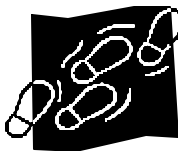


Litany



All: My profession is a noble profession
I am a teacher
My profession is a noble profession
I am a teacher.

Reader 1: I walk in the footsteps of Socrates,
Plato and Aristotle;

**All: I know that the unexamined life
is not worth living.**

Reader 2: I walk in the footsteps of Confucius,
Lao Tze, and Buddha;

**All: I know that wisdom is found
in truth and balance.**

Reader 3: I walk in the footsteps of Isaiah,
Ezekiel, and Jeremiah;

**All: I know that those who speak to God
will suffer rejection.**

Reader 4: I walk in the footsteps
of Jesus of Nazareth;

**All: I know that my words and deeds
must speak of the kingdom of Love.**

Reader 5: I walk in the footsteps of
St. Paul, St. Robert Bellarmine,
St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas;

All: I know that learning can make the world holy.

Reader 6: I walk in the footsteps of St. Francis,
St. Teresa, and St. Ignatius;

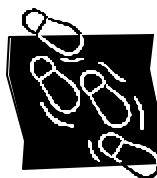
**All: I know that we are the arms and hands of
Christ that do His work.**

Reader 7: I walk in the footsteps of Anne Sullivan
and Helen Keller;

**All: I know that God has graced me with handi-
caps so that I may know my strengths.**

Reader 8: I walk in the footsteps
of Martin Buber and Victor Frankl;

**All: I know that God consecrates the desk
to become an altar.**



Reader 9: I walk in the footsteps of Dorothy Day,
Jean Vanier, and Mother Teresa;

**All: I know that the heart of learning
is the heart of the teacher.**

**All: My profession is a noble profession
I am a teacher.**

**My profession is a noble profession
I am a teacher.**



—L. Miller

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus, we thank You for those who are
gathered here today...

People who are part of our lives

And who share our ministry.

Unite us, Your people, as we strive

To bring the Good News of our love

To the communities of our school.

Bring each of us, Your peace and Your love

Your vision for the children we serve,

from day to day.

In our lives we need Your presence...

Your hope, Your Spirit of unity

Your conviction for our future.

Give us a sense of belonging to the community and a
spirit of renewed commitment to our ministry. Amen.

Final Blessing

Leader: Let us ask for God's blessing:

May the Lord's face shine upon you,

The sun rise to meet you,

The Spirit of God's love invade

The circle of your friends,

And your vision keep you changing day by day.

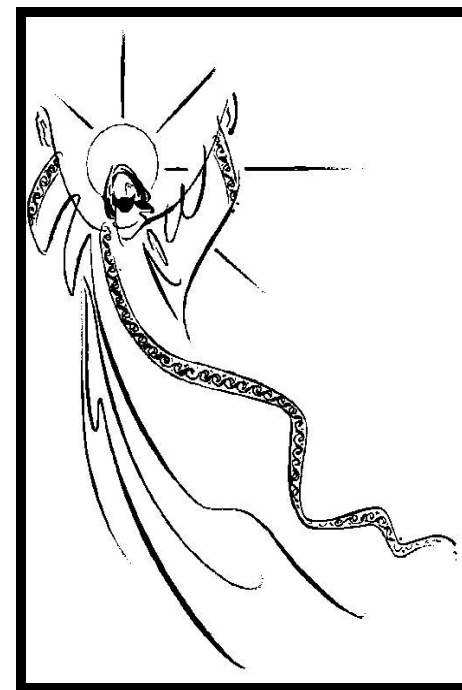
All: Amen.

—Anonymous

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



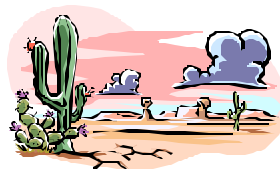
St. Robert Bellarmine,
Patron Saint of Catechists





Introduction

September 17th is the feast day of St. Robert Bellarmine. St. Robert lived in the turbulent time after the reformation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He was partly responsible for steering the course of Catholic education for centuries with the catechisms which he wrote. Although well-respected and even was appointed a Cardinal, he lived a life of gospel simplicity. When asked why he removed his wall hangings and used them to make clothes for the poor, his reply was, “the walls do not get cold”. Here is a teacher who taught with deeds as well as words. Let us commemorate St. Robert with a series of prayers and readings that reflected his spirit.



Desert Prayer

Loving God,
Like the Israelites,
escaping from Egypt,

we have crossed many deserts.
The desert of rejection by the public,
The desert of conflict with
other educational partners,
The personal deserts that
bring harshness to our lives.
When our hearts are dry,
nourish us with Your love.
May we be reminded today
that we belong to You.
We belong to love.



You send us Your Spirit
to flow through our days.
Open our hearts and minds,
Our eyes and our ears
To see that flow in all that we do.
Bless our staff with compassion
and understanding
So that this day may lead us
farther down the road toward
Your Kingdom.
All: Amen.

—Anonymous

**“I AM NOT A TEACHER, BUT AN
AWAKENER...”**

ROBERT FROST

You are a Marvel

Each second we live
Is a new and unique moment
Of the universe,
a moment that will never be again...
And what do we teach our children?
We teach them that two and two make four,
And that Paris is the capital of France.

When will we also teach them what they are?

We should say to each of them:
Do you know what you are?

You are a marvel.
You are unique.
In all the years that have passed,
There has never been another child like you.

Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers,
The way you move.

You may become a Shakespeare,
A Michelangelo, a Beethoven.
You have the capacity for anything.
Yes, you are a marvel.
And when you grow up,
Can you harm another is,
Who is like you, a marvel?

You must work—
We must all work—
To make the world worthy of its children.

—Pablo Casals