

## I'm worried!

spoke with several teachers as I wrote these pep talks. And I asked them, in terms of their vocation as Catholic school teachers, what they worry about.

Some named a particular student: one who is struggling or who has family problems or whose behavior and slipping grades indicate some issue. Others named concern for their school as a whole: lack of enrollment may mean closing or merging in the near future. Some named their own positions as sources of worry. "Am I too old? Does merging mean combining faculties?"

What do you worry about in your role as a Catholic educator? Any of those named above? Our worries might stem from standardized tests or the way the kids will answer when the pastor questions them at a class Mass or the bishop questions them at the celebration of confirmation, or the principal asks them what they've learned about the Eucharist.

Do you worry more deeply about the young people in your care? Will the struggling student ever overcome her difficulties with math? Will the student with family problems be able to weather them successfully, with heart intact? Will you ever get to the bottom of the angry student's issues?

The more we worry, the more we are drawn to prayer to the God who loves us and understands our worries better than we do. We pray to the God who loves our students more than we can fathom.

**TO DO** » Turn your worries over to God today and be open to his answers!

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**TO PRAY** » *Holy Spirit, help me, in the midst of worries, to find the peace you offer.*