

ASKING GOD'S BLESSING on OUR GRADUATES



Let thanks be given on their behalf
for the gift granted them
through the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1: 11



In joy and thanksgiving,
Let us pause and remember that the God Who created us
and Who continually walks with us
Is here with us now.

Holy is God;
Holy and mighty;
Holy and living forever!

Proverbs 1: 2-8; 2: 1-11

- (1) Appreciate wisdom and discipline, and understand words of intelligence;
- (2) Receive training in wise conduct, in what is right, just and honest;
- (1) Learn to be resourceful and grow in knowledge and discretion.
- (2) Advance in learning, and gain sound guidance,
- (1) Comprehend proverbs and parables, listen to the words of the wise.
- (2) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
wisdom and instruction fools despise.
- (1) Hear your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching;
- (2) Turn your ear to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding;
- (1) Call to intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice;
- (2) Seek her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out:

- (1) Then will you understand the fear of the LORD;
the knowledge of God you will find;
- (2) For the LORD gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge
and understanding;
- (1) The Lord counsels the upright, He is the shield of those who walk honestly,
- (2) He guards the paths of justice, protecting the way of His holy ones.
- (1) Then you will understand rectitude and justice, honesty,
and every good path;
- (2) Wisdom will enter your heart, knowledge will please your soul,
Discretion will watch over you, and understanding will guard you.

We Are Called

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

**We are called to be light for the Kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!**

**Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another;
to walk humbly with God!**

Come! Open your heart!

Show Your mercy to all those in fear!

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!**

Refrain:

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

**God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love!**

Refrain:

- David Haas, GIA Publications



Reading: Sirach 50: 22-24

And now, bless the God of all,
Who has done wondrous things on earth;
Who fosters our growth from our mother's womb,
and fashions us according to His will.
May His goodness toward us endure
as long as the heavens are above.
The Word of the Lord!

Rejoice always, never cease praying.
Always be thankful. Such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in Him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus. God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Word of the Lord!

Reflection

They walked in tandem, each of the three hundred students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and moms freely brushed away tears. This class would not pray during the commencements. Not by choice but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation. A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then he delivered his speech...an astounding SNEEZE!. The rest of the students rose immediately to their feet, and in unison they said,

"GOD BLESS YOU!"

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval. **GOD BLESS AMERICA!** Leave it to our American youth to find a way.

We thank God that this is not the case in our Catholic and Christian schools. We have been blessed to make God an integral part of our educational endeavor and hopefully in the lives of our students not only for the time they have been with us but in their entire lives .

We congratulate our young women and men who have successfully completed their secondary, and/or various collegiate levels. We ask God's blessings on all their endeavors as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May they use their knowledge for the betterment of humankind and to bring peace and justice to our world.

We thank the parents, faculties and staffs who have worked so diligently through the years to prepare the students to reach this point.

"We are, all of us, molded and remolded by those who have loved us, and though that love may pass, we remain nonetheless their work...

No love, no friendship can ever cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark upon it forever." - Francois Mauriac



**Out of darkness God has called us, claimed by Christ as God's own people.
Holy nation, royal priesthood, walking in God's marvelous light.**

**Let us take the words You give, strong and faithful words to live.
Words that in our hearts are sown; words that bind us as Your own.**

**Let us take the Christ You give, Broken Body Christ we live.
Christ the risen from the tomb; Christ Who calls us as Your own.**

**Let us take the love You give, that the way of love we live.
Love to bring Your people home; love to make us all Your own.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response: *God of joy and thanksgiving, hear us.*

For the gift of this year's graduates that they may use their God-given talents for the betterment of local, state, national and international communities, we pray:

That our graduates will prayerfully consider their vocation in life whether it be to marriage, the single life, priesthood, sisterhood or brotherhood and have the courage to faithfully respond to it, we pray:

That You, O God, will give our graduates the grace to dream dreams and see visions, we pray:

That our graduates will consider the ministry of teaching which calls them to touch the hearts and minds of our youth, we pray:

That You, O God, will bless and reward the parents, teachers, staffs and benefactors who have provided a quality education for our students, we pray:

That through the generosity of others, those who might not be able to experience a Catholic education, will be able to do so, we pray:

That You, O Christ our Teacher, will be the illuminating Light in all Christian and Catholic schools, we pray:

For all of our deceased teachers, staffs and students that they may enjoy the eternal presence of the Triune God, we pray:

Let us pray:

Christ our Teacher, we rejoice in You. We lay our prayers before You today and ask that You answer them as only You know best for us.. May we graciously accept Your Will in our regard.



**O Lord, You are the Center of my life;
I will always praise You.
I will always serve You,
I will always keep You in my sight.**

**Keep me safe, O God, I take refuge in You.
I say to the Lord, "You are my God.
My happiness lies in You alone."**

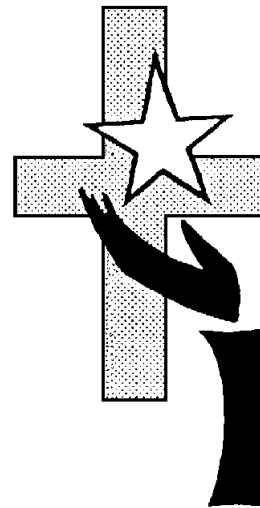
I will bless the Lord Who gives me counsel,
Who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight
Since He is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in Your presence,
at Your right hand happiness forever.



Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
And all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
May we have a great appreciation for the gift of education.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!