

January 2025

# PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for  
Middle School and High School Students



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
UNITED STATES | CANADA      APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

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IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI PAULI VI

# January 2025

## For the Right to an Education

### Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

## Introduce Intention

### The Intention

- For January, the Holy Father invites us to pray for the right to an education for all. Education opens the doors to a better future. In this way, migrants and refugees can contribute to society, either in their new country or in their country of origin, should they decide to return.
- Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

### The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

# Reflection

by Dr. Melodie Wyttenbach, Director of the Roche Center for Catholic Education at Boston College

Immersion trips are an invaluable part of a student's formation, providing real-world experiences that foster empathy, cultural understanding, and personal growth beyond the classroom. As a professor at Boston College, I've been fortunate to facilitate a course known as Encuentro. This semester-long course for Catholic educators includes a week-long immersion trip to the southern border, near El Paso and Juarez; there we explore the complexities of immigration and education. Let me share a few of my students' stories.

In Daniel's Encuentro course, he found that his family's hardships were not unique, but part of a broader narrative shared by many. This ignited in his heart a desire to become an agent of change, challenging social and structural sins that perpetuate marginalization.

Through conversations with immigration lawyers, Border Patrol agents, and migrants, Beth encountered the raw realities of migration. Her interaction with the community at Santa Niño School in Juarez exemplified the profound impact of love and solidarity in the face of adversity. The community's dedication to supporting disabled refugees and migrants, despite limited resources, highlights the essential truth that true support comes from the "power of love" rather than the pursuit of power.

Confronted with the harsh realities of migration, Erin questioned how Catholic education can better serve immigrant communities. Her experience at the border shattered any illusions of ignorance, instilling a deep sense of responsibility to address and alleviate the suffering of migrants. She felt a broader call for educators to align their practices with the values of empathy and support.

Dave witnessed firsthand the Diocese of El Paso's humanitarian efforts. He saw how the Church can be a powerful force for good, offering support where bureaucratic systems fall short. He sees that our schools must understand and support students and families affected by migration, ensuring that empathy and awareness are integral to teaching practices.

Laura found that migration is not just a search for better opportunities, but often as a desperate attempt at survival. Laura encountered migrants' stories of suffering and faith. For her, this reaffirmed the presence of God in their struggles and the collective responsibility of the Church and its members to embody Christ's legacy through compassionate action.

The overarching theme from these reflections is the profound dignity and humanity of every migrant and their right to an education. These students met migrants and learned of the harsh realities they face – seeking safety, opportunity, and a better life. This 'living classroom' reaffirmed our own commitment to a more just and compassionate world. Let us pray this month with Pope Francis for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education may always be respected.

# Sacred Scripture

- Read Proverbs 4:7 or Matthew 19:14.

**Note:** Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

# Saint Connection

- **St. Katharine Drexel** dedicated her life and fortune to providing education for marginalized communities, particularly Native Americans and African Americans.
- She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, which established schools and missions across the United States to ensure access to education for those who were often overlooked.
- Her work exemplifies trust in God's providence and a commitment to justice and equality through education.
- Reflect on her life as an inspiration to advocate for educational opportunities for the vulnerable in our communities.

# Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the monthly intention. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- How can we support migrants, refugees, and others in need of educational opportunities?

# Extension Activities:

- Organize a class project to support educational charities.

# Closing Prayer

- Prayer:
  - Lord, we ask for Your blessing on all who lack access to education. Open our hearts to share resources and advocate for the dignity of every person. May we work together to create opportunities that uplift the vulnerable and bring hope to the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross