

World Catholic Education Day: *We Are Called to Love*

Introduction

Welcomer Every year, 40 days after Easter, we celebrate World Catholic Education Day. Every single day in Catholic schools, we learn about what it means to be loved by God, and how to show God's love to others. As we gather on this special day, we join our prayers with our friends in all of the Catholic schools in Saskatchewan, and all around the world, as we give thanks for God's love and for the gift of Catholic education.

Please join in the singing of our opening song.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

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

Let us pray:

God who is love: Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us. As we celebrate World Catholic Education Day, may our love in action reveal to our world that we are people of justice and mercy.

May our daily words and example show clearly that we are people of faith and hope. In the ways we reflect you daily, may everyone recognize us as people of joy.

Help us to never forget how much you love us, and to cherish your life within us, which gives energy and direction to our loving. May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively, and may we call our world to be more loving also.

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

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

First Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (Lectionary for Masses with Children)

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude.
Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of
wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.
Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love
never fails!

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 15:9-14 (Good News Translation)

Leader*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you.

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 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 love 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 show God's love to the entire world, so let us be united in asking God our Father to hear and answer our prayers in that same love.

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. We pray to the Lord. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

The Lord's Prayer

Leader* 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

Leader*

Let us pray:

Loving God, our hearts are full of joy during this Easter Season as we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education. May the love we feel today stay with us the rest of the day and always.

With your love in our hearts, help us to work for a more just world. As we leave this worship space, fill us with peace. And as we go out into the world, help us to go forth with joy that can only come from you. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord of Love, our brother and our teacher. *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
