



Prayer in Vocation

Institute of the Brothers Restored in France, 1803 (December 3)

A School Prayer:

Today we recall when the French government allowed the Brothers to restore their Institute and reopen the schools after the French Revolution.

Loving God, when circumstances prevent us from being the persons you call us to be, instill in us the faith and patience to stick with the communities that support us as we come to know how you have call us to use our gifts for service in the world.

We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, sometimes what we hope for, that we know is for the good of all, can't happen immediately.

As we reach the end of our semester and face its inevitable stresses, help us to remain faithful to who you are calling us to be.

When so many factors in our society draw us into a self-serving isolation, may we, like the Brothers during the French Revolution, keep focused on our education as a power of good for the service of others. Amen.

A Prayer for Parents *(could be used in a newsletter):*

Having endured the suppression forced on them by the government following the French Revolution, the Brothers were able to reunite in the ministry of education. May we, as parents, keep faith in our families even at times when our busy lives draw us apart. Help us, Lord, to know when to pause, to regroup, and to appreciate your presence active in our lives. Amen.

The Story:

In the wake of the French Revolution, the Brothers were banned from operating schools. In threat of imprisonment and even death, Brothers singly and in small groups continued as teachers in schools throughout France. Many people who recalled the solid education they received from the Brothers, waited for the day that the Brothers would once again be granted official recognition. By December of 1803, the political and social climate had changed enough such that a Consular decree gave official authorization for the reestablishment of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: "(The Brothers) have done too much good work in the sphere of primary instruction for us to overlook their Institute at a moment like this, when everything that has proved useful must be restored to its rightful position."

Brothers began to regroup into communities, reopen schools, and reestablish a novitiate for the formation of new Brothers. Young men were ready and waiting for the opportunity to enter the novitiate. Many people also came forward to assist financially in assuring this second foundation of the Institute.

At many times and in many parts of the world since 1803 the Brothers have been suppressed, imprisoned and martyred, vigilant to the faith of re-founding their work. Today, the Brothers in Spain, Eastern Europe, Viet Nam and other places have risen from the ashes of war and oppression like their Brothers of former days. On the shoulders of a heritage rooted in enduring hope, courage, and determination, all Brothers face the challenges of providing a human and Christian education to the young.