

# *Raising a New Generation of Children*

*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.*

## *Opening Prayer*

Jesus, help us remember one thing –  
That God's love is the source of all things:  
Our praying and our teaching,  
Our moving and our being still,  
Our song and our sorrow,  
And our knowing Your love.  
Because God has given You, Jesus, to be among us...  
In this remembrance we give our lives into Your hands:  
In simplicity and peace, unafraid  
May we live in Your love. Amen.

---

## *Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*(Written by Sy Miller and Bill Jackson)*

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!  
With God as our Father, neighbors all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

---

## *A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Prayer for Children* (Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund)

God, help us not to raise a new generation of children  
With high intellectual quotients and low caring and compassion quotients,  
With sharp competitive edges but dull cooperative instincts,  
With highly developed computer skills but poorly developed consciences,  
With a gigantic commitment to the big "I", but little sense of responsibility to the bigger  
    "we" -  
With mounds of disconnected information but without a moral context to determine its  
    worth,  
With more and more knowledge and less and less imagination and appreciation for the  
    magic of life that cannot be quantified or computerized,  
With more and more worldliness and less and less wonder and awe for the sacred and  
    everyday miracles of life.  
God help us to raise children who care.

## *Musical Reflection*

### *Poem*

(Antwone Fisher)

Who will cry for the little boy, lost and all alone?  
    Who will cry for the little boy, abandoned without his own?  
Who will cry for the little boy? He cried himself to sleep.  
    Who will cry for the little boy? He never had for keeps.  
Who will cry for the little boy? He walked the burning sand.  
    Who will cry for the little boy? The boy inside the man.  
Who will cry for the little boy? Who knew well hurt and pain.  
    Who will cry for the little boy? He died and died again.  
Who will cry for the little boy? A good boy he tried to be.  
    Who will cry for the little boy, who cries inside of me?

---

### *Intercessions*

For what and for whom shall we pray?

**Leader:** God, our Father, we ask you to grant these petitions through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. Amen

## ***Final Reading***

*(Matthew: 5: 13-16)*

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing and can only be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a basket; they put it on a lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to our Father in heaven.

***St John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!  
Live, Jesus, in our hearts....Forever!***