



The Lord Be With You Prayers for Catechists & Teachers

From Bill Huebsch
& the team at ThePastoralCenter.com

Praying Before You Teach



Get Ready

I know you're busy. The end of the day comes before you know it! But find a short time, maybe 10 minutes, to just sit. Here are some strategies to help you make this happen:

- ✚ If the kids are loud, can someone else tend to them for a while?
- ✚ If not, then leave a bit early for your religious education, RCIA, adult ed or school teaching work. Arrive early enough to sit in the chapel.
- ✚ If you don't have kids but life is moving fast, YOU can slow it down. Turn off your TV. Hit the PAUSE button on the iPod. Just turn off the darn computer.
- ✚ If silence troubles you, pay attention to that. Let the thoughts that come to you enter your mind as welcome thoughts. But set each aside, turning your heart again and again to prayer.

Start Thinking

You're going to be encountering a group of learners – no matter what their age. A very important reality is part of this: God is acting in their lives! GOD is acting. Wow! Here are some points to help you get started in this prayer:

- ✚ The everyday experiences of the ones whom you are about to teach are very important. Their experiences are loaded up with the possibility that it could lead them to see God. You can help them in this process.
- ✚ Think about your own day. How did God touch you today? Think back over the day from the first things you did until now. If it's morning, think back over last evening, event-by-event and person-by-person.
 - Who did you meet, even for a moment?
 - Who called on the phone?
 - What did you see on TV – news or programming?
 - Who were you with, or with whom did you wish to be?
- ✚ Each of these is a possible way in which God is touching you now.



Now Let's Pray

I'm going to begin this prayer. I want you to complete the sections where I have left open thoughts and space. Either write in the space provided, or jot some notes. Let your thoughts return again and again to Christ, to the Holy Spirit, to God who is both Mother and Father to you right now. When you finish this prayer, read it aloud to yourself, or if you're in a group, share appropriate parts of it with others.



Begin by tracing on your body the Sign of the Cross.

*Jesus Christ, my friend and brother,
you are the one I want to reveal
to my students today.*

*I believe in you - help me to believe more!
From your Holy Spirit I have received
the gift of teaching.*

THANK YOU for this great gift.

Pause to recall your various experiences of teaching in the past.

But am I worthy?

You know my sinfulness!

You know my weaknesses!

How could YOU have possibly called ME?

I am filled with fears, my dear Jesus.

Here is a list of some of them:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Need more space? Use the back of this page.

*I'm getting ready now to teach
 those whom you have sent to me,
 sent to my care.
 I need your help!
 I am an earthen vessel and without your grace,
 I can do nothing whatsoever.
 But what do I need? How do I know?*

The Gift	How do I experience this?
Greater belief in you	
Patience with my learners	
Courage to stand before my learners and reveal my inner self, my own faith	
Generosity to give this time	
The belief that you are acting even in the smallest gesture or word as I teach	
Compassion for my learners whose lives may not follow all the rules	
An understanding heart so I can listen and hear the heartfelt needs and desires of my learners	
Something else?	

*Prepare my heart now, dear Christ,
to enter into this teaching time
with you as my goal
and with the Holy Spirit as my Guide.
Make me generous in loving these people,
even the ones who seem not to know you,
or who do not seem to love the Church.*

Pause to allow God's love to fill you. Become conscious of God's presence.

*Let everything that happens in this teaching time
lead them and me to you,
to ever deeper intimacy with you.
May your love be all that we seek and want.*

*I have these special prayers today,
rising out of my life and family,
rising out of my own personal needs:*

My own special needs and prayers:

May your love guide me, Amen.

Praying After Class

Finishing the Job

When you have completed the work of teaching, there is a final step you must take in order to “finish the job.” You must return to the Lord now with your whole heart to thank God for his wonderful works. Even if you feel the teaching went badly, you cannot see who may have been touched or how God’s hand may have reached out to someone in this period.



Pour yourself a cup of coffee or cold drink and spend time now with God.

Being Thankful

For what are you thankful in this time?

- ✚ What learner seemed to blossom today?
- ✚ What words formed themselves on your lips as a complete gift from God, allowing you to speak of faith with clarity?
- ✚ What new insight did you have about faith?
- ✚ Which of your teaching plans unfolded with grace and ease?

What did you resist in this time?

- ✚ Which of your students do you resist?
- ✚ What aggravations did you experience while you were teaching?
- ✚ What points of faith were more difficult for you to teach?

Now let’s pray.

Find a quiet spot for yourself. It may be late at night or early in the morning, but be sure it is within a few hours of your teaching time. Perhaps it is in the car on the way home as you recall your teaching experience and consider it in your mind. Pray in these or similar words:

Jesus, teacher of all and source of faith.

*Spirit of God, living within me
sustaining and supporting me,
giving me the gift of teaching.*

*Our Father, Our Mother in heaven,
you whose name is holy*

*and who has done great things for us.
I open my heart and mind to your presence.*

Here pause to allow the memories of the teaching period just ended to come to mind. Review carefully the flow of the teaching, the content, the people, each face, each moment, each response from a learner. Allow your thoughts to roam around in these memories for a short while.

*Thank you for working through me
to touch these learners.
I praise and honor you for the amazing work
done through me by you.
I myself am honored to be called for this work
and I gladly offer it to you now.*

*If in this teaching,
there were ways in which my own prejudices,
attitudes, political persuasions,
or resistance to your word
interfered with my work,
I surrender them now to you.
Forgive me for failing to trust completely in you,
and help my faith to grow.*

Allow yourself here to turn your heart toward God.



*○ Great Spirit of God,
help me to keep my heart open
as I prepare to teach again.
I know you are with me
and you behold all I say and do.
Grant, by the light of your Spirit,
that I may be earnest
in my search for truth,
and fair in how I treat others.
Amen.*

Praying for Your Learners



Calling them to Mind

The ones entrusted to your care as a teacher depend on you to teach them faithfully and well. You are called to be their guide and mentor. You are their example of faith, their model, and their source of understanding. God works through you to reach and touch them. Between learning and teaching sessions, it is important to

pause once in a while to pray for them.

Handwrite their first names, nick names, or some way that you can identify each of your learners. Use the space below.

Now let us pray.

In this prayer, you will review the list you have made and return to each learner one by one. Ask God to guide your teaching so that the heart of this particular, individual person may be touched. Be conscious of those learners in your group whom you may resist. Pay attention to that and ask God to help soften your heart and open it to them. Likewise, pay attention to any whom you tend to favor. Ask God to guide you to treat all with fairness.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

*Enter into my mind, O great and loving God,
and allow me to hear your voice.
I know you are present with me in this very moment,
calling me to be your co-worker,
thanking me for my response,
and giving me strength and wisdom.
I am the earthen vessel
and you are the one who fills me,
pouring out like water to refresh
those entrusted to my care.*

Pause here. Recall each learner by name. Spend a few moments with your heart open to receive insight and guidance for each.

*May each of these whom you have given to me
be held in love - by you through me.
May each be treated with respect and care,
may each be led only to you.
May your hand be upon me now,
leading and guiding me to offer each one
what he or she may need most
in order to become your disciple.*

Note in writing any insights you may receive.
Conclude your prayer in your own words, ending with the Sign of the Cross.