

COLLEGE LIFE

Beginning the school year

Christ, you, above all, know the significance of new beginnings. Guide me, Lord, that I might take full advantage of this fresh start, always seeking ways to better myself, to make good use of my time, to balance my schoolwork and my extra-curricular activities. May this school year bring new friends, as well as happy reunions with the old. Help me to go forth with faith, and to approach all things with an adventurous spirit, a ready heart, and a willingness to follow where you lead.

All beginnings are somewhat strange; but we must have patience, and, little by little, we shall find things, which at first were obscure, becoming clear. ♦ ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

First time sharing a room

Lord, I am used to having my own space and dealing only with my own schedule. Help me to adjust, and to learn to take into account another person's schedule, habits, belongings. Help me to see this situation as an opportunity to grow in my capacity for compassion, understanding, patience, and tolerance. It takes time, Lord, to grow used to this new, shared space. Be with us Lord, as we eat, as we sleep, as we wake, as we work, that

we might be considerate and respectful of each other at all times. Bless us, Lord, and bless this room, our new home.

Be not anxious about what you have, but about what you are.

◆ POPE ST. GREGORY

Difficult roommate

We come from different homes and different backgrounds. We have different interests, and separate groups of friends. If it were not for this space we share, it seems (Name) and I would have nothing in common. Help me Lord, to have patience as (Name) and I adjust to this new living situation. Though we may not always agree, help us to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Grant us the patience to listen, to learn, and to heal our relationship, that we might live together peacefully. Help me always to acknowledge your presence here with us, and to see that despite our differences, we are united in your name and by your love.

We can never love our neighbor too much.

◆ ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Choosing a major

Sometimes this seems an impossible choice. Guide me as I discern your will for my life. Help me to choose a field in which I will thrive, and to choose a major based not on

its convenience or popularity, but because it is a subject I love. Guide my choice, Lord, and throughout my course of study, guide me toward my vocation. Form my mind, that I can make best use of the gifts and talents you have given me. With a passionate heart, a willing mind, and your love, always with me, I cannot go wrong.

The real tragedy in life is not in being limited to one talent, but in the failure to use the one talent. ♦ EDGAR W. WORK

Academic pressures

So much is expected of me, Lord. I feel constant pressure to succeed, to improve. Be with me when my classes overwhelm me, when I am afraid of failure, when I worry about disappointing my professors, my parents, and myself. Lord, calm my mind and help me to see that you truly know and appreciate the effort and diligence I put into my work. May I use my knowledge and abilities to glorify you. May I always recognize the pleasure in simply learning something new, whether from my books or my mistakes. Guide me as I study, as I read, as I learn so that my work, my efforts, are done in your name and for you alone.

If you're always striving to find some new way to grow, to improve, to better your skills and talents, you'll always be successful, both in the eyes of others and in your own eyes.

♦ CYNTHIA KERSEY