

World Catholic Education Day: *We Are Many, We Are One*

Call to Prayer

Welcome

Today we gather to celebrate World Catholic Education Day. Every day, we give thanks to God for so many things, but today especially, we give thanks for the privilege of attending Catholic schools. Throughout Catholic Education Week, we have been exploring and reflecting on the theme *We Are Many, We Are One*.

We are all one in Christ Jesus, and when we see one another, listen to one another, reflect on our encounters, learn from the people around us, and act in ways that honour each person as a member of the Body of Christ, we honour Jesus, himself.

Today, we are united by the Holy Spirit with students, staff, and families in our sister schools all around the province and around the world. We celebrate our identity as a family of Jesus' disciples, and we give thanks to God from whom all good things come.

Opening Song

 [Christ, Be Our Light](#)

Opening Prayer

Priest* In the name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Let us pray:

Loving and gracious God, you call us together as a community of faith. Your Son, Jesus, reminds us that wherever two or three of us are gathered in his name, he is with us. Grant us the spirit of wisdom and unity, so that we may be one, even as you are one with Jesus, and he is with you.

Bless us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may be living signs of your presence among us. Fill us with strength and boldness as we proclaim your love and promises in that all we say and do in Saskatchewan's Catholic Schools. May we grow ever closer to you as we follow Jesus' command to go and make disciples by telling the world of your great love.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Or "Leader" if priest is not present. (In all cases, if a priest is present, the parts that are labelled as "Priest" should not be assigned to a student.)*

First Reading

Romans 12:4-12 (Good News Translation)

Reader

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.

So, we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard, and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (may be sung)

Psalm 100:1-2,3,5 (Lectionary for Masses with Children)

Reader Our response is: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Shout praises to the Lord,

everyone on this earth.

Be joyful and sing

as you come in to worship the Lord!

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

You know the Lord is God!

He created us, and we belong to him;

we are his people, the sheep in his pasture.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

The Lord is good!

His faithfulness and love will last forever!

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel Acclamation

(If the Gospel Acclamation is not sung, omit it.)

Gospel

John 17:21-23 (from Lectionary for Masses with Children)

Priest*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus prayed to God: “I want all of my followers to be one with each other, just as I am one with you and you are one with me. I also want them to be one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.

“I have honoured my followers in the same way that you honoured me, in order that they may be one with each other, just as we are one.

“I am one with them, and you are one with me, so that they may become completely one. Then this world’s people will know that you sent me. They will know that you love my followers as much as you love me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection *(If a priest is leading the celebration, he will use his own homily here.)*

Jesus invited his disciples to help him build the Kingdom of God. He sent his friends to go out and teach others about him and about God's love, so that they, too, would become his followers. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples had the courage and faith to live as Jesus had taught them and to share his teachings with the world. They were recognized as followers of Jesus not only because of what they said, but also because of what they did: people knew they were disciples because of the unity they showed in the way they listened to, learned from, and cared for each other.

We are Jesus' disciples, too, and that means we have the same job to do: go out and make more disciples by doing exactly the same thing! Jesus commanded us to love one another as he loves us, and he prayed that our love for one another would be so strong that our unity in God would clearly identify us as his followers.

Jesus' presence in us can be seen in us by the way we live with, work with, and love one another. The gifts we are given by the Holy Spirit can help us to be more like Jesus in our everyday lives. And so each day, in Catholic schools, we are invited to bring these gifts and use them with energy, enthusiasm, and generosity, so that we can make more disciples for Jesus.

God is always faithful, and we know that we have the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us do the job that Jesus gave us to do. Today, on World Catholic Education Day, we give thanks for the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and we rejoice as we continue the work of making disciples of one another, and of the whole world.

(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection.)

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader We are gathered together to celebrate the blessings we have received from our God, and in particular, the blessing of Catholic schools. As we are united by Jesus's call to make disciples, so let us be united in asking God our Father to hear and answer our prayers.

Reader Our response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

We pray for our Church: for Pope Francis, the Bishops of Saskatchewan, and for all Church leaders. Help them as they follow the examples of your disciples and bring the Good News to the whole world. As many and one, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our world: may leaders of cities and nations be united in understanding and love, and work together for peace and justice. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for our community: May all who need help, healing, understanding, and love find all that they need in the hearts and hands of those around them. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for our Board Trustees, our administrators, and all those called to leadership within our schools: may God's wisdom and strength continue to inspire and guide them in their responsibilities. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for our teachers and staff members, and all who serve in Catholic schools: bless them and their work as they help us to grow in love and knowledge of your Son, Jesus. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for ourselves: may we be blessed with courage, wisdom, and passion, in order to bring the Good News of God's love to the world in all that we say and do. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for Catholic Education: may we celebrate the richness of the faith that we have inherited, and joyfully obey Jesus' call to go and make disciples. As many and one, we pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

The Lord's Prayer

Priest*

We are called by the Spirit to be one family and one body in God's name, so we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Priest*

Let us pray:

We are many, we are one; we all form one body in Christ. Lord, when we see the one before us, let us honour your presence within; when we listen to one another, let us hear with our hearts; when we reflect on each encounter, may we seek to understand; when we learn from those around us, may we respect our differences with joy; and when we act, may we be kind and generous to all, for each person is a member of your body, with all that they are.

We make this prayer united as one in your most holy name.

Amen.

And may God bless each one of us, we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

St. _____, *pray for us.*

Closing Song

 ***We Are One in the Spirit / By Our Love lyrics***