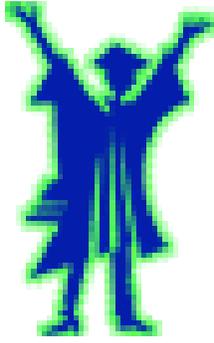


GOD BLESS OUR GRADUATES



Those who gain intelligence
are their own best friend;
they who keep understanding
will be successful.

Proverbs 19: 8



Let us pause and recall that the Living God Who called us into existence and
Who graces us with the power to think and to choose, is always with us.
In the name of the Father Who knew us before we were born; in the name of
Jesus the Son, our Brother and Savior Who died for us, and in the name of the
Holy Spirit Who enlightens us with grace and life,
All glory and praise, thanks and adoration are Yours.

PROVERBS 2: 1-11

If you receive my words and treasure My commands,
Turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understanding;
Yes, if you call to intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice;
If you seek her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out:
Then will you understand the fear of the Lord; the knowledge of God you will
find;
For the Lord gives wisdom,
from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
He has counsel in store for the upright,
He is the shield of those who walk honestly,
Guarding the paths of justice, protecting the way of His pious ones.
Then you will understand rectitude and justice, honesty, every good path;
For wisdom will enter your heart, knowledge will please your soul,
Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.

HYMN

PRAY THROUGH US, HOLY SPIRIT

Pray through us, Holy Spirit, through deep and wordless sighs,
from faintest whispers of daybreak to the hush of evening skies.
Pray through us, Holy Spirit, in shimmers of delight
that spark our joy in creation, gifts of touch and sound and sight.
Pray through us, Holy Spirit, when anxious and distressed
until we lay down our burdens in Your arms of quiet rest.
Pray through us, Holy Spirit, for frail and troubled lands,
so we may aid in their healing and enact what love commands.
Pray through us, Holy Spirit, that 'til our labors cease,
we may draw strength through Your goodness and unfurl Your wings of peace.

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 12: 1-8

The Lord said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the Lord directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions that they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

Abram passed through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So Abram built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel, pitching his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there to the Lord and invoked the Lord by name.

PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen. Then the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTION CHARLES RUSH

The point of education is that you make your values your own, not because someone else told you that was what you should treasure or believe. But that, understanding all the alternatives, understanding the deficits, you treasure them as your own because you decided to keep them.

Abraham and Sarah started out on a journey, to a land, God said that I will show you. Open-ended. But one day on the journey Abraham had a vision of God and he realized that he was in the land that God would show him and he built an altar and he worshipped. He made a commitment to God. He owned his faith for himself, not because anyone told him to do it, not having all the answers, but he owned it for himself. That is the point of growing and maturing, of critique and discovery. You are setting out on a great adventure, and there will be some great parties on the way too. And if you are lucky, you will travel to some new places and meet some interesting fellow travelers and you will become a better person for it.

You will need it. Because we will have to start out again, and again, and again... Probably some significant new starts in your life as an adult. The world is a shifting sand that demands new starts by all of us.

I can fairly well guarantee you that you will be forced to start out again, later in life, and it will probably not be comfortable either. The world is a shifting sand. Revolutions happen, terrorism happens, death interrupts us, and markets suddenly collapse. And sometimes, like Abraham, God might even call you from the comfortable things you have known and send you on a new journey to unnamed places. And how will you build? What will guide you? What will be in your head? What will be in your heart? What will you pass on once you are asked to lead? Understand, critique, and develop your own code, taking the best of the rich tradition we all stand on. Make it your own. You will need it.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

We raise our minds and hearts to God in thanksgiving for the gift of this day and the milestone our graduates have reached.

For all of our parents, teachers, coaches, moderators and all who have helped our youth to reach this day of graduation. Bless them, Lord, and look graciously on them for their sacrifices and patience. We pray:

For all graduates that they will allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in and through them. We pray:

For all who help provide a Christian education for the young through their generosity of time, treasure and talent. Reward them, Lord, and bless them for the good that they do. We pray:

For all who have not had the opportunity to get a formal education. Help us, Lord, to help them realize this goal. We pray:

For all the Christian Brothers and their partners in ministry that they will forever be true to the dreams of Saint John Baptist de La Salle in the education of our youth. We pray:

For the spirit of faith, learning, service and community; that it will permeate the lives of all our students and graduates. We pray:

For all graduates that they will take up the challenge to love God and their neighbor according to the Gospel in their own unique ways. We pray:

LET US PRAY: God of joy and God of accomplishment, watch over all graduates and hold them in the palm of Your hand. Keep them from all danger and harm and inspire them to change our world for the better through the education they have received. We praise and bless You, we give You thanks for bringing us to this day. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Teacher. Amen.

HYMN THE GOD WHO SENDS US FORTH

The God Who sends us forth united in our prayer,
has strengthened us and tended us with a shepherd's care.
God's Jesus makes us bold, His Body is our bread,
His Wine of Life is fullness for the road ahead.

The road ahead is filled by travelers without end;
the wayward and the wanderer, the migrant friend.
And we are Jesus' flesh, His welcome and His home
we go from here to love and serve and to tend God's own.

So let us bless our God, the Sender and the One,
and let us bless the Servant, Jesus Christ the Son.
The Spirit let us thank Whose love is bright indeed.
Who lights a gentle pathway for a world in need.

John Foley, © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

Our Father...

BLESSING of GRADUATES

You are God's work of art fashioned in Jesus the Christ.
You are fashioned to shine with goodness and light.
May God choose you to bring Good News to the poor.
May you bring new sight to those searching for light.
May God choose you to bring to birth a new kingdom on earth.
May God call you to all those whose cry is unheard.
May God call you to raise up the voiceless with no power or choice.
May you proclaim that God's kingdom is near.
May you remove oppression and break down fear.
May you go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord and one another.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
assist us that we may faithfully devote ourselves to the Christian education of
our youth.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



**YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH
AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
SHARE YOUR GIFTEDNESS.**