

PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS

O WORD INCARNATE, Teacher of teachers, our most amiable Jesus, You who deigned to come into the world to show men the way to heaven with Your infinite wisdom and inexhaustible goodness, in Your kindness hear the humble supplications of those who, following in Your footsteps, would be Catholic teachers worthy of the name, showing to souls the sure paths that lead to You and through You to eternal happiness:

Give us light, not only to avoid the snares and pitfalls of error, but also that we may penetrate truth, especially in those things where Your divine simplicity is reflected, so that we may acquire that light of clarity in which that which is the most essential becomes the most simple, and therefore the most adapted to the intelligence even of children. Visit us with the help of Your creative spirit, so that we may be able to teach the doctrines of the faith properly, as we have received the mandate to do.

Give us virtue, that we may adapt ourselves to the yet immature minds of those who follow us, to encourage their fresh and beautiful energies, to understand their defects and to support their restlessness, Give us the grace to make ourselves small without abandoning our position of duty, in imitation of You, O Lord, who made Yourself as one of us without leaving the most high throne of Your Divinity.

But above all, fill us with Your spirit of love: Love for You, only and good Master, that we may immolate ourselves in Your holy service; love for our profession, that we may see it as a most noble vocation and not as a common employment; love for our sanctification, as the principal source of our labor and our apostolate; love for truth, so that we may never deliberately depart from it; love for souls, which we must mold and model to the true and the good; love for our students, to make them exemplary citizens and faithful sons of the Church; love for our beloved youth and children, with true paternal feeling, more elevated, more conscious, and more pure in its natural simplicity.

And you, Most Holy Mother, under whose loving care the young Jesus grew in wisdom and grace, be our intercessor before your Divine Son, and obtain for us the abundance of heavenly graces, to the end that our work may redound to His honor and glory, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

by
POPE PIUS XII