

# *Called to Be Partners*

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

## *Opening Prayer*

*(Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC)*

Jesus,  
your presence is interwoven  
throughout each day of our lives.  
As we journey together with each other this night,  
touch our hearts and open our eyes  
that we may recognize you  
walking beside us.  
Lead us to live in such a way  
that we discover you  
in the quietness and in the spaces,  
as well as in the busyness  
of our lives each day.  
Continue to call us your friends  
and accompany us,  
especially this night,  
to where we shall see our Creator, face to face.

**Amen.**

**Leader:** Listen with the ear of your heart and hear the voice of God.

*Pause*

## *Reflections on Association*

### **Reader 1:**

In times of transition, fears abound: the fear of some Brothers of losing their identity, confused with that of lay people; the fear of other Brothers that the Institute has been too transformed by the process of association; the fear of some lay people that the fact of association presupposes being assimilated to the condition of Brothers, losing their own secular distinctness; the fear of others that their family and social duties will be incompatible with those resulting from their commitment to association... (Botana, MEL Bulletin 2, p. 11)

**All:** Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission with faith and courage.

**Reader 2:**

"The Institute is the first form of Association desired by St. John Baptist de La Salle. The original vow for the service of the poor, which associated the Founder with twelve Brothers in 1694, is the source of Lasallian Mission. This is where new forms of association for the mission have their origin." (43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter 2000, "Guidelines for Lasallian Association")

**All: Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission with faith and courage.**

**Reader 3:**

We are being called to expand our horizons, exploring new forms of commitment and concepts of membership. And called to revitalize our present works to include outreach from more affluent schools to serve poor communities. And called to strengthen collaboration with communities that differ economically, culturally, etc. It is day-by-day and together that we must live out and evoke the shared mission where we are. (42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter, 1993)

**All: Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission with faith and courage.**

**Reader 4:**

"It is evident that, regarding the practice of association, the Institute is in a period of transition, and that it is important to respect its demands", affirms the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (Circ. 447, p.9). This conviction drives forward the experimentation with new forms of association and encourages the Institute. (Botana, MB2, p. 10)

**All: Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission with faith and courage.**

**Reader 5:**

Many would like to find the roads already mapped, clear and precise; but they don't exist. It is up to us to invent them. Analysis and discernment will be necessary but without excessive fear of making a mistake. (Botana, MB2, p.10)

**All: Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission with faith and courage.**

***Pause for Reflection***

***Intercessions***

Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

## ***Closing Prayer***

*(Adapted from the "Prayer for the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter")*

**All:** Holy Spirit,  
whose mission it is to direct and guide our lives,  
draw down upon us the wind and fire  
of a Pentecost for our times.

Spirit of God,  
help us to see the signs of the times,  
and open our hearts  
so that all Lasallians  
may all respond to the calls you make to us  
in the world of young people  
and, especially the poor.  
Help us to find the correct guidelines and priorities  
to respond to these calls.

We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever,

Amen.

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

