

A View from the Pew

by Deacon Greg Kandra

A Student's Prayer

Dear God, here I am again. I'm facing a new blackboard, new books, new teachers, new tests. Will it never end? Haven't I been tested enough?

As I begin another school year, I pray that I will make the grade. I pray for discipline (but not too much, please) so that I will study hard (but not too hard, please). And I pray that in studying, I will become what You mean for me to become.

Your own Good Book offers lessons in Wisdom and Revelation. If you could spare some of those things for me, I'd be grateful.

I would also be grateful if you would bestow on me the gifts every student needs. (Gifts that might last longer than a cool binder and backpack!) So, God, please give me:

Courage ... to ask the questions I don't want to ask.

Humility ... to seek help when I need it.

Patience ... to pay attention to boring lectures.

Charity ... to help my classmates who are struggling to stay afloat.

And Loyalty ... to pray to You often—not only before a test. (Speaking of tests, if you could make most of mine multiple choice, I'd sleep a lot better.)

Dear Father in heaven, You understand my strengths and weaknesses—what I know, and what I don't. And yet You love me anyway. Make of me the best student I can be.

Help me not only to hear ... but to listen.

Help me not only to answer ... but to respond.

Help me not only to pass tests ... but to grasp truth.

For if I am able to do all that, I will never fail. And with You by my side, I will not fear any test (even the ones that aren't multiple choice).

Finally, Father, help me to remember that some of the most important lessons I'll learn aren't found in a textbook.

I ask all this in the name of the one who endured the most difficult test, and passed: Your Son, and my brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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