

A PRAYER for TEACHERS

You shall teach the commandments, the statues
and the judgments of the Lord Your God diligently to the children.
Deuteronomy 6: 7

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Let us pause and remember that we share a variety of gifts:
not all are apostles or prophets, teachers or workers of miracles,
but the Spirit of the Living God lives and works
in each of us and among us.
Holy is God; holy and mighty; holy and living forever!

As we begin another new school year
we pause and pray for all of our Lasallian
Colleagues, and teachers everywhere,
who are charged with the duty and
responsibility of educating the youth
entrusted to their care.

We pray especially
for those who minister in our Catholic schools
that they will make the message
of Jesus come alive in the hearts and lives
of their students.



Hymn

The Spirit of God rests upon us; the Spirit of God consecrates us.
The Spirit of God bids us to go forth and proclaim God's peace, God's joy.
The Spirit of God sends us forth,

Called to witness the Kingdom of God to all the nations.
Called to proclaim the Good News of Christ to the poor.
Called to console the hearts overcome with great sorrow.
Called to comfort the poor who mourn and who weep.
Called to announce the grace of salvation to all.
Called to reveal the glory of God to all the people.
Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

Let us pray:

Spirit of the Living God, come and abide in us and all teachers
as we begin a new school year.

May those who instruct youth
comprehend the important ministry entrusted to them
in shaping the minds and hearts of the youth
to the mind and heart of Jesus.

You, O Lord, are our patience, our light and our counsel.

It is You Who make the hearts and minds of the youth entrusted to our care
to be open to us.

Abandon us not to ourselves for a moment.

For our own guidance and that of our youth,
give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
of counsel and of fortitude,
of knowledge and of piety,
the spirit of a holy reverence for You, O God,
and a zeal for Your glory.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Divine Teacher. Amen.

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Ephesians 3: 14 – 19

I kneel before the Father, from Whom every family in heaven and on earth
is named, that He may grant you in accord with the riches of His glory to be
strengthened with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in
your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have
strength to comprehend with all the holy ones 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.

Psalms 16: 1 – 2, 5, 7 – 8, 11

Keep me safe, O God; in You I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, You are my Lord, my allotted portion and my cup;
You have made my destiny secure.

I bless the Lord Who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me.

I keep the Lord always before me,

with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken.

You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in Your presence.

Matthew 5: 16

Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Heavenly Father.

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Reflection of St. John Baptist de La Salle:

Just as God commanded light to shine out of darkness, so He kindles a light in the hearts of those destined to announce His word to youth.

One of the main duties of mothers and fathers is to bring up their children in a Christian manner and to teach them in their religion. God in His vigilance over human conduct substitutes for fathers and mothers such persons who have enough knowledge and zeal to bring the youth to the knowledge of God and His mysteries.

According to the grace of Jesus Christ which God has given to them, they are like good architects who give all possible care and attention to lay the foundation of religion and Christian piety in the hearts of the youth. You then, whom God has called to this ministry, work according to the grace that has been given to you to instruct by teaching and exhort by encouraging those who are entrusted to your care, guiding them with attention and vigilance, in order to fulfill toward them the principal duty of fathers and mothers toward their children.

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O Divine Teacher,
give us ears to listen to our students,
eyes to see them as people of worth and dignity,
hands that reach out to them especially in time of need,
mouths that communicate with them,
creativity in teaching that challenges them,
a holy life that inspires them,
hearts that love them,
feet to go where they are,
a sense of humor to brighten their day,
firmness and constancy in correcting and admonishing them,
peace to quiet their anxiousness,
a humility that reminds us of our great responsibility
to the young men and women confided to our care.
Make us a companion to accompany them on their spiritual
and educational journey.

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Intercessions

Response: *Jesus, our Teacher, hear us.*

That the Holy Spirit will guide and
inspire all teachers, staff and students in this new school year, we pray:

That all who are responsible for the youth:
teachers, coaches, moderators, and other school personnel,
will see the face of Christ in each student, we pray:

That all Catholic schools throughout our country and the world
may continue to educate the youth in a spirit of faith and learning
combined with a spirit of service and community, we pray:

That all parents will take an active interest in their children's education
and work as partners with the schools that educate their precious young,
we pray:

That You, O God, will bless all benefactors of Catholic education
for their generosity and support, we pray:

That all students will be receptive to the education they receive
and use their God-given gifts to grow in a spirit of faith, love and service,
we pray:

O, Lord of All Knowledge, lead us to Your Light
and hear our prayers and answer them as only You know best for us.
May we always accept Your will in our regard. Amen.

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Many are the lightbeams from the one light.

Our light is Jesus.

We are one in Christ.

Many are the branches of the one tree.

Our one tree is Jesus.

We are one in Christ.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one.

Love is the gift of Jesus.

We are one in Christ.

Many are the members, the body is one,
members all of Jesus.

We are one in Christ.

— Cyprian of Carthage, 252 A.D.

Blessing

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May the face of God shine upon us.

May God's ways be known on earth,

God's salvation among all nations.

May all the peoples bless You, O God.

May all the peoples give You praise.

May we remember that we are Your vehicles and vessels

and that we represent You in our world.

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

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Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,

founder of the Catholic school system in our country,

Send good teachers, administrators, recruiters and development people

to our Catholic schools.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle,

and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,

inspire us to a continued love and dedication to Catholic education.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

