

O Lord

When I enter the classroom....

Give me those virtues which will make me an effective catechist.

Give me *WISDOM* beyond knowledge, not merely to know the facts I have prepared, but to see their importance in the lives of those I teach.

Give me that *WISDOM* which will prevail in the face of indifference, for youth comes with no deep interest in You. I must create this interest.

Give me Your *KINDNESS*, which lived on in the face of rejection and disinterest: to see, behind the mask the lonesome soul.

Give me Your *PATIENCE*, which was not disappointed by failure. To teach You, I must imitate You, who worked in the tough soil of the human will.

Give me Your *HUMILITY*, to lead others to You, as You led others to your Father. Since I can give no grace, never let me promote myself.

Give me *INSIGHT* to appreciate that I am the adult, that these youth have neither my control nor my desire. Then add a spirit of kindness to my discipline.

While I teach, let me learn...

learn that I must love, for I can have all knowledge, yet, without love, all knowledge profits me nothing.

Learn that I am most the teacher when youth, sees something of You in me.

Learn that, while I point out to youth the way to Heaven, I must not lose that way, myself.

Finally, let me understand that my greatest reward is not to be here, but hereafter, when, accompanied by the youth I have instructed, I will shine like a star in heaven for having diffused Your light upon earth.