

Prayer for Parents' Chapel at Opening of New School Year
August 2006
Kurt C. Schaefer

Lord Jesus, we lay our lives open before you. This moment in time has finally come—when a new generation takes its place in the long chain of Christian scholars and saints, through which you nurture your church and steer our world. The table is finally set, and our children sit down to feast on the riches of centuries of thought in your royal priesthood and holy nation. Holy Spirit, as you taught the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and reformers, so be our teacher in this generation, at this college. We are your students; give us receptive ears, pliable hearts, fearless wills, and abiding love for you and your word.

Lord Jesus, we teachers must teach your students about your world—a world in rebellion, in which many things offend us, and offend you. We need your wisdom. You have gone before us in the mystery of your incarnation—you never turned from us if we offended you, you never withdrew from our world in disgust, yet you were always without sin. As the Father sent you, so you send us. Make us your faithful followers in engaging your world—never drawing back from the places you lead, never running ahead of your leading. Keep our college faithful to you and to the best things that have been done in your name.

Lord Jesus, through our mistakes as parents and missteps as a college, we trust that you can still hear us lisping that we do love you; and that we love your students, our children; and that we desire to love each other more completely. Holy Spirit, translate our lisping speech before our heavenly Father, to His greater glory and the greater joy of your people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.