

## **The Spirit of Faith**

### ***Call to Prayer***

**Leader:** (as candle is being lit...)

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world...  
Whoever follows me will have the light of life  
and will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three come together in your name,  
You are there with them. The light of this candle symbolizes your presence among us.

And so, let us remember....

**All: That we are in the holy presence of God.**

***Opening Prayer:* Merciful God, grant us an increase in faith so that we may have  
hope and love in abundance.**

**Reading I: (from The Work is Yours, by Bro. Luke Salm, F.S.C. )**

*Context:* De La Salle faced many hardships in establishing the Christian schools: the efforts of bishops to close his schools, the lack of financial resources, the lack of food, illness, the lack of commitment on the part of the first brothers. And yet

“throughout all of these difficulties De La Salle retained his characteristic calm, remained in the background as much as possible, and went about his business as usual. With his equally characteristic tenacity, he never surrendered any of the principles that he considered essential to the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The secret of De La Salle’s imperturbable confidence and calm in the face of opposition and defeat lay in his deep religious faith, the ‘spirit of faith,’ as he called it; that he left as his legacy to the Institute.”

**Reading II: (De La Salle’s Words)**

Faith should be the light and guide of every Christian, to lead and direct him in the way of salvation....

The spirit of our Institute is therefore first, a spirit of faith....

....The Brothers of the Society shall animate all their actions with sentiments of faith; and they shall always have in view the orders and the will of God, which they shall adore in all things, and by which they shall be careful to regulate their conduct.

### **Reading III: Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews**

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of realities that are unseen. It is for their faith that our ancestors are acknowledged.

It is by faith that we understand that the ages were created by a word from God, so that from the invisible the visible world came to be.

#### *Solemn Reflection/Prayers of Intercession*

**Closing Prayer** (adapted from the Novena for Vocations for Our Lasallian Family)

**All: Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – hear our prayer as we pray today for vocations for our Lasallian Family. We thank you for calling John Baptist De La Salle to found a new religious family in the Church for the human and Christian education of young people throughout the world, especially those who are poor and marginalized. We thank you for the example and work of our Founding Brothers of the Institute and of this District, for our Brother Saints, and for all of our Brothers and Colleagues who have inspired our own vocations and who have accompanied us to this moment. We ask You, through the intercession of Saint La Salle, to strengthen us in our vocations and to bless our work, especially in these changing and challenging times. May we continue to be open to Your call. Amen.**

**Leader:** We conclude our prayer this morning by listening to Jesus speak to us:

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket; instead, the lamp is put on a lamp stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before all people. (Matthew 5:14-16)

(Someone extinguishes the candle).

The light of this candle is now extinguished. But the light of Christ in each of us must continue to shine in our hearts and in our lives.

Saint Paul our Patron...**Pray for us!**

Saint John Baptist De La Salle...**Pray for us!**

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

(Arranged by Mr. Charles Legendre—St. Paul's School)