

Theme: Rooted in Faith, Walking in Hope

GATHERING & WELCOME

(Chairperson or Principal)

Welcome everyone, acknowledge the start of the new school year, and introduce the theme.

Remind the Board that their role is one of service, rooted in the values of Catholic education and the CEIST Charter.

LEADER: We begin our prayer by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith, 'In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.'

We light our **CEIST candle** as a reminder that God is round and about us, through us, with us and in each one of us as we begin our first meeting of this academic year. In this Jubilee Year of Hope we give thanks for the light of faith that shines so brightly in our school community.

As we gather at the beginning of this new school year we bring our hopes and anxieties, our energy and need for renewal. In the spirit of our **CEIST** values, let us pause and place our work, our staff, our students, and our community before God.

OPENING PRAYER *(Led by one member)*

Loving God, as we gather at the beginning of a new school year,

we give thanks for this school community entrusted to our care.

May we be rooted in faith, drawing wisdom and strength from you.

May we walk in hope, inspiring and guiding the students, staff, and families we serve.

Bless our work tonight and throughout this year.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

SCRIPTURE READING

Choose one depending on context and which aspect of the theme you would like to highlight.

Colossians 3:12–15

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Jeremiah 29: 10-41

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes "

READER: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION ON THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

(Short reflection, read aloud by a member of the Board),

This year the Church celebrates a Jubilee of Hope, a time to renew our trust in God's promises and to walk forward with confidence. In a world often marked by uncertainty, we are called to be witnesses of hope — for our students, our staff, and our wider community.

To be rooted in faith means drawing deeply on Christ, who is our foundation. To walk in hope means carrying His light into every decision, every challenge, and every act of service as a Board."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Different members may read each one.)*

Response: 'Root us in faith, Lord. Walk with us in hope.'

For our school community — that it may be a place of welcome, learning, and faith.

Response

For our students — that they may grow in wisdom, courage, and hope for the future.

Response

For our staff — that they may be supported in their vocation of teaching and care.

Response

For our Board — that our decisions may be guided by wisdom, justice, and compassion.

Response

For the wider world — that peace, hope, and reconciliation may take root among nations.

Response

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

In silence invite members to think of one hope they carry for the school this year, and to entrust it to God.

CLOSING PRAYER (Led by one member)

God of Faith and Hope,

bless the work we undertake this year as a Board of Management.

May our decisions be guided by Your Spirit.

May we remain faithful to the vision of **CEIST**,

upholding dignity, justice, and compassion in all things.

Rooted in faith, may we walk always in hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING (All together, or led by Chairperson/Principal)

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May His face shine upon us and give us peace.

May we be rooted in faith and walk always in hope.

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