

Prayer Resources for Lasallian Educator Retreats and In-Services

Bob Carrejo
De La Salle Institute
District of San Francisco New Orleans

Prayer Services

“Faith in the Presence of God”

“Concern for the Poor and Social Justice”

“Quality Education”

“Inclusive Community”

“Respect for All Persons”

“Lasallian Leadership”

“Called and Sent”

Rites

“Faculty-Staff Rite of Commitment”

“Faculty & Student Rites of Dedication”

*"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going.
What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by
the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."*

Thomas Merton

"Faith in the Presence of God"

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | Psalm 139: 1-14

L: Lord, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.

R: You sift through my travels and my rest; with all my ways you are familiar.
Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it all.

L: Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, far too lofty for me to reach.

R: Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.

L: If I take the wings of dawn and dwell beyond the sea,
Even there your hand guides me, your right hand holds me fast.

R: If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light"
Darkness is not dark for you, and night shines as the day. Darkness and light are but one.

All: You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.

Reading | From the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (2008)

The spirit of this Institute is first, a spirit of faith, which should induce those who compose it not to look upon anything but with the eyes of faith, not to do anything but in view of God, and to attribute all to God, always entering into these sentiments of Job: "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; as it has pleased the Lord, so it is done", and into other similar sentiments so often expressed in Holy Scripture and uttered by the Patriarchs of old.

(pause)

Reading | From *Meet Me in the Meadow*, Roy Lessin

As you wait upon the Lord, you learn to see things from His perspective, move at His pace, and function under His directives. Waiting times are growing times and learning times. As you quiet your heart, you enter His peace: as you sense your weakness, you receive His strength: as you lay down your will, you hear His calling. When you mount up, you are being lifted by the wind of His Spirit . . . When you move ahead, you are sensitive to His timing. When you act, you give as yourself only to the things He has asked you to do.

(pause)

Choral Prayer | From the writings of Origen

L: If you believe that Christ has risen from the dead,
you must believe also that you yourselves have likewise then risen with him;

R: And if you believe yourselves dead with Christ,
you must believe that you also will live with him;

All: And if you believe that Christ is dead to sin and lives to God,
then you too must be dead to sin and alive to God.

(pause)

Reading | From *Meditation 139*, Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Do you have a faith that is such that it is able to touch the hearts of your students and inspire them with the Christian spirit? This is the greatest miracle you could perform and the one that God asks of you, for this is the purpose of your work.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer | From the *Sarum Primer*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing. Amen.

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

“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.”

Pope Francis

“Concern for the Poor and Social Justice”

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | 1 John 3:16-18

L: The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

R: If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him
compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?

All: Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Reading | From Circular 461: Associated for the Lasallian Mission ...an act of HOPE

Recent graduates of our De La Salle Teacher Training College in Mount Hagen had gathered in Buka to begin their teaching careers. Accompanied by their guide and experienced Lasallian teacher, Donald, and carrying all of their teaching essentials on their backs, they began their journey. Half way up the steep jungle path, one of the young teachers began to cry and pleaded, “This is much too hard. I can’t go on!” Donald responded, “Stop your crying! You are a Lasallian teacher. Don’t you know you must climb up the mountain to reach the children?”

(pause)

Choral Prayer | 1 John 3:16-18

L: The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

R: If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him
compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?

All: Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

(pause)

Reading | From *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*, Shane Claiborne

“And that's when things get messy. When people begin moving beyond charity and toward justice and solidarity with the poor and oppressed, as Jesus did, they get in trouble. Once we are actually friends with the folks in struggle, we start to ask why people are poor, which is never as popular as giving to charity. One of my friends has a shirt marked with the words of late Catholic bishop Dom Helder Camara: “When I fed the hungry, they called me a saint. When I asked why people are hungry, they called me a communist.” Charity wins awards and applause but joining the poor gets you killed. People do not get crucified for living out of love that disrupts the social order that calls forth a new world. People are not crucified for helping poor people. People are crucified for joining them.”

(pause)

L: The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

R: If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him
compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?

All: Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

(pause)

Reading | From *The Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration*

The service of the poor requires that the Brother, in conformity with his mission, stand in opposition to all forms of poverty as frustration and to have, above all, a special concern for the full human development of persons who are poor, sensitizing them to improve the milieu in which they live. Concern for the needs of individual persons and taking on enterprises in favor of the poor can never dispense with efforts to establish a just social order.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Closing Prayer

Eternal Father, whose compassion and justice are without end,
give us compassion for all who are in poverty and need.
Your wish is for all of your children to live with dignity,
with adequate food, shelter, health care and education.
Inspire us as we take up your work as a Lasallian community of faith
and guide us as we seek to bring justice and sow peace in our world.
Amen.

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

*What is a greater work than to direct the minds and form the character of the young?
I hold with certainty that no painter, no statuary, nor any other artist does
such excellent work as they who mold the minds of youth.*

St John Chrysostom

“Quality Education”

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | “The Teacher Beatitudes”, unknown

L: Blessed are you who are called to teach, for you walk in the footsteps of the Master.

R: Blessed are you who sow peace and harmony in your school, for yours will be the joy of the Lord.

L: Blessed are you when you share your faith with others, for your name will be written in their hearts.

R: Blessed are you who plant seeds of hope in youthful hearts, for your legacy will be the harvest.

L: Blessed are you who are sensitive to the cries of youth, for you will become their voice.

R: Blessed are you who anguish now when your students are difficult, for your effort will be their light.

L: Blessed are you when you leaven your teaching with patience and empathy, for this is to teach as Jesus did.

R: Blessed are you when you reach out for your students, for you will find God and rejoice.

All: Blessed are you who lead your students in the ways of all virtue and love, for yours is the Kingdom of God.

(pause)

Reading | From the Mediation on the Eighth Sunday After Pentecost, Saint John Baptist de La Salle

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.

(pause)

Reading | From Brother Tom Johnson, F.S.C.

All Lasallians must view themselves as teachers whether you serve in a classroom, a guidance office, in the administration, on the board, or anywhere on the staff. The genius of De La Salle is that he saw teaching as a community activity. Hence, all in the Lasallian enterprise are teachers and must see themselves as teachers, as persons of integrity, authenticity, and spirituality.

(pause)

Reading | From *The Brother Of The Christian Schools In The World Today: A Declaration*

The Lasallian school will be characterized by a concern for each student. This concern encompasses the whole person: family background, temperament, strong points, special interests, the child is more than just another student who happens to attend the school. Thus, the school will be a living community where young people coming from different social and family back-grounds educate one another by mutual understanding and respect, openness of each, growth in the spirit of service, and the practice of justice and charity.

...In the words of the Founder, the Brother was "to be with the students from morning to evening." This means that St. John Baptist de La Salle conceived of education in terms of fraternal relationship between the teacher and the student...The Lasallian teacher is totally immersed in the life of the students, sharing their interests, their worries, their hopes. The teacher is not so much a schoolmaster instilling a set of teachings as an older brother or sister who helps them to be aware of what the Spirit is speaking within themselves, of what their own abilities are and, little by little, how they may discover their true place in the world.

(pause)

Choral Prayer | "Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher", Brother Agathon, FSC

All: These are the 12 virtues of a good teacher:

Left: Gravity, that I may show a seriousness of purpose through modesty, politeness, and good order. Silence, that I may choose thoughtful words.

Right: Humility, that I may recognize the source of all that I have. Prudence, that I may discern that which is right in all I do.

Left: Wisdom, that I may be guided by excellent principles. Patience, that I may survive the trials of life.

Right: Reserve, that I may think, act, and speak with moderation, discretion, and modesty. Gentleness, that I may be inspired by goodness, sensitivity, and tenderness.

Left: Zeal, that I may lead others to God with an ardent enthusiasm. Vigilance, that I may fulfill my duties with diligence.

Right: Piety, that I may act in ways that reflect the sentiments that fill my heart. Generosity, that I may give myself freely to the interests of others.

Reading | From Brother Michel Sauvage, FSC

De La Salle's attention to realities is especially noticeable in his concern for the smooth running of the schools. It is because he is so keen on their success that he tries so much to improve the educational methods used by the Brothers and, above all, to give them an adequate professional training. His concern for the success of his schools cannot be explained by merely religious reasons. It is true that Catechism occupies a central position in Lasallian schools; nevertheless, De La Salle is more clear than many others of his time because he is able to perceive the secular value of this educational experiment: that is, to prepare the children not only for the next life, but for an earthly life which is both useful and happy.

(pause)

Reading | From Mother Teresa of Calcutta's 1979 address to the De La Salle Brothers

You are the ones that as teachers can stand before the young as the presence of Christ. May the young people entrusted to you always be able to see Christ in you and be filled with his purity and goodness and justice. You are the people who have to lead them. Be the light to them. Be the light that will lead them to God. People, especially the young people, are hungry, hungry for God. You are there to satisfy that hunger.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer | "Prayer of the Teacher Before School"

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.

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

*There is no power for change greater than
a community discovering what it cares about.*
Margaret J. Wheatley

“Inclusive Community”

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | Psalm 133, 134 paraphrase from *Good Lord, Where Are You?*, Leslie Brandt

All: O God, how precious it is for us and how pleasing it is to you when your people learn how to live and work together in unity!

L: As much as we do this, that is how much we begin to resemble you and carry out your will in a discordant, troubled world.

R: Let us together bless God's name, rejoice together in God's love for us, declare together God's worth to all people, and walk together in unity with God's will.

All: It is the same God who made heaven and earth and all of us who dwell therein. Let us worship and serve God together.

Reading | From the Meditation on the Eve of the Ascension, Saint John Baptist de La Salle

The third favor that Jesus Christ asks of his Eternal Father for his holy Apostles in the prayer we read in today's Gospel is great union among themselves. He desires that this union be so close and stable that it resembles the union among the three Divine Persons... They would all have one and the same convictions, the same will, the same affections, the same maxims and practices.⁸ This is what Saint Paul recommended to the faithful when writing to them. This is also what was so noticeable among the holy Apostles and among the early disciples of Jesus Christ. As Saint Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles, they had but one heart and one mind.

(pause)

Reading | From *To Teach As Jesus Did*, National Conference of Catholic Bishops (1972)

Community is at the heart of Christian education, not simply as a concept to be taught, but as a reality to be lived. Through education, people must be moved to build community in all areas of life; they can do this best if they have learned the meaning of community by experiencing it. Formed by this experience, they are better able to build community in their families, their places of work, their neighborhoods, their nation, their world...The experience of community leads naturally to service. Christ gives his people different gifts not only for themselves, but also for others. Each must serve the other for the good of all.

(pause)

Reading | From *A Spirituality of Teaching*, Rosemarie Carfagna

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 enters the schoolroom for the first time, he sees them crouching at their desks, indiscriminately flung together, the misshapen and the well-proportioned, empty faces and noble faces, in indiscriminate confusion, like the presence of the created universe. The glance of the educator accepts and receives them all." In that sentence Buber expresses one of his own basic beliefs about teaching: the teacher is there to facilitate the growth of all. They are not there to prefer the attractive to the homely or the bright to the sluggish. They are there, Buber says, as representatives of the true God.

(pause)

Reading | From *Brother Robb Wallace, FSC*

I have made it a habit to stand in front of school to greet students and parents as they arrive. One morning Salvador came to me, lifted my arm, and put it around his shoulders. I am used to Salvador's affectionate nature, but this was a bit much even for him. When I would remove my arm, he would put it back. Finally, I asked him what was going on. He responded, "I left my coat at home. Today, you are my coat." I couldn't keep from thanking a wise God who has given us Lasallians a chance to be a coat to Salvador.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer

Lord, we pray that you bring forth your community,
Out of brokenness and indifference, bring forth love and caring;
Out self-centeredness and isolation, bring forth friendship and compassion;
Out of misunderstanding and mistrust, bring forth unity and togetherness;
For the included and the excluded,
the remembered and the forgotten,
the loved and the despised,
May we build together your living community,
Bound together by love and joy to the world and to you.

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

*When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments —
tenderness for what he is and respect for what he may become.*

Louis Pasteur

“Respect for All Persons”

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | I Corinthians 13: 1-8

L: If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

R: And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

L: If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

R: Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated,

L: It is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

R: It does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

All: Love never fails.

Reading | From “Charting My Own Course”, Marilyn Anderson Rhames

Back in the days when I had no idea of what was actually required to be a good teacher, I walked in on a conversation in a teacher's lounge that would change my life. The chatter was animated. A few teachers were reminiscing about their classroom horror stories at other schools: “John dashed out of the classroom...Sarah threatened to jump out the window, again... Angel knocked over bookshelves in a fit of rage.” In my desire to fit in, I began to share about the dysfunction at my old school. Then, four words were spoken that shut me and the other teachers up: “It happened to them.” It was the middle school social studies teacher. Until then he had kept silent, even as each story gave rise to a higher level of ridiculousness. “It happened to them, not to you. You tell the stories like it's some kind of entertainment, but it happened to them — the kids. They are the ones who 30 years from now will remember these stories with tears in their eyes.”

This truth has haunted me for the past eight years (that) I've been teaching. I am only glad that I got set straight early in my teaching career. Some teachers never seem to get it. You know this when their debates about education reform are centered around teacher rights and not student rights. Teachers' needs are important – I have a mortgage; I have a family; I would like to retire one day – but these are not the core issue. The mission is bigger than us because "it", whatever "it" is in a school, good or bad, is happening to kids.

(pause)

Reading | From *My Grandfather's Blessings*, Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

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.

(pause)

Reading | From *A Thousand Clowns*, Herb Gardner

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.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer

God our Father,
I know that I have much to learn from other people
Who reflect your image and likeness in different ways.
Inspire me to respect others fully as my brothers and sisters,
seeing and loving them as you do and as I should. Amen.

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

*"Leadership should be born out of the understanding
of the needs of those who would be affected by it."*

Marian Anderson

"Lasallian Leadership"

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | Jeremiah 1: 4-10

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.

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

Right: 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.

Reading | From *Christian Identity and Theological Education*, Hough and Cobb

The members of Christian communities expect their leaders to be deeply affected by and formed in the memory of Jesus Christ so that they, to some degree, embody this vision for their community and act out their own commitment to it with integrity. In a word, community members expect their leaders not only to be skilled professionals but leaders with a Christian vision. The greatest need of the community is for pathfinders.

(pause)

Reading | From *Second Glance*, Jodi Picoult

Heroes didn't leap tall buildings or stop bullets with an outstretched hand; they didn't wear boots and capes. They bled, and they bruised, and their superpowers were as simple as listening, or loving. Heroes were ordinary people who knew that even if their own lives were impossibly knotted, they could untangle someone else's. And maybe that one act could lead someone to rescue you right back.

(pause)

Reading | From *The Reinvention of Work*, Matthew Fox

True leadership -- leadership that is sacramental and sacred -- is always for the people "that the people might live". It is not for ego's sake or fame or money or power for the individual; it is leadership for the empowerment of the greatest number. Such leadership is prophetic, is justice oriented, holds a vision for the future and does not legitimize the status quo. It shares power and instructs others in their capacity for leadership.

Silent Reflection

Reading | From "A Hopi Elder Speaks"

Now you must go back and tell the people that this is the hour. And these are things to be considered: How are you living? What are you doing? What are your relationships? Are you in right relationship? Where do you find your water?

Know your garden. It is time to speak the Truth. Create your community. Be good to each other. And do not look outside of yourself for who will plant this season. This could be a good time. There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and so swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold onto the shore. They will feel they are being torn apart and will suffer greatly. Tell them: the river knows its destination.

The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water. And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, least of all ourselves. For the moment we do, our spiritual journey comes to a halt. The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration. We are the ones that we have been waiting for.

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer

Lord, your call to serve the young and the poor is also a call to lead.

Today, I answer your call.

I ask to be blessed by you and to be a blessing to others.

Open my mind to your wisdom for my own good and the good of all I serve.

Open my heart to your compassion for my own good and the good of all I serve.

May I use your gifts to be your presence, to inspire and support others,

to decrease when others must increase, to stand firm in what is right,

and to lead with faith, zeal, care, and vigilance. Amen.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever.

*"How do you know?" They ask me.
"How did you know that God was calling you?"
How did I know? I cannot answer.
I only know I knew.*

Sister Dorothy Anne Cahill, CSC

"Called and Sent"

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

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer | From Sister Kathy Sherman, CSJ

Left: How can we turn away from the faces of the 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?

Right: 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?

Left: 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?

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

All: Who will make a difference in the future of the earth?
Tell me, is it you? Is it I? And when will we?

(pause)

Reading | From Pope John Paul II

Jesus has a specific task for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus. There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation, called to live, to love, to labor for the coming of God's Kingdom. And, lest we hesitate because we are bewildered at what we must do, Jesus offers himself to be our guide and says, "Come, follow me!"

(pause)

Reading | From Brother John Johnston, FSC

We can imagine John Baptist de La Salle looking directly into the eyes of the Brothers and saying to them, "Brothers, YOU are the ones God has chosen." God is confiding to your care, God is entrusting to you, the children and youth that you have in your schools. Look upon yourselves as God's ministers, ambassadors, co-workers. God wants you to represent Jesus Christ, to make Jesus' loving and saving presence a visible and effective reality in their lives. He wants you, in Jesus' name and in his place, to touch their hearts and their minds.

Today, Lasallians, without the slightest hesitation, I say that John Baptist de La Salle is addressing these words to each of you, whether you are married, single, member of another religious institute, priest, or Brother of the Christian Schools. In total accord with your primary life commitment, look upon yourselves as God's ministers, ambassadors, co-workers. Look upon yourselves as Jesus' presence in the lives of the youth God is confiding to your care. Remember always that YOU are the ones God has chosen.

(pause)

Reading | From Pope Francis' address on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Jesus comes to us in the Church through the foundational charism of an Institute: it is nice to think of our vocation in this way! Our encounter with Christ took its shape in the Church through the charism of one of its witnesses. This always amazes us and makes us give thanks.

And in the consecrated life we live the encounter between the young and the old, between observation and prophecy. Let's not see these as two opposing realities! Let us rather allow the Holy Spirit to animate both of them, and a sign of this is joy: the joy of observing, of walking within a rule of life; the joy of being led by the Spirit, never unyielding, never closed, always open to voice of God that speaks, that opens, that leads us and invites us to go towards the horizon.

Silent Reflection

Shared Prayer

The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Closing Prayer | From Saint Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Yours are the only hands with which to do his work.
Yours are the only feet with which to go about doing good.
Yours are the only eyes through which compassion can shine upon a troubled world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
And yours are the hands with which he is to bless others now.

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

“Faculty-Staff Rite of Commitment”

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

Leader: We gather today in the spirit of association to say “Yes” to God’s call to be part of the Lasallian Family and the Lasallian mission.

Reading | From *Statements of Belief and Commitment*, Huether Conference (2003)

We believe that the primary mission of our Lasallian schools is to remain open and accessible to the young people of our communities regardless of means. We commit to actively seek those students as well as the resources needed to provide access to and full participation in a Lasallian education.

We believe in an environment that is welcoming and full of hope that all children can be reached. We believe that God wishes all to be saved. We commit to expend our time, talent, and energy to fulfill our beliefs.

We believe in the charism of St. John Baptist De La Salle and in the association of Brothers and Partners for mission. We commit to train, mentor, and educate our teachers, staff, board members, and families to Lasallian mission. We commit to create communities that are dedicated to nurturing relationships, teamwork, diversity, responsiveness, and excellence.

Faculty and Staff Promises | Inspired by the vows of the De La Salle Brothers

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Most Holy and Loving God,
I choose to unite myself with the Lasallian mission and its Lasallian Family
as a member of our school’s the community of educators,
as we conduct together and by association this school as a Lasallian school:
open to all students, especially the poor and those most in need,
as a place of learning and of salvation.

I promise to observe with care and vigilance our school’s core values:
Faith in the Presence of God, Concern for the Poor and Social Justice,
Quality Education, Inclusive Community, and Respect for Others.

Sign of Peace and Community

Closing Prayer

Loving God, today we renew our dedication to be ambassadors of Your Son, to be your Good News to those entrusted to our care. As St. John Baptist de La Salle allowed himself to be led by You, we ask to be guided by Your gentle and persistent presence and grace to do your will, not for our own sakes or satisfaction, but for the success of our school, the life of the Lasallian mission, and the building of Your Kingdom. Amen.

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

“Start-of-the-Year Faculty & Student Rites of Dedication”

Faculty Rite Of Dedication

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

PRESIDER : Faculty and Staff, since you have been called by God to be ministers of the Word and builders of the Kingdom, do you dedicate yourselves to God's work, giving freely and lovingly of your gifts and witnessing to the truth of the Gospel?

RESPONSE: We do.

PRESIDER: Since you are ambassadors of Jesus Christ in your work as teachers, do you dedicate yourselves to students, exercising with care and vigilance your duty to instruct, inspire, and love them always?

RESPONSE: We do.

PRESIDER: Since it is the Holy Spirit who lives in you and unifies you in your good works, do you devote yourselves to each other in the Spirit and for each other's sake?

RESPONSE: We do.

(Followed by...)

Student Rite of Dedication

PRESIDER: Students, since you have been called by God to be God's beloved children, so that you may have life in all its fullness and wonder, do you dedicate yourselves to living lives of joy and peace, freely accepting your own giftedness and that of all your fellow students?

RESPONSE: We do.

PRESIDER: Since you are called in love to be builders of the Kingdom of God, do you dedicate yourselves to cooperation with your teachers in the task of your education, to be honest and diligent in your work?

RESPONSE: We do.

PRESIDER: Since it is the Holy Spirit who lives in you and creates in you the power to love as God loves, do you dedicate yourselves to building bonds of respect, care and vigilance among yourselves, your parents, families, friends, teachers and each other?

RESPONSE: We do.

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