

LASALLIAN MINISTRY PRAYER SERVICE: CELEBRATION OF APPRECIATION

Welcome:

Tonight we gather together to call to mind all the blessings our Lord has bestowed on us and the ministry of La Salle Retreat Center. We take this time now to show our gratitude to all of you, the friends of La Salle and we ask God to bless you.

Opening:

Our prayer service focuses on what it means to be connected to a Lasallian ministry...and we ask that you take time to reflect on your call to be Lasallian. In your connection to La Salle, you have already said yes to our mission and have contributed in so many ways to the continuation of our work here and for this we thank you.

There are generally 5 characteristics of a Lasallian ministry. Our prayers tonight will ask God to shower us with his blessings in all of these areas represented by the five corners of the star. The star has served as a symbol of faith in the tradition of the Christian Brothers. It was our founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle, who chose this symbol for his institute's crest as well as the words, "Signum Fidei"...The Sign of Faith. Tonight we will be a Sign of Faith together.

Call to Prayer: Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God.

All:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord, Giver of New Life, we are called to be signs of faith...

be with us as we dedicate ourselves

to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Open our hearts to understand and appreciate our ministry and service in the spirit of St. John Baptist De La Salle. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Leader: Let us now pray and reflect on the five characteristics of Lasallian ministries. For each characteristic, we listen to words of De La Salle and a reading from Sacred Scripture. These readings will be followed by a reflection question. Later you will be invited to write a prayer or intention on your star and place your star on our star here. Candles will be placed on each point of the star during the service symbolizing God's presence among us.

Five Characteristics of a Lasallian Ministry:

"Ask for the grace to bring about the conversion of the hearts of those in your care." (*De La Salle's Meditation #196*)

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Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

••How may I help instill Gospel values to those who come to La Salle?

We are animated by and foster a spirit of faith and zeal.

•"You will contribute in your ministry only in so far as you have the fullness of faith and are guided by the spirit of faith." (*De La Salle's Meditation #139*)

••"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he persevered against such opposition from sinners and then you will not lose heart and come to grief." (*Hebrews 12:1-3*)

••How do I see myself living as a person of faith and zeal for the Gospel?

We develop and maintain diverse programs meeting recognized standards of excellence.

•"The Institute establishes, renews, and diversifies its works according to what the kingdom of God requires." (*Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Article 11*)

••"By the grace of God which was given to me, I laid the foundations like a wise builder, and someone else is building on them...For nobody can lay down any other foundation than the one which is there already, namely Jesus Christ. On this foundation, different people may build in gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay or straw but each person's handiwork will be shown for what it is. The Day which dawns in fire will make it clear and the fire itself will test the quality of each person's work..." (*1 Corinthians 3: 10-13*)

••In what ways could I help to renew and diversify the work of the Lord here at La Salle?

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We create and sustain respectful human relationships in community.

•“As the only object of those who form a community should be to encourage each other in the service of God, they should strive earnestly to do so, and to live united in heart and mind” (*De La Salle’s Meditation #113*)

••“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (*Acts 2:42-47*)

••How can I encourage respect for others especially in our ministry here at La Salle?

We exercise a preferential option for the poor.

•“For how long has Jesus been presenting himself to you and knocking at the door of your heart and you have not wanted to receive him. Why? Because he only presents himself under the form of a poor person.” (*De La Salle MF 85*)

••“Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?” (*James 2:5-7*)

••How can we as Friends of La Salle reach out to include all those who come to us in need?

My “Sign of Faith” Prayer—Personal Prayer of Dedication:

Each person is now invited to compose a personal prayer or intention to the Lord on the star on your program. It can be a simple expression of your thoughts that came to you during this prayer service. After writing your prayer on the star, please remove the star and then place it on

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the large star as a symbol of our communal sign of faith.

Called to be a Sign of Faith: (De La Salle, Rule) Bro. Marvin Becker

The spirit of Lasallians is a spirit of faith, which causes us to look upon everything with the eyes of faith, to do everything in view of God and to attribute all to God.

We cooperate with Jesus Christ and work to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth.

It is by faith that we learn to see in every happening and every person a sign and a call from the Spirit.

Accomplish all your actions by the guidance of God, by the movement of His Spirit and with the intention of pleasing Him.

Do this by a spirit of prayer and an attentiveness to the presence of God as well as by nourishing and strengthening your faith through study of it and reflection on Holy Scripture.

Closing Prayer

All: God, Ever-Faithful One, we thank you for the gift of this Lasallian ministry

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Pray For Us

Live Jesus in our Hearts

Forever