

## Prayer at the Beginning of School\*

Almighty God, we are fortunate that you are who you are. You are Creator. *Out of nothing* you created mountains, seas and valleys. *Out of nothing* you created the heaven and earth. *Out of nothing* you created humanity, male and female. *Out of nothing* you separated humanity from all else that you created and gave to humanity the right to have dominion. We gratefully thank you for your gift of creation.

Then, Lord, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ. What would we be without him? As wonderfully made as we were, we strayed. We wandered into a far country unable to find our way and without a compass. To give us the proper course and to recognize your presence, you came in human form as Jesus Christ. He lived among us, laughed, cried and ultimately died as the supreme example of your love. O God, we thank you for Jesus Christ.

And now, Lord of time and space, we gratefully thank you for your Holy Spirit, a gentle, kind and compelling Spirit. In good times and bad we are propelled and constrained by your presence. When joys abound, you celebrate with us, and when sorrows enshroud, you share our remorse. What is more, you hold out to us, through Jesus Christ, the ultimate potential vested in the best of us and the worst of us.

We come now to the beginning of another school year. *Were it not* for the fact that we know how you dealt with your children in the wilderness, we would be troubled. *Were it not* for our vivid remembrance of

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how you embraced your errant children in their passages after liberation, we would have heavy hearts today. *Were it not* for the eternal etchings on our minds by the manner in which Jesus created hope when there was no hope, our outlook for the future would be dim. *Were it not* for the immediacy of our experiences with you as recently as this morning, we would be troubled. But God, you have demonstrated your love in so many wonderful ways that our concerns and fears are abated. Therefore, we actually look forward to this school year with great expectancy.

You know our hearts, O God! Bless that which is worthy of being blessed, and commit to the sea of forgetfulness the things that do not comport with your divine will. Amen.

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