

CELEBRATING GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US

Behold I am with you until the end of time. Matthew 28: 20

An important Lasallian characteristic is the PRESENCE OF GOD.
In the Lasallian Family, all prayers and activities begin with this reminder. In past times and in some places still now, a bell was/is rung in class and all were/are reminded of being in the presence of God.



Let us pause and remember that the God
Who created us,
Who redeemed us, and Who calls us to
holiness and wholeness, is forever with us.
We are God's people and we continually live
in His presence.
Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal
Word, and Holy Spirit.
As it was, is now, and forever shall be.
It is You Who nourishes us through Word
and Sacrament. All glory and praise to You.

Psalm 139

You, O Lord, know when I sit and stand;
You understand my thoughts from afar.
My travels and my rest You notice; with all my ways You are familiar.
Even before a word is on my tongue, LORD, You know it all.
Behind and before You encircle me and rest Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is beyond me, far too lofty for me to reach.
Where can I hide from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, You are there;
if I lie down in the abode of the dead, You are there too.
If I fly with the wings of dawn and alight beyond the sea,
Even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand hold me fast.
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.
You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise You, so wonderfully You made me; wonderful are Your works!
My very self You knew;
my bones were not hidden from You, When I was being made in secret,
fashioned as in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes foresaw my actions; in Your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be

John 14: 16 –18, 23

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because the Spirit remains with you, and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Whoever loves Me will keep My word, and My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our dwelling with them.

From the Writings of De La Salle

Pay as much attention as you can to the holy presence of God and take care to renew it from time to time. Think often of God.

Remain in union with God by frequently remembering His presence.

Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: The Spirit of the Institute

At each hour of the day, some short prayer should be said. This will help the students and teachers to remind themselves of the presence of God. This will cause them to think of God from time to time and to offer all their actions to God,

Conduct of Schools

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever! is a reminder of the presence of the Lord Who lives in our midst.

Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: The Life of Prayer

We may consider God present in three different ways:

Firstly, in the place where we are;

Secondly, in ourselves; it is in God that we live and move and exist.

Thirdly, in the church because it is the House of God and also because Jesus Christ is present there in the Blessed Sacrament.

Meditations

Wherever I go I will find You, my God; there is no place that is not honored by Your presence.

Method of Mental Prayer

**You will show me the path that leads to life;
Your presence fills me
with joy
and brings me pleasure forever.**

Psalm 16



Reflection:

Not only is God present at every worship service, He is present in every house, in every place of business, in every field or forest, pool hall, shopping mall, and every conceivable place, whereas you and I are limited by space, there is no place in creation where God does not exist, and exist in all His divine fullness

This is what we call God's omnipresence.

He is present at all places at all times and where God is present, He is present in His fullness. GOD IS NOT LIMITED BY TIME OR SPACE

God cannot be contained by anything in all creation even the highest heaven can't contain God!

God is infinitely present - He is present without limit.

God is present not only in the universe, He is present in places we can't even fathom or imagine

There is no place where God is not.

Our human spirits are finite spirits.

We are not now, nor will we ever be, capable of being in more than one place at the same time, only an infinite Spirit is capable of omnipresence. God is a Spirit; He is not constrained by time and place.

With God, there are no "where's" and there are no "when's. God is everywhere and at every time.

Intercessions

Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord Who is present in our midst.

Jesus tells us that wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, He will be present. (Matthew 18: 20)

That we may continually remind ourselves that we live, and move, and exist in God's holy presence. We pray:

O God, come and make Your presence known among us.

That we will have an intense desire to have Jesus living continually in our hearts. We pray:

Come Lord Jesus and make Your home with us.

That those who do not know of God's love for them and His abiding presence with them, will come to know this truth. We pray:

Lord, open our eyes and hearts to know You.

That we may see the face of Christ in each other, we pray:

Lord, help us to remember that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God.

Footprints

**One night a man had a dream. He dreamed
he was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand: one belonging
to him, and the other to the Lord.
When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of
his life there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the very
lowest and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him and he
questioned the Lord about it:
"Lord, You said that once I decided to follow
You, You'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when
I needed You most You would leave me."
The Lord replied:
"My son, My precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."**

Hymn

**God sends us His Spirit to befriend and help us.
Re-create and guide us, Spirit Friend.
Spirit Who enlivens, sanctifies, and enlightens,
Sets us free, is now our Spirit Friend.
Spirit of our Maker, Spirit Friend.
 Darkened roads are clearer, heavy burdens lighter,
 When we're walking with our Spirit Friend.
 Now we need not fear the powers of the darkness,
 None can overcome our Spirit Friend.
 Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit Friend.
Now we are God's people, bonded by God's presence,
Agents of God's purpose, Spirit Friend.
Lead us forward ever, slipping backward never,
To Your re-made world, our Spirit Friend.
Spirit of God's people, Spirit Friend.**

Prayer

**How happy I am, O my God,
to find You always present
wherever I may go or wherever I may be.
Awaken me to Your presence;
waken me to Your indwelling;
waken me to inward sight of You,
and speech with You,
and strength from You.
May my spirit leap up to You
all day and in all ways.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
intercede with God for us
that we might realize more fully His abiding presence
within and among us.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



**If interested, see:
A LASALLIAN PRACTICE: THE PRESENCE of GOD
by Jacques Goussin, FSC on the web.**