

A Holy Work

New Faculty Orientation

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God.

Our Voice

All: Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

L: Then I said, "Lord, God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

R: But the Lord said to me, "Do not think that! Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, this day I have set you over nations and over kingdoms, to pick up and to tear down, to build and to plant.

All: Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

De La Salle's Voice

You are in a holy work where God has placed you. You must be convinced that these words are addressed to you. You carry out a work that requires you to touch hearts, but this you cannot do except by the Spirit of God. Pray to God to give you today the same grace he gave the holy apostles. Ask God that after filling you with God's Holy Spirit, God also communicate himself to you in order to procure the salvation of others. Since you have to prepare the hearts of others for the coming of Jesus Christ, you must first of all dispose your own hearts to be entirely filled with zeal. . . You must be open to the direction God is giving.

St. John Baptist de La Salle,
Meditations for Sundays and Feast Days

The Lasallian Experience

The characteristic spirit of the (Lasallian educator) is the spirit of faith, that attitude which expresses itself in love and zeal for the salvation of the whole world. Faith teaches you to realize that God is collaborating with you in your work; in life's joys or sorrows God is always present, since God has called us to help realize God's loving plan to save humanity. Faith makes it possible for you, little by little, to see in everything that happens, in every person you meet, especially the poor, unwanted, and persecuted, a sign and an invitation of the Holy Spirit.

The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Today's Voice

I just want him to stay with me 'till I can be sure he won't turn into Norman Nothing. I want to be sure he'll know when he's chickening out on himself. I want him to get to know exactly the special thing he is or else he won't notice when it starts to go. I want him to stay awake and know who the phonies are. I want him to know how to holler and put up an argument. I want a little guts to show before I can let him go. I want to be sure he sees all the wild possibilities. I want him to know it's worth all the trouble just to give the world a little nudge when you get the chance. And I want him to know the subtle, sneaky, important reason why he was born a human being and not a chair.

Herb Gardner,
A Thousand Clowns

Some persons choose to spend their lives sharing in a human project more enduring than themselves. The project shapes their attitudes and feelings with a new purpose. With the project comes a new taste of reality and the discovery that there are others who share the same outlook. There is a feeling of strength and solidarity in this experience that the reality of faith cannot provide. To move on the level of feelings from the reality of experience to that of faith can be terrifying and bewildering. But it is at this very moment that persons are called upon to affirm their trust and joy in being part of something greater than themselves.

Diane Plummer

Blessings come in forms as simple as the greeting commonly used in India. On meeting even a total stranger, one bows and says "Namaste": I see the divine spark in you. Here, we are too often fooled by someone's appearance, their age or illness or anger or meanness, or just too busy to recognize that there is in everyone a place of goodness and integrity, no matter how deeply buried. We are too hurried or distracted to stop and bear witness to it. When we recognize the spark of God in others, we blow on it with our attention and strengthen it, no matter how deeply it has been buried or for how long. When we bless someone, we touch the unborn goodness in them and wish it well.

Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.,
My Grandfather's Blessings

For Silent Reflection

Ponder the words of author Parker Palmer: "Whoever our students may be, whatever subject we teach, ultimately we teach who we are."

Shared Prayer

All: "And the Lord said, "Whom shall I send?" Then I said,
"Here I am. Send me."

For whom and for what else shall we pray?

Prayer of the Teacher Before School

All: You, O Lord, are my strength, my patience, my light, and my counsel. It is you who opens to me the hearts of the youth entrusted to my care; do not leave me to myself for a moment. For my own guidance and that of my students, grant me the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude, knowledge and piety, a spirit of a holy reverence for you and an ardent zeal for your glory. I unite my labors to those of Jesus Christ, and I ask the most Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the angels, and St. John Baptist de La Salle, to protect me in the performance of my duties.
Amen.

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