

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

RESOURCE PACKAGE

September 2009



MAY 2 – MAY 7, 2010

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION:
REJOICING IN HOPE**

PRAYERS FOR THE OPENING WEEK OF SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 2009

September 8, 2009

Today is the birthday of our mother Mary,
 Mary is a model of Christian hope.
Alone and pregnant, she turned to God for help.
She looked to the future with love in her heart and love in her womb.
This is Christian hope.
Not only was Mary hopeful but she was joyful.
When she visited her cousin Elizabeth,
 she sang the beautiful hymn of joy and justice, the Magnificat.
Through this school year let us join Catholic schools around Ontario in singing our own
 Magnificats.
Let us all rejoice in hope.
Together we pray, "Hail Mary"

September 9, 2009

This year we will be celebrating the theme "Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope" in our Ontario Catholic schools. As we start this school year may we rejoice in hope
 in our hearts,
 in our homes,
 in our schools,
 in our communities,
 and in our world.

Loving God, walk with us during this school year and "always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within you." (1 Peter 3:15) Help us to rejoice in hope.
Amen

September 10, 2009

Our theme, "Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope", comes from a letter of St. Paul to the Philippians. He wrote:
*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.*

*Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me
and the God of peace will be with you.*

September 11, 2009

Loving God,
we place our hopes in You.
Guide us through this school year.
Let us turn to you in
joy and pain,
triumph and loss,
achievement and challenge.
May Your hope lead us
from loneliness to belonging,
from fear to courage,
from conflict to harmony.
May the light of Your hope guide us through the days, weeks and months ahead.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus who had hope even on the cross.
Amen.

MASS: CATHOLIC EDUCATION: REJOICING IN HOPE

Note: Although the suggested readings address the theme, Rejoicing in Hope, consult with the presiding priest to determine if they are acceptable for this occasion.

Preparation of the Worship Space:

Create a worship space using symbols related to your school as well as the virtue of hope. These symbols could be

- an anchor,
- a rainbow,
- a cross,
- an empty tomb.

Opening Song:

We Are Called

You Are the Voice (CBW III 576, Gather 390)

All Are Welcome

Gather Us In (Gather 539, CBW III 587)

First Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you.

*The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God***

Responsorial Psalm: (Psalm 33)

Reader: The response to the Psalm is: **The earth is full of the goodness of God.**

All: **The earth is full of the goodness of God.**

Reader: Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness.

All: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Reader: Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield,
for in him our hearts rejoice;
in his Holy name we trust.

All: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

All: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Gospel: *John 14: 18-29*

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me and those who love me will be loved by my Father and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word and my Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.'

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ.**

The Prayer of the Faithful:

In our Catholic schools we rejoice in hope of all that can be with God's loving guidance.
The response to each petition is '**God hear us.**'

For the Church, called to make visible in all her actions the love of God. We pray to the Lord,

Response, **God hear us.**

For a new birth of hope: in our hearts, in our homes, in our schools, in our communities and in our world. We pray to the Lord

*Response, **God hear us.***

For those in Canada and around the world challenged by economic difficulties; for people who have lost jobs and for the communities most profoundly affected by these new realities. We pray to the Lord,

*Response, **God hear us.***

For people who seek community and communion with others; for those who live with the heavy burdens of illnesses and disabilities that isolate them. We pray to the Lord,

*Response, **God hear us.***

For the students we serve, may they rejoice in hope. We pray to the Lord,

*Response, **God hear us.***

CELEBRANT

God of all compassion, hear the prayers of your people. We stand before you, as witnesses to this hope in Your world. Be with us now and always.

Amen.

Preparation of the Altar:

Like a Shepherd (CBW III 490, Gather 251)
Seed Scattered and Sown (CBW III 604, Gather 601)
We Come to Your Feast (Gather 617)
Canticle of the Sun (CBW III 542)
Eye has Not Seen (CBW III 482)
Here I Am Lord (CBW III, 520)

Communion Song: One Bread One Body (Gather 599)
Gift of Finest Wheat (CBW III 603)
Eat This Bread (CBW III 602, Gather 588)
We Are Many Parts (Gather 530)
Faith, Hope and Love

Closing Song: Blest are They (CBW III 522, Gather 469)
You are the Voice (CBW III 576, Gather 390)
Sing to the Mountains (Gather 313)
City of God (CBW III 345)
All Creatures of Our God and King (CBW III, 543)
Though the Mountains May Fall
All the Ends of the Earth (CBW III, 548)