

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

**Holy Hour for February 2013
Declaration on Christian Education
Gravissimum Educationis, 28 October 1965**

*'May the nations of the world come to know that all
people of whatever race, condition or age, have an inalienable
right to education and that right a living reality.'*



As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'

'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'

Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, you have willed that your Church be the sacrament of salvation for all nations, so that Christ's saving work may continue to the end of the age; stir up, we pray, the hearts of your faithful and grant that they may feel a more urgent call to the service of education, so that the gospel may be preached to all creation and that your people may advance in the path of salvation and love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Reader 1:

'The sacred ecumenical Council has given careful consideration to the paramount importance of education in the life of men and women and its ever-growing influence on the social progress of the age.' '...children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities. They should be trained to acquire gradually a more perfect sense of responsibility in the proper development of their own lives by constant effort and in the pursuit of liberty, overcoming obstacles with unwavering courage and perseverance. As they grow older they should receive a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex. Moreover, they should be so prepared to take their part in the life of society that, having duly trained in the necessary and useful skills, they may be able to participate actively in the life of society in its various aspects. They should be open to dialogue with others and should willingly devote themselves to the promotion of the common good.'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis) Preface; No 1)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

Reader 2

FIRST READING

PROVERBS 8:1-14; 32-36 (Sheet attached)

'WISDOM IS BETTER THAN JEWELS'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

BE THOU MY VISION

Celebration For Everyone No 74/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 168/ Laudate No 970

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God's guiding wisdom.

Reader 1:

'As it is the parents who have given life to their children, on them lies the gravest obligation of educating their family. They must therefore be recognised as being primarily and principally responsible for their education. The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute. It is therefore the duty of parents to create a family atmosphere inspired by love and devotion to God and their fellow men and women which will promote an integrated, personal and social education of their children. The family is therefore the principle school of the social virtues which are necessary to every society.'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis) No 3)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

Reader 2

SECOND READING St Paul's First letter to the Corinthians 1:17-31 (Sheet attached)
'GOD HAS SHOWN UP THE FOOLISHNESS OF HUMAN WISDOM'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF HIM

Celebration For Everyone No 268 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 346/ Laudate No 768

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God's guiding wisdom.

Reader 1:

'It is the duty of the state to ensure that all its citizens have access to an adequate education and are prepared for the proper exercise of their civic rights and duties.'... 'It is the duty of civil society to promote the education of youth in various ways. It should recognise the duties and rights of parents, and of those others who play a part in education, and provide them with the requisite assistance....Education is in a very special way the concern of the Church, not only because the Church must be recognised as a human society capable of imparting education, but especially it has the duty of proclaiming the way of salvation to all people, of revealing the life of Christ to those who believe, and of assisting them with unremitting care so that they may be able to attain to the fullness of that life.'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis) No 6, No 3)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING Mark 6:30-34 (Lectionary I, pg 779)

'AND HE SET HIMSELF TO TEACH THEM AT SOME LENGTH.'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

THOU, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD

Celebration For Everyone No 738 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 689/ Laudate No 887

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God's guiding wisdom.

Leader: In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.
Response to each prayer: Lord, strengthen the faith of your people

Reader 2:

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Strengthen your Church and keep her free from hindrance, that she may freely pursue her obligation to provide for her children an education which inspires their entire lives with the spirit of Christ. We pray to the Lord
- Grant love and perseverance to all parents, so that they may recognise and respond wholeheartedly to their calling to be the first and best teachers of their children. We pray to the Lord
- Enlighten with the Spirit of wisdom all those involved in Education particularly parents, teachers, governors, support workers, auxiliary staff and helpers - remembering especially those involved in Catholic Education. We pray to the Lord
- Help civil authorities to be more deeply aware of their responsibility to ensure that all citizens have access to an adequate education which helps prepare them for the proper exercise of their civic rights and duties. We pray to the Lord
- Bring your peace to the nations of the world and rid it of injustice and hatred. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to the dead eternal life. We pray to the Lord

BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW

FIRMLY I BELIEVE AND TRULY

Celebration For Everyone No 173 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 258/ Laudate No 962

Supplement sheet *February Holy Hour*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

8:1-14; 32-36

Does not wisdom call, does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, in the paths, she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals, she cries aloud: "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the sons of men. O simple ones, learn prudence; O foolish men, pay attention. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to the one who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. I, wisdom, dwell in prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance, and the way of evil, and perverted speech, I hate. I have counsel and sound wisdom, I have insight, I have strength.

“And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For the one who finds me finds life, and obtains favour from the Lord; but he who misses me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

1:17-31

For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart."

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."

The word of the Lord