

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention: December 2018

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

Pray for teachers who help others learn about God.
Pray that these teachers use words and examples their students understand.

Two friends, Jimmy and Anna, were walking down the street together.

"Did you meet the new boy in third grade yet?" Anna asked Jimmy. "His family moved into their new apartment last week."

"I sure did!" Jimmy replied. "He's the bee's knees! I was worried he'd be a real pill, but honestly, his whole family is the cat's pajamas!"

Anna stopped walking. She stared at Jimmy. "What?! Cats don't wear pajamas. Do bees even have knees? And how can a human be a 'pill'?"

"Whoops! Sorry," said Jimmy. "My dad was telling me about old-fashioned talk. About a hundred years ago, a 'pill' meant a boring person. The other two expressions mean you're totally awesome."

"Now THAT makes sense! What a funny way to talk!"

Jimmy and Anna's conversation shows what happens when people use strange, old-timey, or unfamiliar words. Jimmy and Anna agreed that the new boy seemed like a fun friend, but Jimmy's strange words confused Anna.

Pope Francis doesn't want people to be confused when they learn how great Jesus is. The Pope wants teachers to share the Good News about Jesus in words their students understand. When teachers use familiar language and fresh, new examples, their listeners can learn more quickly.

For example, in the Bible, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. Children living in one of today's big cities might not know what a shepherd is, though. They probably have never even seen a sheep! A teacher who loves the Good Shepherd needs to explain that a shepherd is someone who keeps sheep safe, just like Jesus promises to take good care of us. The teacher could use a new example, more familiar for the students: a shepherd is like a really kind firefighter who protects families in danger. Now THAT makes sense!

Let's pray together:

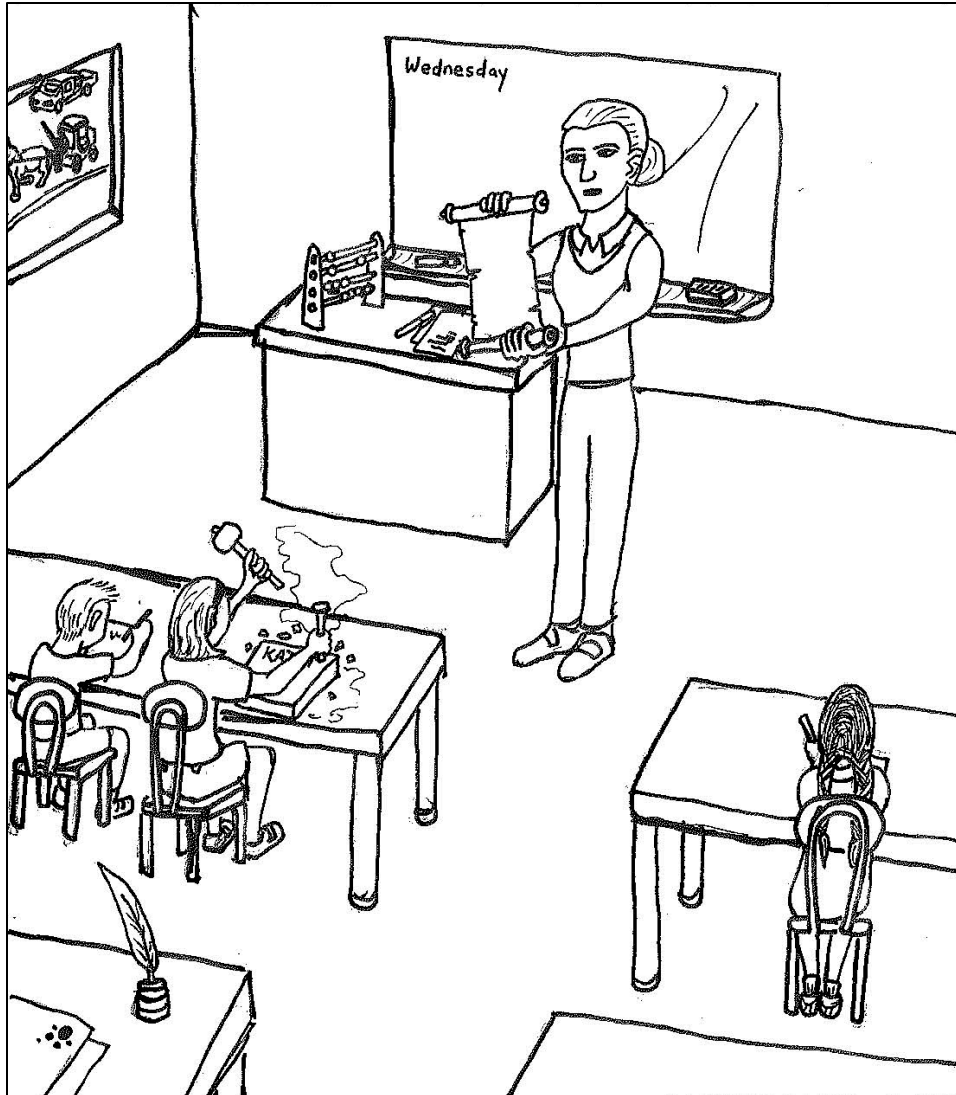
Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for each one of us.
Please help people who want to teach about your love. Help them find the right words!

Think About it!

- What are some interesting words your grandparents used when they were your age?
- What are some new words you could teach your grandparents?
- Use the Bible to find a time Jesus used words or examples his listeners were really familiar with.

**Visual Activity:
Find the Out-of-Date Objects**

Time for school! But wait: some of the school supplies in this classroom are really old-fashioned. Can you find all five out-of-date objects?



1) Quill and inkwell; 2) Abacus; 3) Stone tablet and chisel; 4) Horse-drawn carriage; 5) Parchment scroll