

Together and By Association

The Power of Community

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

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have created us, called us, chosen us to be your people. We turn to you for guidance and blessing. Grant to us ears to hear, eyes to see, and faith to respond to your love and leadership. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

(Acts 4: 32-33; 5:12, 14)

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions were his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. . . . Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. . . . More than ever, believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women.

A Reading Adapted from The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

From the beginning of the Institute, we Lasallians have fulfilled our mission “together and by association.” Each one of us exercises his or her apostolate as a member of an educational community by whom he or she is known, accepted, supported, and entrusted with the mission.

We are in solidarity with our community, our District, and the Institute as a whole. In fulfilling our ministry, whatever our individual assignment may be, we are contributing as a community to the unique mission of the Institute within the Church.

Together and by association we labor to accomplish God's saving work in a profession where "the poor have the gospel preached to them" and where young people grow as human persons and children of God.

By the gift of freedom, God has willed to place the destiny of the Institute into the hands of we who are committed to work together so that it will prosper and remain faithful to its mission. It is always, and above all, to Jesus Christ, to his gospel, and to his Spirit that we are faithful.

To Be Brother and Sister...

It is surely significant that the first Brothers in the Chapter of 1686 chose to call themselves *Brothers*. What is significant here is their insight that their brotherhood was to challenge them in two different ways; being brothers to one another in the community of the Christian schools where everything was held in common, but also being prepared to be the older brothers to the young people whom they were to see as confided by a merciful God to their particular care and attention. (Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC)

A Reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

As the body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as God intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." If one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. (1 Corinthians 12: 12—21, 26)

Intentions

Leader: As one Body, let us bring our prayers to the Lord...

For all of us involved with Lasallian education, that we may work together for the well-being of those entrusted to our care. For this, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our students, that they may grow into one body, supporting one another in their differences and working together to create a more just world. For them, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those in our community who are most in need at this time... (pause to remember) We pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those in our community who have died... (pause to remember) That the example of their lives may give us strength and courage and inspiration, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: And for what else shall we pray? (following each intention, "We pray to the Lord.")

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Loving God, we bring to you all these prayers – both the prayers we have spoken and the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts. May we always turn to you, both in our need and in our gratitude. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

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