

For the Children

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

Today's Voice

(source unknown)

(Each reader taking a paragraph)

We pray for children

Who sneak popsicles before supper
Who erase holes in math workbooks
Who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those

Who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
Who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
Who never "counted potatoes,"
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead in,
Who never go to the circus,
Who live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children

Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

And we pray for those

Who never get dessert,
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
Who watch their parents watch them die,
Who can't find any bread to steal,
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for children

Who spend all their allowance by Tuesday,
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories,
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
 And never rinse out the tub,
Who get visits from the tooth fairy,
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
Who squirm in church, or temple and scream in the phone,
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything,
Who have never seen a dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anyone,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
Who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried
And for those who must,
For those we never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance,
For those we smother and for those who will grab the hand of anyone kind
enough to offer it.

Leader: and we pray that this day may nourish us and that our work may nourish
children everywhere

De La Salle's Voice

(from the Third Meditation for The Time of Retreat)

All your care for the children entrusted to you would be useless if Jesus Christ himself did not give the power, the quality, and the energy that is needed to render your care useful.

What Jesus Christ says to his apostles He also says to you, that you may understand that all the good you are able to do in your work for those entrusted to you will be true and effective only insofar as Jesus Christ gives His blessing and as you remain united with Him.

Jesus Christ wants you to understand...that the more your work is energized by Him, the more it will produce good in your disciples. That is why you must ask Him earnestly that all your teaching be energized by His Spirit and draw all its power from Him.

Just as He is the one who gives light to everyone coming into the world, He also gives light to the spirit of your students and leads them to love and to practice the good that you teach them.

Quiet Reflection

Petitions

For clarity of vision and courageous passion for all your people in need...

May we be the hands and voices and heart of Jesus for them, we pray...

For parents everywhere who experience difficulty in raising their children...

May we be the advocates and companions as we join them in loving and educating their children, we pray...

For the Church and all believers...

That standing in their ranks we may lift up an awareness of young people in need, we pray...

For all leaders of nations...

That we may speak with courageous voices the need of young people and their parents who are overcome by war, prejudice, poverty, and hopelessness and make their needs heard, we pray...

For schools and institutions that operate under the name of Jesus and De La Salle, his son...

That our doors may never close to children in need and our holy obsession become the salvation that God desires for all, we pray...

For whom and for what else should we pray...

Closing Prayer (together)

God, our creator, thank You for the gift of life. With Your life in me, may I always live more justly and follow my vocation more faithfully. Touch the hearts of those who are searching for their path in life. May they come to see You more clearly along the way. May we, Your people, walk together toward You. Amen.

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