

“What is a greater work than to direct the minds and form the character of the young? I hold, with certainty, that no painter, no sculptor, nor any other artist does such excellent work as he who molds the minds of youth.”

Saint John Chrysostom

Opening Prayer

God, our loving Creator,
We are Yours, and Yours we wish to be.
Help us to become Your instruments
Of love, peace, and reconciliation
In the lives of the young men and women
Who are our students.

Help us to understand and to teach

That to be holy means to be truly whole.
Help us to forgive
So that we may be forgiven.
Help us to re-dedicate ourselves
To the work of education,
So that the lives of those we teach
May be truly renewed.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Who is our redeemer and teacher. Amen.

First Reading:

There is a story told about a young man who entered a monastery. Very soon afterward he began to notice and to be dismayed by the fact that monks, especially ones older than himself, were leaving the monastery. Troubled and confused, he went to the abbot. Why, he asked, did some men, after having committed themselves to a way of life, forsake it for something else? The abbot responded with a story: Once upon a time a dog lay sleeping in the warm sun of the village square. All of a sudden, out of the corner of his half-opened eyes, he spied a rabbit darting across the road. He took off immediately in hot pursuit. He ran up and down the streets through the countryside, keeping up the chase day and night and seeming never to tire. Eventually, other dogs saw him and joined the run. But, one by one, they grew tired and stopped running. Why? They were running only because they had seen the first dog doing so. They had never caught sight of the rabbit in the first place. So, the abbot concluded, the one who has never glimpsed the vision grows easily tired of running. He gives up the chase because he can't remember why he had begun to run in the first place.

Response:

Sister Kathy Sherman CSJ

Leader: How can we turn away from the faces of the children?

Faces bearing hunger, faces bearing pain.

Who will feed their hunger and comfort their pain?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

L: And who will plant the dreams in the minds of the children?

Minds so often frightened, minds that long to hope.

Who will keep their dreams alive and see that they come true?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

R: And who will be the love in the hearts of the children?

Hearts of our tomorrow, hearts in need today.

Who will give example of all that life can be?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

Leader: Look into the depths of your soul.

Where do you see tomorrow?

It's in the minds and hearts and faces of the children.

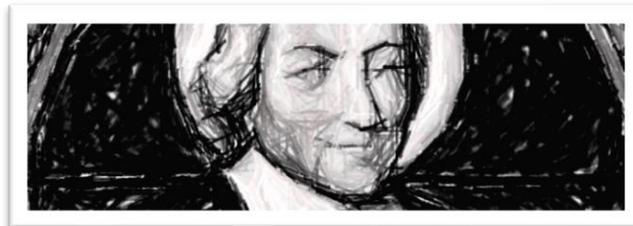
All: So let us join as one for the sake of the children,

Children wanting us to hope and needing us to care.

Who will make a difference in the future of the earth?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

Intercessions:



Closing Prayer

You, my God, are my strength,
My patience, my light and my counsel;
It is you who opens the minds
And hearts of the children
Confided to my care.

Abandon me not to myself for the moment.
For my own conduct
And for that of my pupils,

Grant me the spirit of wisdom and
understanding,
The spirit of counsel and fortitude,
The spirit of knowledge and piety,
The spirit of holy fear of you,
And an ardent zeal to procure your glory.

Amen.