

# *Called to a Life of Prayer*

*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.*

## *Opening Prayer (together)*

O wise and gentle God, who led John Baptist de La Salle from one commitment to another and so inspired him to found a community dedicated to the Christian education of young people, especially the poor and marginalized, grant that through his intercession and example, we may be animated by an ardent zeal to rescue young people from the difficulties of our times by touching their hearts and providing them with an education founded on the Gospel. May we creatively renew and re-found the work begun by John Baptist de La Salle and his first community. May we be open to the guidance and radical demands of your Spirit as we address the needs of young people today. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Brother, and through the intercession of John Baptist de La Salle, our Patron. Amen.

## *De La Salle's Words*

*(from De La Salle's Meditation for the Second Sunday of Easter)*

Jesus compares those who have care of souls to a good shepherd who has great care for his sheep. One quality he must possess, according to our Savior, is to know each one of them individually. This is also one of the most essential qualities required of those who teach, for they must get to know their students, and discern the manner in which to act towards them.

They must show more mildness toward some, more firmness toward others. There are those who call for much patience, those who need to be stimulated and spurred on, some who need to be reproved and punished to correct them of their faults, others who must be constantly watched over to prevent them from being lost or going astray.

This guidance requires understanding and discernment of spirits, qualities you should frequently and earnestly ask of God, for they are most necessary for you in the guidance of those placed in your care.

## *From The Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians*

*(Ephesians 4: 1 – 7; 11 – 13)*

I urge you then, live a life that measures up to the standard God set when God called you. Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all humankind who is Lord of all and is in all. Each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given. It was he who gave gifts to humankind; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature.

## *Meditation on Prayer*

**Leader:** For De La Salle, the work — guidance and understanding, discernment, measuring up to the standard God set when he called us to this ministry—must always be connected to prayer. In order to touch the hearts of our students and to persevere in our vocation, each of us is called to a life of prayer.

**Let us reflect for a few minutes on some of De La Salle's thoughts on prayer:**

*Meditative prayer is not for seeking response, it allows us to open our heart and mind to see our goodness, sinfulness, weaknesses, and strengths.*

*Prayer is conversation with God about our everyday experiences.*

*Prayer feeds our faith and helps us discern God's will.*

*Prayer can help us order our lives so that we can become more Christ like.*

## *Intercessions*

*(from Archbishop Oscar Romero)*

**Reader:** It helps now and then to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

**All:** **Lord, give us enough vision to see the next step.**

**Reader:** We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

**All:** **Lord, give us enough vision to see the next step.**

**Reader:** This is what we are about: we plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capability.

**All:** **Lord, give us enough vision to see the next step.**

**Reader:** We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**All:** **Lord, give us enough vision to see the next step.**

**Reader:** We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are the prophets of a future not our own.

**All:** **Lord, give us enough vision to see the next step.**

## ***Closing Prayer (together)***

Father, through your Spirit,  
you gave to the Church,  
in the person of St. John Baptist de La Salle,  
a charism that even today inspires members of the Lasallian family.

In your Providence you have transmitted that charism to us,  
charging us to live it, safeguard it, deepen it, and develop it.

United in mind and heart, we express to you our desire  
to live this gift of your Spirit faithfully, zealously, and creatively.

We ask you to enliven us  
as you enlivened our Founder  
with holiness, awareness, sensitivity, creativity, and courage.

Father, shape and renew our Lasallian family  
that it may bear the image of Christ and show his likeness to the world.

We make these petitions, through, with and in Christ Jesus, our Lord.  
Amen.

***St. John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!  
Live, Jesus, in our hearts...Forever!***