



Spring into Action | March 15 – April 15

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

Opening Prayer:

Let us pause and remember that the Lord God Who made heaven and earth also created us in His image and likeness and crowned us with glory and honor. We are His people, the work of His hands and He is our God and He continually holds us in the palms of His hands. In the name of God our Father and Creator Who loves us without measure; In the name of Jesus our Brother and Redeemer Who showed us how to live and to love and Who loved us to the cross, and to the Holy Spirit of God Who continually inspires and loves us to life and to holiness, all honor and glory are Yours now and forever. **Amen.**

As we enter into "Spring into Action," we are reminded of the many ways we join together to celebrate service as a Regional Lasallian family. The following readings invite us to reflect on our gifts and talents and serving those most in need.

Reading:

1 Corinthians 12

The Lord has blessed each and every one of us with a variety of gifts and talents and because we are members of a community we are called to use those gifts to help build up that community. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God Who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

Reading:

Mark 10:44-46

Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

A Thought

Judith Davis

Certainly, in our culture, Jesus words about servanthood seem strange. Our culture is so saturated with the demand for pleasure and instant gratification that Jesus' words about suffering often strike us as sour grapes. Jesus speaks about the reality of a world of following him in the Way of the Cross. Jesus would tell future Christians that they do not hide from pain and suffering, but they overcome those realities through loving service. Jesus continually tells the Twelve that the first will be last, and that the goal is not to be on top, or be Number One. But they're a hardheaded lot, and like each of us, they want to be first. A friend has a wonderful button that says, "Jesus loves you, but I'm his favorite." That's what we all want—not a life of suffering and service, but to be Jesus' favorite. That's surely what James and John, those sons of thunder wanted. What I think this passage means for us today, is that we need to follow Jesus by following in service to others. We need to allow others to be as Christ to us as well. That requires us to be vulnerable, to take risks with each other, to be honest with each other, to be like family in our community of faith. What are the ways you can be a servant to others this day, this week? Can you serve others and also let others serve you?

Reading:

Luke 10: 29-37

A man said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Reading:

John 12: 24-26

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there also will My servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves Me."

Discovery

Toyohiko Kagawa

I cannot invent
New things
Like the airships
Which sail
On silver wings;
But today
A wonderful thought
Was given.
And the thought was this:
That a secret plan

Is hid in my hand;
That my hand is big,
Big,
Because of this plan.
That God,
Who dwells in my hand,
Knows this secret plan
Of the things
He will do for the world
Using my hand.

A Psalm of Giving

Let me continue to love as You love, Lord.

Not that many of my debts on earth or heaven could ever be repaid by any act of generosity of kindness

But let me love as the kingdom of God is here on earth

Without limits, knowing that my needs will be provided by Your very hand

Let me give with gladness

Let me live simply, so that all my excess can be used for those that need it.

And help me to present it with dignity

Let it show on my face the joy of providing for others

And make me a person of integrity

Let my 'yes' be yes

Let me not only be intuitive to other's needs, but prompt me to ask what is going on in their lives. And let me find times to be quiet and listen to Your heart, Lord, so I know I'm acting on it.

Lord, may You shine on this day and as the night comes, may You rest with us. **Amen**

Intercessions

Generously responding to God's call is at the heart of the life of faith. Trusting that God will provide for us as we provide for others requires even deeper faith. When we make a generous return to God in thanksgiving for all He has given us, God blesses our gifts and multiplies them.

That we may be filled with a spirit of love and generosity, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may realize our gifts and talents and be willing to share them with others, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That Your Spirit, O Lord, will continually be alive in us, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we will have a true understanding of stewardship and servanthood, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who reach out to others in service, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Closing Prayer

Courtesy of the Midwest District

Lord, thank you for letting us work with you to share your joy with the world. Help us not take for granted the gift it is to share your gospel to the nations, and to our neighbors. Help us have eyes to see the needs around us and to respond to those needs in joy and hope. Thank you so much Lord for your love and care over us. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

Saint John Baptist de La Salle ... **Pray for us.**

Live Jesus in our hearts ... **Forever!**