

Like Clay in the Hands of the Potter

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

Opening Prayer

All-loving and ever-living God,
We pray with the prophet Isaiah:
“Yahweh, you are our Father;
We, the clay, you the potter,
We are all the work of your hand.”

Mold us and fashion us
Into the instruments of Your love
That we were created to become.

Help us to trust in You.
Free us to be shaped by Your love,
Which is all-pervading and steadfast beyond belief.
Amen.



God's Voice

(Jeremiah 18: 1 – 6)

The word was addressed to me by Yahweh, “Get up and make your way down to the potter’s house; there I shall let you hear what I have to say.” So I went down to the potter’s house; and there he was, working at the wheel. And whenever the vessel he was making came out wrong, as happens with the clay handled by potters, he would start afresh and work it into another vessel, as potters do. Then this word of Yahweh was addressed to me, “House of Israel, can not I do to you what this potter does? – it is Yahweh who speaks. Yes, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so you are in mine, House of Israel.

Our Founder's Voice

(from *The Memoire on the Beginnings*)

It was, because of these two events, the encounter with Monsieur Nyel and the proposal made to me by this lady (Madame de Croyeres), that I began to take care of the school for boys. I had not thought of doing this before, but not because others had not suggested that I do such work. Several friends of Monsieur Roland had tried to inspire me in this direction, but the work had no appeal for me, and I did not feel inclined toward it. And if I had ever thought that the care I took of the school masters, simply out of charity, would impose on me the duty of living with them, I would have stopped doing this. For, naturally, I ranked lower than my valet those whom I was forced to employ in the schools, particularly in the beginning, and the very thought that it would be necessary to live with them would have been insupportable to me.

Apparently, then, it was for this reason that God, who directs all things with wisdom and gentleness, and who is not accustomed to force the wills of [persons], but who wanted to lead me to take complete direction of the schools, did this, in a very imperceptible manner, and over a period of time, so that one commitment led me into the next one without my having foreseen this in the beginning.

Quiet Time for Reflection

(Quiet Instrumental Music in the background)

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus tells us, "Ask and you will receive." Let us bring to God our prayers and concerns. ***For what and for whom shall we pray?***

Today's Voice

*(Adapted from Living Faith: Daily Catholic Devotions, July – September, 2002
by Father James Krings)*

A potter cannot force clay into a designated shape just because the mind can imagine it, for the clay itself, this particular lump with its own individual moisture, size, weight, and consistency – has a lot to say about what I, the potter, can form from and in it.

Similarly, in creating the human person with freedom and responsibility, God is unconditionally committed to working with a person rather than forcing his will upon that person. God takes us as we are – our particular genetic codes, our histories, our personalities – and shapes newness in us where blessing already exists and where we need conversion. When God seeks to transform a nation, a people, or a Church, it is always with great tenderness, patience, and respect. The “pot” may indeed feel pressed and put upon as it surrenders its shape to God’s new design, but only because God is seeking greatness where, formerly, there was only mediocrity.

Closing Prayer

God of creation and goodness,
Help us to follow your example,
That we, too, may be shapers and molders
Of character, of faith, of service, and of love
In the lives of the people entrusted to our care.
We make this prayer through Jesus, Your son and our brother. Amen.

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