



being **CREATIVE**



being **WELL**



being **COMMUNITY**

Celebrating Sacred Teachings

SEPTEMBER RESOURCES

Vision

Creating a culture of faith, hope and love
to ensure equity and well-being.

Mission

To accompany our students as we strive for excellence in Catholic Education.
We educate students in faith-filled, loving, safe, inclusive schools
to develop the God-given abilities of each person.



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Catholic District School Board*



September Resources

Prayers and Reflections

Inspiring Images

CGE - Discerning Believer

Grandfather Teaching - Wisdom

Liturgical Possibilities

Quotes

Book List



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Prayers / Reflections

Faithfulness

"For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds."

PSALM 108:4

FAITHFULNESS

Becoming Discerning Believers



Because I am a believer, I know God is always with me. I ask deep questions to strengthen my belief.

Wisdom

I have been gifted with faith that seeks to understand and to make good decisions.



Nibwaakaawin – Wisdom

I show wisdom when I act responsibly. I use knowledge to guide me to be accountable for my actions.



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This month we celebrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit called Faithfulness; the gift of the Holy Spirit of Wisdom; the Grandfather Teaching of Wisdom (Nibwaakaawin /nib-bwah-kah-win/) and the Catholic Graduate Expectation of Becoming Discerning Believers.

The period from September 1st (the World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation) to October 4th (the Feast of St. Francis - Patron Saint of Ecology) is also known as the Season of Creation.

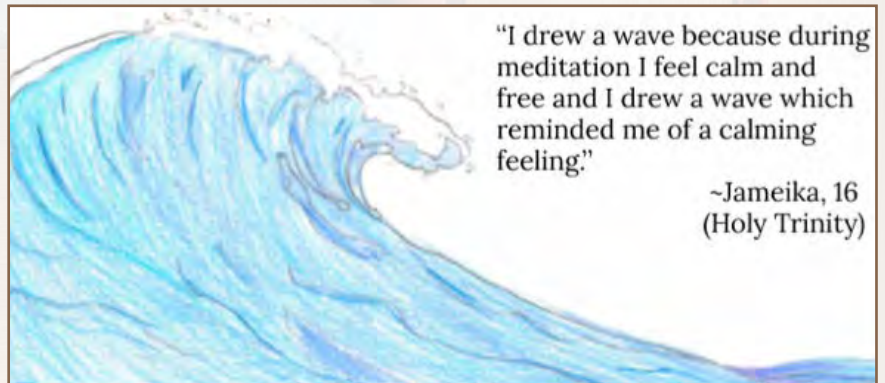
This time provides individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their vocation to be stewards of creation.

Dear God:

Bless the pencils and the pages
We will write upon this year
Knowing students of all ages
Will share stories they hold dear

Bless our desks and classroom spaces
Bless the floors on which we stand
Help us to respect these places
And all who've walked upon this land.

Bless our families and our nation
Be with us in work and play
Help us to see Your creation
In our learning every day
Amen.



Indigenous Wisdom

"Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People." from

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 107



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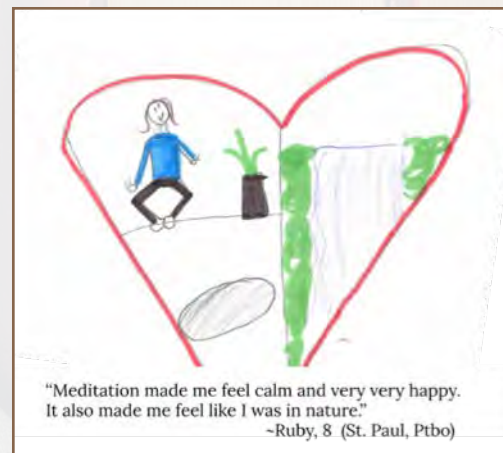


Loving God,

You have given your children many gifts. We celebrate our diversity as your family. You give us hope. You are always here among us. Give us eyes to see the beauty in all of creation and to see that you have created this world in goodness and love. Give us wisdom to know that our hope lies in our shared faith in you and in the love we receive through your son, Jesus. Help us to always walk in your light, with hope in the goodness of our community. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother and friend.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"The most important thing each of us can know is our unique gift and how to use it in the world." from Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 134

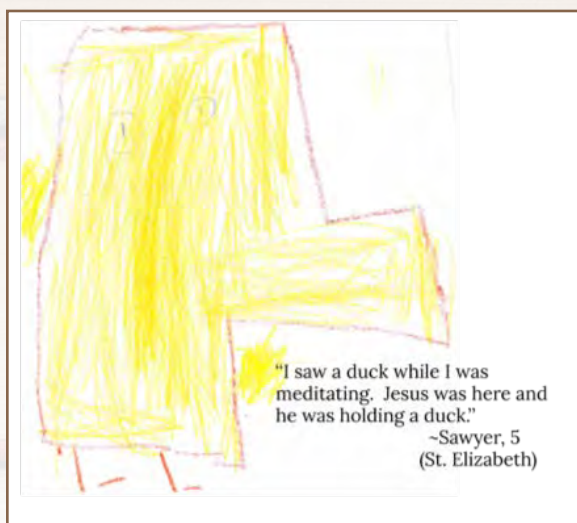


God of all creation,

You give us hope for the future. Your gift is Jesus, your Son, who brings your love and care to all the earth. There is nothing that this love cannot overcome. Help us all to live like Jesus, bringing peace and goodness to our community and our world. Help us to love like Jesus, to become messengers of hope to all. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, prince of peace.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."
(Ancient Native American Proverb)





Lord God, Creator of light,
At the rising of Your sun each morning, let the
greatest of all lights - Your love - rise, like the
sun, within our hearts and fill us with love for
each other and for our common home. We ask
this in your name.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom
"Teachings come from everywhere when you
open yourself to them. That's the trick of it really,
open yourself to everything, and everything
opens itself to you." from **Embers: One
Ojibwe's Meditations** by Richard Wagamese,
p. 58



"During the meditation I couldn't help thinking about the
forest I go to walk in by my house and this quote to go
with it: 'The Lord will guide the way.'"
~Brianna (Holy Trinity)



"Christian meditation makes me feel loved."
~Julia, 8 (St. Anthony)

Lord of all things,
Help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards
nature, threatened from all sides today,
So that we may learn to see all of nature as
brother and sister, Recognize that all is
connected, And bring glory to God the Creator.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom
"... in Native ways of knowing, human people
are often referred to as 'the younger brothers of
Creation.' ...we must look to our teachers
among the other species for guidance ... Plants
know how to make food and medicine from light
and water, and then they give it away." from
Braiding **Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom,
Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of
Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 9-10



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God of all creation,
Your spirit dances throughout the earth.
You give drink to the trees, shade for the birds,
bread for the hungry.
You bring life and make all things holy.
Flood our hearts with your grace, so we may
sow seeds of love, justice and beauty, And
reflect your kingdom here on earth.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"Whatever our gift, we are called to give it and
dance for the renewal of the world." from

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom,
Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of
Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 384

"To me, Christian Meditation is a time to let me take
a minute to see my love and faith in my heart"
~Lilli, 8 (St. Mother Teresa)



"During meditation I see the
underside of the waves in the ocean
& the sparkles from the sun above as
it refracts through the surface of the
water. This makes me feel peaceful
and content."

~Olivia (Holy Trinity)

Dear Lord,

We live in a beautiful country filled with the
wonder of Your creation.

Remind us that we are responsible for Your gifts
and that we need to respect the land we live on
as well as all those who share our common
home.

Help our leaders to make wise decisions which
model responsibility and respect and Help us to
always show care for Your creation.

Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

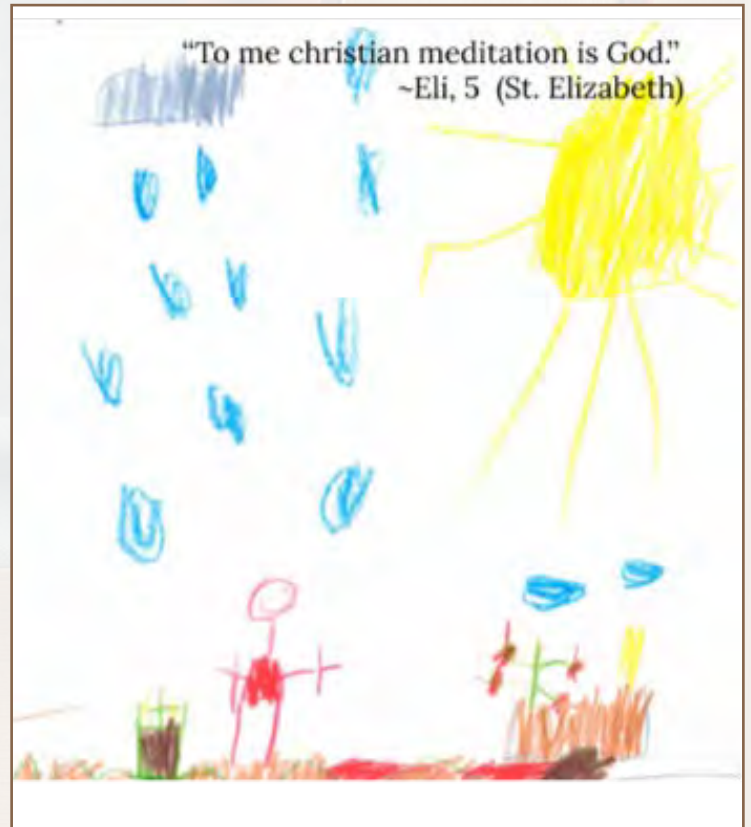
"In the Anishnaabe culture, all forms of life are connected [...] We learn from and respect each and every life
form as each one contributes to our environment and survival. It is extremely important that we understand
each other so that each life form can continue to exist on our planet." (Bruce Beardy, **Exploring the
Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession through Anishnaabe Art**, p. 7)



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All-powerful God,
You are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of Your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
We thank You for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.
Amen.



Indigenous Wisdom

"Humility as one of the Anishnaabe teachings tell us that being humble is to recognize and accept that we are no more important than others and that we make mistakes." (Bruce Beardy, **Exploring the Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession through Anishnaabe Art**, p. 10)



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"To me Christian meditation is peace coming to earth filling the sad people. It feels like I'm at the beach. The sand makes people happy."

~Brooke, 8 (St. Mother Teresa)

Jesus, Suffering Saviour,
We pray for all who are victims of injustice in our world.
For the earth that is damaged by our hands and
And for the hands of the poor which are too often left empty.
May your cross be a reminder to us of the need to act justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

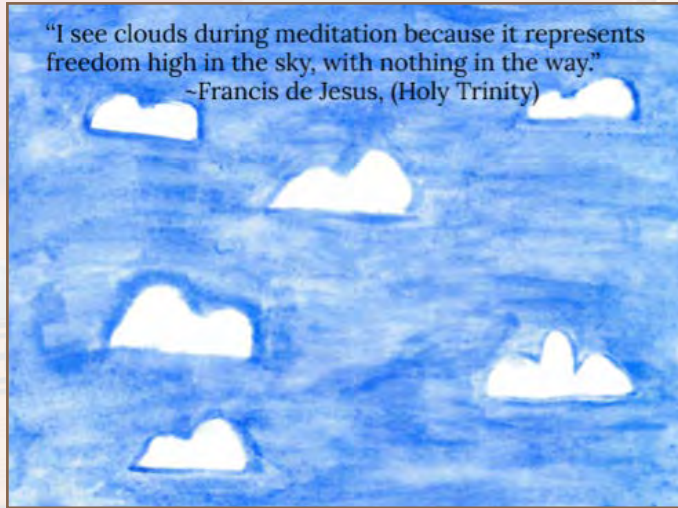
"...we are all related...we are all connected...we all belong to each other. The most important word is 'all' . Not just those who look like me, sing like me, dance like me, speak like me, pray like me or behave like me. ALL my relations. That means every person, just as it means every rock, mineral, blade of grass, and creature. We live because everything else does. If we were to choose collectively to live that teaching, the energy of our change of consciousness would heal each of us - and heal the planet." from **Embers: One Ojibwe's Meditations** by Richard Wagamese, p. 36



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"I see clouds during meditation because it represents freedom high in the sky, with nothing in the way."
~Francis de Jesus, (Holy Trinity)



Father God,
We praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from Your all-powerful hand; they are Yours, filled with Your presence and Your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
Through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
You became part of this earth, and You gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today You are alive in every creature in Your risen glory.
Praise be to you!
Holy Spirit,
by your light You guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts and You inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"In the beginning we were told that the human beings who walk about on the Earth have been provided with all the things necessary for life. We were instructed to carry a love for one another, and to show a great respect for all beings of this Earth." (from **Basic Call to Consciousness**, Haudenosonee Message to the Western World, at UN Conference on Indigenous Peoples, 1977, Akwesasne Notes, p.71)



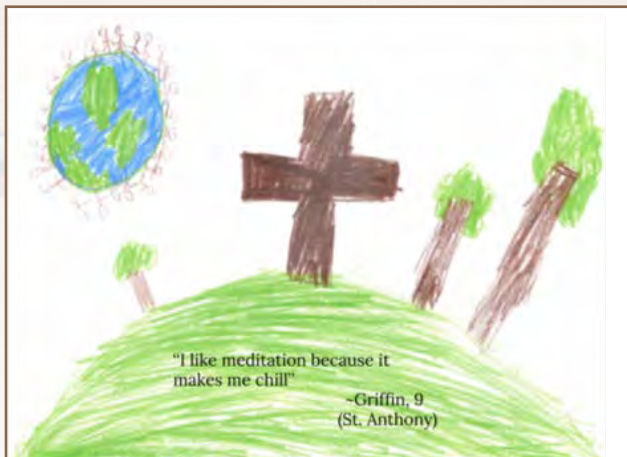
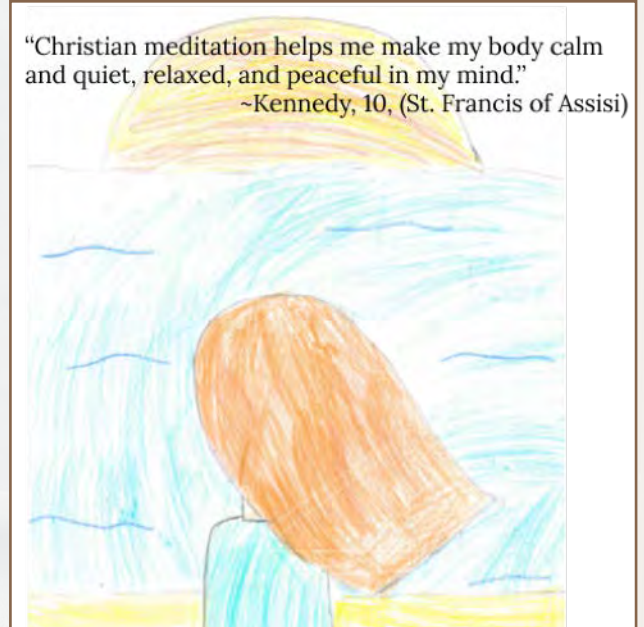
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Heavenly Father,
Enlarge within us the feeling of connectedness with all living things,
Our brothers and sisters the animals to whom you gave the earth as their home in common with us.
We remember with shame that in the past we have tried to control and use your creation.
May we realize that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves, and for you, and that they love the sweetness of life.
We pray through our Savior Jesus Christ who lifts up and redeems us all.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

“Traditionally, the Anishnaabe have had a belief that the water nourishes all of creation.[...]. Water is pure and sacred and cleansing. As well as being something physical to quench our thirsts, it helps us emotionally. Water has spirit. It is known to us as the veins which flow through Mother Earth. All of the ponds, lakes, streams, oceans and seas are part of our Mother’s body. For this reason we give thanks for the veins of our Mother, the earth.” (from **Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg: This is Our Territory** by Elder Gidiigaa Migizi (Doug Williams), Curve Lake First Nation p.106



God of Life,
We pray for those who long for green pastures and quiet streams.
Provide for those who need daily bread and for those who long for home.
God of Creation,
We pray for strength and wisdom to be good stewards.
Forgive us for the ways in which we contribute to the destruction of your Creation.
God of Love,
Transform us, that we may place the well-being of the earth and the poor ahead of our wants and desires.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

“The power lies in the wisdom and understanding of one’s role in the Great Mystery, and in honouring every living thing as a teacher.” (Jamie Sams and David Carson, American Indian Writers, from **Native Wisdom for White Minds** by Anne Wilson Schaef)



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Lord, allow my ears to listen to the earth and the voices of my sisters and brothers
Lord, allow my eyes to see the beauty of creation, in flowers, creatures, forests, and cities alike.

Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice and ensure the poor are heard.

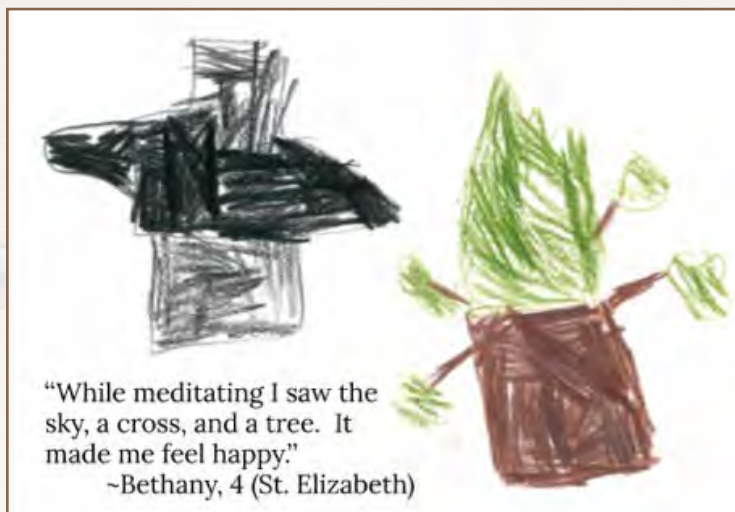
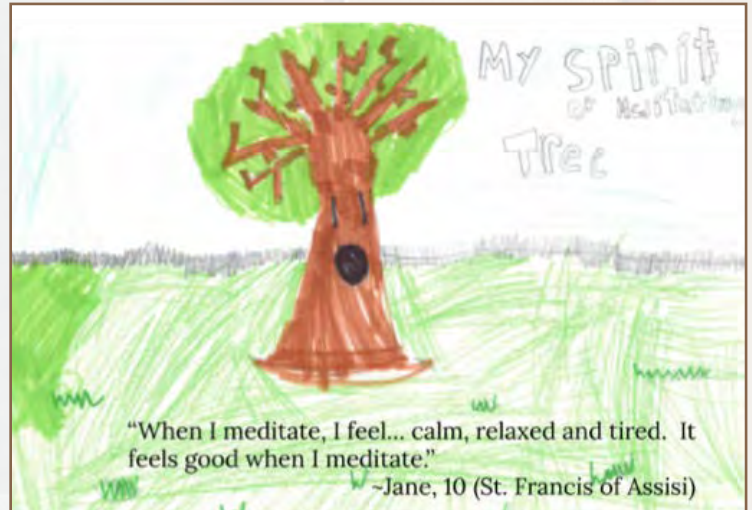
Lord, allow my hands to care for the earth, to toil, to reap, to celebrate.

Lord, allow my feet to take the path less travelled, to walk the extra mile, to take your message to the world.

Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"Gifts from the earth or from each other establish a particular relationship, an obligation of sorts, to give, to receive, and to reciprocate." (from **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 25)



Dear Lord,

Thank you for the crunch of leaves, buds on trees, mud puddles and sandy beaches. Thank you for the moon and stars, rays of sunshine, snowflakes, raindrops, and cool breezes. The changing of these seasons shows that You are with us each day.

We watch nature change colour, grow, fade, and be reborn.

Thank you for sharing Your beauty with us and for showing us that You are always near.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"Let us give thanks for this beautiful day. Let us give thanks for this life. Let us give thanks for the water without which life would not be possible. Let us give thanks for Grandmother Earth who protects and nourishes us." (Daily Prayer of the Lakota American Indians, from **Native Wisdom for White Minds** by Anne Wilson Schaef)

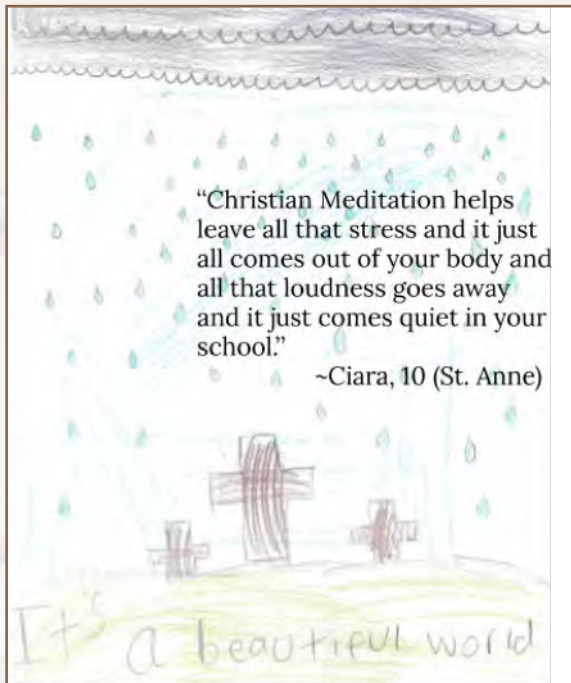


Dear Lord,
You have given us such beauty.
The mountains, the oceans, the sky, the trees,
the animals, and the sun and moon are all a
reflection of Your love and commitment.
Please help us to work hard in keeping the
environment safe and clean.
Help us remember to reuse and recycle, turn off
lights, shut down unused energy sources and
compost to keep Your gift healthy.
Allow us to unite as a school community to
continue in doing our part, and show our care
for Your creations.
Amen.



Indigenous Wisdom

"I like to speak for the water because the water doesn't have a voice. If nobody speaks up what will the water and environment be like in 10 to 20 years?" Autumn Peltier, an Indigenous water activist from Wikwemikong (wick-WEM-ih-kong) First Nation and International Children's Peace Prize nominee.



God of Peace,
Our planet experienced the pains of war for many years.
War destroys both the manmade and the natural beauty of
our world.
Please teach us the ways of peace.
Help us to see that the benefits of peace are more precious
than the outcomes of war. Help us to find ways to bring joy
to others.
Keep our planet free from war's destruction.
Amen.

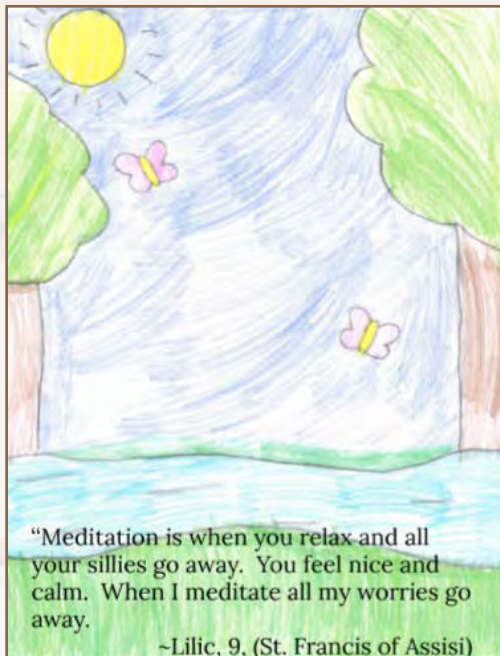
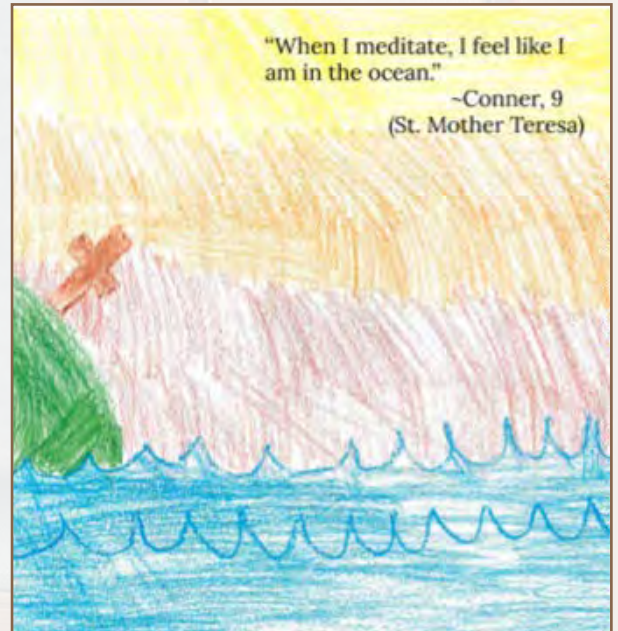
Indigenous Wisdom

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of
our decisions on the next seven generations."
Haudenosonee (hoh-DEN-noh-shoh-knee) (Iroquois)
principle or truth. From **We Are the Land**, Scholastic
Education resource, p. 4)



Dieu de l'Univers
Merci pour le pain, le vent, la terre et l'eau.
Merci pour la musique et pour le silence.
Merci pour le miracle de chaque nouveau jour.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom
The wind listens. Hear my heart. Hear my spirit.
Hear my words.
The water cleanses. Clean my heart. Clean my spirit.
Clean my mind.
The animals guide me. Guide my heart. Guide my spirit.
Guide my mind.
Mother earth feeds me. Feed my heart. Feed my spirit.
Feed my mind.
(Morning Prayer by Brandon Bob, Salish and Nehiyaw
(Cree)) From **We Are the Land**, Scholastic Education
resource, p. 6)



Creator God,
We give you thanks for the great abundance and nourishment that
you provide us through your Creation and through your great love.
Heal our hunger for things that do not last. Teach us to take
enough, as well as give back to the earth, so that all may live from
Your generosity and that no one shall go in want.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom
The rules of the Honourable Harvest are not written down, but look
something like this:
Never take the first. Never take the last. Take only what you need.
Never take more than half. Leave some for others.
Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.
Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken. Share.
Give thanks for what you have been given.
Give a gift in reciprocity for what you have taken.
Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.

(from **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by
Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 183)

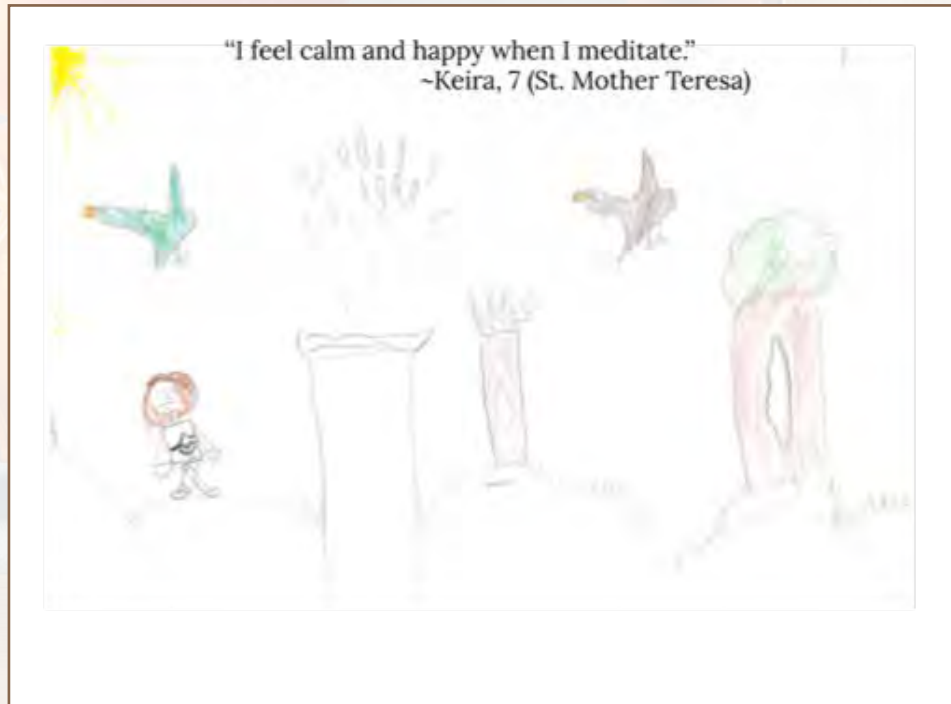


"When I meditate I feel calm and peaceful."
~Cristiano, 8 (St. Mother Teresa)

Oh Great Spirit,
Creator of all things: human beings, trees, grass, berries,
Help us, be kind to us.
Let us be happy on earth.
Let us lead our children to a good life and old age.
These are our people; give them good minds to love one another.
Oh Great Spirit, be kind to us.
Give these people the favour to see green trees, green grass, flowers and berries next spring.
So we all meet again, Oh Great Spirit, we ask of you.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"We all go to school and we each have the power to decide how we will use our learning for good. As a young person, your voice is powerful. How will you use your voice to make your community more fair and respectful?" Charlene Bearhead, First Educational Lead for the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation.



Jesus,

You set before me the book of nature and I understood how all the flowers God has created are beautiful. How the splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not take away the perfume of the violet or the simplicity of the daisy.

I understand that if all flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her springtime beauty, and the fields would no longer be decked out with little wild flowers.

So it is in the worlds of souls, in Your garden. You have created daisies and violets as little flowers which give joy to God when He looks down.

Help us to live fully as He created us.

Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"Remember. Remember that Creator is the wind on my face, the rain in my hair, the sun that warms me. Creator is the trees, rocks, grasses, the majesty of the sky and the intense mystery of the universe." From

Embers: One Ojibwe's Meditations by Richard Wagamese, p. 101



"Meditation makes me feel calm because when I'm sitting down with my eyes closed I won't be distracted by other people."
~TS, 7 (St. Mother Teresa)

Steward God,

As we approach Thanksgiving we thank you for our beautiful land with flowing streams, bountiful rivers and oceans, deep valleys, majestic mountains, fertile fields, and awesome skies.

We reflect on our relationship with creation: Do we marvel at its beauty? Do we care for the forests, rivers and animals? Do we make our school more beautiful? Each of us can make a difference to our planet's health. We thank You, Father, for our home the Earth. Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

"We are showered every day with gifts, but they are not meant for us to keep. Their life is in their movement, the inhale and the exhale of our shared breath. Our work and our joy is to pass along the gift and to trust that what we put into the universe will always come back." (from **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, p. 104)

Dear God,

Today we pray for the farmers who care for the earth and provide food for people and animals. We pray for those who do not have enough to eat. Teach us to share what we have with others so that we may provide the hungry with abundant food through the sharing of our resources. Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

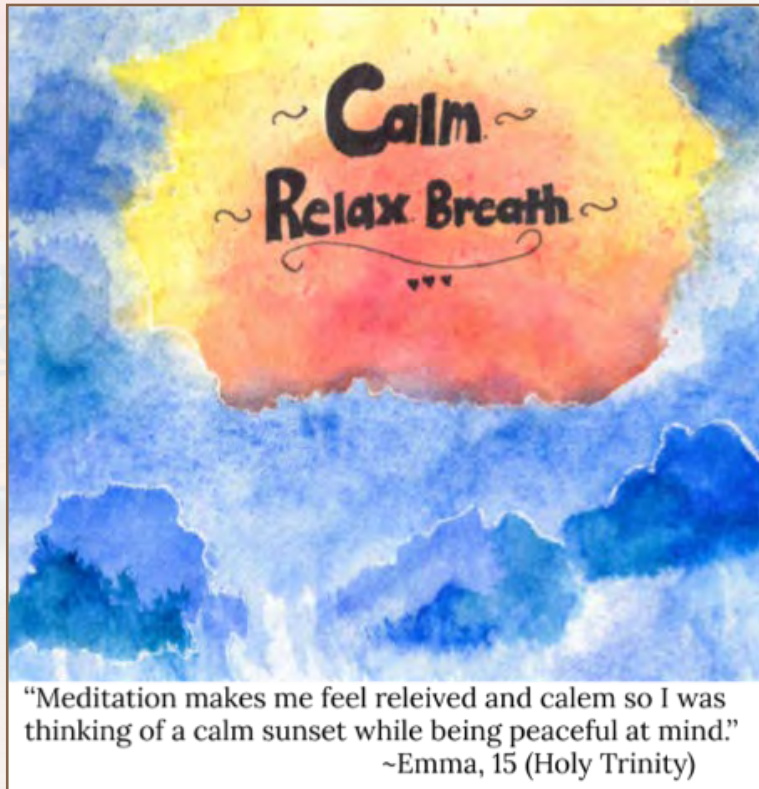
"A gift is not a gift until it is shared. From **Embers: One Ojibwe's Meditations** by Richard Wagamese, p. 62

"Christian Meditation makes me feel closer to God and Jesus."

~Hailey, 7 (St. Mother Teresa)



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All powerful Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.
Be praised through all Your creatures, especially through Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and You give light through him.
Praised be You through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You through Brother Wind, and through the air,
cloudy and serene.
Praised be You through Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us
and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
We praise and bless You, Lord, and give You thanks and serve You with great humility.
Amen.

Indigenous Wisdom

“Teachings come from everywhere when you open yourself to them. That’s the trick of it, really. Open yourself to everything, and everything opens itself to you.” From **Embers: One Ojibwe’s Meditations** by Richard Wagamese, p. 58



Inspiring Images

**I AM A
BELIEVER!**



- † I **believe** that God is an awesome God
- † I **believe** and have faith in God
- † I **believe** that God is with us always
- † I **believe** that we can talk to God
anytime and anywhere, through prayer
- † I **believe** in the stories of the Bible
- † I **believe** in the stories of Jesus' life,
death and resurrection
- † I **believe** in the Church community,
celebrating Mass, and the seven
Sacraments
- † I **believe** in forgiveness

Because I am a believer, I will live my life like Jesus



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Faithfulness



“For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.” Psalm 108:4



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Faithfulness

"For your steadfast love is higher
than the heavens, and your
faithfulness reaches to the clouds."

Psalm 108:4



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I have been gifted
with faith that seeks
to understand and to
make good
decisions.

Wisdom



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Becoming Discerning Believers



*Because I am a believer, I
know God is always with me.
I ask deep questions to
strengthen my belief.*



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I SHOW *wisdom*
WHEN I LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE



I use knowledge to guide my actions.



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WISDOM



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Catholic Graduate Expectation

A DISCERNING BELIEVER

Formed in the Catholic Faith Community who:

- a. Illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian faith.
- b. Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story.
- c. Actively reflects on God's Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- d. Develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good.
- e. Speaks the language of life ... "recognizing that life is an unearned gift and that a person



- entrusted with life does not own it but that one is called to protect and cherish it." (Witnesses to Faith)
- f. Seeks intimacy with God and celebrates communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship.
- g. Understands that one's purpose or call in life comes from God and strives to discern and live out this call throughout life's journey.
- h. Respects the faith traditions, world religions and the life-journeys of all people of good will.
- i. Integrates faith with life.
- j. Recognizes that "sin, human weakness, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey " and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness is at the heart of redemption. (Witnesses to Faith)

“*Our Catholic schools offer an extraordinary contribution to the social and environmental fabric of our society and world. In partnership with parents, who bear the primary responsibility for the education of their children, all those who work in Catholic education are called to reflect, in a faithful and discerning fashion, God's presence in this world.*” (RTP, page 3)

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Grandfather Teaching

WISDOM – NIBWAAKAAWIN

Wisdom is represented by the beaver because he uses his natural gift wisely for his survival. The beaver also alters his environment in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way for the benefit of his family.

To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom.

To have wisdom is to know the difference between positive and negative and know the result of your action.

Use your inherent gifts wisely and live your life by them. Recognize your differences and those of others in a kind and respectful way. Continuously observe the life of all things around you. Listen with clarity and a sound mind. Respect your own limitations and those of all of your surroundings. Allow yourself to learn and live by your wisdom.



The Creator gave the Beaver large teeth and the knowledge of how to build. This has enabled the Beaver to positively impact its environment and create a more sustainable world.

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Prayer Service / Non Eucharistic Liturgy



Non Eucharistic Symbols

Crucifix: Symbol of Faith. Jesus died for us to one day come again. We have faith in His presence, which reminds us to keep believing in the word of God.

Bible: The word of God. It holds the stories of Jesus and His faithful journey.

Mirror: To symbolize that we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

Candle: To symbolize power of faith, and hope in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Opening Prayer Gathering

Dear Lord

We gather today to celebrate Faith. Help us to build a strong commitment to You O God. Allow us to celebrate our faith in You together as a Catholic community. Even though we can't see You, we know that You are with us in many shapes, sizes and forms. Give us the opportunity today to share ways in which we live and practice our faith, and help us to grow and find new ways in which we can explore this everlasting relationship. Teach us to be trustworthy, guide us to live in Your image and show us how to be devoted disciples. Amen.



Old Testament Reading Genesis 9.1-12

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird



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of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life. Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made humankind. And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it." Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations."

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



Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 27**

The response to the psalm is "*God's faithfulness is forever unfailing.*"

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? *R*

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
Though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident. *R*

One thing I ask of the Lord, that will I seek after:
To love in the house of the Lord all the days of my Life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in His temple. *R*



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Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
For false witnesses have risen against me,
And they are breathing out violence. *R*

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord,
in the land of the living, Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord. *R*



Second Reading (Optional) **Hebrews 11.1-13**

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

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

Hebrews 11.23-28

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

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





Gospel Reading **Matthew 17.14-20**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

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



Optional Activities

Paper Chain Link: Students can use the colours of the rainbow to create a paper chain link to symbolize the covenant that God made with Noah, and that we are all linked together in our faith.

White Candle or Cloth: White is the symbol of renewal and new beginnings. "White" will remind us to begin the school with a renewed faith in God, self and others.

Footprints: Students can bring up footprints to symbolize that we walk by faith, and that God is always with us, even though we can't see Him in His physical form.

Read a copy of the poem "*Footprints*".



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Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for having faith in us. After listening to Your stories and sharing our ideas, we learned that faith is the foundation of all relationships. We must have trust in ourselves and each other if we want to grow and live a fulfilled life. We don't need to see Your face, we have proof that You exist everyday in our hearts, mind and spirit. You are the cool breeze in the morning, the ripples of the river, and the clouds in the sky. You exist in every handshake, smile, good deed and laughter. You show up in our hard work ethics, goals, grades and accomplishments. Thank you for pushing us to live in Your image, for helping us make good choices, and teaching us to be kind and forgiving.

We pray in the Holy Spirit, with Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Possible Song Recommendations

Liturgical

Non-Liturgical

Everyone Moved By The Spirit

Circle of Life ~ Lion King

City of God

I Believe ~ Diamond Rio

Faith of Our Fathers

Angels Among Us ~ Alabama

Here I Am To Worship

Forever ~ Chris Tomlin

No One Like You Lord

I Lift My Hands ~ Chris Tomlin

We Are the Family
Houston

When You Believe ~ Mariah Carey and Whitney

I Am Your God

I Can Only Imagine ~ Mercy Me

I Lift Up My Soul

Glorious Day ~ Chris Tomlin

Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies) ~ Chris Tomlin

Will You Be There ~ Michael Jackson











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Universal Prayer

Response: *Faithful Lord, hear our prayer.*

-  For our Holy Father on earth, Bishops, and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, we pray. *R*
-  For the priests of our Diocese, particularly (name priest(s) at this mass) that he/they may continue to share his/their gift of faith with us, we pray. *R*
-  For our Prime Minister and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, we pray. *R*
-  For those who show devotion and commitment and live by faith through God, we pray. *R*
-  For the members of (name school) who are suffering with an illness, we pray. *R*
-  For the women, men and children who suffer the effects of war, violence and the lack of justice in our world, we pray. *R*
-  For the people in our communities who are hungry and those who are living on the street, may they never give up hope and have complete trust and faithfulness in God's plans, we pray. *R*
-  For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they find faith and be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, we pray. *R*



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Quotes



"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there', for truly I tell you, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
~ Matthew 17. 20



"They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" ~ Acts 16.31



"If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and righteous, with the result that He forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness." ~ 1 John 1.9



"Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God."
~ Deuteronomy 7.9



"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"
~ 2 Timothy 4.7



"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" ~ Revelation 2.10



"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator" ~ 1 Peter 4.19



"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith".
~ Ephesians 3.16-17



"They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith." ~ Acts 14.27





"Jesus said to him, "If you are able! - All things can be done for the one who believes."
Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"
~ Mark 9.23.24








 “Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” ~ Mother Teresa

 “Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

 “If patience is worth anything, it must endure to the end of time. And a living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

 “To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.” ~ Thomas Aquinas

 “God gives us not only the truth but the ability to believe it; not only the new thing to see but the eye to see it with.” ~ Peter Kreeft

 “God did not put me down here to be successful. He put me down here to be faithful.”



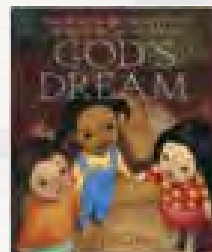
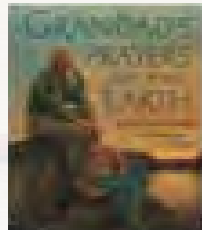
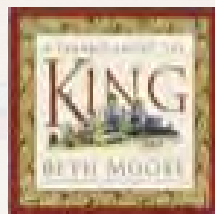
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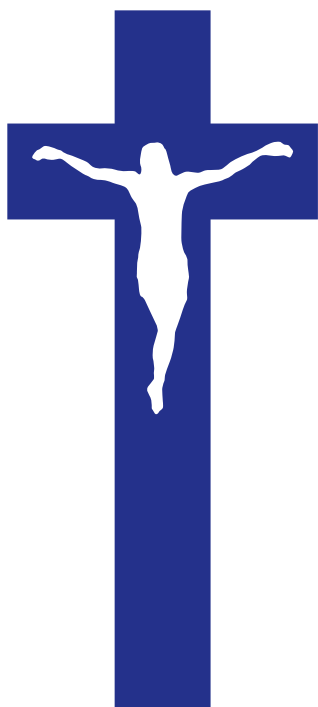


Short Resource List

Books

- ❖ Saints: Saints live by faith. Any biography about a saint of choice would be appropriate
- ❖ A Parable About the King by: Beth Moore (P/J)
- ❖ You Are Special by: Max Lucado (P/J/I)
- ❖ Small Gifts in God's Hands by: Max Lucado (P/J/I)
- ❖ What is Heaven Like? By: Beverly Lewis (P/J/I)
- ❖ The Tale of the Three Trees by: Hunt Angela Elwell (P/J/I)
- ❖ God's Dream by: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams (P/J/I)
- ❖ Dog Heaven by: Cynthia Rylant (P)
- ❖ Grandad's Prayer's of the Earth by: Douglas Wood (J/I)
- ❖ The Oak Inside the Acorn by: Max Lucado (P/J/I)





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