

### Opening Prayer:

We move so fast, God, and sometimes we see so little in our daily travels. Slow us down. Create in us a desire to pause. Help us to pursue moments of contemplation. Help us to see in a deeper way, to become more aware this year of what speaks to us of beauty and truth. May we dust off our hearts so that we see what is truly of value and of deep meaning in our lives. Amen

**Sr Stanislaus said ‘people of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him’.**

Before we begin this academic year let us take some time to consider how we can each bestow blessing and be blessing in our school communities. Let us take time to think about how we are called to be present with each other in order to engender new life, strength, courage and vitality as Christ did to those around him.

Let us reflect on God’s Word to us in **1 Corinthians 12: 4-11**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean. But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

This is the word of the Lord

## Staff Prayer Service

Lord and source of all gifts,  
We rejoice in the fullness of your generosity,  
We thank you especially for the gift of change, that gift of newness,  
That opens doors closed by habit and routine.

*Lord Hear Us*

We bless you and thank you also  
For that which is stable and unchanging,  
For the ancient and traditional  
Which give meaning to the new and different.

*Lord Hear Us*

We thank you, end of all longing,  
For the capacity for change in our lives,  
For without change there can be no real growth  
And no true life.

*Lord Hear Us*

We are thankful for your Son, your sacred word,  
Who spoke to us of new wine for new wineskins,  
And who calls us daily to a new Kingdom  
And a new covenant.

*Lord Hear Us*

We thank you Lord that we have been invited to be part of this caring, welcoming school and we pray that this school may always be a school which models the Gospel values of compassion, justice, love, tolerance, and forgiveness. May we continue to promote the dignity of each member of our school community through social inclusion, through the development of the whole person and respect for the environment in which we live.