith is not just for adults, so we urge you to "Remember your Creator" during this time in your life.

Someone will be praying for you this year when you are having fun at school, and even when you're not having fun. Some one will pray for you when you are sick and can't make it to school. Someone will be praying for you if others are acting mean toward you. And they may be praying for you when you're not acting as nice as you should. Someone will be praying for you when you feel left out, and also when you have the chance to make a new friend.

Sometime this year someone will be praying for you when you're taking a test, when you're playing sports, when you're performing. Sometime this year someone will be praying for you by name when people are saying bad things about you for no reason, when you're on a date, whenever temptation is strong. Sometime this year someone will be praying when you are praying on a retreat, when you are reading your Bible, when you are thinking about your place in God's church.

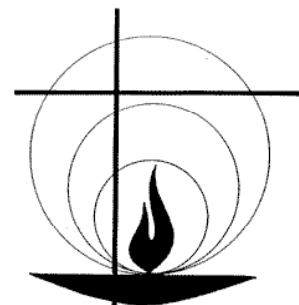
TO TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, COACHES and STAFF

In some way you answered a call to be involved in education. The world of the curse will deny that calling. It will try to corrupt your love for teaching with all sorts of pressure and criticism. The world of the curse knows only criticism. But you are not merely educators for if you are a child of God you are much more. You are Christians and you carry songs of blessings and words like apples of gold in frames of silver into the world. Your family of faith reaffirms your calling. May God bless your calling as you walk and talk like Christ. Our blessing carries this charge - "Be Christ for the students and the school community!"

When we are all at our best, we are all, church and school, committed to a common goal - helping people mature into better people. Jesus said that he came into this world so that we might have life and live it to its fullest - eternally! (John 10:10)

You are ministers and missionaries of a special sort. In every school, in every city, in every neighborhood, in every family, we call you to model the life of our Lord to the youth.

Someone will be praying for you when you have those victorious moments and the children "get it!" Someone will be praying when it seems they don't. Someone will be praying for you when you're convinced that this is your last year, and when it really is your last year. Someone will be praying when you wonder what you are going to do about a student in trouble. Someone will be praying for you when an opportunity to minister open up before you and you feel the awesome responsibility of the moment. Someone will be praying for you when a red-faced parent blames you for their problems, and someone will be praying when a student shares with you his or her dreams and thanks for what you have done for them. We will all be praying as a student gets closer to Christ because of your influence, whether you know it or not



*"You are the light of the world."
Matthew 5:14*

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Response: Jesus, our Teacher and Guide, hear us.

Lord, give us a spirit of openness, understanding and patience.

Lord, bless all the members of this school community as we begin this new school year.

Lord, bless all the benefactors of this school for their generosity and belief in our mission.

Lord, bless all the parents and guardians who are our partners in this educational endeavor.

Lord, help each of us to grow closer to You as we better understand You through our education this year.

Lord, be with all those who feel alienated in our school community.

Lord, help us to always live, play and pray with charity in our hearts.

Lord, be with us throughout this year especially when we grow weary and anxious.

Let us pray: O God of all knowledge and love, walk with us each day in this new school year. Help us to realize how blessed we are to give and receive the wisdom and knowledge that will come to us through textbooks, the media, our experiences and the people in our lives. May we always give You honor and praise for the gift of our intellect and will as we strive to better know You and ourselves. We ask this in the name of the Holy Spirit Who continually fills our lives with wisdom and grace. Amen.

**Let instruction and knowledge mean more to you
than silver or the finest gold.**

Proverbs 8:10

It is amazing to realize how much time each of us spends in the presence of teachers. We have approximately 6 hours of classroom time 5 days a week for approximately 36 weeks a year. This is over 1080 hours a year. Multiply that by 12 years and you have 12,360 hours with teachers by the time you graduate from high school. Is it any wonder that teachers are some of the most influential people in our lives?

Have you ever stopped to thank a teacher, drop them a note, and/or pray for them for his/her gift of inspiration and learning. School is not an easy thing for students or teachers. It takes much preparation and planning. Value one another and appreciate the wonderful opportunity you have to grow while imparting knowledge to one another. You are blessed!

HYMN: O BREATHE ON ME, O BREATH OF GOD

**O breathe on me, O breath of God,
fill me with life anew that I may love
the things You love, and do what you would do.**

**O breathe on me, O breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until my will is one with Yours,
to do and to endure.**

**O breathe on me, O breath of God,
my will to Yours incline,
until this selfish part of me
glows with Your fire divine.**

**O breathe on me, O breath of God,
so I shall never die,
but live with You the perfect life
for all eternity.**



It is with good reason, then, that we begin this academic year by invoking the Holy Spirit that God has gifted each one of us with. Let us pray that our education here in this place will clear our minds, warm our hearts and open our hands to do God's work. Let us pray that the unity we experience in this school community will keep us together as a community of learners and believers; keep us together in our resolve not to blindly follow the crowd; keep us together in our faith through the power of God's indwelling Spirit.



**Our Lady of the Star, Queen and Mother of Christian Schools,
help us to continually be faithful to your Son, Jesus.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle, patron of all teachers,
watch over and direct all those who instruct others
by word or example.**

**Saint Joseph Cupertino, patron of students,
help all students to be diligent and faithful in their school work.**

**All you Angels of the Lord,
watch over and protect our youth.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!