# Prayer for Back to School

Hi, God...
it's not too long before my daughter heads back to school,
alongside of other children, teens, and young adults,
in so many communities.

And, to be honest, I'm worried.

Not just for her,
but for every single student —
from the youngest to the eldest;
and for every single teacher,
and support person,
every one of the support staff,
and the administrators —
the people we trust to not only help our children learn,
but learn in an environment where they are
safe,
cared about,
and respected;
where their whole person is taken into account,
as they live and learn and grow!

But... I'm worried.

I'm worried about their health,
in the face of COVID-19.
I'm worried about the resources we've set aside,
not just to ensure their learning,
but their learning in safety.

And it's not just the ones who will participate in learning
at the school building —
I'm worried about the ones who will be learning from home,
the ones who will be sitting in front of their screens,
connecting with the lessons, the teachers,
and their peers there.

And I'm worried about the students
who won't have what they need —
technologically, or people-wise —
to experience the schooling we understand
they need.

So, I'm praying.

I'm praying that our decision-makers:
listen to the science,
make sure the resources are there,
do all they can to help the children
who will be in schoolrooms and at home;
I'm praying
for the health of our children,
and all those who support them;
I'm praying
that we all work together,
in equity and in hope,
to ensure that every student has what they need,
to be the learner that they are.

And I continue to pray for all of our health-care workers,
and those researching therapies and vaccines,
that we might be able to respond to COVID-19,
and have the health to work on
the rest of what needs to be done.

Help me to trust that we are doing
all that we can
for all of our children.
Help me to trust that we will do even more
than we think we are able,
for every child,
everywhere.

In Christ's name, I pray.

Amen.

*— Moderator Richard Bott, August 2020*