

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**



“We, who are many, are one body
in Christ, and individually we are
members, one of another.”

(Romans 12:5)

April Prayer Service

When we act

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action .”
1 John 3:18

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“God of Justice”
Tim Hughes

“Go Make a Difference”
Steve Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek

“Let My People Go”
Matt Redman





Opening Prayer

God who acts in and through us,
as we contemplate our world and its many needs,
we ask your wisdom, courage and vision.

Help us to translate our prayers into actions,
our hope into practice,
our faith into witness.

May the gift of our differences lead us to a deeper unity,
and may our efforts together on behalf of justice help to build up your kingdom of love.

We ask all of this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. +

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Scripture Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (Deut 30:10-14)

Obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees ... Turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



Questions for Personal Reflection



- Sometimes we can feel that working to make a real difference in our world is simply beyond our strength and ability. How might you find encouragement and empowerment in the message that “God’s word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe”?
- How can we ground ourselves in God’s message and God’s love, so that what flows from our hearts and mouths helps to transform our sphere of influence in positive and faith-enhancing ways?
- Christianity understands Jesus as the fullest, richest expression of God’s Word. How convinced are we that that Word is very near to us—that Jesus is intimately close to us, loving us and guiding our efforts to do good?





Contemporary Reading

“Hope in God's help is not a prescription for apathy. A sense of one's own responsibility to act remains indelible ... One is called to act in any case, to try as best one can, to further justice in the world, however inhospitable the circumstances, in whatever way circumstances may allow. Hope in God is not a substitute for one's own action, therefore; it can never mean, on my account, that one need not take action oneself ... Hope in God's help doesn't mean one does not have to try as hard ... Hope in God's help prompts such action in cases where one's own efforts appear futile from the start, and sustains such action ... against feelings of impotence and ineffectuality.”

(Kathryn Tanner, *The Politics of God: Christian Theologies and Social Justice*. Fortress Press, 1992)

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Questions for Guided Reflection

- In my own life, how do faith and prayer sustain and guide my activity for justice, peace and inclusion?
- How do I sometimes experience that temptation to apathy or discouragement in my own life? How do I respond to it or try to counter it?
- How comfortable am I in contributing to efforts to change our world, knowing that I may not personally see the final outcome? To what extent am I comfortable entrusting my best efforts to an unknown future?





Closing Prayer

God our Creator and Sustainer,
present in all of our differences and diversity,
remind us of the power of people working together in your name.
When we may be weary, renew our idealism and hope.
Help us to trust that the seeds of justice and change we strive to sow
will bear their fruit in your time and your way.
Let not the challenges of the task make us indifferent or discouraged.
Guide us together toward a future of promise and new life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen. +



“Go Make a Difference”
Steve Angrisano &
Tom Tomaszek

<https://youtu.be/WDjQEoltGzQ>



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