

**L**et us remember that we are in  
the presence of God.

**I**n the name of our God who  
shares divinity with us,

**I**n the name of our God who  
shares humanity with us,

**I**n the name of our God who  
unsettles and inspires us,  
Let us pray . . .

**Opening Song**    *the Summons by John Bell*

**READER:**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them,

**JESUS:**

“What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

**READER:**

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

**CLEOPAS:**

“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

**JESUS:**

“What things?”

**CLEOPAS:**

“The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was

the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They are at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

**JESUS:**

“Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

**READER:**

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying,

**CLEOPAS:**

“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.”

**READER:**

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other,

**CLEOPAS:**

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

**READER:**

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

LUKE 24:13-35

**READER 1**

Since you are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ in the work that you do, you must act as representing Jesus Christ himself. He wants your disciples to see him in you and receive your teaching as if he were teaching them.

**READER 2**

They must be convinced that the truth of Jesus Christ comes from your mouth, that it is only in his name that you teach, that he has given you authority over them.

**READER 3**

Let it be clear, then, in all your relations with the children who are entrusted to you that you look upon yourself as ministers of God, acting with love, with a sincere and true zeal . . .

**READER 4**

Let your zeal give tangible proof that you love those whom God has entrusted to you. . .

Meditations for the Time of Retreat

**READING:** 1 Thessalonians 5:5-19

For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober. Those who sleep go to sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation.

For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.

We ask you, **brothers**, to respect those who are laboring among you and who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you, and to show esteem for them with special love on account of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

We urge you, **brothers**, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

**RESPONSE:**

Presider:

You must, then, look upon this work entrusted to you by pastors, by fathers and mothers as one of the most important and necessary services in the Church. [MTR 199.1]

Board:

The Lasallian school is a Christian school which shares in the teaching mission of the Catholic Church. Among its chief concerns are the religious instruction, religious formation, academic preparation, and cultural development of its students. By examining the changing demands of society and recognizing the individual needs of students, teachers create appropriate programs of studies and activities.

**Presider:**

**Consider that it is only too common for the working class and the poor to allow their children to live on their own... God has had the goodness to remedy so great a misfortune by the establishment of the Christian Schools. [MTR 194.1]**

Board:

The Lasallian school is characterized by the importance it gives to the education of the working class and the poor. It seeks vigorously and enthusiastically to attract students from various economic levels, academic abilities, racial communities, and ethnic backgrounds. At the same time, the Lasallian school fosters among its students attitudes of tolerance and sensitivity to the individuality of all, of genuine concern for justice and peace, and of service to fellow students and others in the community.

**Presider:**

**You must have an altogether special esteem for the Christian education and teaching of children ... Such teaching is the very foundation and support of their religion. [MTR 199.3]**

Board:

The Lasallian school gives priority to the Christian instruction and formation of its students. It offers a formal program of religious instruction and integrates gospel values into all subjects. The prominence of a religious atmosphere in the Catholic tradition fosters apostolic service projects, private and communal prayer, and liturgical celebrations.

**Presider:**

**Are you thoroughly committed to ... making a strong impression on the minds of children? ... From this moment take the steps to make it your main concern to teach perfectly the truths of the faith and the practical maxims of the holy Gospel. [MTR 198.1]**

Board:

The Lasallian school commits itself to academic excellence in response to the needs, goals, and abilities of the students it attracts. It provides programs which enable the students to realize their academic and personal potential and to participate productively in society. It includes a curriculum which exposes

students to the humanities, physical and social sciences, mathematics, and fine arts. Teaching strategies and methodologies enable students to become flexible, inquiring, and critical thinkers.

**Presider:**

**You, too, can perform miracles ... by touching the hearts of children ... by rendering your pupils obedient to and faithful in the practice of the maxims of the Gospel by urging them to be industrious in school and at home. [Med 180.3]**

Board:

De La Salle advises his teachers to pray for the ability to touch the hearts of the students. This gift unifies the Lasallian association in the creation of a disciplined structure which challenges young persons to accept the responsibilities of their vocation as students. Teachers, by their life and care, encourage students to grow in leadership and personal responsibility.

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (PLEASE STAND)

We stand before you, God our Creator, who sent Jesus Christ to be our Savior and the Holy Spirit to be with us and teach us all things. We today renew our dedication and our commitment to the work begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle; to give a Christian education to the young, especially to the poor.

We strive to protect the uniqueness of each of our students and wish to enable them to accept and recognize their own special relationship with God. We also strive to establish a Christian community by creating an environment of acceptance and love, and by encouraging every one to develop their own potential.

We ask you God to be with us and to help us. We dedicate to you our leadership in the ministry of Christian education. Amen!

#### **BLESSING**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, **(name board members)** because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in **my [name ideals for the school, and dreams for the community]**.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**Philippians 1:3-11**

**SALUTATION:**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle**

Pray for Us.

**Live Jesus in our Hearts**

Forever.