

Catholic Education Week 2024: We are Called to Love/ Appelés à aimer

Monday, May 6, 2024

We are Called to Love... As people of hope / Dans l'espérance

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Romans 15:13

Que le Dieu de l'espérance vous remplisse de toute joie et de paix dans la foi. (Romains 15, 13)

Adapted from: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

Introduction to the Week: (Monday only)

Each year, Catholic Schools in Saskatchewan participate in a week-long celebration to remember, promote, and share the gift of Catholic Education. This year's celebration entitled, "Catholic Education: We are Called to Love/Appelés à aimer" is scheduled for the week of May 5 – May 12, 2024. We will take time each day, with students and staff across our province, to pray together as disciples and be reminded that "We are Called to Love/Appelés à aimer."

The scriptural passage that guides our theme is, "*If we love one another, God lives in us.*" (1 John 4:12) / «*Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous.*» (1 Jean 4, 12)

The theme reminds us that...

- With open hearts of love, we can continue to "*fan the flame of hope*" for a bright future.
- We celebrate that Catholic Education is centered on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future.
- We are called to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another, and to strengthen relationships.
- Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging in our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- A focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

Call to prayer / Daily Theme:

On this first day of Catholic Education Week, *We are Called to Love... As people of hope*. We pray to have the same desire for ourselves and for all people that St. Paul expressed in his Letter to the Romans - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* (Romans 15:13)

Let us begin, acknowledging God's presence among us...

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

Opening Prayer:

Good and gracious God,

As we begin this Catholic Education Week, let us journey as people of hope.

Guide us to reflect Your love in all we say and do.

May our hearts fill our schools and communities with kindness.

May our hands reach out to those in need,

and may our voices echo Your love and respect for all people.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name, the One who brings us hope.

Amen.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5 (International Children's Bible)

A reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

We have been made right with God because of our faith. So we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our faith, Christ has brought us into that blessing of God's grace that we now enjoy. And we are happy because of the hope we have of sharing God's glory. And we also have joy with our troubles because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. God gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Our culture often defines hope as merely a fanciful wish or a casual desire. However, the **hope** of believers is more than a desire or a wish. It is an **unshakable confidence in God** - even when circumstances give us every reason to doubt. Hope in the Lord is an essential part of our faith and when we hope in the Lord, we have the benefits of strength, patience, peace, encouragement, and joy. When we have hope in the Lord, we find confidence and strength to face any challenge that comes our way. When we face a seemingly impossible or hopeless situation, we must learn to wait patiently on the Lord. We do not need to be anxious or worried because we can find peace in God's unfailing love for us. We can find encouragement and joy amid life's struggles because we know we are loved by God and that we will live forever with Jesus. He gives us hope both for this life and the life that we will share with him for eternity in the heavenly kingdom.

Call to Action:

Take a moment to think about a challenge or obstacle in your life that you are currently facing. Offer it to God. Place your hope in God because He is the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator who gives you strength and confidence when you rely on Him. Be confident that He will provide you with what you need to face any challenges that come your way. Remember that our hope comes from knowing that God directs our steps.

You may even want to memorize these words from today's scripture passage, ***"...this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. God gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us."*** Romans 5:5

Closing Prayer:

Good and gracious God,
As we begin this Catholic Education Week,
we pray as a hope-filled Catholic school community.
Our hope is firmly anchored in the promise of Your unconditional and unending love.
Despite challenges, disappointments, and frustrations,
our faith reminds us that You journey with us.
Help us to grow in the virtue of hope,
knowing that You will give us what we need.
Fill us with joy and peace

and help us to inspire hope in others through our words and deeds.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Introduction pour la semaine

Chaque année, les écoles catholiques de la Saskatchewan participent à une célébration d'une semaine pour apprécier, promouvoir et partager le don de l'éducation catholique. La célébration de cette année intitulée «Éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer» aura lieu pendant la semaine du 5 mai au 12 mai 2024. Cette année, avec les étudiants et le personnel de toute notre province, nous prendrons du temps chaque jour pour prier ensemble parce que nous sommes tous «Appelés à aimer.»

Le passage des Écritures qui guide notre thème est «Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous.» (1 Jean 4, 12).

Notre thème nous rappelle que...

- Avec un cœur ouvert et plein d'amour, nous pouvons «faire grandir la flamme de l'espoir» pour créer un brillant avenir.
- Nous célébrons le fait que l'éducation catholique est basée sur notre appel chrétien à l'amour. Cet amour est la fondation de notre façon de vivre dans le monde; si nous agissons avec amour, nous construirons un bel avenir.
- Nous sommes appelés à écouter avec amour, à nous soucier des autres et à renforcer nos relations avec les autres.
- Grâce à la prière et à un engagement envers l'amour, des liens plus forts seront créés et une nouvelle voie émergera dans notre travail continuels envers la vérité et la réconciliation.
- Par l'amour et la compassion, nous continuons à soutenir le bien-être des autres. Dieu est amour et nous sommes tous appelés à vivre cet amour.
- L'emphase sur l'amour nous rappelle que tous les enfants de Dieu sont aimés d'une manière inconditionnelle.

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

Dieu d'amour, l'amour est notre vocation,
et le but pour lequel vous nous avez créés.

En célébrant la Semaine de l'éducation catholique,
que notre amour en action révèle à notre monde
que nous sommes un peuple de justice et de miséricorde.

Que nos paroles et notre exemple montrent clairement
que nous sommes des personnes de foi et d'espérance.

Dans la manière dont nous vous reflétons chaque jour,
que le monde nous reconnaisse comme un peuple de joie.

Aidez-nous à ne jamais oublier que nous sommes aimés
et à chérir votre vie en nous,

qui nous donne de l'énergie et de la direction à notre amour.

Aidez-nous à entendre votre appel à aimer généreusement
et à inciter notre monde à être plus aimant aussi.

Nous vous demandons tout cela par Jésus, notre ami et notre Seigneur.

Amen.

Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée:

Ce premier jour de la Semaine de l'éducation catholique, nous sommes appelés à aimer: dans l'espérance. Nous prions d'avoir le même désir que saint Paul a exprimé dans sa Lettre aux Romains: «Que le Dieu de l'espérance vous remplisse de toute joie et paix dans la foi, afin que vous abondiez en espérance par la puissance du Saint-Esprit.» (Romains 15:13)

Reconnaissons la présence de Dieu parmi nous:

Au nom du Père et du Fils et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

La prière de la journée:

Dieu bon et miséricordieux,

alors que nous commençons cette Semaine de l'éducation catholique,
aidez-nous à devenir des personnes d'espérance.

Guidez-nous à refléter votre amour dans tout ce que nous disons et tout ce que nous faisons.

Que nos cœurs remplissent nos écoles et nos communautés de bonté.

Que nos mains tendent la main à ceux qui en ont besoin,

et que nos voix reflètent votre amour et votre respect pour tous.

Nous faisons cette prière au nom de Jésus, celui qui nous remplisse de l'espérance. Amen.

Catholic Education Week 2024: We are Called to Love/ Appelés à aimer

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

We are Called to Love... As people of faith / Dans la foi

Adapted from: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

Call to prayer / Daily Theme:

Our theme today is We are Called to Love as People of Faith. What does it mean to have faith?

As we pray today, let us ponder this message from the Book of Galatians:

For in Christ Jesus... the only thing that counts is faith working through love. Galatians 5:6

Dans le Christ Jésus, ce qui a de la valeur... c'est la foi, qui agit par la charité. (Galates 5, 6)

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross:

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

Opening Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for bringing us together as people of faith.

As we learn and grow each day, fill our hearts with a spirit of gratitude, recognizing the blessings around us and sharing them with others.

As people of faith, we are called to love with all our hearts, minds and souls, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Fill our hearts with empathy and kindness, that we may embrace differences and celebrate each person's unique gifts.

We ask that you help us to always have faith and to put our trust in you.

As we share the Good News of the Gospel with others, may our words and actions reflect the love that you have poured into our hearts.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who is love itself.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he

noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Reflection:

The disciples were afraid. That storm must have been very severe for skilled sailors like them to fear for their lives. But after the sudden storm, the sudden stillness commanded by Jesus must have shocked them! The disciples responded: "They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'" Now they see Jesus' power over all of God's creation. They were fearfully in awe of the man who controlled the wind and the waves.

Jesus scolded his disciples, asking them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The lesson here is that Jesus was onboard, so the boat wasn't going to sink. Today, we need to remember that Jesus is with us when we are scared. Do you feel safe in his presence?

Faith means believing in God no matter what. It means trusting Him even when he hasn't yet answered our prayers. Only God knows the right time to answer our prayers and what is best for us.

Call to Action:

Pretend you are one of the disciples in the boat. What could you say to Peter to encourage him to keep his faith strong? What is something you can do today to encourage someone else to keep their eyes focused on Jesus? What can you do today to trust and to grow in faith?

Closing Prayer:

Creator God, love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us. May our daily words and example show clearly that we are people of faith and hope. May everyone recognize us as people of joy.

Grant us the courage to seek your guidance and to face challenges with faith and love. Grant us the wisdom to see your light in difficult times.

Help us to never forget how much you love us, and to cherish your life within us. May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively. Help us to live in faith and to trust in your love for us.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.

Amen.

Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée:

Notre thème aujourd'hui est: Appelés à aimer: dans la foi. Que signifie avoir la foi?

Pendant que nous prions aujourd'hui, méditons sur ce message du livre de Galates:

«Dans le Christ Jésus, ce qui a de la valeur... c'est la foi, qui agit par la charité.» (Galates 5, 6)

La prière de la journée:

Dieu d'amour, merci de nous avoir rassemblés en tant que personnes de foi.

À mesure que nous apprenons et grandissons chaque jour, remplissez nos cœurs avec un esprit de gratitude, en reconnaissant les bénédictions qui nous entourent et en les partageant avec les autres.

En tant que personnes de foi, nous sommes appelés à aimer de tout notre cœur, de tout notre esprit et de toute notre âme, et à aimer notre prochain comme nous-mêmes.

Remplissez nos cœurs d'empathie et de gentillesse, afin que nous puissions accepter les différences et célébrer les dons uniques de chaque personne.

Nous vous demandons de nous aider à toujours avoir la foi et à vous faire confiance.

Alors que nous partageons la Bonne Nouvelle de l'Évangile avec les autres, que nos paroles et nos actions reflètent l'amour que vous avez versé dans nos cœurs.

Nous vous le demandons au nom de Jésus, qui est amour.

Amen.

Catholic Education Week 2024: We are Called to Love/ Appelés à aimer

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

We are Called to Love... As people of mercy/ Avec compassion

Adapted from: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

Call to prayer / Daily Theme:

Our theme today is We are Called to Love as People of Mercy. As we continue to journey through the Easter Season, let us reflect on the words of Pope Francis in his 2013 Easter message. Pope Francis stated:

“Let us accept the grace of Christ’s resurrection! Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”

As a faith community, we renew our commitment to continue to reflect on what Jesus’ resurrection means to us and how we can live as Easter people who build the Kingdom of God through our acts of mercy and love.

As we pray today, let us recall this passage from the Gospel of Luke:

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36

Soyez miséricordieux comme votre Père est miséricordieux. (Luc 6, 36)

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross:

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

Opening Prayer:

God of mercy and love,

You have blessed us with goodness and compassion.

Inspire us to live out your call to speak and act as people of mercy.

Help us to treat each other with kindness.

Teach us to be patient and forgiving.

Guide us to love as you love; to be merciful as you are merciful.

Make our school a place of warmth, safety, and welcome, where forgiveness and acceptance are modeled daily.

May our words and actions reflect your mercy and serve as loving reminders that we are all your precious children.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Reflection:

St. Faustina Kowalska was born in Poland in 1905. In her short life on Earth, she carried out the important mission of teaching the world about the mercy of Jesus. When she was 25, she entered the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where she cooked, tended the garden and answered the door. Her kindness and serenity were remarkable but few people knew the real depths of her spirituality. God blessed St. Faustina with many extraordinary gifts. St. Faustina kept a diary in which she wrote down everything that Jesus wanted the world to know about his mercy. Jesus told her that she was his secretary. It was her special work to encourage people to trust in the limitless mercy of God.

Jesus said to her : **My daughter, look into My Merciful Heart and reflect its compassion in your own heart, and in your deeds, so that you who proclaim My mercy to the world may yourself be aflame with it.**

Call to Action:

We are each called to follow the example of Jesus to be kind, forgiving and compassionate towards others. Think of a time when someone showed you mercy, compassion, patience or generosity. How can you show God's love and mercy towards your parents, your brother or sister or your classmates today?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Jesus I trust in you. **Amen.**

Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée:

Notre thème aujourd'hui est: Nous sommes appelés à aimer: avec compassion. Pendant cette saison liturgique de Pâques, réfléchissons aux paroles du pape François dans son message de Pâques 2013. Le pape François a déclaré :

«Alors, voici l'invitation que j'adresse à tous : accueillons la grâce de la Résurrection du Christ! Laissons-nous renouveler par la miséricorde de Dieu, laissons-nous aimer par Jésus, laissons la puissance de son amour transformer aussi notre vie; et devenons des instruments de cette miséricorde, des canaux à travers lesquels Dieu puisse irriguer la terre, garder toute la création et faire fleurir la justice et la paix.»

En tant que communauté de foi, nous renouvelons notre engagement à continuer de réfléchir à ce que la résurrection de Jésus signifie pour nous et à la manière dont nous pouvons vivre comme un peuple pascal qui construit le Royaume de Dieu par nos actes de miséricorde et d'amour.

Pendant que nous prions aujourd'hui, rappelons ce passage de l'Évangile de Luc :
«Soyez miséricordieux comme votre Père est miséricordieux.» (Luc 6, 36)

La prière de la journée:

Commençons par le signe de notre foi:

Au nom du Père et du Fils et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

Dieu de miséricorde et d'amour,

Vous nous avez bénis avec la bonté et la compassion.

Inspirez-nous à vivre votre appel à parler et à agir en personnes de miséricorde.

Aidez-nous à agir avec gentillesse envers les autres.

Apprenez-nous à être patients et à pardonner.

Guidez-nous à aimer comme vous aimez et à être compatissant comme vous êtes compatissant.

Faites de notre école un lieu de confort, de sécurité et d'accueil, où le pardon et l'acceptation sont modelés à chaque jour.

Que nos paroles et nos actions reflètent votre miséricorde et nous rappellent avec amour que nous sommes tous vos enfants précieux.

Nous vous le demandons par le Christ notre Seigneur.

Amen.

Catholic Education Week 2024: We are Called to Love/ Appelés à aimer

Thursday, May 9, 2024

We are Called to Love... As people of justice / Dans la justice

Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8

Respecte le droit, aime la fidélité, et applique-toi à marcher avec ton Dieu. (Michée 6, 8)

Adapted from: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

Call to prayer / Daily Theme:

On this Ascension Thursday, we celebrate World Catholic Education Day as we continue to celebrate Catholic Education Week. At the time of his Ascension, Jesus told His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. This mission, given to us by Jesus, calls to mind our theme for this special week - *We are Called to Love*. He asks us to make disciples of all nations so that the love of God can be spread far and wide.

Today's theme is '*We are Called to Love... As people of justice.*' As we pray today, let us ponder this message from the Book of the Prophet Micah, "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

Let us begin, acknowledging God's presence among us...

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

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, You give us love in abundance.

With Your love in our hearts, help us to work for a more just world.

Send us Your Spirit so that we can treat people fairly
and be a voice for those who are not heard.

In our work and our play, strengthen us to act with justice and mercy.

Lord, You show us kindness and love.

May we work for justice so that all may know You.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Scripture: Jeremiah 9:23-24 (EasyEnglish Bible)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The LORD says,

'Wise people should not be proud of their wisdom.

Powerful people should not be proud of their power.

And rich people should not be proud that they are rich.

If they want to be proud about something,

they should be proud that they know me.

They should boast that they understand who I am.

I am the LORD.

I am faithful in my love for my people.

I always do what is right and fair.

It makes me happy when people live in that way too.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Today, we focus on the theme, "We are called to love... as people of justice." Justice in its simplest form, means to set things right. As followers of Christ, our sense of justice is imparted to us by our Creator God who wants us to know and understand Him. He is loving, kind, and merciful and He is also righteous, holy, and just. He sets the standard for us to follow when it comes to love and justice. Working for justice means we follow God's way to make right that which is wrong, and we look to Scripture and to the life of Jesus to define what is "right." As we look at the life of Jesus and the mandate given throughout Scripture, it is clear that as followers of Christ we are called to "do justice." We are called to take action and confront evil, to care for the vulnerable, to love all people, and to make right that which is wrong. This mandate is not new. It is not a cultural fad or something that is simply a trend in today's society. Throughout the entire Bible - Old and New Testaments - our call to love and do justice is clear... and in doing so we will live in the way of the Lord and make Him happy - just as our scripture passage expressed.

Call to Action:

God wants us to think less about ourselves and more about others - just as He does. Share some compliments with others today - acknowledging gifts and talents that have been given to them by God.

Also, if you see something that isn't right, take action - do what you can to make it right.

You may even want to memorize this passage from Micah 6:8 which tells us what the Lord requires of us, "***... do justice... love kindness... and walk humbly with God.***"

Closing Prayer:

God of justice and love,

You ask that we share Your love with others.

Help us to remember that love, kindness, and mercy are paths to justice.

Empower us to be a voice for the voiceless and to advocate for fairness and equality.

May we work for justice in our school community and in all aspects of our lives to bring about a more just world.

May we seek justice daily and walk with kindness and mercy, always humbly with You.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée:

Ce jeudi de l'Ascension, nous célébrons la Journée mondiale de l'éducation catholique tout en continuant à célébrer la Semaine de l'éducation catholique. Au moment de son Ascension, Jésus a dit à ses disciples d'aller faire de toutes les nations des disciples. Cette mission, qui nous a été confiée par Jésus, rappelle notre thème de cette semaine spéciale: Nous sommes appelés à aimer. Jésus nous demande de faire de toutes les nations des disciples afin que l'amour de Dieu puisse se répandre partout.

Le thème d'aujourd'hui est «Nous sommes appelés à aimer: dans la justice». Pendant que nous prions aujourd'hui, méditons sur ce message du livre du prophète Michée : «Respecte le droit, aime la fidélité, et applique-toi à marcher avec ton Dieu.»

Commençons en reconnaissant la présence de Dieu parmi nous...

Au nom du Père et du Fils et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

La prière de la journée:

Dieu d'amour, qui nous offre l'amour en abondance, remplissez nos coeurs avec votre amour et aidez-nous à créer un monde plus juste.

Envoyez-nous votre Esprit afin que nous puissions traiter les gens également et être une voix pour ceux qui ne sont pas entendus.

Dans notre travail et dans nos jeux, aidez-nous à agir avec justice et compassion envers les autres. Seigneur, vous nous montrez de la bonté et de l'amour.

Aidez-nous à travailler pour la justice afin que tous puissent te connaître.

Nous faisons cette prière au nom de Jésus, Prince de la Paix.

Amen.

Catholic Education Week 2024: We are Called to Love/ Appelés à aimer

Friday, May 10, 2024

We are Called to Love... As people of joy / Dans la joie

Our heart is glad in the Lord, because we trust in his holy name. Psalm 33:21

La joie de notre cœur vient de lui, notre confiance est dans son nom très saint. (Ps 32, 21)

Adapted from: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

Call to prayer / Daily Theme:

On this final weekday of Catholic Education Week, we again celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and reflect on our calling to love as people of joy. As we continue to journey through the Easter Season, let us reflect on some words of Pope Francis. "Today each one of us should take a bit of time and think: Jesus, you are within me. I want to encounter you each day. You are a person, not an idea. You are a companion on the journey, not a program. You are love that resolves so many problems. You are the starting point of evangelization. You, Jesus, are the source of joy."

Today's theme is '*We are Called to Love... As people of joy.*' Let us be renewed by the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus and transform this joy into acts of love and service.

Let us begin, acknowledging God's presence among us...

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

Opening Prayer:

God of all goodness,

You call us to love as You love.

Love is the purpose for which You created us in Your image -
love for You, love for Creation, and love for all Your people.

May we love generously with open hearts full of joy.

May our joyful love be a sign to our world

of the new life, strength, and hope You offer us every day.

Glory and praise to You, for calling us into Your family and into Your service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture: John 15:7-11 (International Children's Bible)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you. You should produce much fruit and show that you are my followers. This brings glory to my Father. I loved you as the Father loved me. Now remain in my love. I have obeyed my Father's commands, and I remain in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have. I want your joy to be the fullest joy."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

True JOY comes from our relationship with God through Jesus.

Although happiness and joy can be present at the same time, happiness is based on material things or events, such as when a person is given a gift, wins a reward, or celebrates a birthday.

Joy, on the other hand, is from God and runs deeper — it can be present even during unhappy times. Do you have God's joy?

In our Gospel passage, Jesus teaches us that we will find peace and joy when we stay close to Him and obey His teachings in the Bible. The love we have for God helps us obey His Word. When we follow God's commands, he fills us with a spirit of hope and joy. Joy is not about what we own, but what we have in our hearts.

God loves us and will always be with us. That's a great reason to be full of joy. We may have new clothes, tons of toys, or be liked by everybody, but none of that will bring us the joy of our relationship with God. We will outgrow clothes, break toys, and lose popularity, but our relationship with God is *eternal*. Joy does not depend on what happens to us. It is about what God is doing inside of us. Joy comes from knowing God, enjoying what God has done and is doing for us, and believing that He constantly cares for us.

Call to Action:

How you spend your time — reading the Bible, praying, watching TV, playing video games, spending time with family and friends, etc. — reveals what is important to you. Evaluate how you spend your time, and then choose actions and behaviors that will cause you to grow closer to God. Think about what you can do today, over the weekend, and beyond to grow closer to God... and do it!... because growing closer to God is a source of joy.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God,
our hearts are so full of joy today
as we celebrate Catholic education in this Easter Season.
May the faith, hope, and love we feel today stay with us always.
With Your love and mercy in our hearts, help us to work for a more just world.
Fill us with Your peace, and help us to live and love as You do.
May we go forth with joy, that can only come from You,
and transform our world through acts of love and service.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our source of joy.

Amen.

Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée:

Ce dernier jour de la Semaine de l'éducation catholique, nous célébrons à nouveau le don de l'éducation catholique et nous réfléchissons à notre appel à l'amour en tant que peuple de joie. Pendant cette saison liturgique de Pâques, réfléchissons à quelques paroles du pape François:

« Aujourd'hui, chacun de nous devrait prendre un peu de temps et penser: Jésus, tu es en moi. Je veux te rencontrer chaque jour. Vous êtes une personne, pas une idée. Vous êtes un compagnon de voyage, pas un programme. Vous êtes l'amour qui résout tant de problèmes. Vous êtes le point de départ de l'évangélisation. Toi, Jésus, tu es la source de la joie.»

Le thème d'aujourd'hui est: Nous sommes appelés à aimer: dans la joie.
Aidez-nous à être renouvelés par la joie de la Résurrection de Jésus et guidez-nous à transformer cette joie en actes d'amour et de service.

Commençons en reconnaissant la présence de Dieu parmi nous...

Au nom du Père et du Fils et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

La prière de la journée:

Dieu de toute bonté,

Vous nous appelez à aimer comme vous aimez.

Vous nous avez créés à votre image pour aimer;

pour vous aimer, pour aimer la création et pour aimer tous les êtres humains.

Aidez-nous à aimer généreusement avec un cœur ouvert et plein de joie.

Que notre amour joyeux soit un signe pour notre monde

de la nouvelle vie, de la force et de l'espoir que vous nous offrez chaque jour.

Gloire et louange à vous! Merci de nous avoir appelés dans votre famille et à votre service, par Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur.