

The Teacher

“What is a greater work than to direct the minds and form the character of the young? I hold, with certainty, that no painter, no sculptor, nor any other artist does such excellent work as he who molds the minds of youth.”

Saint John Chrysostom

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

Opening Prayer

God, our loving Creator,
We are Yours, and Yours we wish to be.
Help us to become Your instruments
Of love, peace, and reconciliation
In the lives of the young men and women
Who are our students.

Help us to understand and to teach
That to be holy means to be truly whole.
Help us to forgive
So that we may be forgiven.
Help us to re-dedicate ourselves
To the work of education,
So that the lives of those we teach
May be truly renewed.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Who is our redeemer and teacher. Amen.

First Reading

There is a story told about a young man who entered a monastery. Very soon afterward he began to notice and to be dismayed by the fact that monks, especially ones older than himself, were leaving the monastery. Troubled and confused, he went to the abbot. Why, he asked, did some men, after having committed themselves to a way of life, forsake it for something else? The abbot responded with a story: Once upon a time a dog lay sleeping in the warm sun of the village square. All of a sudden, out of the corner of his

half-opened eyes, he spied a rabbit darting across the road. He took off immediately in hot pursuit. He ran up and down the streets through the countryside, keeping up the chase day and night and seeming never to tire. Eventually, other dogs saw him and joined the run. But, one by one, they grew tired and stopped running. Why? They were running only because they had seen the first dog doing so. They had never caught sight of the rabbit in the first place. So, the abbot concluded, the one who has never glimpsed the vision grows easily tired of running. He gives up the chase because he can't remember why he had begun to run in the first place.

Response

(Sister Kathy Sherman CSJ)

How can we turn away from the faces of the children?

Faces bearing hunger, faces bearing pain.

Who will feed their hunger and comfort their pain?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

And who will plant the dreams in the minds of the children?

Minds so often frightened, minds that long to hope.

Who will keep their dreams alive and see that they come true?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

And who will be the love in the hearts of the children?

Hearts of our tomorrow, hearts in need today.

Who will give example of all that life can be?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

Look into the depths of your soul.

Where do you see tomorrow?

It's in the minds and hearts and faces of the children.

So let us join as one for the sake of the children,

Children wanting us to hope and needing us to care.

Who will make a difference in the future of the earth?

Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

Quiet Reflection

Second Reading

(Meditations for Time of Retreat)

Since you are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ in the work that you do, you must act as representing Jesus Christ himself. He wants your disciples to see him in you

and to receive your teaching as if He were teaching them. They must be convinced that the truth of Jesus Christ comes from your mouth, that it is only in his name that you teach, that he has given you authority over them.

They are a letter which Christ dictates to you, which you write each day in their hearts, not with ink, but by the Spirit of the living God. For the Spirit acts in you and by you through the power of Jesus Christ. It helps you overcome all the obstacles to their salvation, enlightening them in the person of Jesus Christ and helping them avoid all that could be displeasing to him.

You are engaged in a ministry wherein you are obliged to touch hearts. You cannot possibly do this without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Beseech God to confer on you today, the same grace as He gave to the apostles so that after filling you with the Spirit for your own sanctification, He may confer it on you for the salvation of others.

Intercessions

Pause to pray for students who are most in need of our prayers.

Closing Prayer

You, my God, are my strength,
My patience, my light and my counsel;
It is you who opens the minds
And hearts of the children
Confided to my care.

Abandon me not to myself for the moment.
For my own conduct
And for that of my pupils,
Grant me the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and fortitude,
The spirit of knowledge and piety,
The spirit of holy fear of you,
And an ardent zeal to procure your glory.

Amen.

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