

Trusting in Providence

Call to Prayer

(Mark Link, SJ – adapted)

Leader: (as 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 Prayer (together)

God, grant us the courage to set our hearts on building your reign and the faith to leave my
fortunes in your loving care.

First Reading

(Adapted from Matthew 6:25-34)

Stop worrying so much about what your next meal will be, about how your body looks, or about dressing in fashion. Human life is more than food. Your body is worth more than the clothes draped on it. Watch the birds. Notice that they do not plant crops or store grain in silos, but the Creator gives them food. You are worth more than birds, aren't you? Can you add one second to your life by fretting about it? No. And why are you obsessed with clothing? The marvelous wildflowers do not sew or weave, but not even Solomon with all his wealth was arrayed as beautifully as a wildflower. So if God loves flowers so much, even though they wither and die in one season, don't you think the Creator loves you even more? If you do not believe the Creator will take care of you, you do not have much faith. Stop worrying about everything so much. God knows what you need. Rather, turn your heart and focus your attention on building the Reign of God in your midst. These necessities will be given to you as well. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will fend for itself. Each day has sufficient trouble of its own.

Second Reading

(A reflection by Carl Koch)

Reliance on divine providence means that we acknowledge our true position in God's creation. We depend upon God for life. We are held in God's hands.

De La Salle relied on God's care-filled plan for him and for the Brothers. He came to realize that ownership and wealth would prevent him from making the bold moves necessary for his

mission. Like the rich young man in the gospel story, De La Salle was challenged to give everything to poor people and follow Jesus. He freed himself from the protection of his inheritance and walked with Jesus, depending on him to provide.

That God sustains all things can be forgotten. As we invent better ways to protect ourselves from the elements, losing a sense of vulnerability to natural forces becomes easier. Seeming to be able to control our environment more completely might lull us into a sense that we run our life and dictate our future.

When we experience a sudden loss of a loved one, when a hailstorm overtakes us in the open, when our health breaks down, or when we get older and realize that we do not have the energy we once did, we might remember that ultimately we do not run the universe. The loving God gives us what we need and sustains all things.

Solemn Reflection/Prayers of Intercession

Closing Prayer

(adapted from the Novena for Vocations for Our Lasallian Family)

Beloved De La Salle, our Founder and Brother, from the beginning of our Institute you and the Founding Brothers vowed to remain in this society, together and by association, to conduct schools for the Christian education of youth. Today, more than ever, the words of your heroic vow speak to us of the future of our ministry. Dear God, we beg You, through the intercession of our beloved Founder, to call dedicated men and women to the work of Christian education. Fill Brothers and colleagues with the spirit of faith and zeal. Raise up administrators and teachers, coaches and staff members, who realize that they are ministers of grace. And move us to share our Lasallian charism. We ask this through Christ, our Teacher and Brother. 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 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.

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