

Spirit of Faith

Call to Prayer

(Mark Link, S. J.—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.

God’s Word

(Luke 12: 29-34)

As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

The Lasallian Voice

(Luke Salm, FSC and De La Salle)

Reader 1

De La Salle knew full well that, far from excluding all contradiction, doubt and uncertainty, faith presupposes contradiction, doubt and uncertainty. Faith is not something that is subject to empirical proof or verification. For this reason, it was the spirit of faith that led De La Salle to abandon himself and his Institute completely into the hands of Divine Providence. In the face of a decision as to whether or not to use his personal fortune to endow the schools, he addressed his Lord in these words:

Reader 2

My God, I do not know whether I should endow the schools or not. It is not up to me to establish communities; I do not even know how they should be established. You alone know this, and it is for you to do it in any way you please. I do not know what you want. So I will not contribute in any way to endowing the schools. If you endow the schools, they will be well endowed; if you do not they will be without endowment. I beseech you to make your holy will known to me.

Reader 3

This radical attitude of faith in Divine Providence remained with De La Salle through his whole life. Here are two of his retreat resolutions that have been preserved by his biographer, Canon Blain:

Reader 4

I shall always look upon the work of my salvation and the foundation and government of our community as the work of God. Therefore, I will abandon the care of both to him in order to act only by his orders. I will consult him frequently regarding all I must do for the one or the other. Often I will say to him the words of the prophet Habakuk: Domine, opus tuum. Lord, the work is yours.

Reader 5

I should often consider myself as an instrument which is of not value except in the hand of the divine worker. For this reason I should wait for indications of Providence before acting; never the less, I must be careful to follow these signs once I perceive them.

Reader 6

[De La Salle] knew that for faith to have any reality the God to whom it is directed must be a real, personal, concerned, appealing, leading, and loving God. God was, for De La Salle, all of these things.

Song: Holy Is His Name *(Spirit and Song #95)*

Prayers of Intercession

(Together) O God, grant that we may know the things that we should do and have the strength to do them. You guide us by paths unclear and lead us in ways untested. Send us your spirit that we too can live out the words our Founder spoke at the end of his life: "I adore in all things the will of God in my regard."

Left: Let us give thanks to God, who gives salvation to all who follow the designs of faith.

Right: You are our life, O Lord

Left: Blessed are you, for you bring us to birth

Right: Into a life of creativity and grace.

Left: You renew us in the life of Christ, your Son,

Right: Renew our commitment to following your will.

Left: May all our works always come from you alone,

Right: And have you as their end.

Left: Help us to abandon ourselves to your will,

Right: For your blessings carry us from grace to grace.

(Personal Intentions and Prayers)

Closing Prayer

(Mark Link, S. J.—adapted)

Leader: We conclude our prayer this evening 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 the same way, your light must shine before
All people. *(Matthew 5:14-16)*

(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.

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