



**Reader:** For \_\_\_\_\_, in thanksgiving for all you have been in this school board community. God has chosen to work through your ministry of teaching that has touched the lives of so many people. May you find new meaning in life as you continue to do God's will.

**All: You are praised.**

**Reader:** For all of us who work in our Catholic School system, that we will remember \_\_\_\_\_'s many gifts and qualities and use them to further the work God calls us to do.

**All: You are praised.**

## Our Wishes for You

Not  
that no cloud of sorrow may come upon you,  
Not  
That your life should be a bed of roses,

Not  
That you may never shed any tears,

Not  
That you may never feel any harm,

No, these are not our wishes for you.

Our wishes for you is that...

You may keep every golden memory of any rich day of your life forever

and that every gift which God has given you may grow as the years are passing by.

May it help you to fill the hearts of those you love with joy

and in every hour of joy and every hour of grief.

May the love of the Son of God incarnate be with you.

**All: Amen**

--Werner & Cornelia Schwartz,  
*600 Blessings and Prayers From Around the World*

## Blessing Prayer

**(Hold hands up in blessing towards person)**

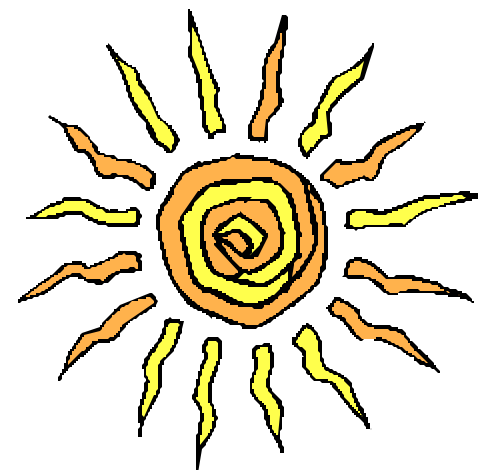
Creator God, you have blessed us with many gifts that we seek to put at the service of your reign. Bless \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she looks forward to a new and sturdy growth as God's beloved. Help him/her to know retirement not as an end but as a beginning, to know the joy of a new and gentle work made in perfect love. Give him /her health in mind, body and spirit so that the days to come will be a new creation, a new path. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, risen and living in each of us, guiding our days.

**All: Amen**

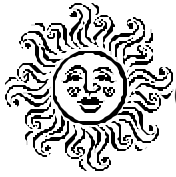
Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo  
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# NEW HORIZONS

## A PRAYER FOR A RETIREMENT



*Many blessings on a new phase  
in your life...*



## Call to Worship

**Leader:** Let us Glorify God.

**All:** Let us praise God's name.

**Leader:** Creator God, we give you thanks for your gift of time. You bless each moment of our lives and fill it with meaning and purpose. Teach us to number our days so that we may harvest a rich life and know the rewards of our labours. We make this prayer through our Beloved Teacher, Jesus.

All: Amen

## Reading

A Variation on a Reading from Ecclesiastes

**Leader:** There is an appointed time for everything,

**All:** And a time for every affair under the heavens.

**Leader:** A time to be born,

**All:** to emerge, to choose to be a good teacher.

**Leader:** A time to die,

**All:** to abandon ways that would be counter-productive to our vision.

**Leader:** A time to plant,

**All:** to place in the hearts of students, women and men a love of God and others.

**Leader:** A time to uproot the plant,

**All:** to remove habits that cause students and teachers not to be their best.

**Leader:** A time to kill,

**All:** to end harmful, divisive intentions.

**Leader:** A time to heal,

**All:** to forgive the shortcomings of peers and students.

**Leader:** At time to tear down,

**All:** to eliminate walls of biases that separate us.

**Leader:** A time to build,

**All:** to have confidence in those with whom we come in contact.

**Leader:** A time to weep,

**All:** to grieve over lost opportunities.

**Leader:** A time to laugh,

**All:** to look at our lives with eyes of humour.

**Leader:** A time to mourn,

**All:** to have regrets about those who do not see or act with compassion.

**Leader:** A time to dance,

**All:** to rejoice because of those who stir creativity and love in their student.

**Leader:** A time to embrace,

**All:** to hold memories of love, learning and friendship.

**Leader:** A time to refrain from embracing,

**All:** to bid farewell to schedules, meetings and impossible deadlines.

-ICEL



## Scripture Reading: John 12:24-26

A Reading from the Gospel According to St. John.

Jesus said, " The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, God will honour. The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Intercessions

**Reader:** For every hour, minute and second, God, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

**All: You are praised.**

**Reader:** For the opportunity to have served you in others and to reflect your goodness in work.

**All: You are praised.**