

# APPENDIX A - CIRCULAR ON PRAYER

## 1. SCHOOL MOTTO :

In keeping with the SJI Mission and motto : ORA ET LABORA, the school encourages an environment that nurtures both prayer and hard work.

## 2. RESPECT :

- 2.1 We respect the free conscience of each and every member of the school community. Every member is invited to prayer.
- 2.2 When prayer is conducted, all members of the school community are expected to observe appropriate decorum.
- 2.3 Those who choose not to join common prayer are invited to quietly pray or reflect in their own way or at least maintain a respectful silence while others are at prayer.
- 2.4 Late-comers who arrive at assembly/class while prayer is in progress should remain standing outside the assembly/class until the prayer is over, and not distract those at prayer by attempting to enter.
- 2.5 It is hoped that by according each other the utmost respect in matters pertaining to faith and prayer, we will develop a greater reverence for God's presence among us and in each person.

## 3. CHAPEL SERVICES :

- 3.1 Morning Prayer commences at 07.10 am each school morning. All are welcome.
- 3.2 It is a wholesome practice to make a visit to the chapel upon arrival at school and before departure in the afternoon. Some students choose to make a visit during recess.

**3.3 As part of Catholic education, all Year 1 Catholics are expected to attend Chapel Morning Prayer daily. Attendance will be taken.**

## 4. ASSEMBLY/CLASS PRAYER :

- 4.1 The school day should ordinarily begin and end in prayer. If there is no assembly at the start of the school day, then there should be prayer at the beginning of the first lesson of the day.
- 4.2 The prayer leader will lead the class in prayer if there is no teacher present or if the teacher has a personal difficulty with leading the class in prayer. At the beginning of each lesson, the Prayer Leader will call the class to remember God's holy presence and then lead the class in 1 minute of silence before the lesson begins.
- 4.3 To inculcate a greater sense of gratitude for God's many blessings, the grace before meals ought be prayed together in class before proceeding to recess. Similarly, the class ought pray the grace after meals at the end of recess.

4.4 The traditional Lasallian invitation to prayer is :

***Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.***

There should be a brief pause after this invitation and before proceeding with the prayer.

4.5 The traditional Lasallian invocations to end prayer are :

**All : I will continue, O my God, to do all my actions for the love of you.**

**Leader:** St. John Baptist de La Salle

**All : Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Live Jesus in our hearts

**All : Forever!**

4.6 It will be appropriate if teacher and students choose to pray the Angelus at noon, thus restoring a very old tradition at SJI.

4.7 The singing of a hymn or a few moments of quiet to allow for silent, individual prayer instead of the recited set prayers is very appropriate.

4.8 An example of a typical prayer format is :

a. **Begin** : invitation to pray (Let us remember .....) ***Sign of the Cross.***

b. **Pray** : recited, sung or silent prayer

c. **End** : closing invocations

***Sign of the Cross.***

4.9 It is the responsibility of the teacher and the class committee to ensure that a respectful attitude is maintained during prayer.

## 5. **SCHOOL DIARY :**

5.1 The School diary contains a collection of set prayers and songs to be used at assembly. All students should have their diary with them at assembly.

5.2 It must be said that the recitation of set prayers can at the very most be only the beginning of real, spontaneous, personal prayer.

5.3 However, such set prayers do help the school community to pray together with one heart, mind and voice despite our many differences.

5.4 Furthermore, for those in the process of learning how to pray, set prayers provide a useful guide in helping them formulate their own personal prayer.