

Community Prayer Services

Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies



Cycle Three

2010

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Introduction & Explanation

Morning Prayers

The ten morning prayer services that have been prepared for our use during the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies in 2010 are intentionally of a similar format, one that closely parallels **the triple movement of the method of Lasallian interior prayer**. For those who are interested, a brief explanation of this method has been included with these prayer services.

Each prayer service begins with a moment – **the first movement** – in which we spend some time “recalling the presence of God.” Ordinarily, we will begin with a brief sung Lasallian invocation.

Each prayer service then invites us to spend some time “reflecting on our Lasallian identity” – **the second movement**. Normally, two related readings are provided to assist in this reflection; and we recite together an antiphonal response between the two readings. An art image often accompanies one or other of the readings, and a brief pause for quiet reflection is proposed after the second reading.

Each prayer service concludes with some time – **the third movement** – spent “recommitting to Lasallian mission.” This movement begins with intercessory prayer; and here we are invited to share aloud our prayers of praise, thanksgiving, pardon, or petition after the reader invites: “For whom or for what else shall we pray?” Finally, we have the common recitation of a closing prayer; and each of these prayers, which we say together and by association with fellow Lasallians, asks for divine assistance and is an expression of our re-commitment to the Lasallian educational mission. A very slight pause at the end of each line of the prayer would keep the closing prayer from being rushed and add to a more prayerful and reflective conclusion of our time together as a community gathered in the presence of God.

Evening Prayers

The eleven evening prayer services that have been prepared for our use during the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies in 2010 are, also, intentionally of a similar format.

Each begins with a **call to worship**, by using the same simple formula, and invites us to enter into a period of quiet reflection in God’s presence.

Then, we are invited to consider one or other aspect of discipleship by centering on a modern personage – **a reflection on a modern icon** – who embodies some aspect of gospel living. An image of the person accompanies the prayer service, as is a reading from the writings of that person. The reading is focused and not too long.

The prayers, which come at the end of a long day and after an evening spent in study and discussion, are intentionally reflective and meditative rather than wordy or interactive. Some recorded instrumental music will be played after the reading, and this quiet music will last for about three to five minutes. A question is provided as a possible stimulus to personal reflection during the quiet that follows the reading.

Each concludes with the common recitation of a **closing prayer**; and each of these prayers, which we say together and by association with fellow Lasallians, asks for divine assistance and is an expression of our re-commitment to the Lasallian educational mission. A very slight pause at the end of each line of the prayer would keep the closing prayer from being rushed and add to a more prayerful and reflective conclusion of our time together as a community gathered in the presence of God.

Acknowledgements

These prayer services, which were prepared by Tina Bonacci and Brother William Mann, will hopefully provide you with some usable or adaptable prayer resources when you return to your communities and ministries. Monique Gougeon kindly prepared the watercolor picture on the cover and the sketches that accompany the evening prayer services.

Please note that this is the third cycle of prayer services prepared for use at the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies and that these prayer services are a work-in-progress. Some consideration is being given to revise them.

Mychal Judge, OFM

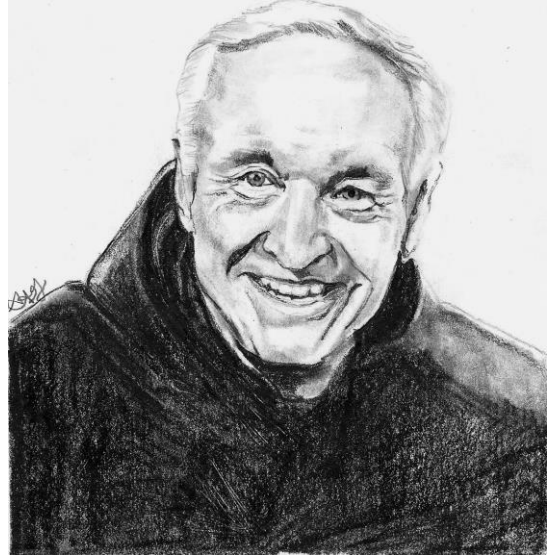
Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Mychal Judge, a chaplain of
New York City's firefighters,
was administering the
sacrament of anointing to a
fallen firefighter when he
himself was struck down on
9/11. As thousands ran for their
lives, this friend of the
homeless and of people with
AIDS jumped into his car and
sped toward the Twin Towers.
He is quoted as having said the
following during his 2000 visit
to the Northern Ireland:



“With all our prayers and with a loving, kind God who wants us to be at peace with each other, there has to be a solution coming [to conflict and war and violence]. There will always be people who want to destroy what God builds up through good people, but God will overcome. I don't know how He's going to do it, but someday God will make the headlines instead of the devil. So don't give up. We pray together, we hold hands together, we believe together, we love together, we're saved together, and God reigns.”

- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, how selfless and steadfast am I in this work that we are doing “together and by association” for the good of others?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Rev. Mychal Judge, OFM

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

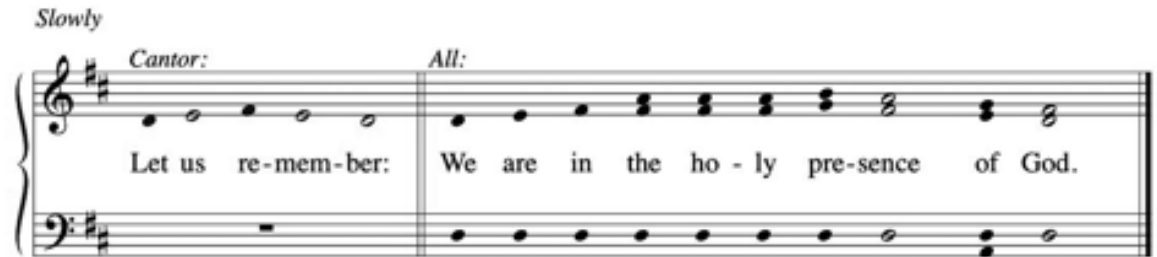
All: Lord, take me where you want me to go;
let me meet who you want me to meet;
tell me what you want me to say;
and keep me out of your way. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Father Mychal Judge,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Listening

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflecting on Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading from *The Second Family* by Ron Taffel & Melinda Blau (2001), page 19

Everyone nowadays – including parents – seems to do ten things at once. You’ve seen kids doing homework with headphones on, or talking on the phone while they fold socks? But before we criticize our kids, we ought to look in the mirror. In most American homes it’s not unusual to see Mom diapering the baby while cradling a receiver between her chin and neck. In another room, Dad “multitasks,” to use a catchphrase of the last decade (originally intended to describe computer functioning): he simultaneously checks his e-mail messages and his stock portfolio on the computer while yelling out to the children, “Start cutting the vegetables for tonight’s dinner!” It’s not surprising that a 1997 *Family Circle* report found that fathers spend only eight minutes a day talking to their children and working mothers, eleven.

There is nothing inherently evil about any of this – it’s normal family life in America – but it’s no way to get to know your own children, or each other. Kids understand this. In my conversations with them, children from kindergarten to age twelve overwhelmingly indicate that what they want most is more time, as in *undivided* attention. I repeatedly hear comments such as, “I want my mom to stop being so busy and just play with me” and “I love when my dad sits next to me and we watch movies together”; ... but harried parents aren’t making or taking the time.

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response from Martin de Porres Prayer Service (2006)

Side One: How can we turn away from the faces of 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?

Side Two: 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?

Side One: 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?

Side Two: Look into the depths of your soul.
Where do you see tomorrow?
It's in the minds and hearts and faces of the children.

Side One: 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?

5. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]

6. Reading from *True Cooperators with Jesus Christ* by William Mann, FSC

Almost a year ago now as Hurricane Hugo was heading up the east coast of the United States, at the novitiate in Central New York tremendous winds preceded the storm; and I remember sitting in our glass-walled chapel on that particular Friday morning looking out at the white caps on the lake and at the leaves being torn from the surrounding trees. One of the novices was unsuccessfully attempting to secure our boat which was being pulled away from the shore, and so two of us went down and out into the water to help. All three of us working together were barely able to bring the boat to shore.

As I reflected later that morning on the experience, it suggested to me the image of so many parents today caught in the stormy conditions of our present social and cultural reality – parents finding their children being pulled away – and increasingly unable to bring their sons and daughters back to shore – parents being overwhelmed and children in danger of being lost - parents in need of someone willing to accompany them into the turbulence – someone willing to assist them in the Christian guidance and formation of their children ...

For far too many ... young people find themselves today tossed about in a society replete with a tremendous cultural diversity and an unfortunate moral ambiguity and confusion. Too many are consumed by their own materialism and pursuit of instant gratification. For many, a tremendous peer group stress, rampant substance abuse, chronic low self-esteem, and poverty of love and affection are a daily reality. Many find themselves without sufficient or appropriate role models. Unfortunately, the time and energy of so many parents, an increasing number of whom are single, is dominated by the difficult task of meeting the material support of their families; and so once again, as in the time of our Founder, we see parents in urgent need of our support and assistance.

Within this context ... hear again today the exhortation of John Baptist de La Salle to

understand ourselves as one with Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of the gospel; and ... glimpse the awesome responsibility of our mission as true cooperators with Jesus Christ for the salvation of children....

7. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

8. Intercessory Prayer *Holy Listening* by Margaret Guenther (1992)

Reader: For the grace to hear and to continue to respond to the call of God inviting us to partner with the Good Shepherd in assisting families in the education, formation, and accompaniment of those in our schools and agencies, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving for having been entrusted with this ministry of quietly bringing new things to birth in others and for the grace of recognizing God's amazing work in the ordinariness of human existence, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That we might bring the qualities of holy listening, presence, and attentiveness to all aspects of our personal and professional lives, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

9. Closing Prayer Adapted from St. Ignatius of Loyola by John Veltri, SJ

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest to me,
my family, my friends, my co-workers.
Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear,
the message is, "Accept the person I am. Listen to me."

Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me –
the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten,
the cry of the anguished.
Teach me to listen, O God my Mother, to myself.
Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside –
in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice –
in busyness and in boredom,
in certainty and in doubt, in noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Simone Weil

Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: A French philosopher, Christian
mystic, and social activist, Simone
Weil (1909-1943) was a member
of the French resistance during
World War II. In writing about our
relationship with God, she wrote:

“Two prisoners whose cells adjoin
communicate with each other by
knocking on the wall. The wall is
the thing that separates them, but it
is also their means of
communication. It is the same with
us and God. Every separation is a
link.”



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, what are the “links” that help both me and those entrusted to my care communicate with God?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (1920-1997), *Living with Christ*, August 2009, page 21

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Lord, open our eyes
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.
Lord, open our ears that we may hear
the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.
Lord, open our hearts that we may love each other as you love us.
Renew in us your spirit.

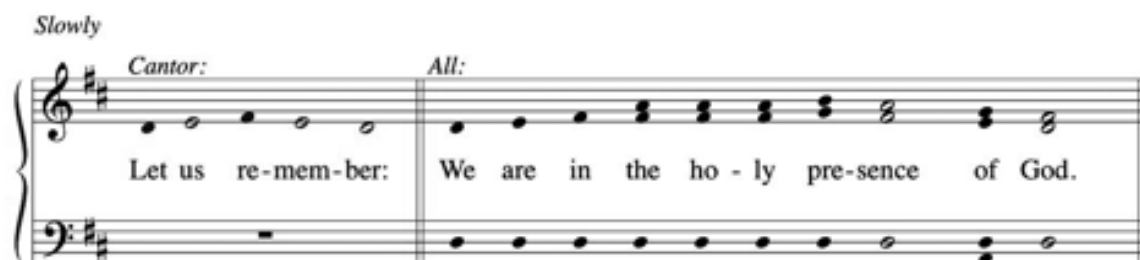
Lord, free us; make us one. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Simone Weil,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Living Water

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading John 4:5-42

Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water”... The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true”...

The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” ... The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?”



3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]

4. Our Response Peter de Rosa

Side One: Father, you contain within yourself the waters of life,
and everyone who thirsts
must come to you to drink.

Side Two: The Psalmist wrote passionately:
“As the deer longs for running streams,
so my soul is longing for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.
When will I be allowed to see the face of God?”

Side One: Again he says with equal ardour:
“O God, you are my God, I long for you;
my soul is thirsting for you.
My body is panting for you
as in a dry, weary land without water”...

Side Two: On a hot midday at the well of Samaria,
Jesus said to the woman drawing from the well:
“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again,
but whoever drinks of the water I will give
will never thirst.

Side One: The water I will give
will become in them
a fountain of water, bubbling up to eternal life.”

Side Two: Father, I have seen this water
streaming from the pierced heart of Jesus crucified.
Give me a drink of this precious water of the Spirit
so I may never thirst again.

5. Reading Dolores Aleixandre, RSCJ, “Seekers of Wells and
Roads” (Rome: Religious Life Congress, 2004)

The Samaritan woman entered the scene as “a woman from Samaria” and left it as someone very knowledgeable about the spring of “living water” ... She who was talking about “drawing water” as a task costing great effort abandoned her jug, for Jesus has uncovered a gift for her ...

And if [she] took us by the hand, what [might] she say to us, and where would she bring us? Surely she would invite us to accompany her back to Jacob’s well, and tell us how she arrived there with the empty jug of her needs and distracting cares, all of which proved to be no problem at all for the man who was waiting for her to accomplish his work in her. And [might] she tell us that if she learned anything from Jesus at that time, it is that he is not put off by our defensiveness and the things to which we cling?

... Only “those who search for wells,” who are capable of approaching and “getting in touch,” of spending time and getting to the bottom of things, can help others shed light on the spring of living water that they have within themselves.

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: In thanksgiving for the life-giving and life-sustaining conversations that we have had with family, community members, friends, and colleagues, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving for all of those who have helped us to access “the spring of living water” welling up from within, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That we might be agents of healing and reconciliation and ministers of faith and hope and love in the lives of those entrusted to our care, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Good and loving God,
we have seen the water
streaming from the pierced heart of Jesus crucified.

Give us a drink
of this precious water of the Spirit
so that we, too, may never thirst again.

Sustain in us, we pray,
a deep-seated dynamism
in our commitment to the Lasallian mission
and an unquenchable thirst
to lead others along the path of gospel-inspired living. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: pray for us.

Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,

All: forever.

Mohandas Gandhi

Call to Worship

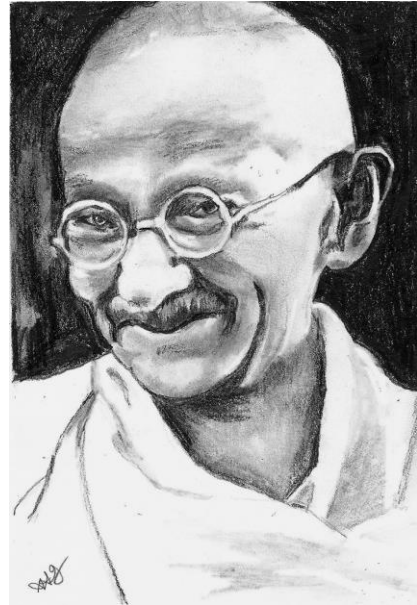
Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: The pre-eminent political and
spiritual leader of modern India,
Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948)
continues to be an inspiration for
movements for civil rights and
freedom across the world. He
wrote:

"Love is the subtlest force in the
world. The force of non-violence is
infinitely more wonderful and
subtle than the material force of
nature, like electricity. The truth is
that God is the force. He is the
essence of life. He is pure and
undefiled consciousness. He is eternal. The more efficient a force is the
more silent and the more subtle it is."



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, do I allow the silent non-violent love of God to flow out through me into the world to touch the hearts and the lives of the young, the poor, and their families?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Hymn to Matter [adapted] by Teilhard de Chardin
(1881-1955)

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Blessed be you, harsh matter,
barren soil, stubborn rock:
you who yield only to violence,

you would force us to work if we would eat...

Blessed be you, mortal matter!
Without you, without your onslaughts,
without your uprootings of us,
we should remain ignorant of ourselves and of God.

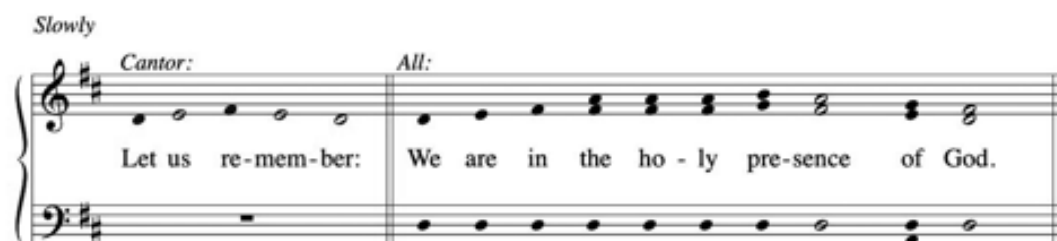
Blessed be you, God of history and of creation:
you are the truth,
you are the essence of life,
you are the eternal way.
Blessed be you!

Leader:	St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All:	pray for us.
Leader:	Mahatma Gandhi,
All:	inspire us.
Leader:	Live Jesus in our hearts,
All:	forever.

Courageous Action

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading Eboo Patel, “We Are Each Others’ Business” as heard on NPR’s *Morning Edition*, November 7, 2005

I am an American Muslim. I believe in pluralism. In the Holy Quran, God tells us, “I created you into diverse nations and tribes that you may come to know one another.” I believe America is humanity’s best opportunity to make God’s wish that we come to know one another a reality. We live in a world where the forces that seek to divide us are strong. To overcome them, we must do more than simply stand next to one another in silence.

I attended high school in the western suburbs of Chicago. The group I ate lunch with included a Jew, a Mormon, a Hindu, a Catholic and a Lutheran ... A few years after we graduated, my Jewish friend from the lunchroom reminded me of an experience we both wish had never happened. A group of thugs in our high school had taken to scrawling anti-Semitic slurs on classroom desks and shouting them in the hallway. I did not confront them. I did not comfort my Jewish friend. Instead I averted my eyes from their bigotry, and I avoided my friend because I couldn’t stand to face him.

My friend told me he feared coming to school those days, and he felt abandoned as he watched his close friends do nothing. Hearing him tell me of his suffering and my complicity is the single most humiliating experience of my life.

My friend needed more than my silent presence at the lunch table. I realize now that to believe in pluralism means I need the courage to act on it. Action is what separates a belief from an opinion. Beliefs are imprinted through actions. In the words of the ... poet Gwendolyn Brooks: “We are each other’s business; we are each other’s harvest; we are each other’s magnitude and bond.” I cannot go back in time and take away the suffering of my Jewish friend, but through action I can prevent it from happening to others.

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response from De La Salle’s *Meditation* #201

Side One: You must not doubt that it is a great gift from God,

this grace he has given you
to be entrusted with the instruction of children
to announce the Gospel to them
and to bring them up in the spirit of religion.

Side Two: Let it be clear in all your conduct
toward the children entrusted to you
that you look upon yourself as ministers of God,
carrying out your ministry with love and a sincere and true zeal,
accepting with much patience the difficulties you have to suffer...

Side One: You must imitate God to some extent,
for God so loved the souls he created
that when he saw them involved in sin
and unable to be freed from sin by themselves,
the zeal and affection he had for their salvation
led him to send his own Son to rescue them...

Side One: See what God and Jesus Christ have done
to restore souls to the grace they had lost.
What must you not do for them in your ministry
if you have a zeal for their salvation!

Side Two: Tell parents what Jesus Christ said
about the sheep of which he is the shepherd
and which must be saved by him:
“I came,” he said, “that they might have life and have it to the full.”

Side One: For this had to be the ardent zeal
you had for the salvation of those you have to instruct,
when you were led to sacrifice yourself and to spend your whole life
to give these children a Christian education and to procure for them
the life of grace in this world and eternal life in the next.

5. Reading from “Being Chosen” by Henri Nouwen

Jesus is taken by God or, better, chosen by God. Jesus is the Chosen One. From all eternity God has chosen his most precious Child to become the savior of the world. Being chosen expresses a special relationship, being known and loved in a unique way, being singled out. In our society our being chosen always implies that others are not chosen. But this is not true for God. God chooses his Son to reveal to us our chosenness.

In the Kingdom of God, there is no competition or rivalry. The Son of God shares his chosenness with us. In the Kingdom of God, each person is precious and unique; and each person has been given eyes to see the chosenness of others and rejoice in it.

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: For the times when we must do more than simply stand next to one another in silence, we pray...

All: Merciful God, grant me an increase in faith and the courage to act.

Reader: For the ability to see each adult and child in my ministry as a precious and unique person, and for the ability to help them to see and embrace their own chosenness, we pray. . .

All: Merciful God, grant me an increase in faith and the courage to act.

Reader: For the faith and zeal to do what can be done to procure the salvation and fullness of life of those entrusted to our care, we pray...

All: Merciful God, grant me an increase in faith and the courage to act.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?
[Response: Hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer Mother Teresa

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly
that all our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through us, and be so in us,
that every person with whom we come in contact
may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus.

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine;
so to shine as to be a light to others.
The light, O Jesus, will be all from you.
None of it will be ours.
It will be you shining on others through us.
Let us thus praise you in the way you love best,
by shining on those around us.

Let us preach without preaching,
not by words but by our example,
by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do,
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear for you. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Chiara Lubich

Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: With a small group of friends
During World War II, Chiara Lubich
(1920-2008) founded the world-wide
Focolare movement whose small
communities of lay volunteers have as
goal the promotion of a world living in
unity in light of a re-discovery of Gospel
values. In *Word of Life*, she wrote:



“Today our society, more than ever
before, needs to know the words of the
Gospel and to let itself be transformed by
them. Jesus must be able to repeat once
again: do not become angry with your
neighbors; forgive, and you will be
forgiven; tell the truth, to the point of having no need to take an oath; love
your enemies; recognize that we have only one Father and are all brothers
and sisters; do to others as you would have them do to you. This is the
sense of some of the many words from the Sermon on the Mount. If they
were lived out, it would be enough to change the world.”

- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, how am I attempting to contribute to a positive, gospel-inspired transformation of society?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Adapted Prayer of Wednesday of the 13th Week in Ordinary
Time, *Living with Christ*, July 2009, pages 48-49

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Good and loving God, open our eyes

to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation
and in the beauty of all human life.

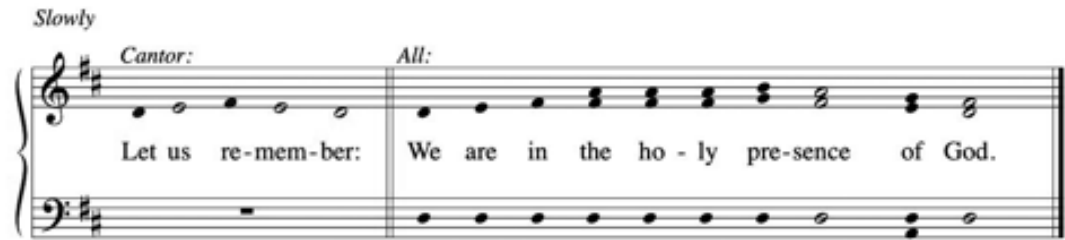
Touched by your hand our world is holy.
Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence. Amen.

Leader:	St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All:	pray for us.
Leader:	Chiara Lubich,
All:	inspire us.
Leader:	Live Jesus in our hearts,
All:	forever.

Compassion

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]

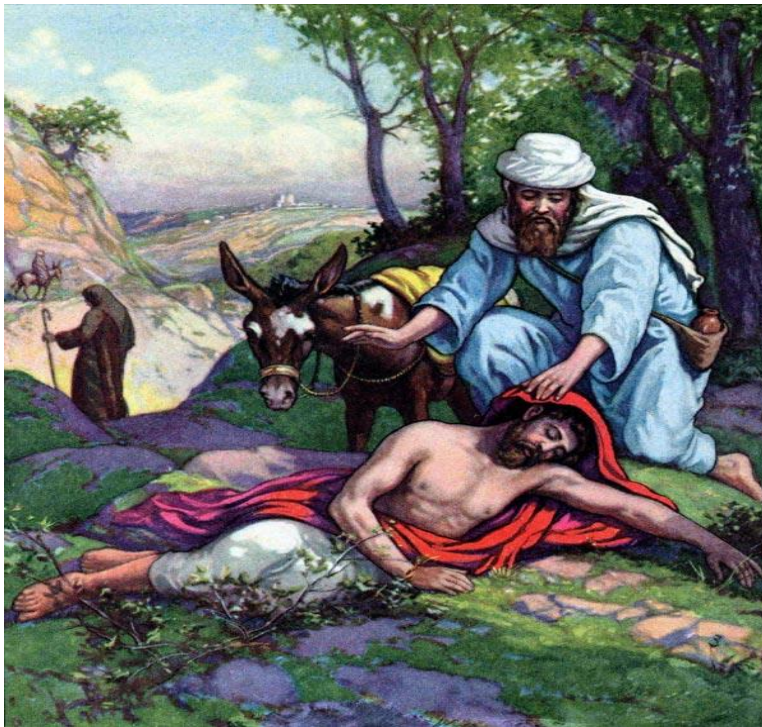


Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading Luke 10:30-37

Jesus then said, “There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way; and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him. The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: ‘Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.’”

Jesus then asked, “Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The teacher of the Law answered, “the one who had mercy on him.” And Jesus said, “Go then and do the same.”



3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]

4. Recording *Change* by Carrie Underwood

*What'cha gonna do with the thirty-six cents
sticky with coke on your floorboard
when a woman on the street is huddled in the cold
on a sidewalk vent trying to keep warm?
Do you call her over, hand her the change,
ask her her story, ask her her name?
Or do you tell yourself:*

*You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.
You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.*

*Oh, what'cha gonna do when you're watching t.v.
and an ad comes on – yeah you know the kind –
flashing up pictures of a child in need?
For a dime a day you can save a life.
Do you call the number, reach out a hand,
or do you change the channel, call it a scam?
Or do you tell yourself:*

*You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.
Don't listen to them when they say:*

*You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.*

*Oh, the smallest thing can make all the difference.
Love is alive. Don't listen to them when they say:
You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.*

*And the world's so big it can break your heart.
And you just want to help, not sure where to start.
So you close your eyes and send up a prayer into the dark.*

*You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.
Don't listen to them when they say:
You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.*

*Oh, the smallest thing can make all the difference.
Love is alive. Don't you listen to them when they say:
You're just a fool, just a fool,
to believe you can change the world.*

5. Reading “Respond Now or Regret Later” by Rev. Joseph F. Sica in *Living with Passion* (2009), page 29

Anthony stood in the cold watching people go in and out of the department store. His coat barely fit him; the front was fastened together with safety pins, and his shoes were held together with duct tape.

A woman saw Anthony as she entered the store. A little later she came out, walked up to him, and said: “Try this coat on. It may be your size.” He put it on and said: “Oh, it’s so nice and warm.” Then she handed him gloves and shoes. He took them and then, stunned by his good fortune, he thanked her and said: “Lady, are you God’s wife?”

She smiled, laughed, and said: “No, I’m just one of God’s children.” Anthony’s face lit up. “I knew it,” he said, “I knew you were related to God!”

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: For the times we have failed to show compassion to those in need and mercy to the downtrodden and the outcast, we pray...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Reader: In thanksgiving for those who have reached out to welcome and support us
in moments of distress, we pray...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Reader: That the international network of Lasallian schools and agencies might
serve as a beacon of compassion in the world of education, we pray...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer Inspired by Lk 10, Mt 25, M 37, & M 197

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Compassionate and merciful God,
 help us, we ask you,
 to love you more fully and
 to love our neighbor more selflessly.

Inspire in us and in all of our Lasallian partners
the openness, generosity, and compassion
to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty,
to welcome the stranger and clothe the naked,
to comfort the ill and visit the imprisoned,
to teach the ignorant and correct the wayward.

Strengthen in us the desire
to assist the youngsters and others entrusted to our care,
to walk in the company of the downtrodden,
to be your instruments of healing and reconciliation,
to follow you on this unfamiliar path into the unknown.

We ask all of this through Jesus, our brother and savior. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: pray for us.

Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,

All: forever.

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama

Call to Worship

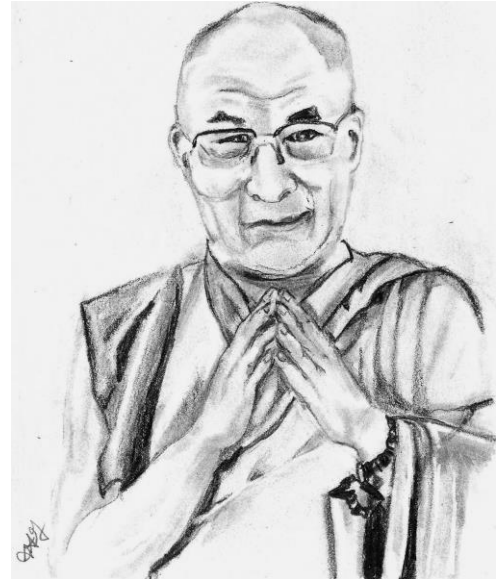
Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Both head of state and spiritual
leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama
(1935-), who in 1985 was
awarded the Noble Peace Prize, is
widely renowned for his message
of peace, non-violence, universal
understanding and responsibility,
and compassion. He wrote:

“We are all here on this planet, as it
were, as tourists. None of us can
live here forever. The longest we
might live is a hundred years. So
while we are here we should try to
have a good heart and to make
something positive and useful of our lives. Whether we live just a few
years or a whole century, it would be truly regrettable and sad if we were
to spend that time aggravating the problems that afflict other people,
animals, and the environment. The most important thing is to be a good
human being.”



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, how am I educating
and forming those entrusted to my care to be good human
beings?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: May I become at all times, both now and forever:
a protector of those without protection,

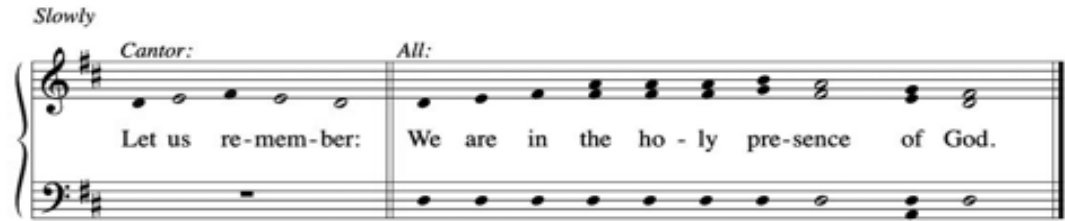
a guide for those who have lost their way,
a ship for those with oceans to cross,
a bridge for those with rivers to cross,
a sanctuary for those in danger,
a lamp for those without light,
a place of refuge for those who lack shelter,
and a servant to all in need.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Tenzin Gyasto, Dalai Lama,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Christ in Us

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading from the Writings of St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), as quoted in *Living with Christ* (September 2009), page 9

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.”

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response From the Writings of Blessed John Gabriel Perboyre, CM, as quoted in *Let's Pray!* by Charles Reutemann, FSC (St. Mary's Press, 1975), pages 85-86

Side One: “O my Divine Savior,
transform me into yourself.

Side Two: May my hands be the hands of Jesus.

Side One: May my tongue be the tongue of Jesus.

Side Two: Grant that every faculty of my body
may serve only to glorify you.

Side One: Above all, transform my soul and all its powers
that my memory, my will, and my affections
may be the memory, the will, and the affections of Jesus.

Side Two: I pray you to destroy in me all that is not of you.

Side One: Grant that I may live
but in you and by you and for you

Side Two: that I may truly say with Saint Paul:

All: "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."

5. Reading Source Unknown

"Arlene Kiely worked at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC. She was asked by a teacher to help a child with some schoolwork. She didn't realize until she got there that he was on the burn unit, in pain, and barely able to respond. She stumbled through the English lesson, ashamed at putting him through such a senseless exercise. The next morning a nurse asked her, 'What did you do to that boy?' Before she could finish apologizing, the nurse interrupted her: 'You don't understand. His whole attitude has changed. It is as though he's decided to live.' Later the boy explained that he had completely given up hope until Arlene arrived. With joyful tears, he said: 'They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and verbs with a dying boy, would they?'"

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: For our ill or elderly relatives, friends, and colleagues in hospitals and nursing homes and for those who care for them, we pray...

All: We offer our hands and hearts to serve others in Jesus' name.

Reader: For our students, friends, and neighbors suffering from addictions, depression, loneliness, or failure and for their families and loved ones, we pray...

All: We offer our hands and hearts to serve others in Jesus' name.

Reader: For those we love and for those who love us and for those to whom we minister and for those who minister to us, we pray...

All: We offer our hands and hearts to serve others in Jesus' name.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?
[Response: Lord, hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer Rev. Mychal Judge, OFM

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Lord, take me where you want me to go;
let me meet who you want me to meet;
tell me what you want me to say;
and keep me out of your way. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: pray for us.

Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,

All: forever.

Elie Wiesel

Call to Worship

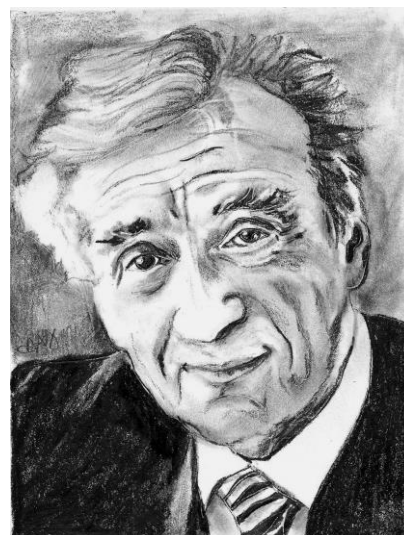
Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel was
awarded the 1986 Noble Peace Prize
and has been called "the ambassador
of a powerful message of peace,
atonement, and human dignity." He
wrote:

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps
the oppressor, never the victim.
Silence encourages the tormentor,
never the tormented. Sometimes we
must interfere. When human lives are
endangered or when human dignity is
in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant.
Whenever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion,
or political views, that place must – at the present moment – become [for
us] the center of the universe."



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, when and how have I been challenged to take a stand on behalf of those being excluded, marginalized, or persecuted?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Thomas á Kempis (1380-1471), *Living with Christ*, July 2009, page 21

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Grant, Lord, to all of us who are learners and teachers,
the grace to love that which is worth loving,
to know that which is worth knowing,
to value what is most precious to you,

and to reject whatever is evil in your eyes.

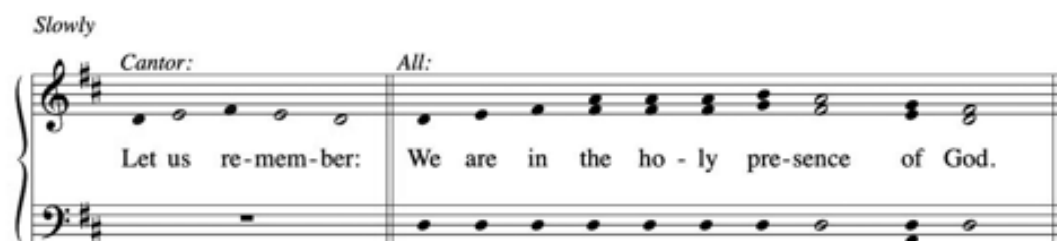
Give us a true sense of judgment
and the wisdom to see beneath the surface of things.
Above all, may we search out and do what is pleasing to you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader:	St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All:	pray for us.
Leader:	Elie Wiesel,
All:	inspire us.
Leader:	Live Jesus in our hearts,
All:	forever.

Hospitality

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading William Mann, FSC, in *Review for Religious*

“A few years ago, I volunteered to work at a soup kitchen in Rhode Island. As my first experience of working with the street poor, it was both difficult and challenging. Most of the time I was afraid, and my fear kept me washing dishes and away from the people. I was attempting to make my contribution and avoid contact at the same time ... Occasionally, I ventured into the lounge to socialize after a meal. On one particularly hot day, a six-year-old child walked over to me, climbed into my lap, and using a shredded and badly soiled napkin, wiped the perspiration from my forehead. He kissed my cheek, hugged me, and moved my heart. So paralyzed by my own fears that I found it difficult to offer hospitality, this poor child reached out and offered me love.”

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response St. John Chrysostom, *Living with Christ*, August 2009, page 171

Side One: “Do you wish to honor the body of Christ?
Do not ignore him when he is naked.

Side Two: Do not pay him homage in the temple clad in silk
only then to neglect him outside
where he suffers cold nakedness.

Side One: He who said: ‘This is my body,’
is the same One who said:
‘You saw me hungry and you gave me no food,’

Side Two: and ‘Whatever you did
to the least of my brothers [and sisters] you did also to me.’

Side One: What good is it if the eucharistic table
is overloaded with golden chalices
when he is dying of hunger?

Side Two: Start by satisfying his hunger,
 and then with what is left
 you may adorn the altar as well.”

5. Reading Dom Helder Camara in *Let's Pray 2* (St. Mary's Press, 1982), page 167

“I used to think, when I was a child, that Christ might have been exaggerating when he warned about the dangers of wealth. Today I know better. I know how very hard it is to be rich and still keep the milk of human kindness. Money has a dangerous way of putting scales on one's eyes, a dangerous way of freezing people's hands, eyes, lips, and hearts.”

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: In gratitude for the many opportunities we have to know, to love, and to serve God in one another and in those whom we serve, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In contrition for the times that we have failed to recognize and love Jesus when he has presented himself to us as poor, ignorant, or uncooperative, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That we might be good and faithful stewards of the many resources at our disposal and that we might remain steadfast in our commitment to the common good and to the well-being of all in the human family, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer Prayer of Alcuin of York, *Living with Christ*, November 2009, page 163 [adapted]

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Lord Christ,
 we ask you to spread our tables with your mercy.
 And may you bless with your gentle hands
 the good things you have given us.
 We know that whatever we have comes from you.
 Thus for all that we eat and drink, we give thanks to you.
 And having received from your hands,
 let us give with equally generous hands to those who are poor,

breaking bread and sharing our bread and hospitality with them.
For you have told us
that whatever we give to the poor we give to you. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Caryll Houselander

Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Caryll Houselander (1901-1954) was
an English lay Roman Catholic artist,
popular religious writer, and mystic.
She wrote:

“We must carry Jesus in our hearts to
wherever He wants to go, and there are
many places to which He may never go
unless we take Him to them. None of
us knows when the loveliest hour of
our life is striking. It may be when we
take Christ for the first time to that
grey office in the city where we work,
to the wretched lodging of that poor
man who is an outcast, to the nursery
of that pampered child, to that battleship, airfield, or camp....”



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, am I attempting to carry Jesus “wherever He wants to go”?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Ambassadors of Christ

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Merciful and loving God,
you chose John Baptist de La Salle,
for the work of the human and Christian education
of the young, and especially of the poor.

We ask you to help us to continue in his footsteps,
ever-mindful of our responsibilities as “ambassadors of Christ”

to those you place in our care.

Guide and bless our work today.

Bless our Brothers and Lasallian Partners around the world,
and bless all of those associated with our Lasallian mission. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: pray for us.

Leader: Caryll Houselander,

All: inspire us.

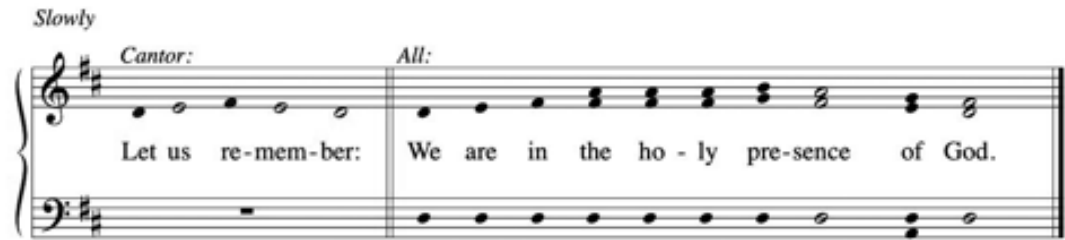
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,

All: forever.

Education for Justice

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading from “Education for Justice” by Pedro Arrupe, SJ (Valencia 1973)

“Education for justice has become in recent years one of the chief concerns of the church. Why? Because there is a new awareness in the church that participation in the promotion of justice and the liberation of the oppressed is a constitutive element of the mission which our Lord has entrusted to her. Impelled by this awareness, the church is now engaged in a massive effort to educate – or rather to re-educate – herself, her children and all men and women so that we may all ‘lead our life in its entirety ... in accord with the evangelical principles of personal and social morality to be expressed in a living Christian witness.’

“Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and His Christ – for the God-human who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce....”

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response Matthew 25:31-40

Side One: “When the Son of Man comes in all his glory,
escorted by all the angels of heaven,
he will sit upon his royal throne
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

Side Two: Then he will separate them into two groups,
as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

Side One: The sheep he will place on his right hand,
the goats on his left.

Side Two: The King will say to those on his right:
‘Come you have my Father’s blessing!
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.

Side One: For I was hungry, and you gave me food.
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink.

Side Two: I was a stranger, and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me.

Side One: I was ill and you comforted me,
in prison and you came to visit me.’

Side Two: Then the just will ask him:
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or see you thirsty and give you drink?

Side One: When did we welcome you away from home,
or clothe you in your nakedness?
When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?’

Side Two: The King will answer them:
‘I assure you, as often as you did it
for one of my least brothers [or sisters]
you did it for me.’”

5. Reading from “New Wine in New Wineskins” by Alvaro
Rodríguez, FSC (Rome 2006)

“I would like to focus on two ... situations to which, it seems to me, we should particularly draw our attention today: the phenomenon of immigration and the tragedy of hunger ...

“Immigration is a reality that today concerns all continents and affects particularly children and youth; I believe that it should be for us one of the ‘signs of the times’ that we should ‘read with the eyes of faith’ and should ask ourselves what is it that God is telling us through this human situation and how can we respond to it from the lived experience of our charism ...

[Secondly, the] “Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ... [recently noted that the bitter failure of its 1996 plan concerning world hunger] has put 854 million people at risk of malnutrition. [Its] director acknowledged that far from reducing the number of people who go hungry in the world, the number is increasing at a rate of four million a year. This is an unacceptable and intolerable situation ... It is a human tragedy that targets, above all, infants and children....”

“If children are the very heart of our Lasallian mission, what are the ‘signs of the times’ telling us? What can we do? What should we be doing when we claim that the defense of

the rights of the child is a distinctive concern of our Lasallian Family, as was asked of us in the [43rd] General Chapter and that we recalled in this [1st International] Assembly?

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection

[about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

7. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: That the church and all her members strive tirelessly for the promotion of justice and the liberation of the oppressed, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For all those who work for the rights and the dignity of immigrants and displaced peoples and for those they serve, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That the international network of Lasallian schools and agencies is successful in its work on behalf of the rights, the protection, and the education of children and young people, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

8. Closing Prayer Adapted from “New Wine in New Wineskins” by Brother Alvaro Rodriguez, FSC (Rome 2006)

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Holy Spirit, we believe
that you are helping us
to discover and see with our own eyes
the many needs of the poor, the young, and their families
and the new forms of poverty of today’s young people,
many of whom are seeking meaning for their lives.

Send us, we pray, toward them
with the fervor of hope and the force of love
in order to fight for justice,
to become a part of their worlds,
to understand them from the inside
as friends who accompany them
and not as judges, who from the outside, condemn them.

Spirit of God, we offer you our strengths and our weaknesses;
and we ask you to help us transform history with them. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Nelson Mandela

Call to Worship

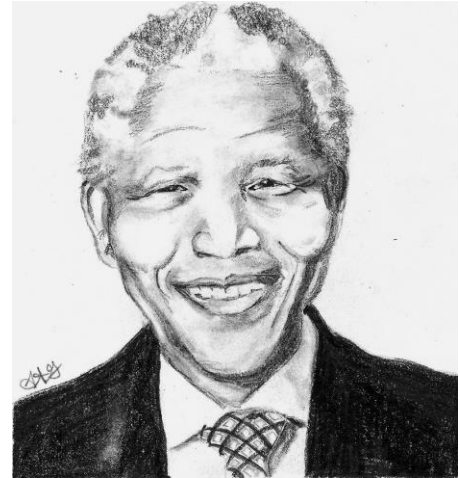
Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: South African statesman and 1993
Noble Peace Prize recipient, Nelson
Mandela (1918-), who served 27
years in prison for his anti-apartheid
activities, supported reconciliation
and led his country in its transition
toward multi-racial democracy. He
wrote:

“Education is the great engine of
personal development. It is through
education that the daughter of a
peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the
head of the mine, or that a child of farm workers can become the president
of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are
given, that separates one person from another.”



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, how do I help both students and colleagues to make the most out of what they have been given?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Anglican Evening Prayer [adapted]

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Gracious God, you have given us much today;
grant us also a grateful spirit.
We thank you for the blessings of our vocation as educators
and for the support of our companions on this Lasallian journey.

We commend, into your hands,

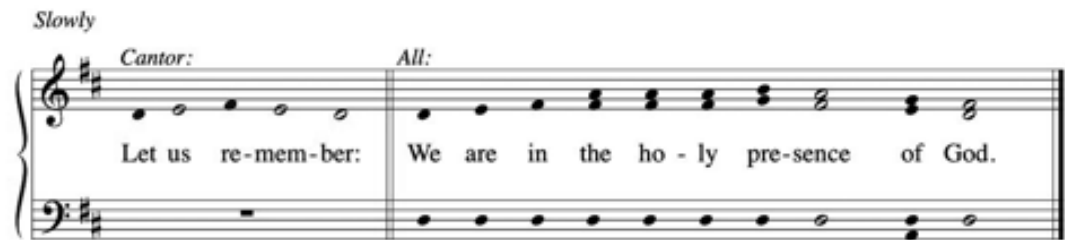
all of those whom we both love and serve,
asking you to stay with us when we take our rest,
and to renew us for the service of all entrusted to our care. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Nelson Mandela,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Angels

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

1. Reading “Homily on Guardian Angels” by Father Greg
(St. Andrew’s Parish blogspot)

Now, I have a story that is a true story and most likely has to do with a guardian angel, although we don’t know for sure. It happened about twenty years ago in the Midwest. Two young men were driving home from college, and they had a long drive. They drove through one place where it was really, really cold; and as they were driving along, they realized that no one else was on the road. The people on the radio were saying it was too cold to go out; so everyone had stayed inside. These two young men were thinking to themselves, “I hope we’ll be okay.” As they began to get scared, their car just conked out because it was so cold. They realized that they could freeze to death. One of the men said a short prayer to God for help.

A few moments later, all of a sudden a car was behind them. Actually, it was a truck. Actually, it was a tow truck! It had been pitch black, and they didn’t see any lights approaching their car. They hadn’t heard the truck pull up. Before they could make sense of any of it, there was a tap on their window from the tow truck driver; and he said, “do you guys need a lift?” Before they could talk with him, their car was already loaded onto the tow truck and was being towed down the road. The driver didn’t ask for directions on where they lived.

The next thing they knew they were home. When they arrived, they got out of the car and went into the house to get money for the tow truck driver; but when they came back out, the driver and tow truck are gone. They didn’t hear the truck start up or drive away. They ran into the snow-covered street to look for tire tracks. They saw only one set – the tracks of their car. The driver never said goodbye, never received payment, and didn’t leave any trace that he had been there.

The mother of one of the young men has said that they don’t know for certain that it was a guardian angel, but they believe it.

2. Brief Reflective Pause[about 20 seconds]
3. Recording *Angels among Us* by Alabama

*I was walking home from school on a cold winter day.
Took a shortcut through the woods, and I lost my way.
It was getting late, and I was scared and alone.
But then a kind old man took my hand and led me home.
Mama couldn't see him, but he was standing there.
And I knew in my heart he was the answer to my prayers.*

*Oh, I believe there are angels among us
sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours
to show us how to live, to teach us how to give,
to guide us with the light of love.*

*When life held troubled times and had me down on my knees,
there's always been someone there to come along and comfort me.
A kind word from a stranger to lend a helping hand.
A phone call from a friend just to say, "I understand."*

*And ain't it kind of funny that at the dark end of the road
that someone lights the way with just a single ray of hope.*

*Oh, I believe there are angels among us
sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours
to show us how to live, to teach us how to give,
to guide us with the light of love.*

*They wear so many faces, show up in the strangest places
to grace us with their mercy in our time of need.*

*Oh, I believe there are angels among us
sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours
to show us how to live, to teach us how to give,
to guide us with the light of love.*

To guide us with the light of love.

4. Reading from a Homily for the Feast of St. Michael
 (St. Bartholomew's, Woodinville, WA, 2007)

For the past 150 or so years, modern man has almost convinced himself that there is no God, that we are alone in the universe. I say "almost" because ... curiosity about the spiritual world, in particular about angelic beings, remains as strong as ever in popular culture. There it is often manifested in the sort of Hallmark Angel, the cuddly little cupid with bow and arrow. Then there is science fiction, and its fascination with extraterrestrial life...

The Church assures us that we are, in fact, not alone as intelligent beings in the universe. There is a Holy Trinity ... There is a created order of intelligent beings ... whom we call angels ... beings who are sent from God on divine missions, either as messengers or to be of assistance. They come to the defense of nations. When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, an angel stood between them and the Egyptian armies protecting them from Pharaoh. Each of us may have guardian angels ... In Psalm 91, David writes: "He shall give his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. They shall bear you in their hands lest you hurt your foot against a stone." Angels are message bearers from God ... as when Gabriel came to Mary to announce that Christ would be born; and they also present the prayers of the saints to God ... Michael is the defender of God's people ...

We can take comfort from [the inspiring idea] that the Holy Angels of God are ... present, sent from God to protect and defend God's people in times of need.



5. Pause for Quiet Reflection

[about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

6. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: In thanksgiving for the kindness of strangers and for those persons who have, from time to time, helped us find our way back home, we pray...
All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving for all of those who have educated, guided, and enlightened us on our journey and who have helped us to become the women and men we are today, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That the angels of God might accompany and inspire our civic, Church, and Lasallian leaders, we pray...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?
[Response: Hear our prayer.]

7. Closing Prayer

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Good and loving God,
 we give thanks for the Lasallian mission you have entrusted to us
 and for the support of all those
 who inspire and sustain us on our journey.

Side One: We rejoice that you have entrusted us with a share
 in the education, the formation,
 the protection, and the defense of the children of God.

Side Two: Create new miracles through us.
 Transform our humble work,
 and help us be the help that others need.

Side One: Empower us to bring out the best in others
 and to be selfless in our educational service.

Side Two: Inspire us to work well with our fellow Lasallians,
 to be positive in attitude,
 encouraging in words,
 and loving in actions. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
 All: pray for us.
 Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
 All: forever.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: While First Lady of the USA, Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) assumed a role as advocate for civil rights and, in the final years of her life, worked tirelessly to enhance the status of working women. She chaired the UN committee that drafted the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." She wrote in *It Seems to Me*:

"A mature person is one who does not think only in absolutes, who is able to be objective even when deeply stirred emotionally, who has learned that there is both good and bad in all people and all things, and who walks humbly and deals charitably with the circumstances of life, knowing that in this world no one is all-knowing and, therefore, all of us need both love and charity."



- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, what has helped me walk humbly and deal charitably with the circumstances of life?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), *Living with Christ*, June 2009, page 19

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and one heart as we pray:

All: O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,
give us the sense of your presence, your love, and your strength.

Help us to have perfect trust

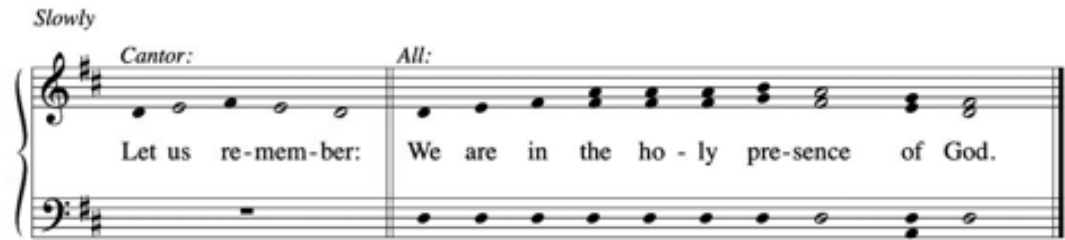
in your protecting love and strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten or worry us;
for, living close to you, we shall see your hand,
your purpose, and your will in all things. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Eleanor Roosevelt,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Gratitude

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflecting on Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading from “A Spirituality of Teaching” by Rosemarie Carfagna, OSU

In his essay “Education,” Martin Buber depicts the experience of a new teacher entering the classroom for the first time. The teacher is full of high ideals and hopes for the still unmet students with whom he will share his life and work for a period of time. During years of preparation, he has pictured these students in a rosy light: bright, responsive, ready for stimulating dialogue or even debate. When he steps into the actual classroom and meets the real students, he sees something very different...

He was met by confusion. The room full of young boys was in chaos. There was noisy misbehavior everywhere. The teacher was faced with a split-second decision: would he stride to his desk, slam his books down and forcefully demand order? Or would he gently invite the students to put aside their play and join him in the discovery of knowledge? Fortunately, in the split-second he was given, the eyes of the young teacher fell upon a face that struck him. On that face he read unspoken questions, “Who are you? Do you know something that concerns me? Do you bring me something? What do you bring?” The teacher simply addressed that face. He asked the student what the class had been studying in geography. The student replied that they had been studying the Dead Sea. The teacher asked the student, “So what about the Dead Sea?” It so happened that the student had visited the Dead Sea recently with his family. This statement caught the attention of the rest of the class. As the student related the events of his visit to the Dead Sea, a calm came over the group...

“Everything looked to me,” the student said, “as if it had been created a day before the rest of creation.” Quite unmistakably he had only just this moment made up his mind to talk about it ... His face changed. It was no longer as chaotic as before. And the class had fallen silent. They all listened. The class, too, was no longer a chaos. Something had happened. The teacher had started from above ... He had resisted the temptation to take the forceful approach of dominating the entire class and demanding order.

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response “A Prayer of Gratitude” from *40 Lasallian Prayer Services*

Side One: God of light and goodness,
we give thanks for your saving power,
working through the lives of men and women around the world, working
throughout history.

Side Two: We give thanks that your activity, whether hidden or apparent,
continues in the stories of every human being.
We give thanks that you love each of us so much
that you want to be intimately involved in our lives,
drawing us ever closer to you.

Side One: In the midst of our “busy-ness,” it is hard to notice you.
We think it is up to us and us alone to fulfill the tasks before us; and when
things do not go as we wish them to go,
we get discouraged and feel alienated from you.
Yet, when we stop to look back at the events of our lives,
it all comes clear.

Side Two: You were with us every step of the way,
sometimes guiding us with your wisdom,
sometimes standing beside us as our companion,
sometimes lifting us up when we fell.
Your love and care are mediated through the people we meet.
Your will is manifested in daily events –
especially in the needs of those around us.

Side One: Our lives are filled with unanticipated twists and turns,
unexpected gifts and challenges
that, at first glance, appear to be random or haphazard;
yet when we look back, we recognize them for what they are:
all instruments of your abiding and creative love.

Side Two: For your saving and loving action in our lives,
we thank you, Lord!

5. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]

6. Reading from *The Guest House* by Rumi

This being human is a guest house,
every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of all furniture,

still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

This dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

7. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

Recommitting to Lasallian Mission

8. Intercessory Prayer

Reader: In thanksgiving for your many blessings in our lives, especially the
friendship and example of so many people, we pray...

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: In thanksgiving for the gifts that you have loved into us – gifts that we
pray to use generously in service to others, especially those in need, we
pray...

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: In thanksgiving for having been drawn closer to you through the life and
example of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the Brothers of the Christian
Schools, and other significant Lasallian Partners in our lives, we pray...

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

[Response: Hear our prayer.]

9. Closing Prayer from *My Grandfather's Blessing*
by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

Leader: And in conclusion, let us join together in saying this prayer:

All: Days pass and the years vanish,
and we walk sightless among miracles.
Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing.
Let there be moments when your Presence,
like lightning,
illuminates the darkness in which we walk.

Help us to see,

wherever we gaze,
 that the bush burns, unconsumed.
And we – clay touched by God –
 will reach out for holiness
 and exclaim in wonder,
“How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it.”

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Pedro Arrupe, SJ

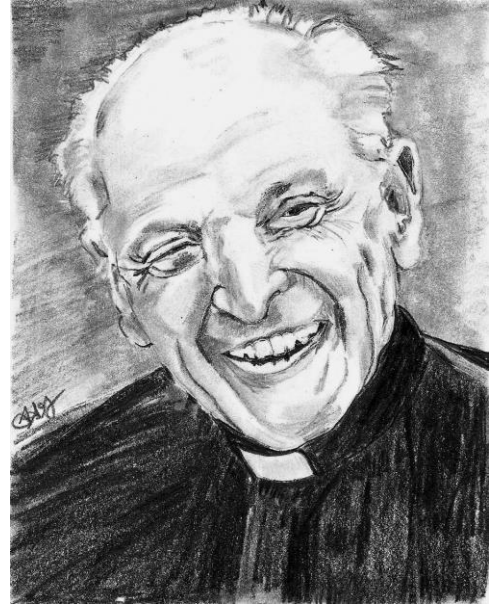
Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991) was
the director of novices in a
suburb of Hiroshima in 1945.
Later as Jesuit Superior General,
he worked tirelessly for authentic
spiritual renewal and challenged
others to live lives rooted in truth
and guided by love. In *Finding
God*, he wrote:



“Nothing is more practical than
finding God, that is, than falling
in love [with God] in a quite
absolute, final way. What you are
in love with, what seizes your
imagination, will affect
everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what
you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you
with joy and gratitude. Fall in love [with God], stay in love [with God],
and it will decide everything.”

- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, what seizes my
imagination and amazes me with joy and gratitude?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Pedro Arrupe, SJ, in *Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits*,
edited by Michael Hunter, SJ [adapted]

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Give me that attitude of yours, O Christ,
that I may feel with your feelings,
with the sentiments of your heart,
which basically are love for your Father
and love for all men and women.

Teach me how to be compassionate to the suffering,
to the poor, the blind, the lame, and the lepers.

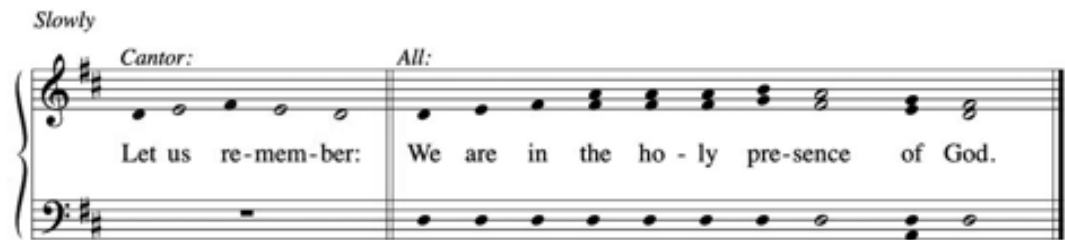
Teach us your way
so that it becomes our way today
and so that we may become closer to the great ideal...
of being companions of Jesus
and collaborators in the work of redemption. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Father Pedro Arrupe,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Love

Recalling the Presence of God

1. Song “Lasallian Invocation” [arranged by Bro. George Van Grieken, FSC]



Reflection of Our Lasallian Identity

2. Reading *Adapted from Chicken Soup for the Soul*

“A college professor sent his sociology class to the Baltimore slums to gather case histories of 200 young boys. They were asked to write an evaluation of each boy’s future; and in every case the students wrote, ‘He hasn’t got a chance.’ Twenty-five years later another professor came across the earlier study and asked his students to do a follow-up study to see what had happened to these boys. With the exception of 20 who had moved away or died, 176 or the remaining 180 had achieved more than ordinary success, competing college and many completing graduate school, becoming successful professionals. Such astounding findings led the professor to interview those men. He asked each, ‘How do you account for your success?’ In each case the reply came with feeling, ‘There was a teacher...’ The teacher was still alive; so he sought her out and asked this old but still alert lady what magic formula she had used to pull these boys out of the slums into successful achievement. Her eyes sparkled and her lips broke into a gentle smile. ‘It’s really very simple,’ she said, ‘I loved those boys.’”

3. Brief Reflective Pause [about 20 seconds]
4. Our Response from 1 Corinthians 13

Side One: If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong, a clanging symbol.

Side Two: If I have the gift of prophecy
and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries,
if I have faith enough to move mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.

Side One: If I give everything I have to feed the poor
and hand over my body to be burned,
and have not love, I am nothing.

Side Two: Love is patient; love is kind.

Side One: Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking,
it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries.
Love does not rejoice in what is wrong
but rejoices with the truth.

5. Reading Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, *Words to Love By* (Ave Maria Press, 1985)

6. Pause for Quiet Reflection [about 3 to 5 minutes]

7. Intercessory Prayer

All: Hear our prayer.

All: Hear our prayer.

All: Hear our prayer.

8. Closing Prayer Tenzin Gyasto, the 14th Dalai Lama

All: May I become at all times, both now and forever:
a protector of those without protection,

a guide for those who have lost their way,
a ship for those with oceans to cross,
a bridge for those with rivers to cross,
a sanctuary for those in danger,
a lamp for those without light,
a place of refuge for those who lack shelter,
and a servant to all in need.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

Cardinal Basil Hume, OSB

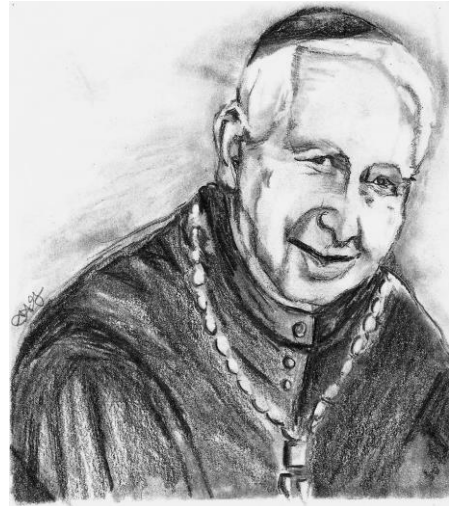
Call to Worship

Leader: Be still within and without,
in touch with a remembered moment of God's presence today. Center
yourself in God.

(Strike the Tibetan prayer bowl, and allow the sound to diminish.)

A Reflection on a Modern Icon

Reader: Cardinal Basil Hume (1923-1999)
was the widely respected
Archbishop of Westminster. Pope
John Paul II praised Hume at the
time of his death as a "shepherd of
great spiritual and moral
character." He wrote:



"Holiness involves friendship with
God. The movement toward the
realization of God's love for us is
similar to our relationship with
other people. There comes a
moment, which we can never quite locate or catch, when an acquaintance
becomes a friend. In a sense, the change from one to the other has been
taking place over a period of time. But there comes a point when we know
we can trust the other, exchange confidences, keep each other's secrets.
We are friends. There has to be a moment like that in our relationship with
God. He ceases to be just a Sunday acquaintance and becomes a weekday
friend."

- *In my experiences as a Lasallian educator, how am I doing in
my personal relationship with God?*

Pause for Quiet Reflection

[for 3 to 5 minutes]

Instrumental Music

Closing Prayer

Dom John Main, OSB, in *Word into Silence*

Leader: As our time of prayer draws to a close, let us be of one mind and
one heart as we pray:

All: Heavenly Father, open our hearts
to the silent presence of the spirit of your Son.
Lead us into that mysterious silence

where your love is revealed to all who call,
“Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,
All: pray for us.
Leader: Cardinal Basil Hume,
All: inspire us.
Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts,
All: forever.

A Method of Prayer for Teachers

Brother William Mann¹

Introduction

In the *Collection*² and also in *The Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer*,³ John Baptist de La Salle proposes a method for personal and interior prayer. The method, however, should not be mistaken for the prayer itself. Neither should one mistake personal and interior prayer for the whole of one's relationship with God. De La Salle's method was proposed as a way of entering into conversation with God, the kind of conversation which is capable of illuminating and transforming the whole of one's life. It was for this end that De La Salle developed three series of *Meditations*⁴ to help his teacher disciples enter more easily into the daily practice of this conversation.

For De La Salle, there is ultimately no distinction to be made between the quest for closer intimacy with God in prayer, on the one hand, and the duties of one's employment as a Christian educator, on the other. The two are clearly and indissolubly linked in the ministry of Christian education. "Since you are entrusted with the instruction of others, you should endeavor to become competent in the art of speaking to God, about God, and for God; but rest assured that you will never be able to speak to your students in such a way as to win them to God, until you yourself have learned to speak to God and about God."⁵

The kind of personal and interior prayer recommended by De La Salle really requires that one be immersed in the scriptures. "This process involves the kind of dynamic that happens in making friends with anyone. You have to spend time together, talk together, listen to each other, and get to know each other."⁶ And the scriptures present us with a privileged opportunity to spend this kind of time with God.

Over and over again in the *Meditations for Sundays* and *Meditations for Feasts*, De La Salle begins with explicit references to gospel texts. The *Meditations for the Time of Retreat* reflect a profound assimilation of the Mystery of God's Love at Work in the World as it can be discovered in the writings of St. Paul. "It is God that we strive to know by spiritual reading and by interior prayer so that we might be better able to make Him known and to make Him loved by all those to whom we have made Him known."⁷

As De La Salle became aware, by God's grace, of the human and spiritual needs of the artisans and the poor, he devoted himself to forming educators totally dedicated to teaching and to Christian education. God's Spirit breathes life into the world. The Holy Spirit, in every

¹ An adaptation by the District of Great Britain [delasalle.org.uk/lace/previous/ARTICLES/prayer.htm] of the introduction of *Ambassadors of Jesus Christ: Prayer Meditations for Christian Educators* by Brother William Mann, Brother Henry Dissanayke, and Brother Isaias Tzegay (Rome, 1995; reprinted in Manila, 1996), pp. 1-9.

² De La Salle, *Collection of Various Short Treatises* (Lasallian Publications, 1993).

³ De La Salle, *The Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer* (Lasallian Publications, 1995).

⁴ De La Salle, *Meditations for Sundays, Feasts, and Retreat* (Lasallian Publications, 1994).

⁵ De La Salle, *Meditations*, #64.2.

⁶ Palker J. Palmer, *To Know as We Are Known: Education as a Spiritual Journey* (Harper Collins Publishers, 1983, 1993), p. 101.

⁷ De La Salle, *Meditations*, #41.3.

generation, continues to confide to teachers a special role in the Christian and human formation of the young and, through them, continues to enable students to welcome Jesus into the deepest aspirations of the human heart as Good News.

Personal and interior prayer is not the privatized activity of an isolated Christian. Prayer is “a time when we can still ourselves enough to begin to feel our natural connectedness to each other and the world.”⁸ The acquisition of the habit of personal and interior prayer will be out of the question for anyone who does not try to cultivate compassion for others.⁹ In prayer, the Spirit unites the one who prays with the whole of the Church gathered around Jesus in need and prayer. It is, therefore, really prayer with the Church; furthermore, it is, for De La Salle, prayer normally made in a Church.¹⁰

The method proposed requires about thirty minutes a day. It also requires that you put aside your busy-ness and external clutter for a little while, and that you try to free yourself from some of your inward noise and internal static. It requires some solitude, some silence. For, after all, personal and interior prayer is “a way of entering into silence so deeply that we can hear the whole world’s speech, a way of entering into solitude so deeply that we can feel the whole world’s connections. In prayer we touch that transcendent Spirit from whom all things arise and to whom all things return, who makes all things kindred as they go.”¹¹

First Movement: In the Presence of the Living God

You are invited to begin by entering into a more conscious awareness of the presence of God. We walk in God’s world.

- The Trinity is immanently present. Our God is neither distant nor indifferent. Rather, God, present in the world, desires that all of us come to “the knowledge of God Himself and of all that He has willed to reveal to us through Jesus Christ, through His apostles, and through His Church.”¹² However, there are many other realities in each of our lives that compete for our attention and distract us from awareness of this presence.
- Where is God most present to you? Is it in the quiet of your heart? Is it in your relationships? Is it in ministry? Perhaps God is particularly present to you in the beauty of nature or under the rags of the poor who wander in the streets. For some, it is the presence of God in the Eucharist which attracts. Take the time to recall God’s presence, and then spend some minutes in its conscious awareness. Spend as much quiet time, as possible, in this way.
- Who am I to be in God’s presence? Who is this in whose presence I find myself? “Implore Him: Lord, do not pass me by, do not leave until I am aware that you have come. Lord, keep knocking at my door; knock again and again until I open to you. This is the attitude of an open person. One’s whole being is a “yes” to God in silence.”¹³

⁸ Palmer, p. 80.

⁹ Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation* (New Directions Books, 1972), p. 77.

¹⁰ From Brother Jean-Louis Schneider, *Ministre de l’Education Chretienne* (Rome, 1994).

¹¹ Palmer, p. 124.

¹² De La Salle, *Meditations*, #193.1; cf. 1 Tm 2:4.

¹³ Quoted from Ladislaus Boros, *On Christian Prayer*, in Brother Alvaro Rodriguez, *Metodo de Oracion, para concersar con Dios, segun San Juan Bautista de La Salle* (Guatemala, 1982), p. 11.

- God wills a union of our mind and heart with that of Jesus who came to do the Father's will. "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly."¹⁴ The wonderful news is that God invites "me to share, as His son [or daughter], in His own care for my brothers [and sisters]."¹⁵
- Ask God present to you to help you to be more aware of this will, to be more open to it, to be one in mind and heart with what God wants most to do in the world through you. "Doing your will, O God, is delightful!"¹⁶

And so, in the first movement of the method of personal and interior prayer proposed here, you are invited to spend some time considering the divine will. Remember that "God's will is certainly found in anything that is required of us in order that we may be united with one another in love."¹⁷ Ask God to help you to understand where God is leading you through and in the midst of the concrete experiences of your everyday ministry.

Second Movement: Living the Mystery of Christ

The second movement of our method of personal and interior prayer is the invitation to contemplate the Mystery of God's Love at Work in the World, and particularly in your own life. This will normally be the main body of your time in prayer, and the Jesus of the gospels will be at the heart of this movement. De La Salle suggests that we contemplate Jesus Christ in the gospels so that, by the example of His life and teachings, we might be gradually transformed to be more like Him.

- How are you participating in the Mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in your daily efforts to reach and touch the lives of the people with whom you minister? This is, above all, really a matter of identity and re-birth in Christ. "And the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me. Of course, I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."¹⁸
- Jesus gives "us an example of how human beings can live transcendently by a love of self-emptying sacrifice on behalf of others. He lives for others. His focus is to bring fullness especially to the poor, the sick, the outcasts of society, the oppressed and the discriminated against, the criminals and the sinners. This is the way we should love. This is how we see the glory of God shining through us. God looks like Jesus! We will be like God if we live like Jesus."¹⁹

Do not rush this stage. Spend time with the suggested passages. Read them over a few times. Pay special attention to the words or phrases that catch your attention. Listen to what is being said and to the one who is saying it. Be quiet. Go slowly. Look at your life. See how your life compares with the life of Jesus. Allow God to speak to your heart. Enter into the Mystery of God's merciful goodness. Contemplate this God of Love at Work in Your Own Life. Be attentive to all that stirs within you.

¹⁴ Jn 10:10.

¹⁵ Merton, p. 18.

¹⁶ Ps 40:8.

¹⁷ Merton, p. 76.

¹⁸ Gal 2:20.

¹⁹ George A. Maloney, *Entering into the Heart of Jesus: Meditations on the Indwelling Trinity in Saint John's Gospel* (Alba House, 1988), p. 19.

Third Movement: Empowered by the Spirit

Finally, we arrive at the third movement, or the conclusion, of the prayer period. This will normally take just a few minutes.

- Quickly remember what has happened during the prayer period. What feelings animated you? What were your principal reflections?
- As you come to the end of your prayer time, you are asked to make a resolution to be more open to the work of the Spirit who is in you and trying to work through you for others. Embrace the graced texture of your own life story. Reflect on where God's Spirit seems to be breaking into your life and drawing you to sacrifice yourself that others might have a fuller life. What is it that is helping you to live each day with authenticity and holiness? "Follow the Spirit's lead."²⁰ Accept the new life that God is trying to give you today.
- Take the time to express the love and admiration you have for God. Thank the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit for the graces received during the prayer period, as well as for the sentiments and feelings that have been experienced. Offer yourself again to God with Christ, with all the activities and efforts that the day will bring.²¹

Conclusion

It is hoped that this method will assist you to converse with God about your ministry as a Lasallian educator. Look around our world with the eyes of faith. Listen in hope to the cries of all of those who wait. Respond in love and zeal, humbled by this opportunity which is ours to share in the renewal and re-creation of the face of the earth "as the ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ."²²

²⁰ Gal 5:25.

²¹ Brother Alvaro Rodriguez.

²² De La Salle, *Meditations*, #195.2; cf. 2 Co 5:20.