



A Wisdom Charter For Leaders

Call to Prayer...

Reader: Let us remember we are in the Holy Presence of God.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...**AMEN.**

Let us pray... We give You thanks and praise loving God, for a universe beautiful beyond belief; for a world of possibilities beyond dreams. We praise You for the people You have sent us to challenge us to grow and become more fully human and therefore like Christ.

We praise You for our imaginations, for our ability to dream and conceive of a world of harmony. We sing Your praises!

Help us in our Mission and continue to smile on us with Your hope. Continue to send love into our lives so that we may serve You now and in the future forever.

We ask this through Christ Your Son and our brother...**AMEN.**

THE BEATITUDES

R1: *How blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

R2: Leaders who are poor in spirit are open to the giftedness of others and teach the spirit of service.

R1: *Blessed are the gentle; they shall have the earth as inheritance.*

R2: Leaders are gentle when they allow others space and respect their dignity. Gentle leading may mean waiting patiently for the appropriate moment.

R1: *Blessed are they that mourn; they shall be comforted.*

R2: Leaders who 'mourn' have a capacity to share in the anguish of others in the school community without being overwhelmed by it. Compassionate leaders listen to their own pain and share the comfort of healing through love.

R1: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness; they shall have their fill.*

R2: Leaders who 'hunger and thirst for uprightness' have a keen sense of justice. They must be just in their dealings with all, and strive to be liberators when they perceive injustice in educational systems.

R1: *Blessed are the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them.*

R2: Leaders are reminded to be merciful as God is merciful to them. Mercy is not a sign of weakness on the part of the leader, but an expression of unselfish love. Mercy releases people of hate.

R1: *Blessed are the pure of heart; they shall see God.*

R2: Leaders who strive to be 'pure of heart' help others to appreciate a moral code which affirms their dignity.

To attain purity of heart, leaders need to nurture their own prayer life and acquire a habit of teasing out the values inherent in the course of action.

R1: *Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be recognised as children of God.*

R2: Leaders are encouraged to be proactive in promoting multiculturalism, reconciling our indigenous people, helping positive staff relations and combating division. Leaders who are peacemakers assist the process of reconciliation and harmony

within the global village and the earth.

R1: *Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness; the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

4. Slides – play ‘Shepherds’ Hymn’ by Beethoven

5. Let us pray together:

Lord, we thank You that during this time we:

Have had eyes that have seen
Have had hearts that understand
Have had courage to give
Have had strength to hope
Have had depth to think
Have had concern to care
Have had desire to search

You have opened our minds and hearts during these days
so that we have received the precious things You are waiting to give.
We go from here with the light of Christ...

6. Candle & flag bearers assemble as a group at the front.

7. Final Blessing: *During this blessing you are asked to turn bodily as a group towards each of the four compass directions.*

Leader: We turn to the NORTH, to the natural beauty of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, for a blessing...

Spirit of Peace, make us whole, make us holy, help us to love You and one another with our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul...we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: We turn to the EAST, to the wheat belt rich and abundant with food, to the earth rich in gold and precious minerals, for a blessing...

Spirit of Integrity, give us Your strength and the courage to endure, we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: We turn to the SOUTH; to the vineyards, the ocean rich in fish, for a blessing...

Spirit of Illumination, open our eyes to the sacredness of every living thing, we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: We turn to the WEST; to the Indian Ocean, to the setting sun, for a blessing...

Spirit of Transformation, help us to grow in the wisdom and grace and the goodness of the ages, we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: We look to the HEAVENS for a blessing...

Spirit of Openness, fill us with the wideness of Your mercy that lovingly embraces all, we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: We touch the EARTH for a blessing...
Spirit Incarnate, among us and within us; help us to be more human and to praise You
through the work of our hands, we pray:

All: Empower us Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us go forth from here blessed and renewed in
the Spirit of Peace,
the Spirit of Integrity,
the Spirit of Illumination,
the Spirit of Transformation,
with hopes lifted heavenward,
with hearts loving the earth,
as leaders collaborating with our communities,
liberating, nurturing God.

All: AMEN

8. Movement out of room with Candle bearer and 5 flag bearers at the front.

(This Prayer was used as the Closing Ritual for the WA Catholic Education Office Conference 1998)