



Reading:

When You Thought
I Wasn't Looking

This is how a child learns to love...

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang
my first painting on the refrigerator,
And I wanted to paint another one.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed
a stray cat,
And I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make a favourite cake for me,
And I knew that little things are special things.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you say a prayer,
And I believed there is a God who I could always
talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me goodnight,
And I felt loved.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
And I learned that sometimes things hurt,
But it's alright to cry.



When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you cared
And I wanted to be everything
I could be.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked and wanted to say thanks
for all the things I saw
when you thought I wasn't looking.

--from William Baush
A World of Stories



Friendship Blessing

May you be *blessed* with good friends.

May you *learn* to be a good friend to yourself.

May you be able to *journey* to that place in your
soul where there is great *warmth*, feeling and for-
giveness.

May this *change* you.

May it *transfigure* that which is negative, distant and
cold within you.

May you be brought into the real *passion*, kinship
and affinity of *belonging*.

May you *treasure* your friends.

May you be good to them and may you be there
for them;

May they bring you all the *blessings*, challenges,
truth, and *light* that you need for the journey.

May you *never* be isolated.

May you always be in the gentle nest of
belonging with *anam cara*, your soul mate.

—John O' Donahue
Anam Cara



Love and Our Catholic Schools



"These three remain: faith, hope,
love; and the greatest of these is love".

1 Corinthians 13:13

Love and Our Catholic Schools

Introduction

We hear a great deal about *love* these days. But the word has become so misused that for many, it is an empty word. The writers of the Bible knew what it meant. They told us that God is love and that the greatest deed is to love God, neighbour and self. Today, we reflect on what it means to love in our context as workers in the field of education.

Love is...

Reader 1: Our years in Catholic Schools have helped us know how to love ourselves, our friends, our God.

Reader 2: Let us read and reflect on this adaptation of St. Paul's great hymn to Love found in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Reader 1: If I may speak words well enough to sway a meeting, but do not have love; I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Reader 2: If I have the gift of prophecy, and can speak out for justice; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

Reader 1: And if I give all my money to feed the poor, and if I work until midnight, but do not have love, I have gained nothing.

Reader 2: Love is patient,

Reader 1: with students, parents and colleagues;

Reader 2: Love is kind and not jealous,

Reader 1: but rejoices in each other's successes;



Reader 2: Love is not arrogant,

Reader 1: but shares the joys of handing down wisdom to the next generation;

Reader 2: Love is not rude,

Reader 1: but treats adversaries with respect and dignity;

Reader 2: Love does not bear grudges,

Reader 1: but practises reconciliation;

Reader 2: Love does not enjoy others' pain,

Reader 1: but is at home with peace;

Reader 2: Love bears all things,

Reader 1: even impossible deadlines;

Reader 2: Love believes all things,

Reader 1: coming from God;

Reader 2: Love hopes all things,

Reader 1: especially that spring will burst upon us;

col-



suc-

Reader 2: Love never fails,

Reader 1: Even if our memory lets us down and our ambitions get lost;



Reader 2: When I was young, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child;

Reader 1: Now that we are leaders of children, we leave behind childish ways of thinking.

Reader 2: Even now I can only just begin to understand the love of God.

Reader 1: But later, when we are face to face with God, we will know fully.

Reader 2: But for now, faith, hope, love reign in our hearts;

Readers 1 & 2: But the greatest of these is love.

Reader 1: May God bless all those who are part of circles of loving—our families and friends, our students and colleagues, all People of God.

Reader 2: May we continue to live out these blessings in the years to come, always aware that Jesus is walking with us.

All: Amen.

-Les Miller, based on
1 Corinthians 13

