

In God's Presence We Are Bound to Love

Opening Prayer

Leader: May the blessing of our Creator God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Song *“Open My Eyes”*

Open my eyes, Lord.
Help me to see Your face.
Open my eyes, Lord.
Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord.
Help me to hear Your voice.
Open my ears, Lord.
Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord.
Help me to love like You.
Open my heart, Lord.
Help me to love.

I live within You.
Deep in Your heart, O Lord.
I live within You.
Rest now in me.

First Reading

(Ronald Rolheiser)

To “*really see*” someone, especially someone who looks up to you,
 Is to give that person an important blessing.
In a gaze of recognition, of understanding,
 In an appreciative look, there is deep blessing.
Often, it is not so important
 That we say much to those for whom we are significant,
 But it is very important that we see them.

Good kings and queens see their people;
Good parents see their kids;
Good teachers see their students;
Good priests see their parishioners;
Good coaches see their players;
Good executives see their employees;
And, in really good restaurants,
 The owner comes round to the tables and sees his or her customers
 And the customers are, without being able to explain why,
 Grateful that the owner took the time and pain to see them.
We are blessed by being seen.

Today the young are not being seen enough in this way.
Our youth are acting out in all kinds of ways
 As a means of getting attention.
They want to, and they need to, be seen by us –
 Parents, adults, teachers, priests, coaches, leaders.
They need our blessing.
They need to see, right in our eyes, the radical acceptance of their reality,
 And they need to read in our eyes the words:
 “*you are my beloved child; in you I am well-pleased.*”
Young people need our appreciative gaze;
 Mostly they simply need our gaze – period.

One of the deepest hungers inside young people
 Is the desire for adult connection,
 The desire to be recognized, seen, by a significant adult.
They desperately need, and badly want,
 The blessing that comes from our gaze and presence.
They need for us to see them.
In the end, more than they want our words, they want our gaze.

Quiet Reflection

Second Reading

(from the Writings of the Founder)

John Baptist de La Salle knew that the perception of the teachers by their students would dictate how they would behave and act and relate with them. De La Salle urges the teachers to ***“take much more care of the young entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king.”*** Such a stance and conviction is all the more remarkable, given the perspective of 18th Century French society.

***“Act with goodness and wisdom
in the care of those who are entrusted to you.”***

They ***“are under your guidance
And are your disciples.
They are the living images of Jesus Christ.”***

The teachers are urged to grow in awareness of living in God’s presence, Knowing that the more an individual does “live in God’s presence,” the more likely that person will reflect the attitude and words and actions of Jesus.
“In his presence, we are bound to love.”

Prayer Response

(Michael Quoist)

May my look, Lord,
Never be one of disappointment, disillusionment, despair;
But may it know how to admire, contemplate, adore...

May my eyes be penetrating enough
To recognize Your presence in the world,
And may they never shut out the afflictions of others.

May my eyes be firm and steady,
But may they also know how to soften and pity
And be capable of tears.

May my gaze not soil the one it touches.

May it not disturb, but bring peace.

May it not sadden, but rather transmit joy.

May it not attract in order to hold captive, but rather persuade others to rise above themselves to You.

Grant that my eyes may be startling
 Because they are an encounter – an encounter with God.
Grant that they be a call, a clarion call,
 That brings all the world to its doorstep,
 Not because of me, Lord,
 But because you are to pass by.

So that my eyes may be all this, Lord,
 Once more I give you my soul,
 I give you my body,
 I give you my eyes,
 That in looking at others
 It may be you who look at them
 And you who beckon.

Third Reading

A university class of sociology students were assigned to do a survey of 200 young boys in a Baltimore slum and to project their likely future: in every case the students reported, “he hasn’t got a chance.” Twenty-five years later, another class decided to do a follow-up study of the 180 men who still lived locally; they found, to their amazement, that 176 of them had achieved significant success as lawyers, doctors, businessmen, and in other careers.

When asked to account for their success, so many of them said, “There was this teacher...” and all talked about the same one. Since she was still alive, the researchers sought her out to ask what magic formula she used to give hope to these young men slotted for failure. Her response was, “It was really very simple. I loved those boys.

Intercessions

For whom and for what shall we pray?

Closing Prayer (together)

Lord, our God,

Enlighten us so that we may “really see”.

Inspire us to bless others

With understanding, appreciation and love.

Lead us to confirm for your people

The dignity that arises

From being made in Your image and likeness,

And from being called to follow Jesus, Your son.

Pour out on us Your Spirit

That we may be enabled to share Your vision

In our world which You love so much. Amen.

St. John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!

Live, Jesus, in our hearts...Forever!