

Called to live out our Founding Story

(A Prayer created by Chris Swain)

Leader:

The resurrection places Jesus on this side of the grave – here and now—in the midst of this life. He is not standing on the shore of eternity beckoning us to join him there. He is standing beside us, strengthening us in this life. The good news of the resurrection of Jesus is not that we shall die and go home with him, but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick, [imprisoned] brothers [and sisters] with him.

(Clarence Jordan, The Substance of Faith and Other Cotton Patch Sermons)

We take time, now, in this moment, to find ourselves at rest. We find ourselves breathing easier, withdrawing from the activity that preceded our arrival here. Our presence and attention is called here to this space and with these people. We hold one another, and all those in our community who could not be with us in this moment, in our hearts and memory.

Pause for a moment of quiet reflection

Leader: Let us remember...

Community: That we are in the holy presence of God.

Called to live our founding story, we let these words speak to us: (Several Readers)

- We recognize God in every event and in every individual, when we “see everything with the eyes of faith” and when we focus lovingly on others rather than ourselves.
- Once I answered YES to someone or something and from that hour I was certain that existence was meaningful and that, therefore my life in self-surrender has a goal.
- The story of how a people came to be and think of themselves as a distinct people: their origins, founding aspirations, the goals it initially set and pursued, this unfolds as the sacred history of that people.
- We need to listen to, meditate upon, tell, and celebrate our founding story, the story of how we came to be and how we began to experience and perceive ourselves as original, different and distinct.
- Our founding story is a remarkable and beautiful story...we are blessed to have this precious heritage. But it is not enough to admire it. We have to make it our own. We have to live it today.

(Brother John Johnston, The Challenge: Live today Our Founding Story. Pastoral Letter, 2000)

Pause for a moment of quiet reflection

Leader:

Our vocation, we know, is God’s call to us and our response; in this call and response a relationship is established between our lives and God’s purposes. In language, we use prepositions to express relationships. These are an invitation to reflect on different aspects of our calling:

I am called
By God
To follow
As I am
From brokenness
For service
In suffering
Through others
Within God

We are called

By God who is the source of our callings.
To follow the way shown by Jesus and taken up by his disciples, including St. John Baptist de La Salle as unique persons with a particular history and circumstances
From the losses and grief we suffer over time, so that we can embrace life again
To give our lives for others
Through people in our lives because vocation takes root in community

(Kathleen Cahalan, The Stories We Live: Finding God’s Calling All around Us)

Pause for reflection: how might you complete the prompts?

I am called

By...To...As...From...For...In...Through...

Final Thoughts (Several readers)

There is an old Christian tradition,
That God sends each person into this world,
With a special message to deliver,
With a special song to sing for others,
With a special act of love to bestow.

According to this tradition, the message may be spoken,
The song sung, the act of love delivered
Only to a few,
Or to all the folk in a small town,
Or to all the people in a large city,
Or even to all the people in the whole world.

No one else can speak my message,
Or sing my song,
Or offer my act of love,
They are entrusted only to me.

It all depends on God’s unique plan for each person.
God’s love has been wrapped up in each one of us.

We must deliver our message.
We must sing our song.
We must bestow our act of love.
All these are gifts for us from God.

Closing Prayer

TOGETHER

Lord of life, there is no part of your creation that does not speak of the wonder of your being.
Give me the energy and courage I need to live in response to your love.
Walk with me as I respond to your call and live my founding story.
May I know your presence, feel and breathe the breath of life,
And may I see in the beauty of your creation the measure of your love. AMEN!

Saint John Baptist de La Salle....Pray for us
Live Jesus in our hearts....FOREVER