

Introduction

Today we celebrate a new beginning. The new year gives us an opportunity to learn, to grow and love. Join us as we celebrate our renewed hope for this new year as educators.

Reflection: Help Me To Be A Better Teacher



Dear Lord, please help me
To accept human beings as
they are,
Not yearn for perfect
creatures;
To recognize ability—and encourage it;
To understand shortcomings-
And make allowance for them;
To work patiently for improvement
And not expect too much too
quickly;
To appreciate what people do
right—



Not just criticize what they do wrong;
To be slow to anger and hard to discourage;
To have the hide of an elephant and the
patience of Job,
In short, Lord, please help me to be a better teacher.
-John Luther
All: Amen

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50:4-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put forth to shame, he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Prayer: A New Catechism



Leader: Who is the pupil?
All: A child of God, not a tool of the state.

Leader: Who is the teacher?
All: A guide, not a guard.

Leader: What is learning?
All: A journey, not a destination.

Leader: What is discovery?
All: Questioning the answers, not answering the questions.

Leader: What is the process?
All: Discovering ideas, not covering content.

Leader: What is the goal?
All: Opened minds, not closed issues.

Leader: What is the best?
All: Being and becoming, not remembering and reviewing.

Leader: What is school?
All: Whatever we choose to make it.

—Allan A. Glatthorn

Closing Prayer

Awaken to a new dawn,
I stretch to Infinity 'n reach
Beyond the Stars,
In an instant I return,
filling every tissue with Joy,
I feed the nectar of life,
into each molecule and cell,
The mind and body embrace
Divine love
Through the eye of time
I see eternity,
Life in life shine bright,
Shine the torch of majestic light,
Find the path to my
universal frame,
So I may bask in the wisdom of
pure potential,

Guide my heart to do your work.
We ask this through Christ our
Lord.

All: Amen

the writers prayer- michael levy

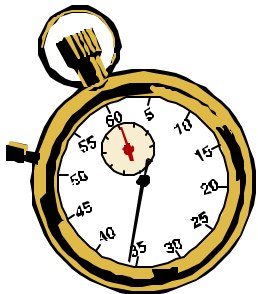


And So They Come To Us...

And so they come to us -
And we reach out to them
With understanding and with love.
We share the sacred trust we hold,
Yet we know that each of us
Must somehow stand alone
With every child in turn
To help them see, and hear and feel.
Our children come to learn
The way of truth-
And so they come to us.

-Author Unknown

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Blessed Be The New School Year

