**Board of Management – Opening Prayer**

**(Meeting 1: Academic Year 2021/2022)**



**Reader 1:** We begin our Prayer, together, “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.” And we light this candle as a sign and symbol of God’s loving presence with us as we begin our first meeting of this academic year.



**Reader 2:** We re-state our school’s mission and vision statement. (Insert your own vision/mission statement here.)

**Reader 3:** We give thanks for all the ways in which our vision and mission richly impact the life of our school.

**Reader 4:** We also humbly acknowledge the ways we fall short. Inspire us Lord to reach ever deeper into our identity as a CEIST school, in the XX Tradition.

**Reader 5:**  Our faith in you Lord is at the heart of all that we do. Because of our faith in you and your faith in us, your people, we see and understand life in a particular way and we see and understand education in a particular way. Guide us in our deliberations during out meeting now and in all of our work for the school community of XX (Name school) as we seek to live out the vision and mission of our school.

We listen now to the word of God.

**Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel of Mark**

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

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

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**Readers:** We pray together,

* For our students. Lord, guide them and keep them. Help them always to live out of a deep awareness of your love for them made real in their lives through our school community’s care. Lord hear us (Lord graciously hear us)
* For our teachers. Lord, guide them and keep them. Continue to inspire them with a deep sense of purpose in all that they do, particularly for those students who are most in need of their care. Lord hear us (Lord graciously hear us).
* For the families within our community. Lord guide them and keep them, protecting them from all harm. Lord hear us (Lord graciously hear us).
* For our Principal, Deputy Principal(s) and school management team. Keep them safe, bring them peace and help them come to an ever-deeper awareness of your love for them. Lord hear us (Lord graciously hear us).
* For one another as members of this Board of Management. Lord guide us and keep us. Help us to work always for the good of our school. Help us to gently challenge, generously celebrate and patiently encourage the whole school community through our work on behalf of (XX community). Lord hear us (Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader 6:** We conclude our prayer by saying together, “Our Father…..”

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