

«THE OUR FATHER»
FOR GROUPS OF EDUCATORS

(From the Review: "Sussidi" N92/9, 16-18)

*(This prayer could be said together at the beginning of meetings,
or recited in private each morning
or before giving a Catechism and other lessons).*

- **Our Father who art in heaven,**
but who art also and especially among us:
for thy fatherly presence is with us,
like each day's sun which thou allowest us to use
in lighting up the path for thy children,
whom thou entrustest to our educational endeavours.
- **hallowed be thy name.**
May all our students praise and bless thee;
may they all recognise thee and recognise
one another as thy children,
since they are surrounded by thy fatherly love,
which is seen through each one of us.
- **Thy kingdom come,**
which thou hast shown us in Jesus,
and which was begun by Him,
and whose growth thou hast entrusted to our hands.
May our classes be the threshold
of a society made new by mutual understanding and love.
- **Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.**
May all people discover it and bring it about.
May we completely fulfil thy trust
by living together and working as a community:
true educators, directing thy children
along the road to freedom and guided by love.
- **Give us each day thy daily bread:**
the bread on the table of each family,
the bread of truth and friendship,
the bread of justice and freedom.
Let us be able to share
the bread of thy Word each day
with those thou has entrusted to us
in order to grow with them
and to bring about the formation of a new people.
- **Forgive us our trespasses,**
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
May we be able to understand and forgive our students
just as Thou understandest and forgivest us.
May we be able to accept them as they are,
so that they may become even better.
Allow us to help them to grow
with a strong and urgent love,
but spare us from impatience
as Thou art patient with us.
- **Lead us not into temptation.**
The temptation to make our vocation
a piece of merchandise to be bought and sold;
free us from being mere time-servers as teachers
and uncommitted to life;
from becoming discouraged by the weight
of our daily work;
from losing confidence in our students,
thinking they are worse than we used to be.
Thou who hast placed thy fatherly trust in them,
help us also to trust them.
- **but deliver us from evil.**
From the terrible evil of misdirecting and ruining
the lives of the children and young people
thou hast entrusted to us.
Free us from paternalism and authoritarianism
which make us think we are "owners",
when thou hast recommended us to be at the service
of those who are Thy children
and our brothers and sisters.
- **Amen.**
Yes, Father: this is what we ask
and this is what we promise Thee.
This is what we hope,
because it is what Thou wantest;
and we, all united,
will try to work together to make it possible.

TO YOU, MY TEACHER

From the review: "Juntos" (United), District of Central America, N108, June 1992.

- Blessed is the educator who has vision, who like a sculptor, shapes the human clay, avoiding making it into a copy of himself, and who, with the freedom which comes from love, allows it to become the image and likeness of God.

- Blessed is the educator who puts all his life into his efforts and who bears all the work and trouble for the Kingdom of God; whose attitude is like Jesus' attitude, and who sees in the supreme events of the death and resurrection of Jesus the sign and fulfilment of his life.

- Blessed is the educator who speaks at the right moment and at the right moment is silent; the teacher who is not always imposing his ideas in an authoritarian manner and who keeps them to himself, and yet who does not withhold them or change them through secret complicity or cowardice for fear that the image which people have of him might be destroyed.

- Blessed is the educator who, with great earnestness, reads the signs of the times, and becomes as aware of the will of God by reading those signs as he is aware of the times by those very signs: the deeds, the words, the death and resurrection of Jesus, who is the external word and the interior spirit which God is always offering us.

- Blessed is the educator who does not force anyone to stay with him and who does not use friendship or authority as a net to prevent his students from outgrowing him, but who urges them to greater heights and praises them when they make progress towards new horizons.

- Blessed is the educator who, when he has shown the path to his students and finds that they choose another path, still loves them and has hopes for them and yet does not hesitate to give them the friendly and simple advice which he thinks is right.

- Blessed is the educator who is not taken up by his own life's journey, who is not blinded nor dazzled by his own experiences, and who believes that each life is a new beginning, which God brings into the world, who believes that in each life everything is possible, and who therefore does not oppose any possibility in others, but opens all possibilities to all people.

BEATITUDES FOR TEACHERS

Compiled by a group of teachers attending a renewal weekend at Cheras Convent organised by the Archdiocesan Education Commission & The Catholic Teachers Movement: 13-15 September 1991

- Blessed are you who are called to teach, for you walk in the footsteps of the Master.
- Blessed are you who sow peace and harmony in the staffroom, yours will be the joy of the Lord.
- Blessed are you who plant seeds of hope in youthful hearts, for you will inherit the dawn.
- Blessed are you who are sensitive to the cries of youth today, for they yearn for the coming of my Kingdom.
- Blessed are you when you share your faith with others, for your name is written in my heart.
- Blessed are you who anguish now because your students are difficult, for one day they will thank you for your loving concern.
- Blessed are you when efficiency is moderated by compassion and empathy, for the deeper secret education is yours.
- Blessed are you when you reach out to me in your students, for you will surely find me and rejoice.
- Blessed are you who lead young people in paths of justice and peace, for you will shine like stars for all eternity.