

The Children of the Tides

*How much better it is to get wisdom than gold!
To get understanding is preferable to silver.*

—Proverbs 16:16

“To give a child a seat at school is the finest gift you can give.”

—Pope Francis

God of all wisdom,

The tides of this world carry your children on many waves,
Truly, sometimes, waves of hope.
But also waves of migration, waves of war,
Waves of political upheaval, waves of natural disaster,
Currents that sometimes wash them beyond our reach.

Lord, as we call to mind these youngest ones,
Tossed on the seas of fate,
We ask that you endow us all as educators.
Bless our schools,
Be they in buildings, in tents, or on a blanket under a tree,
That we may bless our children,
Bless our neighbor’s children
Bless all the children of this world
With the tools of knowledge,
The paths to wisdom
And the keys to freedom.

And when waves carry them beyond our horizons,
They are not beyond the reach of learning.
They are not beyond the reach of understanding.
And someday, they will help us conquer those same tides:
Together building peace,
Together building just societies,
With a place for all.

Amen