



Bishop of the Diocese of George

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To the Diocese of George

5 October 2021

It is 5 October...the day the world celebrates teachers. During a very difficult time in the history of the world, we wish to salute those who heeded the call to guide, guard, nurture and lead our young ones to become and grow into young people who decide and follow careers to become responsible citizens and live meaningful lives. We honour those who light the candle of knowledge in the learners and inspire our young ones to dream of and pursue their own paths to their destinies. We thank you for going the extra mile during these very difficult times in the history of mankind

We pray for those who lead teachers: those in the administration of education, both at school or in the education department. Let them be reminded that they lead and guide to serve the most precious in God's Kingdom: children.

But, teachers are not only those who are trained to teach in classrooms at schools. All of us assume the role of teachers at some point in our lives. Just like Jesus was the Great Teacher as spiritual guide and leader of his time, we are also called to fulfil the role of teacher at various stages of our lives and in different settings.

As parents, we are teachers. We teach our young to hold a cup, eat by themselves, we potty train, we teach them to speak, teach them how to be polite and greet, say 'Thank you', 'please', and much more. Similarly, as godparents, grandparents foster parents, guardians, aunts, uncles and the likes. Let us teach and reprimand with love, care, compassion, patience, understanding, wisdom and courage.

We also teach as Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and sports coaches. Let us teach, lead, guide and mentor responsibly and with integrity. Let us be worthy of the trust and faith placed in us and help young people believe in the good of humanity. Let us act with discernment and discretion and pray for us and for the young to embrace our ever changing, ever evolving world with courage, faith and hope.

In whatever teaching role or on whatever platform, let us be reminded of Jesus as the Great Teacher and through our lives and teachings display the kindness, empathy, awareness and sensitivity to the needs of those placed in our care or those with whom we engage, albeit on a casual level.

Let us have the courage to admit when we have erred so that the young can learn to own up to their mistakes.

VISION

Growing the Kingdom of God together

MISSION

Making disciples and caring for all people

Just like teachers are trained to be mindful of and sensitive to diversity and responding to the differences in learning styles by changing, adapting or adjusting their teaching styles to suit the different learners in their classes, let us as parents, grandparents and 'teachers' in other spheres of life, also be mindful and sensitive to the beauty of diversity and treat each of the children who have been placed along our paths and/or in our care, with sensitivity they deserve.

We thank God for teachers and wish them all which they need to pursue one of the most noble professions: that of a teacher. May you be blessed abundantly and rewarded for your selfless efforts to help young people navigate their way in an unknown world. Be inspired, empowered, energised and motivated by the inner fire to help the world become a better place by raising responsible and accountable citizens for our country.

God bless teachers and all institutions of learning

Brian George

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