

Closing Prayer

Compassionate Companion and Faithful Friend, thank You for the opportunity to walk into another year of life. Help me to be faithful, to be generous, to be Yours.

We ask all these things, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

-J. Rupp



Thank You Lord for the gift of a new beginning...



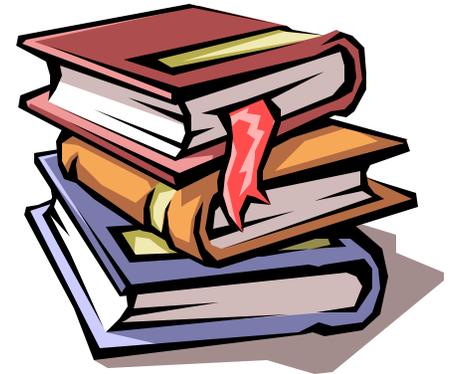
Closing Reflection

You must bring him everything!
Your dreams, your successes,
your rejoicing.
And if you have little to rejoice over,
bring him that little.
And if your life seems only like a heap of fragments,
Bring him the fragments.
And if you have only empty hands, bring him your empty hands.
Shattered hopes
are his material;
In his hands
all is made good.

-M. Eckhart

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board

New Beginnings: A Prayer Service for the New School Year



“Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers...”

“Let us Pray—For Leaders in Catholic Education”





Introduction

Leader: Welcome. The beginning of each school year always merits some reflection.

The new school year offers us an opportunity to review our personal growth and make some new goals. A new school year gives a chance to look at the person we already are and who we would like to become.

Opening prayer: The New School Year

Leader: Let us pray...

Faithful companion, in this new school year

I pray:

To live deeply, with purpose,

To live freely, with detachment,

To live wisely, with humility,

To live justly, with compassion,

To live lovingly, with fidelity,

To live mindfully, with awareness,

To live gratefully, with generosity,

To live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help me to hold this vision

And to daily renew it in my heart,

Becoming ever more one with you,

“My truest Self”.

All: Amen

-J. Rupp



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:16-19



Leader: Let us listen to the words from the book from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus, says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick; Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of the old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection



Leader: To be a Christian, is to have received new life, to have become new life. “The old has passed away; behold the new has come!” Through baptism, our old selves have been buried in the tomb of Christ and we have risen with him to newness of life. Surely one of the most amazing thoughts in our faith! Yet how little the impact it makes on us.

Indeed, how often do the lives we live contradict the truth of what we are! We stay stuck in the tomb, we cling to what is dying, we lack faith in what is being born. We fear the light of the dawning sun. Sometimes we do not notice even, so accustomed have we become to what is familiar and comfortable.

To be a Christian is to believe in the new. To be a Christian is to believe in a God of newness, perpetually active among us, forever bringing the new out of the old, transforming the tomb of death into a womb of new life. To be a Christian is to dare to attempt to see as God sees.

-J. Rupp

Communal Prayer: An Affirmation

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: I arise with amazement at the presence of the Holy One.

I arise with gratitude for life.

I arise with hope that all shall be well.

I arise with courage to meet what will be difficult.

I arise with conviction to do what is life-giving.

I arise with eyes ever alert for beauty.

I arise with openness for greater truth.

I arise with desire for continued transformation.

I arise with compassion for the hurting ones in the cosmos.

I arise with grief settled in my spirit.

I arise with eagerness to write with depth and with quality.

I arise with a sense of kinship with all whom I love.

I arise with respect as others mentor and deepen my vision.

I arise with determination to make good choices in using my time.

I arise with willingness to help those who will need my care.

I arise with hesitation as I think about pain that may come.

I arise with longing for ever greater inner freedom.

I arise with love for the Holy One, my Intimate Companion.

Amen.

-J. Rupp

Out of the Ordinary

