

And You Will See Me ...

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| <p>In creation</p>  | <p>In each other</p>  |
| <p>In our schools</p>  | <p>In the church</p>  |

May 21 - 27, 2017

*A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while,
and you will see me. (John 16:16)*

Catholic Education Week Prayer for Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Sub-Theme: And You Will See Me . . . in Creation

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Each year, our Catholic schools participate in a week-long celebration to remember and share the gift of Catholic Education. This year, we have been called by our Bishops to embrace the theme, “And You Will See Me”. Today we begin this week in our schools focusing on the gift of God’s creation. We have been created by God for God’s purpose. Our world was created by God and put into our hands and hearts to care for. We pray for His guidance in our actions, thoughts and words. May we always see God in all of creation . . .

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Leader:

God of the universe,
We thank You for Your many good gifts,
For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits;
For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted
And wasted what You have given us.
Transform our hearts and minds
So that we would learn to care and share,
To touch the earth with gentleness and with love,
Showing respect for all living things.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 1:27-31

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth,

and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Leader: God gave the world and all creation to us to use and care for the best we can. As we go through our day, let's take a moment to ask ourselves:

- What are some parts of creation that you use daily, that you feel you cannot live without?
- How do you care for that creation?
- How do you show God your appreciation?
- Can one or two people make a difference?

Let's remember that when we look at any part of creation, big or small, we are seeing God!

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader:

God our Father,
You created the world and sent your own Son to live among us,
Made of the same stuff, breathing the same air,
Marvelling at sunrise and sunset just as we do.

Help us to grow in the life around and within us.
God of love and life, restore us to your peace,
Renew us through your power;
Teach us to love all that you have created;
To care for the earth as your gift and our home.

All: **Amen.**

Catholic Education Week Prayer for Wednesday May 24th, 2017
Sub-Theme: And You Will See Me . . .
in Each Other

INTRODUCTION

Leader: As we reach the middle of Catholic Education week, our Scripture reading today reminds us that we are all made in God's image.

In this place, gathered in God's name, we become quiet and still in God's presence as we think about how we can see God in each other.

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus, you show us what God the Father is like and help us to know Him by loving as He does. Help us to become more and more like you every day, and bless us with open eyes and open hearts so that we can see your presence in those around us. We ask this in your name.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 1:26-31 (GNT)

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.

So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them, male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live over all the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat...”

God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Leader: When you look at the people around you, what do you see? Do you see someone who

is smart? Someone who is funny? Do you see someone who is pretty? Maybe you see someone who seems lonely, or who doesn't seem to fit in very well. What do you think others see when they look at you? But did you ever stop to think that when we look at each other, we see God?

We know something of what God is like, because of Jesus. He is the son of God, and the way in which Jesus loved, prayed, cared, and healed, showed everyone every single day what God is like. But from the very beginning, God's plan has been to make us just like him. In fact, he announced those plans when he said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness"! That means each one of us has been created to show the rest of the world what God is like!

When your friends look at you... they can see God.
When your classmates look at you... they can see God.
When your teachers look at you... they can see God.
When your family looks at you... they can see God.
For God is in you.

When you look at your friends... you can see God.
When you look at your classmates... you can see God.
When you look at your teachers... you can see God.
When you look at your family... you can see God.
For God is in them, too.

As we continue to celebrate Catholic Education Week, let us love, care for, and pray with each other as Jesus taught us to do. And as we do so, let us remember that our school is a place where everyone can look around and see God, all the time.

All: Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, you made each one of us in your image. Help us every day to see you in others and in ourselves. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our brother who lives with you and in us.

All: Amen.

World Catholic Education Day Thursday, May 25, 2017

Sub-Theme: And You Will See Me . . . in Our Schools

Call To Prayer:

We gather today thankful for the wonderful gift of Catholic Education. As a Pilgrim Church, walking together with our God on the journey of faith, we are invited, both individually and as a community, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Our theme today, “And you will see Me in your schools” reminds us of this role in celebrating the love of Jesus in all that we do. We begin our prayer in gratitude and thanksgiving.

Opening Prayer: God of all, through Your creation, we are all connected as one human family. Help us to experience this wonderful sense of unity as we see You in creation, others, in our schools, and our celebrations. This sense of oneness in You binds us into Your creation in an inspiring way. Seeing each person as our sister or brother inspires us to work as a community to build a better world where all will see You. We make this prayer in Your name.

All: Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: John 16: 16-20

Reflection:

Why does our school exist? Many people would say that our school is here to give students a place to learn to read and write, and to learn about math, science, art, or music. People who say those things would be right. But there is more! Jesus is the reason for our school. We gather every day in His name. We share our faith in Him with each other, and with those all around us. When we listen to Jesus’ words and follow His example, we let His words and actions shape us and form us. We are His hands and His feet, and we are the messengers of His Good News to others. When people see us, they see Jesus in us! Let us watch this video by John Burland reminding us our school is a special place.

Video: John Burland

Intentions:

We know that our God is a loving God who hears our prayers. We can always bring our cares and concerns to Him. Today we pray for the needs of our school community.

The response is: **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the Holy Catholic Church, for Francis our pope, _____ our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For the leaders of the world, that they work together to promote peace and justice, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our school community: that we see God in all that we do, and work together to love others as Christ loves us, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For all those who are sick, suffering or in any kind of danger: that they see the healing power of Christ's love in their lives, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

In thanksgiving for all the blessings in our schools: our friends, our staff, our activities and our celebrations, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our own needs and intentions, that we now recall in our hearts . . . , we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Father, you sent us into the world to bring your message of Good News to all people. In your mercy hear and answer the prayers we offer this day.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord We know that great things can be achieved when we are mindful of Your presence. Through working together, we live our gospel call to support our sisters and brothers. By helping those in need, we create a school community based on Your message of love and compassion. May we truly see You and be inspired to create schools where all continue to feel welcomed and included. We ask this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Catholic Education Week Prayer for Friday, May 26th, 2017
Sub-Theme: And You Will See Me . . .
in the Church

Introduction

Leader: Good morning. Today is the final day of our celebration of Catholic Education Week and our focus is “and you will see me in the Church.” Put up your hand if when you hear the word “Church” you think of a building. (pause). While the Church is indeed a building it is also more than that. In our gospel reading today, we will hear how we are the Church and how we, as Church, should treat one another. As the Church, let us begin our time of prayer with the sign of our faith.

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

Opening Prayer

Leader: Loving God, you call us to gather in your name in this place. Help us remember that when we are gathered together, we truly are the Church. May we treat each other with love and respect so that when people see us, they will truly see you. We make our prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said, “truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

In today’s gospel, we heard how when we gather together in Jesus’ name, we are indeed the Church. We also heard that as members of Jesus’ Church, we are supposed to treat each other in a certain way. Peter thought he was doing something great by forgiving someone seven times. But Jesus told him he must be willing to forgive seventy-seven times. In other words, Peter and all of us who are members of the Church, need to be willing to always forgive others. This can be difficult to do especially if someone had really hurt us. However, when we forgive we are truly acting the way Jesus wants us to act and people will know that we are the Church. Let’s pause for a moment to pray that we would be more forgiving of others.

Intentions:

Leader: We know that God hears and answers our prayers. This morning we ask for God's blessing upon all those who make up his Church. The response to each intention is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Pope, our bishops, priests, sisters and brothers, that God may bless them for the example of faithful service that they bring to the Church. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all senior citizens, our grandmas and grandpas, that God may bless them for the wisdom that they bring to the Church. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all adults, including our parents and guardians, that God may bless them for the love that they bring to the Church. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all young people, including us, that God may bless us for the energy that we bring to the Church. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all members of the Church, that people would see Jesus in us by the way that we forgive one another. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you send us into the world to bring your message of Good News to all people. In your mercy hear and answer the prayers we offer this day. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Merciful God, you are always willing to forgive us. Help us to be a Church that is always willing to forgive one another. May we grow closer to one another in love so that when people look at us, your Church, they will truly see the face of Jesus. We make our prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.