



“Spring into Action”

RELAN, Young Lasallians 2017

Earth Day Prayer Service

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Call to Prayer (<http://www.appleseeds.org/earthday.htm>):

**All:** O GOD, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

GRANT US a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory.

**Leader:** Let us remember...

**All:** ...That we are in the Holy Presence of God.

Reading I (Archbishop Celestino Migliore):

**First Reader:** “[It] is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the brunt of environmental degradation. Unable to do otherwise, they live in polluted lands, near toxic waste dumps, or squat in public lands and other people’s properties without any access to basic services.”

Reader II (USCCB Statement on Global Warming):

**Second Reader:** “Each of us should carefully consider our choices and lifestyles. We live in a culture that prizes the consumption of material goods. While the poor often have too little, many of us can be easily caught up in a frenzy of wanting more and more—a bigger home, a larger car, etc. Even though energy resources literally fuel our economy and provide a good quality of life, we need to ask about ways we can conserve energy prevent pollution and live more simply.”

Psalm 104

L: Lord our God, how great you are, and I give thanks to you.

R: You stretch out the heavens and like a tent, with the sun to mark our days of work and the moon for our nights of rest.

L: With your fingers you formed the earth and wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak, The ships sail there, and beneath them glide the great sea creatures that you made to play with.

R: You pour down rain which the ground takes up. You set springs gushing forth in the valleys, and streams that flow between the mountains, bringing water to all that lives.

L: You make grass grow for the cattle and crops in abundance for our needs. You bring goodness to the trees, and in their branches the birds build their nests. Swarms of all living creatures are so many that they could never be counted. What variety you have created, Lord, arranging everything so wisely!

R: You send your Spirit, and all things have life. Fill us with your Spirit, Lord, and give us new life, and renew the earth that you love.

Intercessions (Iona Community):

**Leader:** Our response will be ...open our eyes to see.

O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.	...R
O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals.	...R
O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants.	...R
O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering.	...R
God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of your creations.	...R

Closing Prayer:

Lord, guide us in your ways as we gather in celebration of service, Lasallian ministry and Earth Day. Guide us into forward action, positive reaction, and a genuine expression of our faith.

**Leader:** St. John Baptist de La Salle...

**All:** Pray for us!

**Leader:** Live Jesus in Our Hearts...

**All:** Forever!



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Feast of Blessed Nicholas Roland Prayer Service

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Call to Prayer (Mark 10: 13-16)

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

**Leader:** Let us remember...

**All:** ...That we are in the Holy Presence of God.

Opening Prayer (One in Christ):

Look with compassion, with understanding,  
with ageless wisdom - look with the eyes of Christ.

Hear the laughter of children, the cry of the afflicted,  
the whisper of the Spirit - hear with the ears of Christ.

Speak gentle words, encouraging words,  
healing words, speak with the lips of Christ.

Touch so tenderly, dry the tears,  
embrace with joy - touch with the hands of Christ.

Love your God and Lord, His children and creatures,  
yourself as God loves you - love with the heart of Christ.

Reading I (Lasallian Liturgies):

**First Reader:** Nicholas Roland, a native of Reims, was named Canon of the Cathedral of Reims one year preceding John Baptist de La Salle. After the death of De La Salle’s parents, he took Roland as his spiritual director. Through Roland’s connection with the Sisters of Providence, Roland was led to establishing similar schools in Reims and creating the foundation of the Sisters of the Child Jesus of Reims. On his deathbed, at the age of 37, Roland named De La Salle executor of his will and essentially engaging De La Salle for the first time to the ministry of Christian education for the children of the poor.

Reading II (Tim Teicholz):

**Second Reader:** When my daughter was very young, she went through a phase, as all children do, of looking at the world around her, full of questions. One night she asked me who made the stars in the sky. I replied, "God did," as much to come up with a quick and final answer as to avoid giving a more complicated scientific one. A few weeks later, coming home late, as my wife, daughter and I stood at the front door, and as I fumbled to find my keys, my daughter said: "Listen." I listened and didn't hear anything. "What?" I asked. She pointed upward and said, "It's The God. The God is everywhere."

Reading III (Meditations for the Time of Retreat, p.80):

**Third Reader:** ...Your zeal for the children under your guidance would be very imperfect, if you expressed it only in teaching them; it will only become perfect if you practice yourself what you are teaching them. Example makes a much greater impression on the mind and heart than words. This is especially true of children, since they do not yet have sufficient capacity for reflection, and ordinarily model themselves on the example of their teachers. They are led more readily to do what they see done for them than to carry out what they hear told to them, particularly when the words they hear are not in harmony with the actions they see.

Shared Reflection:

In what ways do I model to others? In what ways do I internalize the modeling of others to me?

Closing Prayer (<http://www.lasalle2.org/english/institutions/calendars/apr27.php>):

O God, you inspired your priest Blessed Nicholas Roland with pastoral zeal for the training of the clergy and the education of poor young people. Through his example and intercession give us the same spirit of charity so that we may serve you by serving those whom you love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** St. John Baptist de La Salle...

**All:** Pray for us!

**Leader:** Live Jesus in Our Hearts...

**All:** Forever!



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Birthday of St. John Baptist de La Salle Prayer Service

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Call to Prayer (St. John Chrysostom):

“What is nobler than to mold the character of the young? I consider that he who knows how to form the youthful mind is truly greater than all painters, sculptors and all others of that sort.”

**Leader:** Let us remember...

**All:** ...That we are in the Holy Presence of God.

Reading I (<http://www.lasalle2.org/english/heritage/history/hehijbdls.php>):

**First Reader:** John Baptist de La Salle was a pioneer in founding training colleges for teachers, reform schools for delinquents, technical schools, and secondary schools for modern languages, arts, and sciences. His work quickly spread through France and, after his death, continued to spread across the globe. In 1900 John Baptist de La Salle was declared a Saint. In 1950, because of his life and inspirational writings, he was made Patron Saint of all those who work in the field of education. John Baptist de La Salle inspired others how to teach and care for young people, how to meet failure and frailty with compassion, how to affirm, strengthen and heal.

Reading II (<http://www.lasalle2.org/english/heritage/history/hehijbdls.php>):

**Second Reader:** At that time a few people lived in luxury, but most of the people were extremely poor: peasants in the country, and slum dwellers in the towns. Only, a few could send their children to school; most children had little hope for the future. Moved by the plight of the poor who seemed so "far from salvation" either in this world or the next, he determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of the children "often left to themselves and badly brought up." To be more effective, he abandoned his family home, moved in with the teachers, renounced his position as Canon and his wealth, and so formed the community that became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Intercessions (Lasallian Liturgies):

**Leader:** Our response will be ...Happy is the person who follows the Lord.

Happy those who follow the Lord, who greatly delight in His commands. Their posterity shall be mighty upon the earth; the upright generation shall be blessed. **...R**

Wealth and riches shall be in their house; their generosity shall endure forever. They dawn through the darkness, a light for the upright; they are gracious and merciful and just. **...R**

Well for those who are gracious and lend, who conducts their affairs with justice; they shall never be moved; the just shall be in everlasting remembrance.

...R

An evil report they shall not fear; their hearts firm, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts steadfast; they shall not fear till they look down upon their foes.

...R

### Reflection

How does your own work/service/presence relate to the work of the Founder?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord, in St. John Baptist de La Salle, you gave us a founder that exhibited leadership and faith as a man that feared You, answered Your call to generosity with his wealth and riches, conducted his affairs in Your name with justice and allowed You to lead him. Today, on his birthday, let us know Your presence Lord, and provide us each with a sense of leadership, faith and call to hear Your invitations in our own lives.

**Leader:** St. John Baptist de La Salle...

**All:** Pray for us!

**Leader:** Live Jesus in Our Hearts...

**All:** Forever!



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Additional Readings/Prayers for Your Use

My Sphere of Service (Collection of Lasallian Prayers, 1980)

I am grateful, my loving God,  
for my sphere of service,  
for a place to put my feet,  
for wheels to shoulder and burdens to carry  
and loves to touch  
in the course of my daily duties.  
May I be sensitive to your leading  
and to the hurts and needs of people around me.  
I step into this day as your message and servant.  
Help me to be bold, yet full of understanding,  
steeped in convictions of others,  
willing to proclaim but just as willing to listen,  
and ready always to reach out  
to someone who is lost and lonely.  
And while I am a servant may I be a student as well,  
willing to learn and to grow  
in my understanding of life  
and your purposes in the world about me.  
For my Saviour’s sake. Amen. (L. Brandt)

from Giving, THE PROPHET (Collection of Lasallian Prayers, 1980)

You give little when you give of your possessions.  
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.  
For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them  
tomorrow?  
And tomorrow, what shall tomorrow bring to the over-prudent dog burying bones in the trackless  
sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city?  
And what is fear of need but not need itself?  
Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?  
There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition  
and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.  
And there are those who have little and give it all.  
These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.  
There are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with  
mindfulness of virtue;  
They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.  
Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the  
earth. (Kahlil Gibran)