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J.M.J.

# A PRAYER BEFORE STUDY

—*St. Thomas Aquinas*



Ineffable Creator,  
Who, from the treasures  
of Your wisdom,  
have established three  
hierarchies of angels,  
have arrayed them  
in marvelous order  
above the fiery heavens,  
and have marshaled  
the regions of the universe  
with such artful skill,

You are proclaimed  
the true font of light  
and wisdom,  
and the primal origin  
raised high beyond all things.

Pour forth a ray  
of Your brightness  
into the darkened places  
of my mind;  
disperse from my soul  
the twofold darkness  
into which I was born:  
sin and ignorance.

You make eloquent the  
tongues of infants.  
refine my speech  
and pour forth  
upon my lips  
the goodness  
of Your blessing.

Grant to me  
keenness of mind,  
capacity to remember,  
skill in learning,  
subtlety to interpret,  
and eloquence in speech.

May You  
guide the beginning  
of my work,  
direct its progress,  
and bring it to completion.  
You Who are true God and  
true Man,  
who live and reign,  
world without end.  
Amen.

**PRAYER TO OUR BLESSED  
MOTHER FOR STUDENTS**

O Mary, Mother of fair love,  
of fear, of knowledge, and of  
holy hope, by whose loving  
care and intercession many,  
otherwise poor in intellect,  
have wonderfully advanced  
in knowledge and in holiness,  
thee do I choose as the guide  
and patroness of my studies;  
and I humbly implore,  
through the deep tenderness  
of thy maternal love, and  
especially through that eternal  
Wisdom who deigned to take  
from thee our flesh and who  
gifted thee beyond all the  
saints with heavenly light,  
that thou wouldst obtain for  
me by thy intercession the  
grace of the Holy Spirit  
that I may be able to  
grasp with strong intellect,  
retain in memory,

proclaim by word and deed,  
and teach others all things  
which bring honor to thee and  
to thy Son, and which for me  
and for others are salutary for  
eternal life. Amen.

**PRAYER OF ST. ANSELM OF  
CANTERBURY**

O Lord, you are my Lord and  
my God, yet I have never seen  
you. You have created and  
redeemed me, and have  
conferred on me all my goods,  
yet I know you not. I was  
created in order that I might  
know you, but I have not yet  
attained the goal of my  
creation. I confess, O Lord,  
and give you thanks, that you  
have created me in your  
image, so that I might be  
mindful of you and  
contemplate you and love. I  
seek not to understand in  
order that I may believe;  
rather, I believe in order that I  
may understand.

**COPTIC PRAYER  
BEFORE STUDY**

Most blessed Lord,  
send the grace of Your Holy  
Spirit on me to strengthen me  
that I may learn well the  
subject I am about to study  
and by it become a better  
person for Your glory,  
the comfort of my family and  
the benefit of Your Church  
and our Nation. Amen

Christ, the true light, who  
enlightens and sanctifies  
every person coming into the  
world, let the light of Your  
countenance shine upon me  
(us) that I (we) may see Your  
unapproachable light; and  
guide my (our) steps in the  
way of Your commandments,  
through the intercessions of  
Your all-holy Mother and  
of all the Saints. Amen.