Leader: In the presence of a God whose word has called the stars into being.

All: We stand in awe.

Leader: In the presence of a God whose arms have held children, whose eyes have sparkled with laughter,

All: We stand in trust.

Leader: In the presence of a God whose breath has stirred within us and caused our hearts to stir with love,

All: We stand in need.

Leader: Before you, Giver of Life, we come in faith, in search of love and truth and wholeness.

All: Be with us, hear us, we pray.

-Pat Kozak and Janet Schaffran
More Than Words: Prayer and Ritual for Inclusive Communities

Wisdom Blessing

May Wisdom be in our minds, and in our thinking;
May Wisdom be in our hearts, and in our perceiving;
May Wisdom be in our mouths, and in our speaking;
May Wisdom be in our hands, and in our working;
May Wisdom be in our feet, and in our walking;
May Wisdom be in our bodies, and in our loving;
May Wisdom be with us all the days of our lives

Diann L. Neu

Conclusion: Sign of Peace
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York CDSB
Reader 1: God called from the burning bush, “Moses, I need you to lead my people, to liberate them, to bring them to the promised land.”

Reader 2: Moses replied, “But God, I am slow of speech, People laugh at my speech impediment, Surely someone else?”

Reader 3: God said, “Isaiah, I need you To speak for me, To remind my people that they are my beloved.”

Reader 4: Isaiah replied, “But I am not good enough, I speak bad words and bad ideas. Surely someone else?”

Reader 5: God said, “Jeremiah, I need you, I need you to lead my people. I need you to remind them of the way to love and justice in this time of darkness.”

Reader 6: Jeremiah replied, “But God, I am too young I am still a teen from the countryside The elders in the city will laugh at me. Surely somebody else?”

Reader 7: God said, “Jeremiah, what you see as weakness, I see as strength. You will have authority The authority that comes from doing what is right and good. When your words resonate with mine, you shall be heard. Go now and lead.”

—Les Miller

Leadership In Catholic Education

Reader 1: O Lord, our God, our light, and our strength, Hear our prayer for those called to leadership In our Catholic educational community. Enliven us, O Lord with your spirit, Strengthen us with enabling power, Enlighten our minds and hearts with the brightness of your light, With knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

Reader 2: Give us eyes to discern the sign of the times Ears to hear all the voices, even the discordant, Hearts to listen to the needs, hopes and dreams Of all entrusted to our guidance.

Reader 3: Strengthen our hands for the selfless task of building up your kingdom; Guide our feet in the way of justice, peace and truth.

Reader 4: May we lead with vision, courage and strength of purpose But also with gentleness, sensitivity, compassion and love. May we know, speak and act upon the truth, The truth that sets us free.