

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.