

Guide n. 1: Let us pray the intercessions that have been prepared by the students of St. Joseph's School/ECAC of Bouar, in the Central African Republic.

After every intercession, we sing:

Misericordias Domini, in aeternum cantabo.

- Lord God, Master of the Vineyard, look upon the Sisters whom you have chosen in our Congregation. Keep them united to You and to each other. Give them the grace of a pure heart, of true humility of heart and true obedience to carry out your work of charity in the world. Fill them with your Love that leads them to love each of your creatures with all their hearts. Sanctify their work so that the fruits may return to you daily in thanksgiving. *Let us pray.*


- "Without me you can do nothing". For all educators and those who work to give every child a better future. May they cling to You, Lord, the origin of all education and the first teacher of man. Grant them the art, the love and the charism to educate your sheep according to your justice, peace and the integral development of man and of every man. *Let us pray.*

- For all the students and children who do not have the opportunity to go to school. Open their minds to intelligence and wisdom and help them to be assiduous in the knowledge imparted to them. May they find and recognise in You, Lord, the one true source of all knowledge. Help them to grow as builders of peace and fraternity. *Let us pray.*



We conclude our prayer in the
Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: *Amen!*

 **Song:** to St. Jeanne-Antide.

| Prayer proposed by the International Bureau for Education (U.I.P.E.) |



ARTISANS OF FRATERNITY
You are the vine,
and we are the branches!



Prayer for the month of May 2024

Guide n. 1: "*Educating is an ever-renewed passion*". Education is not "*a philanthropic work*", but an essential part of the Church's mission to teach and to «*restore faith and the good morals*» (St Jeanne Antide). Let us think of our teaching sisters and generations in our prayers, who for 225 years, have been educated, brought up, formed and recognised in their human and spiritual dignity.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1st Reader: We are here, gathered like the disciples, awaiting the outpouring of the Spirit. We invoke and beseech God the Father to send upon us the gifts promised by his Son Jesus Christ: the gift of strength, wisdom and counsel, the gift of knowledge and understanding, the gift of piety and the fear of God. Come Holy Spirit, come Spirit of light, come Spirit of fire, come to enkindle us, come to purify us, come to dwell in us.



 **Song:** Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé)

Guide n. 2: In St. John's Gospel, Jesus entrusts the Father's commandment to his disciples. This commandment is different from the other 10 commandments given to Moses. A concise and concentrated commandment conveying all divine wisdom and the greatness of man's vocation: « This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you ».

Let us listen to what St. John tells us...

2st Reader: From the Gospel according to John (15, 8-13)

«This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now

remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends».

Time of silence with background music.



Guide n. 1: The Father's glory is that we bear much fruit. It is a tangible proof of the intrinsic relationship between the branch and the vine: BEING A DISCIPLE. To remain at the Master's feet, to taste the delights of his Word, to abide in him.

1st Reader: «*To remain*’ does not simply mean to be ‘*beside*’ or ‘*with*’, but to be ‘*within*’. The verb does not indicate a simple static ‘*staying*’ or the obligation not to leave the place. It marks the intimate union, the mutual dwelling of Jesus in the disciples and of the disciples in Jesus» (Bernadette Escaffre, Cahiers Evangile n.146, Ed du Cerf, p.16). It is a choice that the disciple makes out of love, because he knows that away from the Master he can do nothing!

Guide n. 2: Let us pray *together* Psalm 89 (2-3, 4-5, 27.29)

I will sing endlessly the graces of the Lord, *
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness for ever and ever
for you have said, "My grace abides forever"; *
your faithfulness is established in the heavens.

I have made a covenant with my elect, *
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your descendants forever, *
I will give thee a throne to endure for ever.

He shall call upon me: You are my father, *
my God and the rock of my salvation.
I will always preserve my grace to him, *
my covenant shall be faithful to him.

Glory to the Father...

2st Reader: The disciple is a chosen person; he knows that he is bonded with the Master by a covenant. Over the centuries, many teaching sisters have experienced this covenant relationship with their disciples. Let us listen to the testimony of Sr. Nasreen Mughal : «*Every morning in my prayer, I present all my pupils and their families to the Lord. I pray for the grace to live my vocation with patience, charity, fairness, attention and tenderness, because I want to give to my pupils the best of myself in response to the trust they put in me. I feel that I commit myself with gratuitous generosity to educating them, giving them a taste for learning, trusting them and involving them passionately in every educational activity. I feel that this methodology encourages them to feel at ease in the class group. I teach my subject with passion in order to transmit what I have received and to combine the culture and the charism that characterize me as Sister of Charity. It's interesting to see the children progress in their learning, learn to speak English and become "curious" about all that is proposed to them*».

1st Reader: «*This is my commandment: that you love one another*». It is the commandment par excellence of the Sister of Charity, of the Sister Educator, who knows that “*only love educates*”. The basis of every relationship is love, which is based on trust, care and reciprocity. Love always takes the first step; love gives itself unceasingly; love does not repeat itself, but it is renewed daily.



2st Reader: St. Jeanne Antide has understood the value of this commandment. She wrote to her formators: «*The sisters must not lose sight of the way the Saviour always treated the Apostles. He tolerated their rudeness with kindness, corrected their mistakes with gentleness and corrected their faults with patience, and was not irritated by their shortcomings. He did not rush them and did not demand that they be suddenly perfect, if I may say so. Was there ever a more gentle and more tender father than Jesus? Is there perhaps a wiser and more worthy model to have true imitators?*» (cf. Rule 1820, n 14, p 373).



Song: one can choose any song.