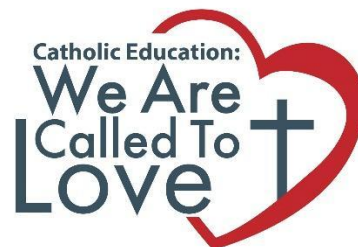


SECONDARY SCHOOLS

PRAYERS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week 2024 Theme:
Catholic Education: We are Called to Love
L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer



Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, "We are called to love."

The theme was inspired by joyful anticipation of the 2025 Jubilee Year's theme "Pilgrims of Hope". With open hearts of love, we prepare ourselves for this celebration with the reminder that we are all called to love God and each other.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week. The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week illuminate the path to the theme.

Here are the subthemes:

Monday:	As people of hope / Dans l'espérance
Tuesday:	As people of faith / Dans la foi
Wednesday:	As people of mercy / Avec compassion
Thursday:	As people of justice / Dans la justice
Friday:	As people of joy / Dans la joie

MONDAY – As people of hope / Dans l'espérance

"I plead with you – never, ever give up on hope; never doubt, never tire and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." St. John Paul II

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, "We are called to love."

The theme was inspired by joyful anticipation of the 2025 Jubilee Year's theme "Pilgrims of Hope". With open hearts of love, we prepare ourselves for this celebration with the reminder that we are all called to love God and each other.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week. The subtheme for today is "We are called to love...As people of Hope."

To truly live with joy in this world, we need the theological virtue of hope. Hope is rooted deeply in our faith as it is a relationship of trust in God. As we gather as a faith community in prayer, let us reflect on how our actions and words reflect who we are as people of hope. Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God of all creation,

As we journey with hope, may we always be mindful of how you sent your Son to be a beacon of goodness and light in the world. Give us eyes of hope to see the good in everything and everyone around us. Give us the grace and strength to be beacons of hope and light for others. May your virtue of hope guide our decisions for the service of all your people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lived and showed us your way.
Amen.

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

Dieu miséricordieux de toute la création,
Avec espoir, nous vous demandons de nous aider à être conscients de la façon dont vous avez envoyé votre Fils comme phare de bonté qui illumine le monde. Donnez-nous des yeux d'espoir pour voir le bien dans tout et dans tous ceux qui nous entourent. Donnez-nous la grâce et la force d'être des phares d'espoir et de lumière pour les autres. Que ta vertu d'espérance guide nos décisions au service de tout le monde.

Nous vous le demandons au nom de Jésus, votre Fils, qui nous a montré le chemin.
Amen.

If time allows for deeper reflection, continue with the following:

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

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

CONTEMPORARY READING AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Pope Francis' message to Youth for the 38th World Youth Day entitled, [*Rejoicing in Hope*](#).

As young people, you are indeed the joyful hope of the Church and of a humanity always on the move. I would like to take you by the hand and walk with you on the path of hope. I would like to speak with you about our joys and hopes, but also of our sorrows and concerns, and those of all our brothers and sisters in the human family (cf. Gaudium et Spes, 1). In these two years of preparation for the Jubilee, we will meditate first on Saint Paul's words, "Rejoicing in hope" (Rom 12:12), and then those of the prophet Isaiah, "Those who hope in the Lord will run and not be weary" (Is 40:31).

REFLECTION/RESEARCH

Research a Saint who lived a life “full of faith.” Give a specific example of how your chosen Saint lived their life “full of faith” and were a beacon of hope to others.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us bring to mind the needs in our community. The response is, “Lord hear our prayer”

For the Church and its leaders, that our commitment to the Gospel leads us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our world and its leaders, that all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of good will, that the entire human family may recognize our common bond to work for justice and the good of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Catholic schools, that we show God's mercy and love in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For persons suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they know God's loving presence through their caregivers, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We ask that you turn your loving gaze upon young people. They carry in their hearts a great hope for their paths ahead. Give them strength so that they can build their tomorrow with confidence. May they receive the gift of the faith, accept it with gratitude, and develop it with generosity.

We ask all this in your name.

Amen.

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

Seigneur, nous vous demandons de tourner votre regard aimant vers les jeunes. Ils portent dans leurs cœurs un grand espoir pour l'avenir. Donnez-leur de la force pour qu'ils puissent construire leur avenir en toute confiance. Nous prions qu'ils acceptent avec gratitude le don de la foi et qu'ils développent leur foi avec générosité.

Nous demandons tout cela en votre nom. Amen.

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

TUESDAY – As people of faith / Dans la foi

“Faith is not a mere intellectual assent of the human person to specific truths about God; it is an act with which I entrust myself freely to a God who is Father and who loves me; it is adherence to a ‘You’ who gives me hope and trust.” Pope Benedict XVI, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. Today, our prayers will focus on the theme, “We are called to love...as people of faith”.

Faith is an unconditional gift from God that is given to everyone. Like all gifts, faith must be received, nurtured, lived out. Sometimes it is difficult in our current culture to be aware of God’s presence in our lives and to nurture our faith. Jesus teaches us that God is love and that God is always faithful. We also learn from Jesus in the Gospels that faith is being able to completely trust in God’s love. Faith in God is nurtured by seeking a personal relationship with him and also in community. As we gather as a faith community in prayer, let us reflect on the gift of Catholic Education and our calling to love as people of faith.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Almighty and Eternal God,

In love, you give us the gift of faith and you continue to reveal yourself to us through your Holy Spirit. Your Son, Jesus, modeled for us what it means to have faith in you and to trust you completely. Jesus showed us that an authentic faith calls us to love and action in the pursuit of social justice. Help us to grow in the virtue of faith, by seeking opportunities to learn more about our Catholic faith through prayer, reading, studying, and asking good questions. Help us to witness to our faith and demonstrate our love for you by loving our neighbors and sharing your Good News.

We make this prayer in your name.

Amen.

Nous prions, Au nom du Père, du Fils et du Saint-Esprit.

Dieu Tout-Puissant et Éternel,

Avec amour, vous nous offrez le don de la foi et l’Esprit-Saint nous donne l’occasion de vous connaître plus profondément. Votre Fils, Jésus, nous a montré ce qui signifie avoir foi en vous et comment vous faire confiance. Jésus nous a montré qu’une foi authentique nous appelle à l’amour et à l’action dans la poursuite de la justice sociale. Aidez-nous à grandir dans la vertu de foi, en recherchant des occasions d’apprendre

notre foi catholique en faisant la prière, la lecture ou l'étude et en posant de bonnes questions. Aidez-nous à partager notre foi et à démontrer notre amour pour vous en aimant notre prochain et en partageant la Bonne Nouvelle.

Nous faisons cette prière en votre nom. Amen.

If time allows for deeper reflection, continue with the following:

SCRIPTURE

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you."

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

CONTEMPORARY READING AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Pope Francis concludes his Apostolic Exhortation *Christus vivit* – Which is Latin for "Christ is alive!" with the following wish for young people:

"Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, "attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us". (299)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does faith mean to you?
2. How has your understanding of faith changed throughout your life?
3. Who were the people in your life who have helped you grow in faith?
4. Where do you feel most comfortable talking about and sharing your faith with others?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us bring to mind the needs in our community. The response is, "Lord hear our prayer"

For the Church and its leaders, that our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our world and its leaders, that all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of good will, that the entire human family may recognize our common bond to work for justice and the good of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Catholic schools, that we show God's mercy and love in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For persons suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they know God's loving presence through their caregivers, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God,

Strengthen Your gift of faith in us. Please help us to have confidence in Your goodness and Your faithfulness. Help us to overcome life's challenges and lead us along the path You have prepared for us. May we find courage and peace in Your love and may our faith in You serve as an example for others.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

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

Seigneur, fortifiez votre don de foi en nous. S'il vous plaît, aidez-nous à avoir confiance en votre bonté et en votre fidélité. Aidez-nous à surmonter les défis de la vie et guidez-nous sur le chemin que vous nous avez préparé. Aidez-nous à trouver le courage et la paix dans votre amour pour que notre foi en vous servira comme exemple aux autres.

Nous vous le demandons par le Christ notre Seigneur. Amen.

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

WEDNESDAY – As people of mercy / Avec compassion

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. Today, our prayers will focus on the theme, “We are called to love...as people of mercy”.

What does it mean to be merciful? What does mercy look like to you? Think of a time when you needed to be cared for and think of a time when you needed to care for someone. Authentic mercy involves compassion, forgiveness, seeing the needs of others and responding with selflessness, generosity, compassion, and love. Through Christ’s teachings, we can be people of mercy, by caring for others and picking them up when they are down. Authentic mercy allows us to listen to others and not to cast judgement on them. Being merciful makes the world a more compassionate and hopeful place.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God of Mercy,

Through your presence in our lives, you instill in us the virtue of compassion to which we are called to love and serve others. As merciful people, we ask that you help us to keep the enduring flame of empathy, compassion, and love burning bright in our hearts and minds. Guide us to be merciful to those who are oppressed, marginalized, vulnerable and who may be suffering in silence.

We ask this through our merciful Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

Dieu miséricordieux, par votre présence dans nos vies, nous sommes bénis par la vertu de compassion et nous sommes appelés à aimer et à servir les autres. En tant que personnes miséricordieuses, nous vous demandons de nous aider à maintenir la flamme durable de l’empathie, de la compassion et de l’amour dans nos cœurs et dans nos esprits. Aidez-nous à être compatissants envers ceux qui sont opprimés, marginalisés et vulnérables et envers ceux qui souffrent en silence.

Nous vous le demandons par l’intermédiaire de notre Seigneur miséricordieux et sauveur, Jésus-Christ. Amen.

If time allows for deeper reflection, continue with the following:

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So, he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

From Pope Francis' 2015 Bull Letter, *Jesus the Face of God's Mercy*

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

6. "It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way." [5] Saint Thomas Aquinas' words show that God's mercy, rather than a sign of

weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence. For this reason the liturgy, in one of its most ancient collects, has us pray: "O God, who reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness..." [6] Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, and merciful.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us bring to mind the needs in our community. The response is, "Lord hear our prayer"

For the Church and its leaders, that our commitment to the Gospel leads us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our world and its leaders, that all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of good will, that the entire human family may recognize our common bond to work for justice and the good of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Catholic schools, that we show God's mercy and love in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For persons suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they know God's loving presence through their caregivers, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Adapted from the Preface for Eucharistic Prayer II for Reconciliation

<https://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/EPB1-2.htm>

Let us pray.

Father, all powerful and ever living God,

We praise and thank you through Jesus Christ our Lord for your presence and action in the world. In the midst of conflict and division, we know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace. Your Spirit changes our hearts: enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together. Your Spirit is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness. For this we never cease to thank and praise you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

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

Dieu tout-puissant et toujours vivant,

Nous vous louons et vous remercions par Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur pour votre présence et votre action dans le monde. Au milieu des conflits et des divisions, nous savons que nos esprits sont dirigés vers des pensées de paix par votre main. Votre Esprit change nos cœurs : les ennemis commencent à se parler, ceux qui étaient séparés se donnent la main dans l'amitié et les nations cherchent ensemble le chemin de la paix. Votre Esprit est à l'œuvre lorsque la réconciliation met fin aux conflits, lorsque la haine est éteinte par la miséricorde et que la vengeance cède la place au pardon. Pour cela, nous ne cessons jamais de vous remercier et de vous louer par Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur. Amen.

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

THURSDAY –As people of justice / Dans la justice

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. Today, our prayers will focus on the theme, “We are called to love...as people of justice”.

As Catholic, we believe that society should be just and that all people should be treated with dignity. And yet, there are still huge inequities in Canada. The gap between the rich and poor continues to widen all over the world. We are called to love as people of justice. This means we are called to be discerning and to question why these inequities exist. The simplest actions of a community can counter the ever increasing divide between the wealthy and the poor.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Loving God,

You have created all of your children in your image desiring for each person to have life in abundance. Help us to work for a more just society that takes care of all of its citizens. Give us hearts of compassion so that we may stand for justice and dignity of all people. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who stood with the poor and the downtrodden.

Amen.

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

Dieu aimant,

Vous avez créé tous vos enfants à votre image en désirant que chacun ait la vie en abondance. Aidez-nous à créer une société plus juste qui prend soin de tous ses citoyens. Donnez-nous un cœur compatissant afin que nous puissions défendre la justice et la dignité de tous.

Nous faisons cette prière au nom de Jésus, qui s'est tenu aux côtés des personnes pauvres et opprimés. Amen.

If time allows for deeper reflection, continue with the following:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:34-45

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then the king will say to those on his right hand, “Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”

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

REFLECTION/RESEARCH

The following news reports paint a picture of the challenge of poverty around the world. These gaps between rich and poor are becoming more and more visible here in Canada. Homelessness and the need for affordable housing are now at a crisis point across the country. After watching one or both videos, engage in a class discussion about possible actions that can be taken, even simple ones, to face these challenges. What can we do as Christians to confront these realities?

The Gap Between Rich and Poor

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9809757/wealth-gap-canada-first-quarter-2023/>

What it's like to be Homeless in Toronto

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-s1p5z_W5E

"Let us not follow the false 'messiahs' who, in the name of profit, proclaim recipes useful only for increasing the wealth of a few, while condemning the poor to the margins of society."

Pope Francis, Homily, November 2022

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us bring to mind the needs in our community. The response is, “Lord hear our prayer”

For the Church and its leaders, that our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our world and its leaders, that all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of good will, that the entire human family may recognize our common bond to work for justice and the good of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Catholic schools, that we show God's mercy and love in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For persons suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they know God's loving presence through their caregivers, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God,

Help us to feed the hungry and to reach out to the stranger in our midst. Give us minds and hearts that can work toward healing and responding to the challenges of our times, such as homelessness.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who stands in solidarity with all.

Amen.

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

Dieu aimant,

Aidez-nous à nourrir ceux qui ont faim et à tendre la main à l'étranger parmi nous. Donnez-nous un esprit et un cœur capable de répondre aux défis de notre époque, par exemple, à aider les personnes qui n'ont pas de logements.

Nous faisons cette prière au nom de Jésus, qui est solidaire de tous. Amen.

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

FRIDAY –As people of joy / Dans la joie

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Catholic School Divisions in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. Today, our prayers will focus on the theme, “We are called to love...as people of joy”.

Over and over again in the Old and New Testaments, we are invited to rejoice – to be people of joy, a spiritual joy that is more than just a fleeting happiness or a superficial kind of optimism. True joy is grounded in the knowledge that we are lovable – and we are loved. And when that joy takes root in us, it radiates outward, to touch others and lift them up as well. Real joy makes our world a better place for all of us. It scatters darkness and gives hope.

When the individuals around us look to us as people of faith, is joy the first thing they notice? Do they see us as people who have experienced God’s love in our own lives, and want to share it generously with others? Do we seek to bring God’s gentle joy into situations of struggle and uncertainty, of suffering and loneliness? How does joy bring a different “flavor” to our loving?

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God, our source of joy and peace,

You invite us each day to be channels of your love for others, and for our whole world and to bring joy where often there is sadness and struggle. May the knowledge of how much you cherish each of us fill us with a deep rejoicing that spills over into our words, choices and actions. May the joy of Easter inspire us every day, so that Jesus’ Resurrection may shine through us. May we transform this world of ours through our loving, so that greater justice and lasting peace may give us all reasons to rejoice together.

Yours is the glory, Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Dieu, notre source de joie et de paix,

Vous nous invitez chaque jour à être des canaux de votre amour pour les autres et pour notre monde tout entier et à apporter de la joie là où se trouve souvent la tristesse et le conflit. Aidez-nous à savoir à quel point vous chérissez chacun de nous et remplissez-nous d’une profonde joie qui influencera nos paroles, nos choix et nos

actions. Que la joie de Pâques nous inspire chaque jour, afin que la Résurrection de Jésus brille à travers nous. Aidez-nous à transformer notre monde par notre amour, afin qu'une plus grande justice et une paix durable nous donnent l'occasion de nous réjouir ensemble.

A vous la gloire, Seigneur, maintenant et pour toujours. Amen.

If time allows for deeper reflection, continue with the following:

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:8-9

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter.

Brothers and sisters, although you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

From Pope Francis' 2013 Encyclical Letter *Evangelii Gaudium* (On the Joy of the Gospel).

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy... I realize, of course, that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved... With this newness Jesus is always able to renew our lives and our communities, and even if the Christian message has known periods of darkness and... weakness, it will never grow old. Jesus can also break through the dull categories with which we would enclose him and he constantly amazes us.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us bring to mind the needs in our community. The response is, "Lord hear our prayer"

For the Church and its leaders, that our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our world and its leaders, that all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all people of good will, that the entire human family may recognize our common bond to work for justice and the good of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Catholic schools, that we show God's mercy and love in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For persons suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they know God's loving presence through their caregivers, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Where there is joy, O God, we know you are present and at work. Give us eyes to recognize that holy joy around us, to be its instruments and its bringers where it is lacking. Without denying the injustices, brokenness and pain of our world, may we refuse to succumb to cynicism and hopelessness. May we be people who truly believe that our faith is Good News, and who allow it into our hearts and minds more and more each day. We rejoice, most of all, that you have loved us with an everlasting love, and that we share in Christ's victory over sin and death, sadness and hurt. May our joy be real – and contagious – as we strive each day to love better and more generously. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Amen.

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

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

Là où il y a de la joie, ô Dieu, nous savons que vous êtes présent et au travail. Donnez-nous des yeux pour reconnaître cette sainte joie qui nous entoure et pour être des instruments et des porteurs de joie là où il n'y en a pas. Aidez-nous à refuser de succomber au cynisme et au désespoir, sans ignorer les injustices et la douleur de notre monde. Aidez- nous à croire que notre foi est la Bonne Nouvelle et à laisser entrer la foi de plus en plus dans nos cœurs et dans nos esprits à chaque jour. Nous nous réjouissons surtout que vous nous avez aimé d'un amour éternel et que nous participions à la victoire du Christ sur le péché et la mort, la tristesse et la souffrance. Que notre joie soit réelle - et contagieuse - alors que nous essayons chaque jour d'aimer mieux et d'aimer plus généreusement.

Nous demandons tout cela au nom de Jésus. Amen.

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