**Prayer Service for a Board of Management**

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*(Theme: Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Year of Hope)*

**Leader (Chair/Principal):**
As we gather for this meeting at the beginning of a new school year, let us pause for a moment of quiet.
(Pause)

We are entrusted with the care of this school community — staff, students, and families — and with the mission of Catholic education.
This year, the Church invites us to walk as **Pilgrims of Hope**. We know that hope does not ignore challenges, but it gives us courage to face them with faith, wisdom, and vision.

To guide our reflection, let us listen to a short poem about the resilience of hope.

**Poem: “Hope is the thing with feathers”**

**By Emily Dickinson**

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the Gale is heard,
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm.*

*I’ve heard it in the chillest land
And on the strangest Sea;
Yet, never,in Extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

**Leader:**
This poem reminds us that hope is resilient. Even in storms and uncertainty, hope sings within us. As a Board, we are called to be guardians of this hope — ensuring our schools are places of faith, safety, learning, and growth.

**Prayers of Intercession**



**Reader 1:**
We pray for the Church in this Jubilee Year of Hope, that it may always be a witness of welcome, compassion, and courage.
**Response (all):** *Lord, fill us with hope.*

**Reader 2:**
We pray for our schools, that they may be places where hope is nurtured in young people, and where learning is inspired by faith and wisdom.
**Response (all):** *Lord, fill us with hope.*

**Reader 3:**
We pray for the members of this Board, that we may be guided by God’s Spirit in every decision, always seeking the good of students, families, and staff.
**Response (all):** *Lord, fill us with hope.*

**Reader 4:**
We pray for our students, that they may grow in confidence, resilience, and joy, and that hope will sustain them in times of difficulty.
**Response (all):** *Lord, fill us with hope.*

**Reader 5:**
We pray for peace in our world, that hope may shine where there is conflict, despair, or division.
**Response (all):** *Lord, fill us with hope.*

**Closing Prayer**

**Leader:**
Loving God,
You are the source of our hope.
Bless the work of this Board of Management.
Grant us wisdom in our discussions,
unity in our purpose,
and courage in our decisions.

May we always remember that the heart of our mission
is the flourishing of young people —
in faith, in learning, and in life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mary, Mother of Hope – pray for us.**
**Saint Joseph, Protector – pray for us.**
**Saint Brigid and Saint Patrick – pray for us.**

