

Our Lasallian Community

Call to Prayer

(Mark Link, SJ – adapted)

Leader: (as the candle is being lit...)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...

Whoever follows me will have the light of life
and will never walk in darkness.” (John 8:12)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three come together in your name, You are there with them.

The light of this candle symbolizes your presence among us.

And so, let us remember...

All: That we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song: Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

We Pray Together

We ask you, Lord,
to visit our community
which love has put together.
Remove far from it every attack of the enemy.
Let your holy angels dwell with us
to keep us in peace.
Let your blessings and your love
come to rest on each one of us.
Save us through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again for us
so that we may always live in the joy of your presence. Amen.

Reading I

(Acts 2:42 – 47)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. Those who believed shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need. They went to the temple area every day, while in their homes they broke bread. With exultant and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Sung Response:

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
To You, I lift my soul.

Reading II

(1 Corinthians 12:12 – 20)

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. Now the body is not one member, it is many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," would it then no longer belong to the body? If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," would it then no longer belong to the body? If the body were all eye, then what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our smelling? As it is, God has set each member of the body in the place he wanted it to be. If all the members of the body were alike, where would the body be? There are, indeed, many different members, but one body.

Sung Response:

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
To You, I lift my soul.

Reading III

(“Evangelii Nuntiandi” by Pope Paul VI)

Above all, the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness, these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News, and a very powerful and effective one.

Sung Response:

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
To You, I lift my soul.

Reading IV

(from the 42nd General Chapter)

In our lives, there are special, powerful moments when the past takes on a new meaning, the events of the present have a stronger impact and the future is faced with renewed determination. Today God is calling each one according to his or her own vocation, to accomplish together the mission confided to Saint John Baptist de La Salle and to the Institute he founded.

The Chapter re-affirms the irreplaceable role of those men and women who carry out this mission. The Institute brings them together to work in association “to procure a human and Christian education for young people and especially the poor.”

Aware of the dignity of each person, we rejoice in the rich diversity of our respective vocations and the responsibilities these imply. What unites us is our common reference to Saint John Baptist de La Salle and a continuous striving to enter more fully into his spirit. Belonging to the Lasallian Family commits us to work together to respond to the educational needs of the young.

Sung Response:

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.

To You, I lift my soul.

Solemn Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

(adapted from the "Rule for a New Brother" of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers)

Leader: The community is the first place where you will make God's kingdom incarnate. Accept with gratitude the community that God provides you. Your task is to serve and build up one another as members of one body.

All: **Lord, lead us to help one another, to be united, and to live in peace.**

Leader: Give instead of demanding, serve instead of being served, bless instead of cursing. So be attentive to others to work for their happiness.

All: **Lord, inspire us to lead lives worthy of our vocation.**

Leader: Never disappoint the trust another puts in you. Be warm and merciful and let none go from you empty-handed. The least you can offer is your time and patience, your affection and your prayer.

All: **Lord, may Your Spirit lead us to hospitality and to prayer.**

Leader: Do not grow isolated from your community. Open yourself to joys and sorrows of life together. Support one another.

All: **Lord, fill us with your Spirit, that we may confirm that each person is your work of art.**

Leader: Keep in mind how much you lack yourself; be aware of your own poverty and dare to hold out your hands to receive from others and learn from them. Look critically at your own shortcomings, but be sure that with the Lord there is always abundance of redemption.

All: **Lord, you take away our sin. We rejoice that your kindnesses are never exhausted.**

Leader: And for what else shall we pray?

[Our response for our own prayers of intercession: Lord, hear our prayer.]

Closing Prayer (together)

Creator God, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, Jesus our teacher. May we be afire with new hope. Help us be guiding light to our students. Fill us with a passion for our ministry of bringing your good news to those whom we teach, especially to those who are poor. Help us to recognize the needs of our time and to respond courageously. Open our minds and hearts to do your will so that one day we may come to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: We conclude our prayer by listening to Jesus speak to us:

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket; instead, the lamp is put out on a lamp stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In your same way, your light must shine before all people.”

(Someone extinguishes the candle)

The light of this candle is now extinguished, but the light of Christ in each of us must continue to shine in our hearts and in our lives.

(Mark Link, SJ – adapted)

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