

We Are Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

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

Opening Prayer

(Saint Patrick, from his breastplate)

Christ shield me this day:
Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me

First Reflection

(Archbishop Oscar Romero)

It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is
God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies
beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection,

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water the seeds already planted,
Knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capability.



Br. Joseph Hiep, FSC

We cannot do everything
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete,
But it is a beginning,
A step along the way,
An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the results,
But that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders;
Ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

From the Writings of the Founder

Do not have any anxiety about the future,
But leave everything in God's hands
For God will take care of you.

Letter 101

Be satisfied with what you can do, since God is satisfied with it,
But do not spare yourself in what you can do with grace;
And believe that, provided you want it,
You can do more with the grace of God than you think.

**Collection
Letter 76**

Do not forget to thank God for all the blessings he bestows on you.

Prayers

Let us take a moment to consider the needs of others. For what and for whom shall we pray?

Second Reflection

For the Founder, to go into the schools, to stay there for hours on end, to analyze what was happening, to be alert to what the teacher was doing, to the reaction of the pupils, did not mean being drawn away from God. To leave prayer in order to go about one's tasks, is not abandoning God. It was simply leaving God to find God – the God who calls us, the God who sends us. (Brother Jean Pungier, *If I were to rewrite "How to Run Christian Schools" today*, page 8)

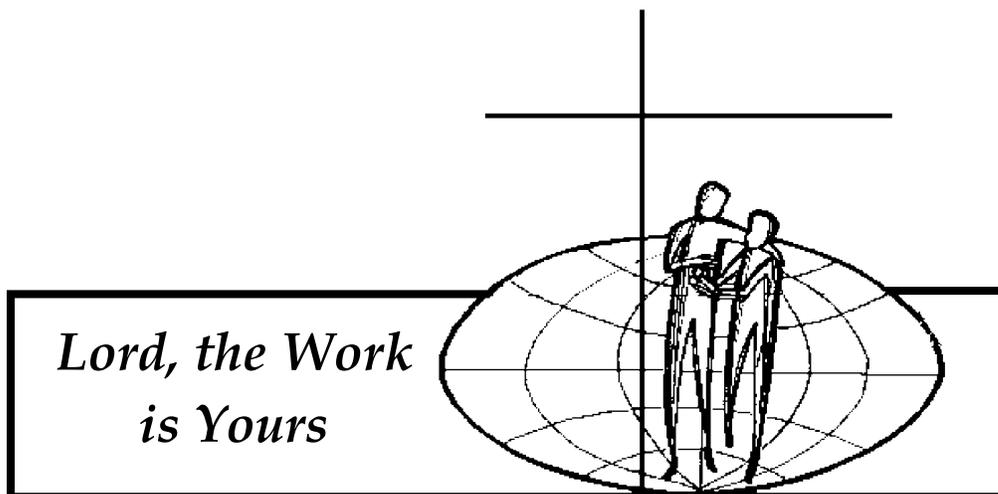
Prayer (in two groups)

1. We thank you, Lord,
that you appeared in your risen body
to Peter and the apostles and disciples,
and charged them anew
with the mission of evangelization and pastoral care.
2. We thank you
that you sent your Spirit upon them,
filling them with the assurance of your living presence,
putting the right words into their mouths,
and guiding them in times of joy and hardship.
1. We ask you, Lord,
to show yourself in our midst with your Spirit,
as you showed yourself in the Upper Room
to the apostles, gathered together with Mary.
2. Put your words on our lips,
inspire us with your intentions,
and help us to share anew in your mission.
1. Help us to leave this place
with a renewed awareness
of the gift of Christian witness
which you, in your mercy,
have placed in our hearts,
that many others may be drawn to you.
2. We ask this of you, Lord,
who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
throughout the ages. Amen.

Closing Prayer (together)

Loving God,
We ask you to bless us,
And all to whom you send us.
Inspire us with your Spirit
And enable us to live the gospel more authentically
That we may be credible witnesses of your love
And ambassadors of Jesus, your Son.
May your power shine through our weakness,
Since we are earthen vessels.
In our affliction, let us never be crushed;
In our doubts, never despair;
In temptation, never be destroyed.
May our weaknesses become your opportunities,
And inspire us always to praise you. Amen.

***Saint John Baptist de La Salle...pray for us!
Live, Jesus, in our Hearts...forever!***



Br. Joseph Hiep, FSC

(Prayer Service adapted from Walk in My Presence, by Brothers Nicholas Hutchinson and Damian Lundy, FSC)