

Prayer for School

St. Thomas Aquinas, Prayer before Study. Traditional translation as published with Pope Pius XI's encyclical Studiorum Ducem (1923).

Prayer before Study

Creator of all things,
true Source of light and wisdom,
lofty Origin of all being,
graciously let a ray of Your brilliance
penetrate into the darkness of my understanding
and take from me the double darkness
in which I have been born,
an obscurity of both sin and ignorance.
Give me a sharp sense of understanding,
a retentive memory,
and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.
Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations,
and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.
Point out the beginning,
direct the progress,
and help in completion.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Traditional Translation

Ineffable Creator, who out of the treasures of Thy wisdom hast appointed three hierarchies of Angels and set them in admirable order high above the heavens, and hast disposed the divers portions of the universe in such marvelous array, Thou who art called the true Source of Light and super-eminent Principle of Wisdom, be pleased to cast a beam of Thy radiance upon the darkness of my mind and dispel from me the double darkness of sin and ignorance in which I have been born.

Thou who makest eloquent the tongues of little children, fashion my words and pour upon my lips the grace of Thy benediction. Grant me penetration to understand, capacity to retain, method and facility in study, subtlety in interpretation, and abundant grace of expression.

Order the beginning, direct the progress, and perfect the achievement of my work, Thou who art true God and Man and livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.