



Prayer Before School Sanctioned Events

In an effort to facilitate and foster a tradition of prayer at Pope Francis Global Academy, we present here the guidelines for prayer before school sanctioned events. This document is intended to serve as both a reminder and a resource for the privileged task we have to offer prayer before our meetings, sporting events, or any gathering of our community. It is our hope that this document, combined with our own desire for God's blessings, will assist and deepen the rich tradition of prayer found throughout our Catholic faith. St. Paul exhorts us to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). Let us heed this scripture by beginning all things with prayer.

PRAYER BEFORE EVENTS - GUIDELINES

1. The group leader or coach may lead the prayer or s/he may invite one of the participants or athletes to lead the group in prayer.
2. Before the meeting/sporting event begins, call for a moment of silence. You may begin by bowing your head and making the Sign of the Cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."
3. Invite all present to call to mind the presence of God.
4. Provide an opportunity for vocal and/or silent prayer. This prayer may be one of our common, rote prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, etc...), one of the prayers found below, or spontaneous prayer.
5. Conclude prayer with "Amen" and the Sign of the Cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

SEVERAL PRAYER OPTIONS

OUR FATHER

Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OFFICIAL BLESSING FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS. (Book of Blessings, Pg 438).

LEADER: Strong and faithful God, as we come together for this contest, we ask you to bless these athletes. Keep them safe from injury and harm, instill in them respect for each other, and reward them for their perseverance. Lead us all to the rewards of your kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever. *RESPONSE:* Amen.

PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE A MEETING

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of Pope Francis Global Academy. And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name. Amen.