

Prayer for a Lasallian Faculty/Staff (on the Feast of the Epiphany)

~ Adapted from the Meditations for the Time of Retreat by J. B. De La Salle (Meditations 1,2,3,5,6)

+ *The Call to Prayer...* (“*We Three Kings*,” *A Winter SolsticeIV*, Windham Hill)

Student One: God is so good that He has created each one of us in His love. And He wants each one of us to come to know Him, and to know the beauty of all of His creation. He wants me and my friends to know the mysteries of creation and of our faith. He wants us to be enlightened. But how can we know the truth unless we have someone to teach us?

Student Two: That is why you all are here. God has kindled a light in your hearts so that you might enlighten us. You are ministers of God. God fills this school with the fragrance of His knowledge through you. You make His glory known to us.

Student Three: Do you see yourself as a minister of God? You are. You are ministers of God and administrators of His mysteries.

Faculty & Staff: *“This is the tender compassion of our God. He has come to us in His mercy, to shine a light in our darkness, to guide us into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)*

Student One: You know me and my classmates. You know our parents. You know that our parents are so busy trying to support our families and pay bills that they don’t have time to teach us everything we need to know. Even if they could find the time, many of our parents wouldn’t know what to say to us.

Student Two: That’s why God has called you here to this school. You are enlightened. You are zealous. You want to teach us. You realize that you spend more time with us than our parents do. That’s why God has called you to take care of us. Do you realize that you are like a father and a mother to us?

Student Three: God has given you the gift of teaching. He has also given you the responsibility of taking care of us. And He has given you all the gifts you need to be vigilant in your duty to us.

Student One: So, you should glory in your ministry. You should rejoice that God has given you the chance to teach us and to coach us, to listen to us and to love us. Is there anything else you would rather be doing? Is there anywhere else you would rather be than here in a Lasallian school? Do you realize the good you are doing for the three of us? ... For all of us students?

Faculty & Staff: *“My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked upon me in my lowliness, and all ages shall call me ‘blessed.’ God has done great things for me; holy is His name.” (1:46-49)*

Student Two: You are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ.

Student Three: You are writing a letter from God on our hearts - not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. The Spirit of God acts in you and through you. The power of Jesus is in you.

Student One: That is why you are here this morning: to ask God to give you the energy and the power to teach us English and Math, P.E. and Religion; to teach us good manners; to teach us the mysteries of our faith. (over)

Student Two: That is why you are here this morning: to ask God for the grace to teach us to love one another and to do good for one another.

Student Three: That is why you are here at this school: to kindle a light in us, to increase our spirit, to make a difference in our lives.

Faculty & Staff: *“My eyes have seen the saving power of God: a light of revelation for us and the glory of your chosen people.” (2:31-32)*

Student One: Pray for wisdom and patience. Pray for zeal and vigilance. Pray for piety and generosity. Pray for the grace to touch our hearts.

Student Two: Ask God for the grace you need to watch over us, to correct our faults, and to guard us from danger and sin.

Student Three: It is your duty to go up to God in prayer and ask Him what you need to teach us and how you need to take care of us. Then you must come down to our level, making whatever accommodations you have to, in order to teach us what God has communicated to you.

Student One: That is why *we* are here today: to pray for *you* – to ask God to give you gentleness, patience, love, and respect ~ so that you can show us how to be gentle and patient and loving and respectful.

Faculty & Staff: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore, He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to His children.” (4:18)*

Student Two: You are ministers of God’s grace to me.

Student Three: You are like a father and a mother to me.

Student One: You are a guardian angel to me.

Student Two: You are my teacher, my coach, my moderator, my secretary, my help, my example, my inspiration, and my salvation.

Faculty & Staff: *“I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you have said.” (1:38)*

+ Pause for quiet prayer... (*“Gabriel’s Oboe,” A Christmas to Remember , Amy Grant*)

Faculty & Staff: *“You, Lord, are my patience, my strength, my light and my counsel. You are the one who touches the hearts of the students entrusted to my care. Do not leave me to myself for a moment. For my own guidance and for that of my students, give me the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and fortitude, of knowledge and piety, a holy fear of You, and an ardent zeal for Your glory. I unite my work to the work of Jesus; and I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Guardian Angels, and St. La Salle to protect me in the performance of my duties. Amen.” (Prayer of the Christian Teacher before School)*

+ Closing...
(Service arranged by Brother Richard Kovatch)