

BELONGING

Welcoming

Praying

Learning

Celebrating the Faith

Reconciling and

Forgiving

Serving Others

"Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive, Christ-centered learning environment"

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Welcoming

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"Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive, Christ-centered learning environment"

First Printing October 2011



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic School
BOARD



Board Mission:

To serve the Catholic student in a community that nurtures a living faith and provides a quality Catholic education that enables the individual to become a contributing member of the church and society.

Acknowledgements

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Special Thanks:

For the writings and wisdom of Jean Vanier and Henri Nouwen;
To Beth Porter, Educational Initiatives and Publications, L’Arche Canada; and
To Tuula van den Heuval, Administrative Assistant, London District Catholic School Board.








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CAUTION: SCHOOLS



Belonging, Safe Schools, Equity and Inclusion:

Working with the *Safe Schools* and *Equity & Inclusion* Committees, we returned to our Catholic faith roots to examine how we might promote a safe, healthy, inclusive, equitable, Christ-centered learning environment in our schools. The faith-based wisdom of Jean Vanier, Henri Nouwen and L'Arche has guided us through our work. At the same time, we turned to the wisdom and practice that is already alive in many of our schools and in the research. In the end, we wanted to present a resource, rooted in faith, to serve as one piece of the puzzle to help us all grow into a faith-filled community.

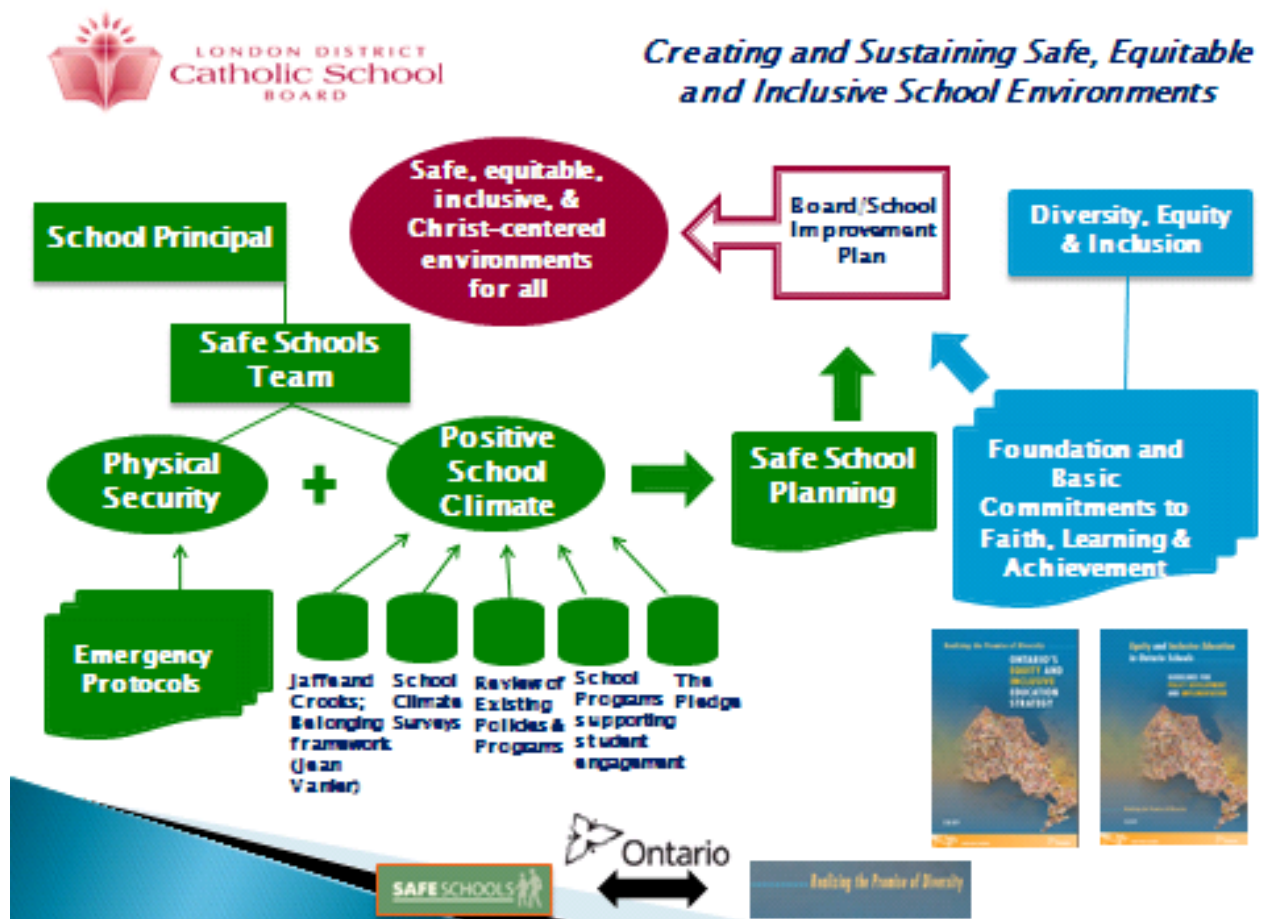


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Discovering that they are loved by God, people come to understand their own transcendent dignity, they learn not to be satisfied with only themselves but to encounter their neighbour in a network of relationships that are ever more authentically human. Men and women who are made “new” by the love of God are able to change the rules and the quality of relationships, transforming even social structures. They are people capable of bringing peace where there is conflict, of building and nurturing fraternal relationships where there is hatred, of seeking justice where there prevails the exploitation of man by man. Only love is capable of radically transforming the relationships that men maintain among themselves. This is the perspective that allows every person of good will to perceive the broad horizons of justice and human development in truth and goodness.

LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (paragraph #4)



BELONGING

How do we begin to build a healthy community? What are the necessary components of a healthy, faith-filled community?

These are not just our questions; these are the questions that humanity has examined since the beginning. We find that these questions are at the heart of Sacred Scripture. We find that all faith communities wrestle with these questions. Wrestling with these questions is a reflection of our desire to not only find community, but also to be in communion with God (cf. Genesis 32).

We find this search for healthy faith-filled community and for God in the story of the early Church. In the midst of persecution, questioning, and growing, the early Church was creating a new culture. This new culture was to be rooted in hope, love and faith. As the faithful sought understanding, the members of the early Church came together and grew into community. This is the faith story we find in the Acts of the Apostles and in the writings of the early Church.

In the story of the early Church, we find six themes that were held dear by those who grew in faith and communion. As the community grew, the members practised and promoted:

- Hospitality
- Prayer
- Celebrating the Faith
- Learning the Faith
- Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- Serving Others¹

These early believers, who would later be called Christians (Acts 11:26), set out for us a framework for living in a healthy, faith-filled community.

“To belong. It is important that we support each other, that we pray for each other, that we come together as people who have the same face. We need to love each other and then, as we learn to work together in a place of belonging and togetherness, we begin to see that it is important to listen to each other. You have ideas much better than mine, I may have some that are better than yours. We don’t have to be powerful; we don’t have to be right.”

- Jean Vanier, *Address to the Business Community, April 05*
(http://www.larche.ca/en/jean_vanier/daily_thoughts/belonging)

¹ cf. Judith Dunlap. *When You Teach in a Catholic School*. Ohio: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2004.

Belonging – An Introduction

Many of our Catholic schools have programs and curriculum that promote healthy faith-filled communities. At the same time, individuals, staffs and communities have worked tirelessly to develop and introduce initiatives that work to recognize and promote the dignity of each individual, build school community and school spirit, and encourage life-giving conversations which call us to action. These initiatives and programs are to be celebrated and lived out fully. Each and every person is called to witness the goals and objectives of these efforts in our schools.

It is our hope that our schools and communities are places where each person belongs, where each person feels welcomed. To realize safe and healthy school communities that are free of any form of interpersonal violence such as bullying and harassment, a culture of belonging which is rooted in nurturing respect and acceptance in relationships is critical. In our hearts we all want to know we belong, that there is a place for us and for others where the dignity and gifts of each person is celebrated, and where we all understand that we have a responsibility for each other and to the common good.

Objectives:

- To encourage each and every one of us to understand *that* we all have a role in building faith-filled communities.
- To help schools review their 'safe schools initiatives' and ensure that the pillars of a healthy faith-filled community are promoted.
- To develop resources that help us address the goals of the Ontario Ministry of Education *Safe School Act* and *Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategy* through a Catholic lens. More specifically, these resources are intended to provide the foundation from which violence prevention and anti-bullying initiatives are reviewed and/or developed. This foundation is fundamentally the combined effort of every school community to foster an attitude and habit of belonging and hospitality.
- To encourage discussion between our partners as we explore what Belonging and Hospitality look like, sound like and feel like.
- To encourage action: guided by the principles of L'Arche
- That **Belonging** resources will be shared throughout the school board and in each school community, inviting all people in our board, administrators and all staff, students and parents to develop a Community of Belonging.

Catholic Social Teaching Principles – Touchstones for our Work:

- **A Catholic Christian Anthropology: We are Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Social People who are made in the image of God.**
To live fully, grow in freedom and bring life to others, a human being needs another person who recognizes her as unique, and who will encourage her to grow and to become herself. Without this, she will close in on herself, become defensive, or seek to prove herself. In order to develop their full potential, human beings need a milieu of communion, trust and friendship. Sometimes



the kind of communion and friendship which awaken the human heart are to be found in the most unexpected surroundings: In prisons or psychiatric hospitals, among beggars or street children and women who have fallen victim to prostitution. Amongst those who are poor and broken, there can sometimes be a beautiful solidarity of love (Jean Vanier, Our Journey Home, p. 147).

- **Solidarity: The importance of Community - it takes a village to raise a child.**

“When I talk about community, I mean all associations of human beings who not only have some goal to achieve, like people in business, the army or a sports team, but who also help people to meet one another on a personal level, where there is dialogue, sharing, openness and a true concern for others. Even though their initial intention was perhaps to form a powerful group in a competitive society, these people have also learned to trust one another and to help each one to become more fully him or herself. Society should encourage associations like this, just as love and loyalty are encouraged in a family” (Jean Vanier, Our Journey Home, p. 184).

- **Diversity, Unity and the Common Good: Each person has unique gifts (diversity) that, when used for the common good of the family and community (unity), benefits all.**

“True unity cannot be achieved in a family or community which denies difference, and behaves as if everyone should be the same and think in the same way. Unity is achieved when each member of the body is different and contributes a different gift, but all are united around the same goal by mutual love” (Jean Vanier, Our Journey Home, p. 193).

- **Preferential option for the Poor, Lost, and Marginalized: Caring for others, especially the most vulnerable.**

“Those who are marginal in the world are central in the Church, and that is how it is supposed to be! Thus we are called as members of the Church to keep going to the margins of our society. The homeless, the starving, parentless children, people with AIDS, our emotionally disturbed brothers and sisters - they require our first attention.

We can trust that when we reach out with all our energy to the margins of our society we will discover that petty disagreements, fruitless debates, and paralysing rivalries will recede and gradually vanish. The Church will always be renewed when our attention shifts from ourselves to those who need our care. The blessing of Jesus always comes to us through the poor. The most remarkable experience of those who work with the poor is that, in the end, the poor give more than they receive. They give food to us” (Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey).

- **Rights and Responsibilities: To ensure a sense of belonging we must acknowledge that everyone has rights and responsibilities. No one person should be denied their basic needs. We need to strive towards the common good and be responsible for our words and actions.**

“One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing” (Jean Vanier, Community and Growth).



Jean Vanier: A Spirituality of Belonging

In 1964, Jean Vanier, a Canadian philosopher and former navy officer, started the first L'Arche home in Trosley, France. Vanier invited two men who had developmental disabilities to share a home and live in a Christian community together. Vanier's vision has grown into an international network of L'Arche communities that live a spirituality of community life that promotes belonging and nurtures human dignity. The vision of community in L'Arche is a vision that focuses on the experience of belonging in *authentic* relationships. Vanier emphasizes that a person transforms through the experience of being a member of a community. This transformation is rooted in love and truth, particularly in the truth taught in the gospel message.

The Fundamental Need to Belong to a Community

All people feel the basic need to belong to a family and to a community. Not belonging causes a person to feel socially isolated.

“Community takes a long time to form. It takes a long time for barriers to drop, for mutual confidence to grow, for nonverbal communication to become more important than words. A community is only a community when most of the people in it have made the passage from ‘the community for me’ to ‘me for the community.’ A community is only a community when most of the people in it are conscientiously trying to seek the fulfillment, peace, and happiness of every other member of it”
(Vanier, *Be Not Afraid*, 78).

Social isolation is often at the root of other social problems including prejudice, bullying, poverty, and depression. Vanier warns that most

people do not understand the rules or laws of community living and community building. Learning how to build community requires being taught how to communicate with others both verbally and nonverbally, how to forgive, and to resolve conflict, how to celebrate life together and how to express gratitude. Community building requires us to grow, to change, to be more compassionate and to develop wisdom.

Finding One's Identity in Community

A community helps to shape an individual's identity, beginning with the most fundamental social cell, the family unit, and then expanding to include Church relationships, cultural traditions and nationality. It is from our relationships with the members of our communities that we begin to form our sense of self, as well as our sense of our own gifts and talents. The experience of belonging brings about a transformation in a person. We begin to recognize the power we



possess to serve and help others, rather than always being the recipient of another's service. We begin to reach out to others and offer friendship, to protect the weak, and to love. Christ's love for the Church is unconditional in its nature, and exemplifies the power of forgiveness.

Community is also the place where we learn to forgive each other. Forgiveness is essential to our experience if we are to know and understand that we truly belong to a community, because true forgiveness seeks to understand the other and offers us the freedom to make mistakes and learn from our mistakes:

"To forgive is also to understand the cry behind the behaviour. People are saying something through their anger and/or anti-

social behaviour. Perhaps they feel rejected. Perhaps they feel that no one is listening to what they have to say or maybe they feel incapable of expressing what is inside them. Perhaps the community is being too rigid or too legalistic and set in its ways; there may even be a lack of love and of truth. To forgive is also to look into one-self and to see where one should change, where one should also ask for forgiveness and make amends."

(Vanier, Community and Growth, 37-38)

Strong healthy school communities teach and nurture relationship skills, values, and attitudes that promote an authentic sense of belonging for every student and staff member in the London District Catholic School Board.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. How is the vision of belonging in L'Arche different from our secular culture's vision of belonging?*
- 2. Why is the need to belong fundamental to the human experience?*
- 3. How can our school community foster an authentic sense of belonging for each person?*
- 4. How is belonging in a Catholic community a process of becoming?*

Brochures

The following brochures were designed to help us and our partners understand the underlying principles and the vision of Belonging.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



Respect, Hospitality and Belonging

Imagine living in a community where there is room for every person, where each person is respected, and their God-given gifts are promoted and expressed in a way that promotes the health of the community. What would such a community *look like, sound like, feel like*?

This vision of a healthy community is at the heart of the message of Jesus Christ as he brings forth and invites us to build up the Kingdom of God. Jesus promotes this healthy community in his words and manifests it in his actions. This is what we are taught to pray for in the *Our Father*: “Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”

In an ultimate understanding of discipleship, we are not just called to follow Jesus when it is easy and convenient. We are to love at all times. We are called to ‘love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us’. We are called to love all people – especially those in need.

The early post-Resurrection faith communities worked hard to live up to Jesus’ message. They created communities that practiced *hospitality, prayer, learning, celebrating the faith, forgiveness and reconciliation and reached out in service to those in need*.

Many of our Catholic school communities have curriculum, programs, policy and practices meant to protect and respect the dignity of each person while promoting a healthy, faith-filled community. This provides a foundation for all lessons, especially the Religion, Family Life and Social Science curriculum. This vision is at the heart of the *Catholic Graduate Expectations*, rooted in Scripture and based in Catholic Social Teaching.

We are all called to build up this vision in all that we do and all that we say.

Catholic Social Teaching

1. Dignity of the Human Person

The inherent dignity of the human person and the right to have that dignity respected from conception to natural death is core to the Gospel. Human life is sacred, for each person is made in the image of God. This principle is the starting point for a moral vision for society (Catechism 1701-1706; 1929-1933).

2. Common Good and Community

We each have a responsibility to contribute to the good of the communities to which we belong – including the human community. We are most fully alive when we live in community – as well as being sacred, we are also social. While we need to take care of ourselves, we need to understand our actions, choices, and words in the context of how they affect others (Catechism 1878-1882; 1905-1912).

3. Option for the Poor

How do we treat those members of our society that are most vulnerable – those who are poor, weak, sick, lost or marginalized? Jesus invites us to follow his example – to stand on the side of the poor. When expressed in a healthy manner this option affects all our words and actions so that they favour those who are poor. We are called to care for each other (Catechism 2443-2349).

4. The Principle of Solidarity

We are all connected in our origins and in our destiny – God. We are all brothers and sisters, children of God and there should be no walls that divide us. As brothers and sisters this solidarity calls us to share our goods, work together, and work to promote the dignity of each other (Catechism 1939-1942).

5. The Principle of Subsidiarity

The principle of *subsidiarity*, (Catechism 1883) is necessary for promoting human dignity, protecting human rights, and building up the common good. This principle respects the fact

that all people have the right and the responsibility to participate according to their ability in the decision making and work of higher (political) institutions (Catechism 1883-1885).

These principles of Catholic Social Teaching, when held together and put into practice, help us to develop healthy communities.

BELONGING



**Welcoming
Praying
Learning
Celebrating the Faith
Reconciling and Forgiving
Serving Others**

**"Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive,
Christ-centered learning environment"**



LONDON DISTRICT Catholic School BOARD

1. A Welcoming, Hospitable Community

Imagine our schools and homes as welcoming, hospitable communities. What would that look like, sound like and feel like?

Jean Vanier, founder of *L'Arche*, believes that "every person is blessed with important gifts to offer others and that we are called to help create a society in which each one's gifts can be given and recognized" ([More Than Inclusion: Honouring the Contributions of People with Developmental Disabilities](#), page 9).

True hospitality invites all people to the table; it does not however say that all behaviour is good or acceptable. True hospitality does not become expressed in might and power, it respects what is good and true and it is ready to work with others to find what is good and true.

2. Prayer

Jesus modelled the importance of prayer. He often went off to be alone and prayed and invited his followers to pray with him. The disciples, following Jesus' example, asked, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Prayer is an invitation to go beyond ourselves and our understanding to see how we are connected to God and to each other. We are called to start all we

do with prayer and offer all we do in a spirit of prayer.

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need" (Acts 2:42-45).

Our homes and schools are called to be places of prayer, and as faith-filled people, we are called to come together, reflect on the Word of God and pray as 'church' community.

3. Learning – faith and reason

Our schools and homes are places where we are called to learn. We learn knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

Our learning is an apprenticeship in discipleship and virtue. For this reason our learning is life-long and includes growing in the teachings of the faith.

"...the purpose of all human growth is openness to others, to God, to the world; to discover our common humanity; to work for a world where there is more communion and compassion between human beings. But each person needs to choose the right means to be well nourished in order to achieve this end. We must make good choices. Athletes and artists know that they must live a disciplined life to achieve their goal (Jean Vanier, *Our Journey Home*, p. 158).

4. Celebrating the Faith

We should celebrate who we are - by baptism we are people of the faith. We celebrate this faith in daily words and actions, in work and play, in our prayers and in the Sacraments.

As Eucharistic people we are called to celebrate with an attitude of faith and thanksgiving.

In our homes and in our schools we should seek opportunities to thank God – to celebrate the faith.

5. Forgiveness and Reconciliation

We can measure the health of a community not only by the way they welcome and treat others but also by the way the individuals actively seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

At the heart of forgiveness is the recognition that what we have done was wrong, that we are sorry and that we need to change our ways.

All families, communities and institutions have rules and guidelines that we are called to follow. These rules protect individuals and the common good of the community. At times, an individual may break the rule and hurt themselves and others. There may be a need to correct this behaviour.

6. Serving Others

We can measure the health of a community not only by the way they welcome and treat others, but also by the way the individuals actively seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

We are called to serve our neighbour – and we see that all people are to be seen as our neighbour (Lk. 10:25-37). In Matthew's Gospel this becomes the



standard for inheriting the Kingdom of God (Mt. 25:31-46).

We are called to work with all people to serve the needs of the poor and to address attitudes and practices that oppress others.



As members of the community each of us has the responsibility to promote a healthy community. Each of us is called to be hospitable, to pray, to take responsibility for our learning, to celebrate our faith, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and to seek out opportunities to serve others.

LONDON DISTRICT Catholic Schools



Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive, Christ-centered learning environment that: manifests Catholic Social Teaching; strives towards Catholic Graduate Expectations; is rooted in Scripture and Faith Tradition; and promotes Equity, Inclusion and Diversity!



Respect, Hospitality and Belonging

Imagine being a member of a school community where there is room for every person, where each person is respected and all God-given gifts are accepted and expressed in a way that nurtures the well-being of the entire community. What would such a community *look like, sound like, feel like?*

This vision of a peaceful and caring community is at the heart of the message of Jesus Christ as he brings forth and invites us to build up the Kingdom of God. Jesus promotes this healthy community in his words and manifests it in his actions. This is what we are taught to pray for in the *Our Father*: “Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”

In an ultimate understanding of discipleship we are not only called to follow Jesus when it is easy and convenient. We are to love at all times, we are called to ‘love our enemies and pray for

those who persecute us’. We are called to love all people – especially those in need.

The early post-Resurrection faith communities worked hard to live up to Jesus’ message. They created communities that practiced *hospitality by praying, learning, celebrating the faith, forgiving, reconciling and reaching out in service to those in need.*

Our Catholic school communities have curriculum, programs, policy and practices in place to protect and respect the dignity of each person while promoting a healthy faith-filled community. This is at the heart of all lessons especially the Religion and Family Life curriculum, and the daily expressions of our Catholic faith. This vision is at the heart of the *Catholic Graduate Expectations*, rooted in Scripture and based in Catholic Social Teaching.

Each of us is called to build up this vision in all that we do and all that we say.

BELONGING

- Welcoming**
- Praying**
- Learning**
- Celebrating the Faith**
- Reconciling and Forgiving**
- Serving Others**

"Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive, Christ-centered learning environment"



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic School
BOARD

All are Welcome – Enter!



Belonging: Creating a safe, healthy, inclusive, Christ-centered learning environment.

A Welcoming, Hospitable Community

- ✓ all are welcome
- ✓ we greet one another
- ✓ gifts are celebrated
- ✓ we are encouraged to use our gifts in service for others
- ✓ we respect what is good and true
- ✓ we are willing to work collaboratively with others

✓ we are ready, with the help of others, to make good decisions

Prayer

- ✓ we come together and recognize the presence of God
- ✓ we follow Jesus' example
- ✓ we see how we are connected to God and to others
- ✓ we create 'church'

Learning – Faith and Reason

- ✓ we are called to learn about our faith
- ✓ we are invited to take responsibility for our learning
- ✓ our learning is understood as an apprenticeship in discipleship and virtue
- ✓ learning is seen as a life long journey
- ✓ we grow in faith and reason,
- ✓ we seek wisdom
- ✓ we know our learning can be offered as service to others

Our Catholic schools are called to be healthy, faith-filled communities where...

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- ✓ we actively seek forgiveness
- ✓ we work towards reconciliation
- ✓ we understand that rules protect the common good
- ✓ we are working to correct our behaviour

Celebrating the Faith

- ✓ we use our gifts to give thanks and praise to God
- ✓ we celebrate the Sacraments
- ✓ we break open the Word of God
- ✓ we become Eucharistic people
- ✓ we grow in Christ-filled hope
- ✓ we are sent to bring the Good News to others

Serving Others

- ✓ we know each other as brothers and sisters
- ✓ we reach out to those in need
- ✓ we come together to address the needs of the greater community

LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools

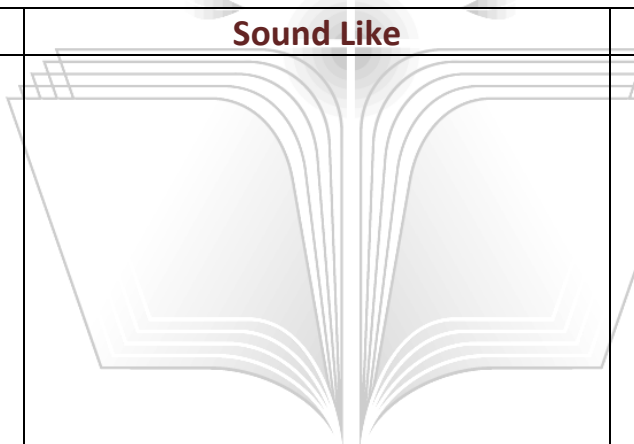


Belonging - Look Like, Sound Like, Feel Like

A Welcoming, Hospitable Community

True hospitality invites all people to the table; it does not, however, say that all behaviour is good or acceptable. True hospitality does not become expressed in might and power, it respects what is good and true and it is ready to work with others to find what is good and true.

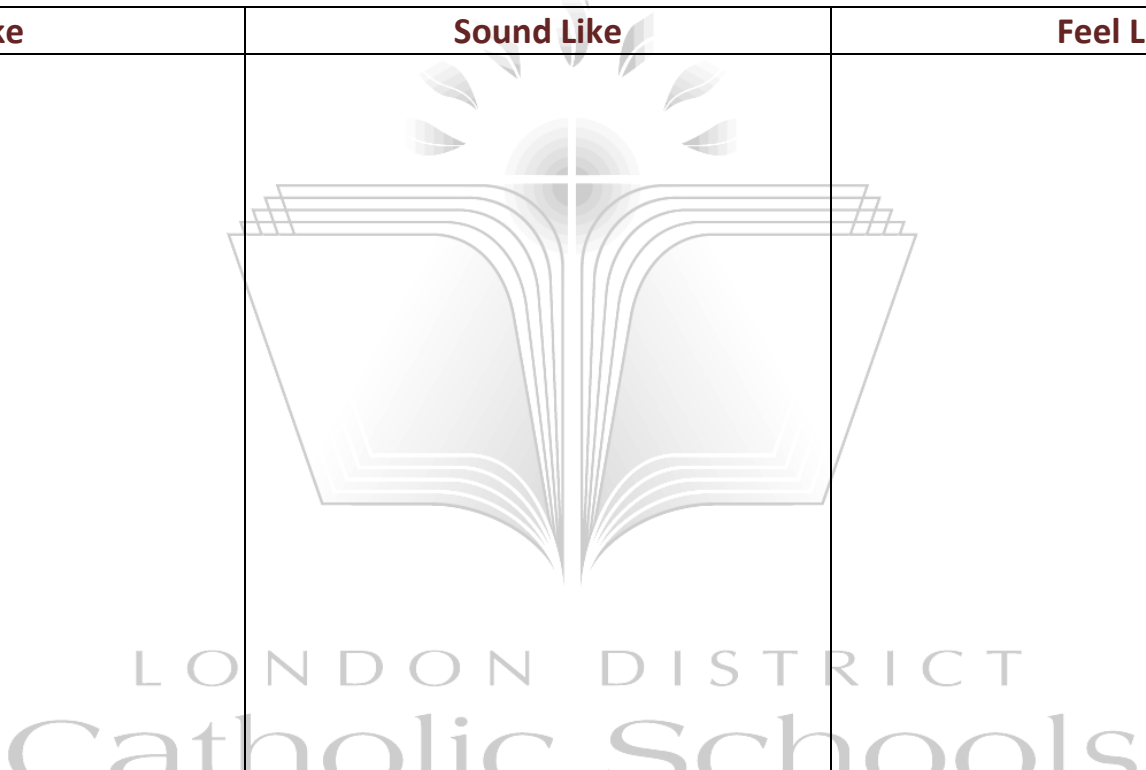
Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools

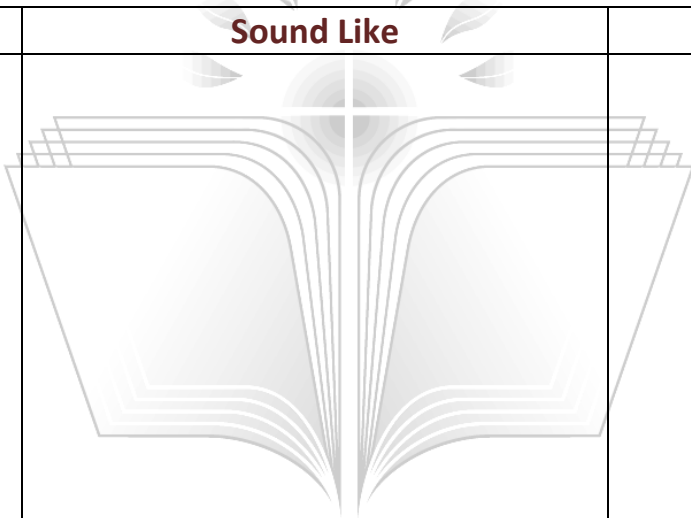
A Prayerful Community

Jesus modelled the importance of prayer and often went off to be alone and pray, and invited his followers to pray with him. The disciples, following Jesus' example, asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." Our homes and schools are called to be places of prayer, and as faith-filled people we are called to come together, reflect on the Word of God and pray as 'church' community.

Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like
		

A Learning – Faith and Reason – Community

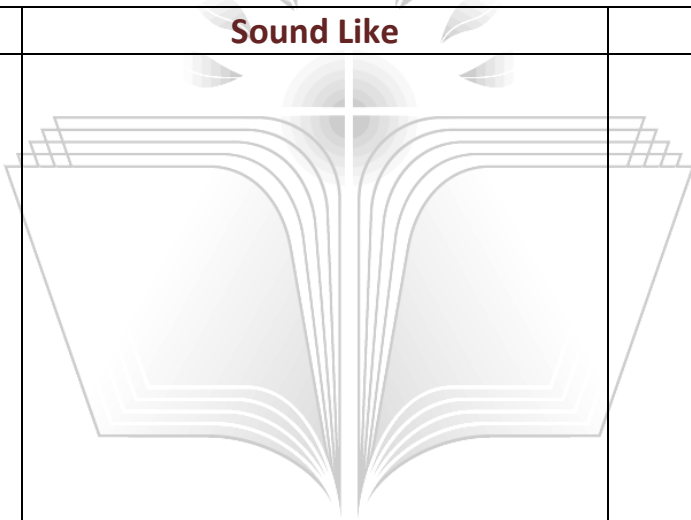
Our schools and homes are places where we are called to learn. We learn knowledge and skills, faith, Gospel values, and attitudes which we are encouraged to put into action. Our learning is an apprenticeship in discipleship and virtue. For this reason our learning is life-long and includes growing in the teachings of the faith.

Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like
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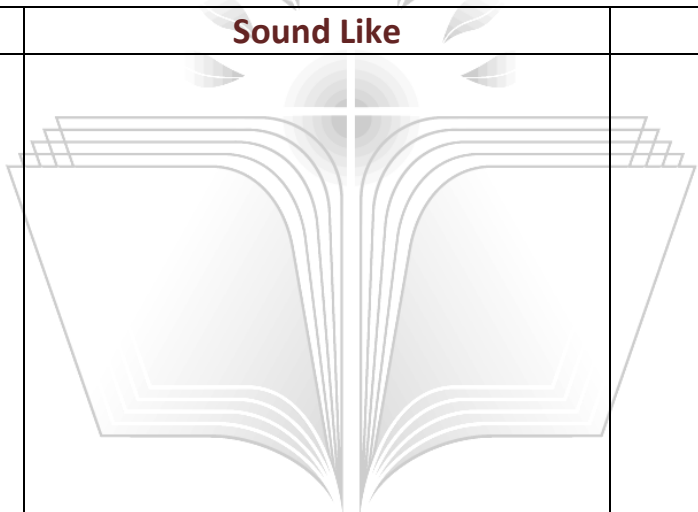
A Community that Celebrates the Faith

We are called to celebrate who we are - by baptism we are people of the faith. We celebrate this faith in daily words and actions, in work and play, in our prayer and in the Sacraments. As Eucharistic people we are called to celebrate with an attitude of faith and thanksgiving. In our homes and in our schools we should seek opportunities to thank God – to celebrate the faith.

Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like
	 <p data-bbox="520 1040 1650 1187">LONDON DISTRICT Catholic Schools</p>	

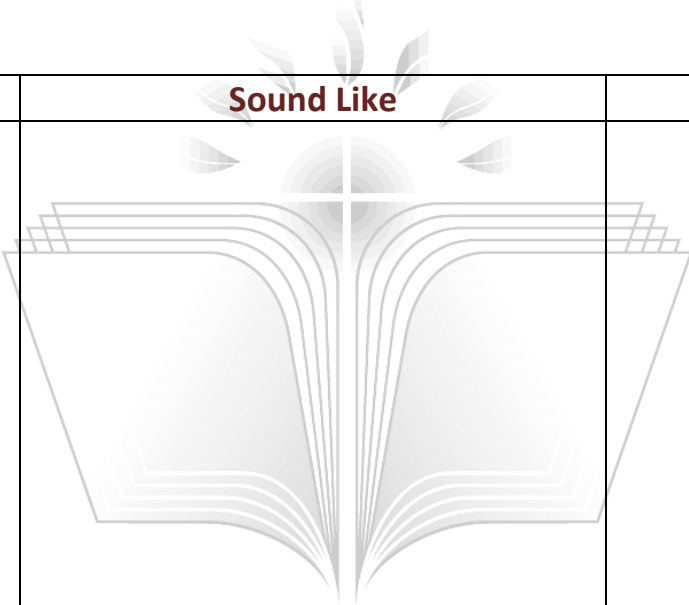
A Community of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

We can measure the health of a community, not only by the way we welcome and treat others, but also by the way the individuals actively seek forgiveness and reconciliation. At the heart of forgiveness is the recognition that what we have done was wrong, that we are sorry and that we need to change our ways.

Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like
	 <p data-bbox="504 1023 1638 1185">LONDON DISTRICT Catholic Schools</p>	

A Community Where We Serve Others

The health of a community can also be measured in the way we take care of each other and reach out to those in need. We are called to work with all people to serve the needs of the poor and to address attitudes and practices that oppress others.

Look Like	Sound Like	Feel Like
	 <p data-bbox="520 1040 1650 1187">LONDON DISTRICT Catholic Schools</p>	



Scripture Links

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING OTHERS
<p>Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.</p> <p>Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hebrews 13:1-3</p> <p>Be hospitable to one another without complaining.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Peter 4:9</p>	<p>Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">James 5:13-16</p>	<p>Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hebrews 11:1</p> <p>Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favour with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Acts 2:46-47</p>	<p>Those who accepted his message were baptized.... They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Acts 2:41-42</p>	<p>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Colossians 3:13</p> <p>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ephesians 4:32</p>	<p>As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Peter 4:10-11</p>

Teaching of the Catholic Church

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING OTHERS
<p>... we should especially mention the great parable of the Last Judgement (<i>Mt 25:31-46</i>), in which love becomes the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life's worth or lack thereof. Jesus identifies himself with those in need, with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison. "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". Love of God and love of neighbour have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>God is Love</i> Benedict XVI</p>	<p>This training in holiness calls for a Christian life distinguished above all in <i>the art of prayer</i>. (...) But we well know that prayer cannot be taken for granted. We have to learn to pray: as it were learning this art ever anew from the lips of the Divine Master himself, like the first disciples: "Lord, teach us to pray!" (<i>Lk 11:1</i>). Prayer develops that conversation with Christ which makes us his intimate friends: "Abide in me and I in you" (<i>Jn 15:4</i>). <i>#32 At the Beginning of a New Millennium</i> John Paul II</p>	<p>Yes, now is the time for mission! ...Christ is calling you. The Church welcomes you and wishes to be your home and your school of communion and prayer. Study the Word of God and let it enlighten your minds and hearts. Draw strength from the sacramental grace of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Visit the Lord in that "heart to heart" contact that is Eucharistic Adoration. Day after day, you will receive new energy to help you to bring comfort to the suffering and peace to the world. (...) By contemplating the light radiant on the face of the Risen Christ, you will learn to live as "children of the light and children of the day" (<i>1 Th 5:5</i>), and in this way you will show that "the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true" (<i>Eph 5:9</i>). <i>World Youth Day Toronto 2002</i> John Paul II</p>	<p>Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Faith and Reason</i> John Paul II</p>	<p>Society can become "ever more human" only when we introduce into all the mutual relationships which form its moral aspect the moment of forgiveness, which is so much of the essence of the Gospel. Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin. Forgiveness is also the fundamental condition for reconciliation, not only in the relationship of God with man, but also in relationships between people. A world from which forgiveness was eliminated would be nothing but a world of cold and unfeeling justice, in the name of which each person would claim his or her own rights vis-a-vis others; the various kinds of selfishness latent in man would transform life and human society into a system of oppression of the weak by the strong, or into an arena of permanent strife between one group and another.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Divine Mercy</i> John Paul II</p>	<p>If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them. Not only is justice not extraneous to charity, not only is it not an alternative or parallel path to charity: justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it. Justice is the primary way of charity or, in Paul VI's words, "the minimum measure" of it, an integral part of the love "in deed and in truth" (<i>1 Jn 3:18</i>), to which Saint John exhorts us. On the one hand, charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the <i>earthly city</i> according to law and justice. On the other hand, charity transcends justice and completes it in the logic of giving and forgiving. The <i>earthly city</i> is promoted not merely by relationships of rights and duties, but to an even greater and more fundamental extent by relationships of gratuitousness, mercy and communion. Charity always manifests God's love in human relationships as well, it gives theological and salvific value to all commitment for justice in the world.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Charity in Truth</i> Benedict XVI</p>



Catholic Graduate Expectations

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING OTHERS
<p>1e) 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)</p> <p>1h) Respects the faith traditions, world religions and the life-journeys of all people of good will.</p> <p>2c) Presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others.</p> <p>4a) Demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.</p> <p>5a) Works effectively as an interdependent team member.</p> <p>5e) Respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others.</p> <p>6a) Relates to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner.</p> <p>d) Promotes the sacredness of life.</p> <p>7f) Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures.</p> <p>7g) Respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today’s contemporary society.</p>	<p>1b) Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story.</p> <p>6d) Values and nurtures opportunities for family prayer.</p>	<p>1a) Illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian faith.</p> <p>1b) Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story.</p> <p>1c) Actively reflects on God’s Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.</p> <p>1f) Seeks intimacy with God and celebrates communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship.</p> <p>1i) Integrates faith with life.</p>	<p>1c) Actively reflects on God’s Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.</p> <p>1g) 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.</p> <p>2a) Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values.</p> <p>2e) Uses and integrates the Catholic faith tradition, in the critical analysis of the arts, media, technology and information systems to enhance the quality of life.</p> <p>3d) Makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience.</p>	<p>1j) 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)</p> <p>3a) Recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges.</p> <p>6c) Seeks and grants forgiveness.</p> <p>7b) Accepts accountability for one’s own actions.</p>	<p>1d) Develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good.</p> <p>3b) Creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good.</p> <p>3f) Examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society.</p> <p>5b) Thinks critically about the meaning and purpose of work.</p> <p>5c) Develops one’s God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society.</p> <p>5d) Finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good.</p> <p>6e) Ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service.</p> <p>6i) Respects the environment and uses resources wisely.</p> <p>6j) Contributes to the common good.</p> <p>7e) Witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society.</p>

LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



Patron Saints

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING TO OTHERS
<p>Saint Julian the Hospitaller (official)</p> <p>Saint (Brother) Andre</p>	<p>Saint John of the Cross (mystics and contemplatives)</p> <p>Mary Magdalene (contemplatives)</p>	<p>Saint Robert Bellarmine (catechists and catechumens)</p> <p>St. Charles Borromeo (catechists and catechumens)</p> <p>Frances of Rome (lay people)</p> <p>Paul the Apostle (lay people and evangelists)</p>	<p>Saint Thomas Aquinas (students and schools)</p> <p>Saint Catherine of Alexandria (students and teachers)</p> <p>Saint Benedict of Nursia</p> <p>Saint Ambrose of Milan</p> <p>Saint Albert the Great</p> <p>Saint Gregory the Great (students and teachers)</p> <p>Saint Ursula (students and teachers)</p> <p>John Baptist de Le Salle (teachers)</p> <p>Francis de Salle (teachers)</p>	<p>Mary Magdalene</p> <p>Blessed Francis Patrizzi</p>	<p>Saint Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (charities)</p> <p>Saint Elizabeth of Portugal</p>

LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



Key Questions

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING OTHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we welcome the visitors to our school? • How do we greet our students? • How do we interact as staff? • Do I understand my role and responsibilities for creating a welcoming school? • Do we encourage each other and our students to listen to one another? • Do we welcome the truth in what others say? • Do we allow people to be themselves? • Do we help each other grow? • Do we expect each other to be responsible for his/her behaviour? • Do we understand that while we accept others, not all behaviour is acceptable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we incorporate prayer into our personal lives? • How are we fostering the habit of prayer in our students and colleagues? • Am I open to the workings of the Holy Spirit? • How is our community a praying community? • How might I incorporate prayer to the beginning of each day, each activity, each class? • Am I willing to see things and others as God sees them? • Do I reflect on Sacred Scripture? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we understand our Baptismal call? • Do we understand that each and every one of us is called to holiness? • Is our school a Eucharistic celebrating community? • Do I, and my family, understand the importance of the Eucharistic? • How can we grow in our understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharistic meal? • Do we celebrate with an attitude of faith and thanksgiving? • Do we seek opportunities to recognize the presence of God in our daily lives? • Do we seek opportunities to thank God? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are our homes and schools places where we encourage learning and lifelong learning skills? • Do we understand learning as an apprenticeship in discipleship and virtue? • Do we study our faith? • Do we promote an attitude of faith seeking understanding? • Do I teach the religion and family life curriculum? • Do we witness to the Catholic Graduate Expectations? • Can we explain the reason for the hope and faith that we have for God? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we treat others? • Do we actively seek forgiveness and reconciliation? • In forgiving others, do we also ask for forgiveness? • Are we willing to admit that we are wrong, that we are sorry and that we need to change our ways? • Are we working hard to follow the rules? • Do we seek to promote the common good? • Do we actively seek to correct our wrongs? • Do we take the lead in forgiving others? • Do we promote compassion? • Do I forgive my 'enemy' and pray for those who persecute me? • Do I allow and encourage others to seek forgiveness? • Are we accountable for our words and actions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we take care of one another? • Who in our community and our neighbourhood is in need? • How do we reach out to those in need? • Do we understand that we are to care for each other – that we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper? • Do we seek opportunities to practice the works of mercy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feed the hungry ○ Give drink to the thirsty ○ Clothe the naked ○ Visit the sick ○ Visit the 'imprisoned' ○ Give shelter to the homeless ○ Care for those who mourn? • Are our words, actions and, attitudes life giving? • How does our community help others? • Do we know that when we serve others, especially those in need, we are serving Christ? • Do we have a preferential option for the poor, marginalized and lost?

Prayer

HOSPITALITY	PRAYER	CELEBRATING THE FAITH	LEARNING FAITH AND REASON	FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION	SERVING TO OTHERS
<p>Loving God, Help us to see the good in all people And to recognize that we are all made in your image. May we help everyone feel welcome in our community, give them a sense of belonging, And celebrate their gifts and talents. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, You took time to pray alone, to pray with others, and you taught your disciples to pray. We need prayer in our own lives to sustain our relationship with you. Help us to turn to you in times of worship, thanksgiving, and need. Give us the determination to seek quiet time with you so we may grow in our faith and give you time to speak to our hearts. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	<p>Good and gracious God, We put our trust in you and praise you in our words and actions. Help us to not take our faith for granted But to celebrate your love and compassion with others. May we be compelled to enter into the sacraments, into prayer, and into service To spread your word. Amen.</p>	<p>Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance. Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. <i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i></p>	<p>Merciful God, Many times our actions hurt others and hurt you. By causing pain and turning away from what is right, we ultimately turn away from you. Grant us courage to ask for forgiveness, to stand in front of those we have harmed and make amends. May we turn to you for guidance and direction. Examine our hearts and fill them with compassion to forgive others when we feel wronged. Amen.</p> <p>I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. AMEN.</p>	<p>Jesus, You came to serve others. May we be followers of your example And recognize the needs of others in our community and in our world. We want to be your hands and feet. Help us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, give shelter to the homeless and support all who need empathy, love and kindness. By our words and actions, may we be witnesses to your word. Amen.</p>



The Pledge:

The Pledge to End Bullying is an initiative involving the LDCSB the Thames Valley District School Board and all of the major television, print, and radio outlets in London and region. Our Catholic schools will use the Catholic pledges listed below.

The Catholic pledge language for adults and students ages 13 years and up is:

"We believe that each and every person is made in the image of God and that we all belong to each other as members of God's family. All people must be treated as respected, valued, and responsible members of our community. I pledge to uphold the God-given dignity of each person, to be a peacemaker, to recognize the gifts of all people, and to stand up against and report all injustices, including bullying, whenever and wherever I see it."

The Catholic pledge language for those students 12 years and younger is:

"We believe that all people are made in the image of God and are children of God. Every person must be safe, valued, and included. I pledge to respect others, to be a peacemaker, and to report bullying whenever and wherever I see it."

The Catholic pledge language for students in the Primary grades is:

"God loves you and me. I will care for and get along with my classmates, brothers and sisters, and other members of my community."



Liturgies – Prayer Services

WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY - Elementary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our gathering with the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We come before you God,

With sincere hearts and open minds.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray.

Loving God,

You created us in your image and have made us all members of the family of God.

You love us and accept us because of our differences. May we welcome all people regardless of faith, colour, race, gender, or age into our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Galatians 3:27-29

A reading from the book of Galatians.

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Faithful

We present our needs to God, knowing He hears all our prayers.

For the Church, that all Christians will strive for unity and communion with all God's people.

We pray to the Lord.



R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our school community, that we welcome all people and make them feel welcome. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us, that we share our gift of hospitality by treating everyone as a friend. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, that they may experience kindness and the support they need from loved ones and care givers. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our loved ones who have died, that they will be welcomed into God's eternal kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we pray for those who feel left out, feel alone, and feel they do not belong.

We ask that you give us the gifts to seek people out, to include them and help make them feel like they are members of our community.

We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY - Secondary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our gathering with the sign of the cross.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
God in heaven,
You sent your son, Jesus, to be an example for us.
Help us to follow him in all things.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,
Jesus went against the crowd. He befriended sinners, tax collectors, the poor and the sick.
Give us the courage to see the good in all people. Give us the wisdom to recognize Christ in all people and to welcome them into our community and circle of friends.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

We bring our prayers before the Lord:



For the Church, that all God's people will accept one another regardless of their limitations and abilities.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our school community, that we will welcome others unconditionally.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the outcast and poor of society, that they will be shown hospitality and care according to their needs.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, may they be welcomed into your eternal kingdom and have a place with you.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

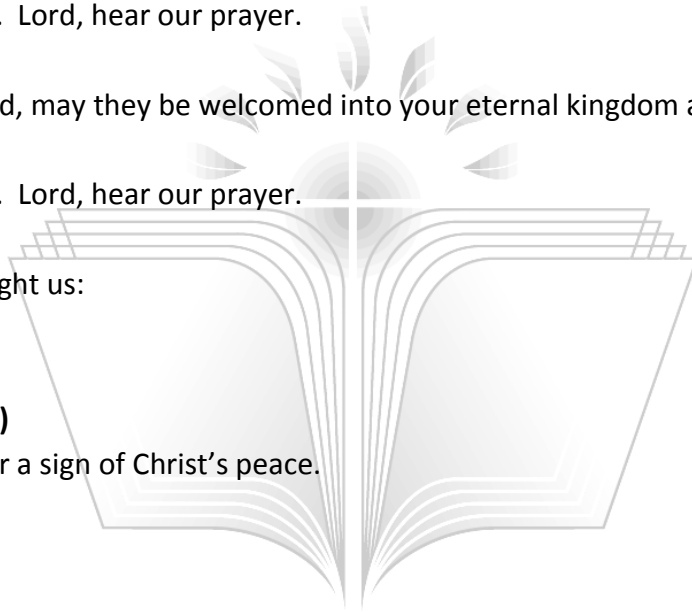
May we recognize the gifts of all and find ways to include them.

Help us to be mindful of the Marthas and Marys in our lives

And to accept them for what they bring to your table.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



PRAYER - Elementary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer as we begin all things,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

You taught your disciples to pray. May we be like them and learn how to pray by following your example.

Opening Prayer:

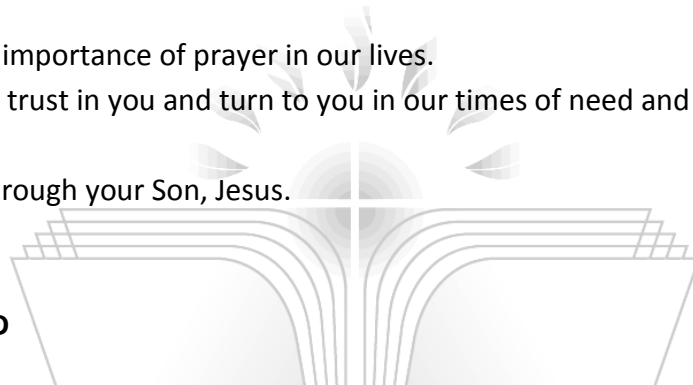
Let us pray.

Help us to discover the importance of prayer in our lives.

May we have complete trust in you and turn to you in our times of need and in times of joy and gratitude.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.



“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

Let us take some time to bring our prayers before the Lord.

That the people of God will strive to be people of prayer.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we not only pray our prayers, but that we take time to listen to God in our lives. We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For people who have no faith and relationship with Christ, that their hearts may be open to God’s message.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, that through the power of prayer they will experience God’s healing.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, that they will live eternally with the communion of saints.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s peace.



Closing Prayer

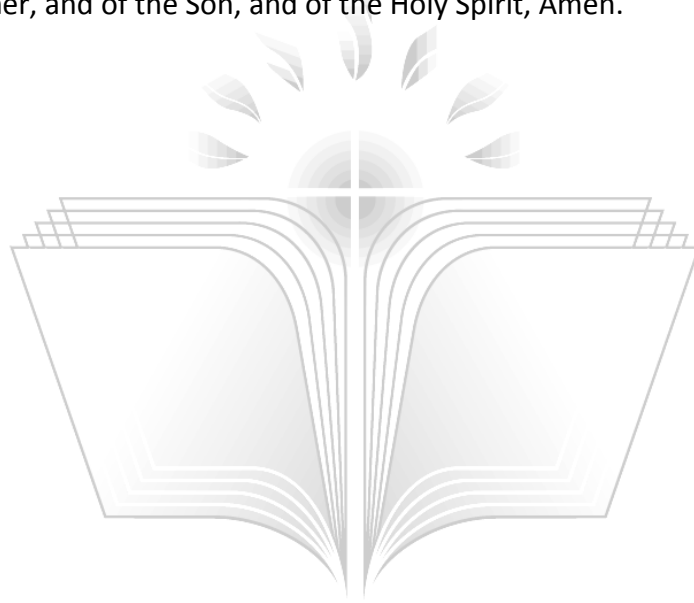
Lord,

Sometimes we forget that you are part of everything in our lives.

May we continue to be people of faith, willing to turn to you in prayer to praise you in thanksgiving and to ask for help when we need it.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



PRAYER - Secondary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

Many times you took time to pray, to be alone with the Father.

May we follow this example and see the importance of prayer in our own lives.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,

When our lives are overwhelming,

And the world seems too big or too small,

Grant us the understanding that we can turn to you.

When we are pleased with how things are working out

And our days seem brighter than usual

Remind us to give thanks to you.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Luke 3:21-23

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

For Pope Benedict XVI, our Bishop and clergy, may they follow the example of Christ and lead the people of God in prayer.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That all people of faith will seek a positive and healthy prayer life.



We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That all young people will do as Jesus did and find a quiet place and time to share what is in their hearts with God.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may spend time in prayer listening to God and be open to how God works in our lives.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick in mind, body, and spirit, may they have courage to bring their prayers to Christ.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, may they experience the eternity of heaven.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

All powerful God,

You know our hearts and minds.

May we share with you in prayer and take time to listen to your desires for us.

May we be like Jesus and pray without ceasing.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



LEARNING - Elementary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer with the sign of the cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We gather together to praise God for the gift of learning.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,

God of Wisdom,

You call us to be people who grow in faith

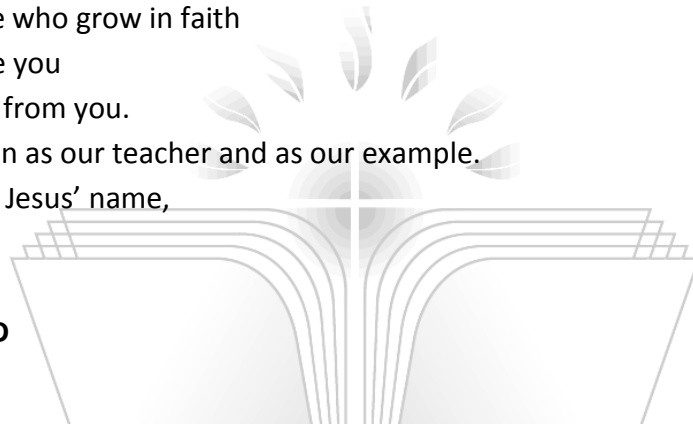
Open our hearts to love you

And our minds to learn from you.

May we look to your son as our teacher and as our example.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name,

Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Mark 10:17-25

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.’”

“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. (R: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.)

Prayers of the Faithful

For our church, that we may follow Jesus through our word and actions.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For teachers who share their wisdom and knowledge with us.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For people who find learning difficult, that they may persevere.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For young people who do not have the opportunity for an education.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all students that they may recognize God working through them in their learning.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray,

Loving God,

Bless our journey of learning

Lead us in ways of wisdom and understanding.

May your presence be evident in our classrooms, in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



LEARNING - Secondary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer with the sign of the cross,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We gather to celebrate the gift of learning and praise God in gratitude for the gifts of knowledge and wisdom.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,

God of Wisdom,

You call us to be people who grow in faith

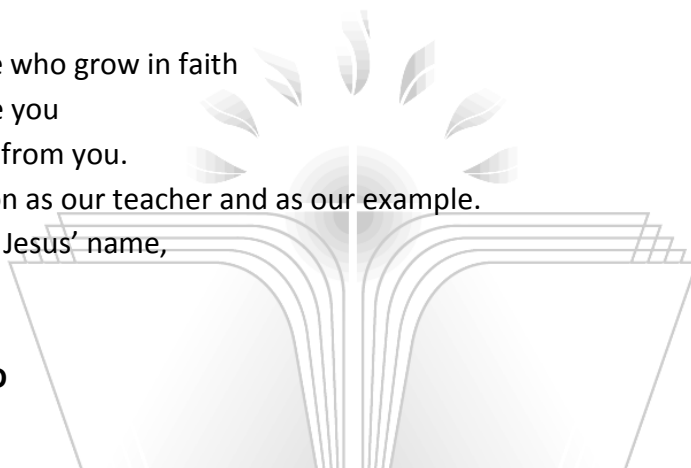
Open our hearts to love you

And our minds to learn from you.

May we look to your Son as our teacher and as our example.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name,

Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Mark 10:17-25

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

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The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. (R: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.)

Prayers of the Faithful

For our church, that we may follow Jesus through our word and actions.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For teachers who share their wisdom and knowledge with us.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For people who find learning difficult, that they may persevere.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For young people who do not have the opportunity for an education.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all students that they may recognize God working through them in their learning.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray,

Loving God,

Bless our journey of learning

Lead us in ways of wisdom and understanding.

May your presence be evident in our classrooms, in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



CELEBRATION - Elementary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer with the sign of the cross,
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
We are called to celebrate our faith and to praise God with all of our hearts.
May we take this time to give thanks and worship You.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,
Good and gracious God,
We are called to celebrate our faith and to celebrate with joy.
Help us to identify the miracles in our everyday lives and to celebrate our many blessings.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Leviticus 23:33-41

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The LORD said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD’s Festival of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. For seven days present food offerings to the LORD, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the LORD. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work.

(“These are the LORD’s appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing food offerings to the LORD—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. These offerings are in addition to those for the LORD’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the LORD.)

“So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of Sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of Sabbath rest. On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

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



Prayers of the Faithful

Confident the Lord hears our prayers, let us respond with:
We celebrate with Joy.

For the gift of life! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For our family and friends! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For our teachers and classmates! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For milestones and new beginnings! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For the gift of our earth and all the good in it! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For the gift of miracles! R. We celebrate with Joy.

For the gift of faith! R. We celebrate with Joy.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

We celebrate with joy, the many blessings You give us in our lives.

May we see that all good comes from You and not take for granted the little things in life that bring us closer to You.

May we rejoice in all of Your goodness.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



CELEBRATION - Secondary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin our prayer with the sign of the cross,
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
We are called to celebrate our faith and to praise God with all of our hearts.
May we take this time to give thanks and worship You.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray,
Good and gracious God,
You gave us the precious gift of life
We are called to celebrate our faith and to celebrate our lives in community.
Help us to identify the miracles in our everyday lives and to celebrate well.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

John 2:1-12

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."



What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

Prayers of the Faithful

We bring our needs to the Lord, confident God hears our prayers,

For the Church and Church leaders, that we may continue to celebrate the gift of faith God has given us.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our communities and school, may they lead by example the way to celebrate God working in our lives.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of new life and new experiences.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of miracles and open hearts to accept them.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill, that they not give up hope.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, that they will celebrate the gift of eternal life in God's holy kingdom.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer



Loving God,

We celebrate with joy, the many blessings You give us in our lives.

May we see that all good comes from You and not take for granted the little things in life that bring us happiness and pleasure.

You alone deserve praise and glory.

May we rejoice in all of Your goodness.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION - Elementary School Liturgy

Introduction:

We begin with the sign of our faith:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gentle God,

We come to You knowing we need compassion and forgiveness.

May we turn to You with open hearts.

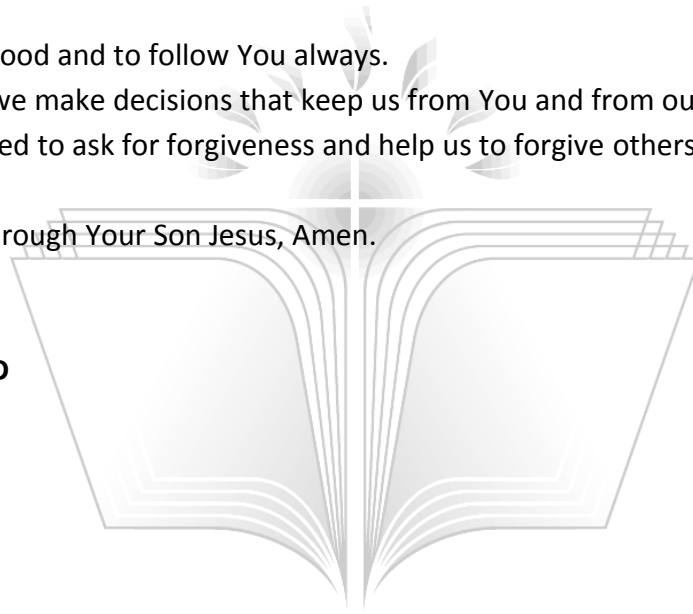
Opening Prayer:

God, You call us to be good and to follow You always.

There are times when we make decisions that keep us from You and from our loved ones.

Be with us when we need to ask for forgiveness and help us to forgive others when they have hurt us.

We make this prayer through Your Son Jesus, Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel

Luke 15:11-32

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.



“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Litany of Forgiveness:

Compassionate God,
With total trust in Your mercy and love,
We admit our wrongs and ask for Your forgiveness.

Response: Forgive us, loving God.

When we hurt our friends; R. Forgive us, loving God.

When we are greedy; R. Forgive us, loving God.

When we forget about God in our lives; R. Forgive us, loving God.

When we do what we know is wrong; R. Forgive us, loving God.



Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray,

God of mercy,

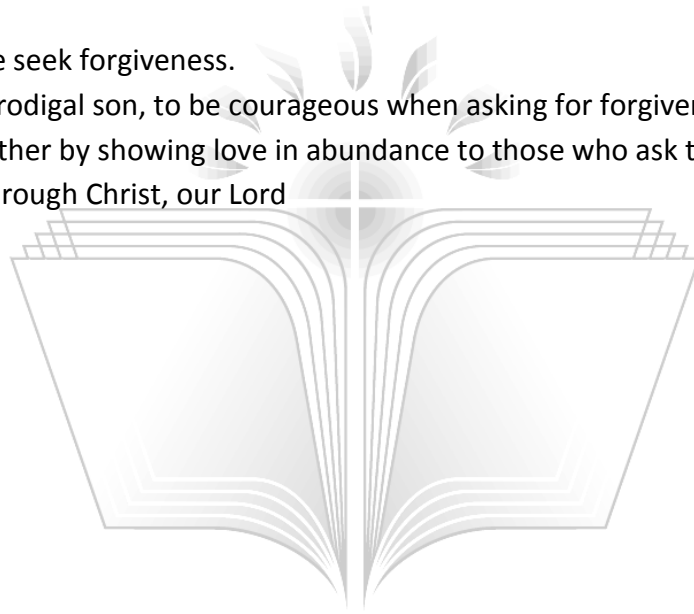
You forgive us when we seek forgiveness.

Help us to be like the prodigal son, to be courageous when asking for forgiveness

Help us to be like his father by showing love in abundance to those who ask to be forgiven.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord

Amen.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools

FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION - Secondary School Liturgy

(adapted from Together We Pray by Carmen L. Caltagirone)

Introduction:

We begin our prayer as we begin all things, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tender God,

We come before You aware of Your mercy and compassion.

May our gathering be a return to You as we enter anew into Your gracious love.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray.

We are sinners and have failed to heed your call to love.

We have turned from You, seeking our own way,
but we have come to You in need of Your forgiveness.

We have come to You, gracious God
because our hearts know Your loving kindness.

We have come to You to ask forgiveness and seek comfort.

Hear our prayers and have mercy.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hosea 6:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea

“Come, let us return to the LORD.

He has torn us to pieces
but he will heal us;

he has injured us

but he will bind up our wounds.

After two days he will revive us;

on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.

Let us acknowledge the LORD;
let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises,
he will appear;



he will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

The word of the Lord. R: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Side A: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.

Side B: Happy are those whose spirit has no deceit

Side A: While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

Side B: My strength was dried up as by the summer’s heat.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you.

Gospel

Luke 15:11-32

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools



Litany of Forgiveness:

Compassionate God,
With total trust in Your mercy and love,
We admit our sin and ask for Your healing forgiveness.

Response: Forgive us, loving God.

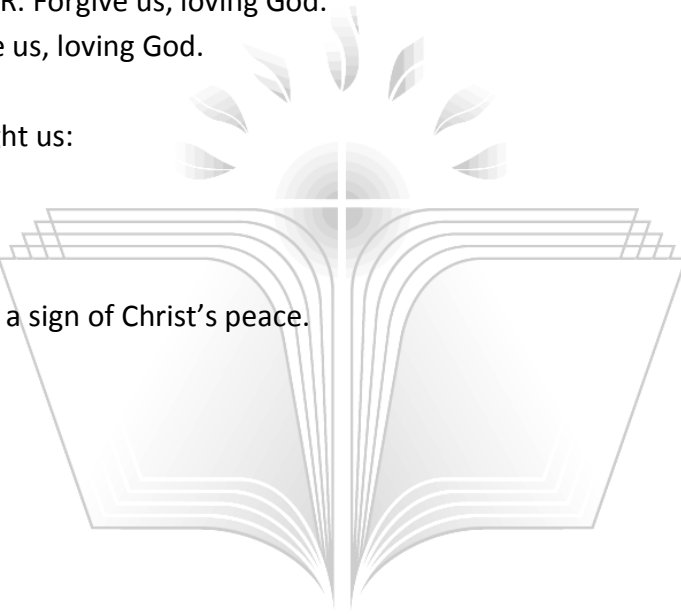
For our selfishness; R. Forgive us, loving God.
For our arrogance; R. Forgive us, loving God.
For our lack of humility; R. Forgive us, loving God.
For our greed; R. Forgive us, loving God.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.



Closing Prayer

Let us pray,
God of mercy,
You forgive all our sins.
Though we wander far from You,
You call us back into your open arms.
We rest securely there,
Knowing Your tenderness and compassion.
Hear our plea for forgiveness.
We make it in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SERVICE - Elementary School Liturgy

(Adapted from Give Your Gifts: the prayer services by Linda M. Baltikas and Robert W. Piercy)

Introduction:

We come together in the name of Jesus,
whose whole life was an example of service.
In this celebration we raise our hearts and voices in prayer to God.
We are confident that our God hears us
as we pray together for those who serve our community
and for those we serve.
With the help of the Holy Spirit
we know that we can be the hands of Jesus
that reach out to others in our world.

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God,
Your Son, Jesus, gave us the example of what it means to serve
When he washed the feet of his disciple
And in so many other ways while he was on earth.
We ask you to bless those who are generous with their time and talents.
Support them in the service they perform and help us to do the same.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1 Peter 4:8-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. (R: Thanks be to God.)



General Intercessions:

God loved us so much
That he gave us his Son.
Because we believe in God's love for us,
We know that he will hear and answer our prayers.

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. For all those who serve us in civil and government positions: that they may serve with integrity.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord Hear Our Prayer.

Jesus sent his disciples out to serve the needs of all. For those who serve the neediest among us – the sick, the homeless, the lonely, the elderly: that God bless their generosity.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord Hear Our Prayer.

God's gifts to us should be used at the service of one another. For the students and staff who serve our school community.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord Hear Our Prayer.

Each of us has been called to serve others. For all of us: that we might be more generous with the gifts God has given to us and share them with others.
We pray to the Lord. R. Lord Hear Our Prayer.

Let us bring our prayers to God by praying as Jesus taught us to pray:
Our Father....

Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer

May our Lord Jesus Christ who has loved us
and has given us everlasting encouragement
and good hope through his grace,
comfort our hearts and make them strong
for every good deed and word. Amen.

SERVICE - Secondary School Liturgy

(Adapted from Give Your Gifts: 40 more prayer services for young people, by Catherine Johnson and Mary Kay Kelley. Also adapted from Words for the Journey, by Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller)



Introduction:

We begin our prayer as we begin all things, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus' whole life was service. In his care of every person he met, his attentiveness to the needs of those who came to him, his willingness to take on the job of the lowest of all servants – washing feet – Jesus challenges us to reach out and give of ourselves, not just once, but again and again. We pray in this time for the grace to accept the challenge and for the love to offer all that we are in service.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray.

Jesus,

When the time came,

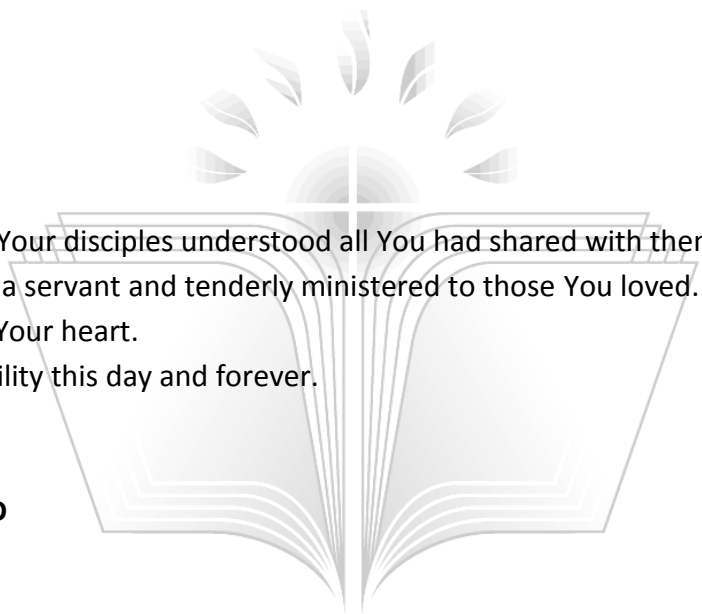
You needed to be sure Your disciples understood all You had shared with them.

You took on the role of a servant and tenderly ministered to those You loved.

Teach us to serve with Your heart.

Bless us with Your humility this day and forever.

Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

John 13:1-8

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

L O N D O N D I S T R I C T

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."



The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Litany: Jesus, Teach Us to Be Faithful Servants

He wasn't a TV celebrity.

All: He was hailed by a star from the heavens.

He didn't have servants.

All: He lived to serve others.

He wasn't a millionaire.

All: He was rich in Spirit, hope and love.

He didn't drive a fancy sports car.

All: He rode a donkey or travelled on foot.

He didn't crave flowery words of flattery.

All: He craved only the plain truth.

He didn't want five minutes of fame and fortune.

All: He wanted a lifetime of friendship and faith.

He didn't live in a mansion.

All: He lived in the wilderness and the homes of the poor.

He didn't ask for money.

All: He asked for love, generosity and an open heart.

He didn't look for beautiful people.

All: He looked for inner beauty. The surface didn't matter.

He didn't give out autographs.

All: He gave out hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, and miracles to believers.

Jesus, teach us to be humble and faithful servants.

Guide us in our lifelong journey to you.

Help us to remain true to you,

and to ourselves,

and to see the inner beauty of others.

Amen.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father....

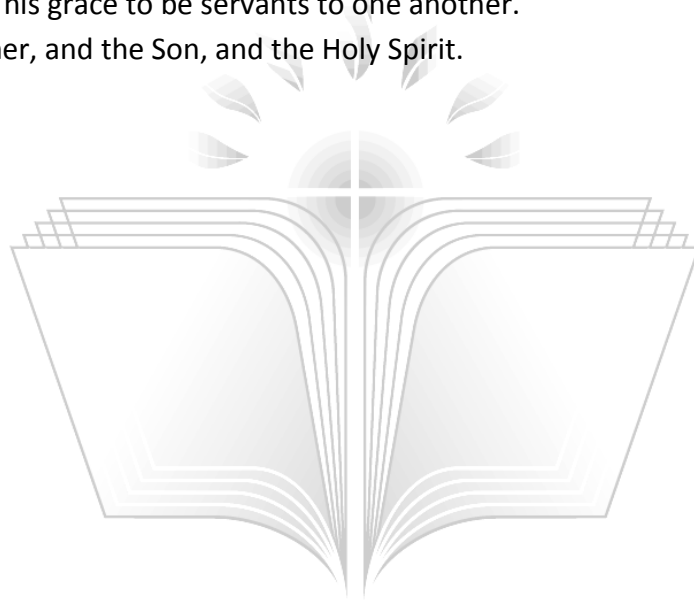
Sign of Peace (optional)

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.



Closing Prayer

Let us pray,
God of love,
Jesus lived Your love in his every word and action and left us with the words,
“As I have done, so you must do.”
Help us to nurture the lonely with our companionship,
Feed the hungry and clothe the poor with our relative richness,
and seek out and include all those who yearn for acceptance.
May God bless us with his grace to be servants to one another.
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic Schools

HOW TO START A “BELONGING” COMMITTEE

"If God can work through me, he can work through anyone." - *St. Francis of Assisi*

RATIONALE for this process:

GST stands for **The Good Samaritan Team** that includes the entire community at St. Mary's High School in Woodstock, ON.

It began in 2007-2008 and it is still successful today.

The GST initiative has served as a guide to help to introduce “The BELONGING Principle”.

The goal is that each school within the London District Catholic School Board use the resources provided to assist them in starting up their own version of a GST program that improves the sense of belonging for each and every person in the school community.

The GST Committee at St. Mary's is a “BEONGING” Committee.

What will your **BELONGING Committee** be called?

	Steps to Follow in Getting Started	Date assigned	Who is responsible?	Date completed	Comments
1.	Principal of school will invite someone on staff to chair this committee. This committee is an extension of the Safe Schools Committee. Suggested criteria for this person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking to take on a leadership role in the school and interested in developing leadership s • would be able to commit for a minimum of 2-3 years • a people motivator with strong interpersonal skills (emotional intelligence) • a good role model for others • well-connected to and respected by staff and students • history of getting involved/volunteering • enthusiastic about making a positive change in the school • must be a member of the Safe Schools Committee (as all BELONGING committee activities originate from Safe Schools) 				
2.	Chairperson should attend any BELONGING in-service &/or safe schools opportunities available to them.				
3.	Read “Creating Safe School Environments: From Small Steps to Sustainable Change” document written by Peter G. Jaffe, Claire V. Crooks and C. Lynn Watson, available from the Principal.				
4.	Ask for volunteer staff and students (essential to have at least one rep. from Student Council) who have a desire to create an improved sense of belonging within the school environment.				
5.	Decide on a date to have your first meeting.				
6.	Model your committee meeting after Suggestions from “Creating Safe Schools ...”. Follow Stages of Change – page 50				
7.	Continue to follow the document in working through the Stages of Change in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing awareness • planning and responding • educating and leading 				
8.	Committee should review the information found in “ The BELONGING Principle Folder ” saved as a Windows Notebook on your desktop.				
9.	Review the GST folder for ideas. Adopt and tweak any materials you would like to use for your committee.				
10.	Decide on the name of your school's “BELONGING” Committee and have a truly wonderful time creating and sustaining an inclusive, safe environment where All are Welcome when they Enter the building each and every day.				

Quotable Quotes by Jean Vanier

"To be lonely is to feel unwanted and unloved, and therefore unlovable. Loneliness is a taste of death. No wonder some people who are desperately lonely lose themselves in mental illness or violence to forget the inner pain."

— Jean Vanier (Becoming Human)

"We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

— Jean Vanier

"Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed."

— Jean Vanier (Becoming Human)

"If we are to grow in love, the prisons of our egoism must be unlocked. This implies suffering, constant effort and repeated choices."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"Love doesn't mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with tenderness."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"All of us have a secret desire to be seen as saints, heroes, martyrs. We are afraid to be children, to be ourselves."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"...Individualistic material progress and the desire to gain prestige by coming out on top have taken over from the sense of fellowship, compassion and community. Now people live more or less on their own in a small house, jealously guarding their goods and planning to acquire more, with a notice on the gate that says, 'Beware of the Dog.'"

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"A community is only being created when its members accept that they are not going to achieve great things, that they are not going to be heroes, but simply live each day with new hope, like children, in wonderment as the sun rises and in thanksgiving as it sets. Community is

only being created when they have recognized that the greatness of man is to accept his insignificance, his human condition and his earth, and to thank God for having put in a finite body the seeds of eternity which are visible in small and daily gestures of love and forgiveness. The beauty of man is in this fidelity to the wonder of each day."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"People cannot accept their own evil if they do not at the same time feel loved, respected and trusted."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"When children are loved, they live off trust; their minds and hearts open up to those who respect and love them, who understand and listen to them."

— Jean Vanier (Becoming Human)

"Community is a sign that love is possible in a materialistic world where people so often either ignore or fight each other. It is a sign that we don't need a lot of money to be happy--in fact, the opposite."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"It is only when we stand up, with all our failings and sufferings, and try to support others rather than withdraw into ourselves, that we can fully live the life of community."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"Jesus is the starving, the parched, the prisoner, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the dying. Jesus is the oppressed, the poor. To live with Jesus is to live with the poor. To live with the poor is to live with Jesus."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"We have to remind ourselves constantly that we are not saviours. We are simply a tiny sign, among thousands of others, that love is possible, that the world is not condemned to a struggle between oppressors and oppressed, that class and racial warfare is not inevitable."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"But let us not put our sights too high. We do not have to be saviours of the world! We are simply human beings, enfolded in weakness and in hope, called together to change our world one heart at a time."

— Jean Vanier (Becoming Human)



"This evolution towards a real responsibility for others is sometimes blocked by fear. It is easier to stay on the level of a pleasant way of life in which we keep our freedom and our distance. But that means that we stop growing and shut ourselves up in our own small concerns and pleasures."

— Jean Vanier

"The response to war is to live like brothers and sisters. The response to injustice is to share. The response to despair is a limitless trust and hope. The response to prejudice and hatred is forgiveness. To work for community is to work for humanity. To work for peace is to work for a true political solution; it is to work for the Kingdom of God. It is to work to enable everyone to live and taste the secret joys of the human person united to the eternal."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"A community that is growing rich and seeks only to defend its goods and its reputation is dying. It has ceased to grow in love. A community is alive when it is poor and its members feel they have to work together and remain united, if only to ensure that they can all eat tomorrow!"

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"A Christian community should do as Jesus did: propose and not impose. Its attraction must lie in the radiance cast by the love of brothers."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"We discover that we are at the same time very insignificant and very important, because each of our actions is preparing the humanity of tomorrow; it is a tiny contribution to the construction of the huge and glorious final humanity."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"Look at your own poverty
welcome it
cherish it
don't be afraid
share your death
because thus you will share your love and your life."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

"I am struck by how sharing our weakness and difficulties is more nourishing to others than sharing our qualities and successes."

— Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)



Jean Vanier, Henri Nouwen and L'Arche Resources

Books by Jean Vanier

In Weakness, Strength
Tears of Silence
Eruption to Hope
Followers of Jesus
Be Not Afraid
Community and Growth
The Challenge of L'Arche (anthology)
I Walk with Jesus
Man and Woman He Made Them
The Broken Body: Journey to Wholeness
I Meet Jesus
Images of Love: Words of Hope
A Network of Friends: Letters of Jean Vanier to the Friends
and Communities of l'Arche
From Brokenness to Community
Jesus, The Gift of Love
An Ark for the Poor: The Story of L'Arche
The Heart of L'Arche
Our Journey Home
The Scandal of Service
Becoming Human
Door of Hope
Seeing Beyond Depression
Made for Happiness, Discovering the Meaning of Life
with Aristotle
Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John
Finding Peace
Befriending the Stranger
From Brokenness to Wholeness
Welcoming "the Other"

Books by Henri Nouwen

The Return Of The Prodigal Son
Here And Now: Living In The Spirit
In The Name Of Jesus: Reflections On Christian Leadership
The Wounded Healer: Ministry In Contemporary Society
Life Of The Beloved: Spiritual Living In A Secular World
The Inner Voice Of Love: A Journey Through Anguish To Freedom
With Burning Hearts: A Meditation On The Eucharistic Life
Reaching Out: The Three Movements Of The Spiritual Life
Can You Drink The Cup?
Bread For The Journey: A Daybook Of Wisdom And Faith



Books about L'Arche and Jean Vanier

Bill Clark SJ: Un frère pour le jour / Enough room for Joy
Bill Clarke SJ: The Face of Friendship: A True Story of Hope and Transformation
Colette et Michel, Collard-Gambiez: Et si les pauvres nous humanisaient
David F. Ford: The shape of living
Frances Young: Encounter with Mystery
Frances Young: Face to Face: a narrative essay in the theology of suffering
Frances Young: Une porte d'esperance
G. Daucourt, Frère Roger, Jean Vanier, Enzo Bianchi, Frère Marie Leblanc, Jean-Marie Lioult: Chemins vers l'unité
Gérard Daucourt: Je ne peux pas dire J.
Gilbert Adam: M'aimes tu
Hilary Wilson: My Life Together: L'Arche communities and the challenges of unity
Jean de la Selle: Historique des arrivées et des départs de L'Arche
Jean Monbourquette, Denise Lussier-Russell: Le temps précieux de la faim
Kathryn Spink: Jean Vanier et L'Arche / Jean Vanier and L'Arche
Kathryn Spink: The Mystery, The Message
Mary Frances Coady: The Hidden Way: the life and influence of Almiré Pichon
Mgr André Vingt-Trois: Voici l'Homme: conférences Notre-Dame de Paris
Odile Ceyrac: Découvrir ton visage
P. Kearney: Being Present to Jesus
Spencer Johnson: Who Moved My Cheese?
Stanislaus Kennedy RSC: Spiritual Journeys
Sue Mosteller: A condition d'aimer / Body broken, Body Blessed
Thérèse Vanier: Nick ou le pouvoir d'aimer / Nick, Man of the Heart
Thérèse Vanier: Autour d'une même table / One bread, one body
Thomas Philippe: Fidélité au St Esprit
Thomas Philippe: Béatitudes
Thomas Philippe: Tu as du prix à mes yeux
Thomas Philippe: Contemplative life
Thomas Philippe: Etapes de la vie
Tim Kearney: A Prophetic Cry: Stories of spirituality and healing inspired by L'Arche

Videos

Belonging. (Available from epporter@larche.ca, www.larche.ca or 1-800-571-0212 or 905-770-7696). This resource also has an accompanying resource to assist in leading group discussions.

The Heart Has its Reasons (1984). Running time is 57 minutes. (Available from CIRT)

On Becoming Human (Excerpts from Jean Vanier's CBC Massey Lectures with a specially recorded introduction for senior students). (Available from epporter@larche.ca, www.larche.ca or 1-800-571-0212 or 905-770-7696).

Websites

L'Arche Meeting Ground. larchecommons.ca/.../Video_of_El_Arca_en_Choluteca_2010-04-22
L'Arche London. www.larchelondon.org/
L'Arche International. www.larche.org/official-documents-resources.en-gb.43.0.contents.htm
L'Arche Canada. www.larche.ca/.



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