

# **OLG 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY**

## **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**STUDENT 1:** God of heaven and earth, the work of your hands is made known in your bountiful creation and in the lives of those who faithfully live in your grace. We gather to celebrate the gift of this tree that will remind us of the time we have spent together at Our Lady of Grace. May this tree speak the power of your life in our midst, deeply rooted and ever growing in all creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



## **GOSPEL READING (LUKE 6:43-45)**

**STUDENT 2:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

The Gospel of the Lord

**All:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

## **BLESSING OF THE TREE AND GRADUATES**

**STUDENT 3:** O God, from the very beginning of time You commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and fruit of every kind. It is to You that we come in this prayer of dedication and blessing, for You are the giver of life and the sustainer of all that lives.

**STUDENT 4:** We come to you to dedicate this tree in memory of this year's graduating class. May this tree remind us of our time together and Your never-ending love.

**STUDENT 5:** Bless especially these OLG graduates. Pour Your abundant grace upon them so they may journey forward in holiness and truth. Help them stay close in friendship with one another and with You.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **MEMORIES OF THE PAST & HOPES FOR THE FUTURE**

**STUDENT 6:** We now place with our tree memories of the past and our hopes for the future.

*(Student-written memories and hopes are now placed into the earth with the tree)*

**STUDENT 7:** As our tree grows, so we will grow. May our memories and faith strengthen us on our journey ahead.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**STUDENT 8:** Gathered as one, let us pray the prayer Jesus has taught us:

**All:** *Our Father...*

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