



## Morning Prayer *for the Feast of St. Valentine*

...A conversation with De La Salle...

DLS ~ Good Morning, my very dear Brothers and Sisters! It is good to be with you in prayer this morning. God has greatly blessed us, and our Institute has grown. Our Christian Schools have multiplied in numbers that I could never have imagined. I am pleased; yet, I regret the fact that I cannot visit you as often as I would like. I am not as young as I was when we established our first house in 1682. And my rheumatism still makes travel difficult. So, I appreciate your coming to visit with me on this retreat. I am particularly pleased to be with you on this Feast of St. Valentine. You know: I wrote Meditations for over a hundred Feast Days; I don't know why I never wrote one for this great saint who was so fond of touching the hearts of the early Christians who were imprisoned for their faith. As often as he smuggled letters of love and encouragement in and out of Roman jails, he would have served as a wonderful example of faith and zeal! But I ramble. Let me pause here and invite you to remember...

All ~...That we are in the holy presence of God. (pause)

1 ~ Brother De La Salle, you told us *that the more ardently we apply ourselves to prayer for the good of the souls entrusted to our care, the more God will help us find the skill to touch their hearts.* That is why we have come together in prayer this morning. (148.2)

2 ~ We are here this morning to *ask God for the grace to touch hearts.* We believe that *this is the grace of our state* as Brothers and Sisters of Christian Schools. (81.2)

3 ~ *We carry out a work that requires us to touch hearts, but we cannot do this except by the Spirit of God.* (43.1)

DLS ~ You are right, my very dear Sisters and Brothers! *Do you have a faith that is such that it is able to touch the hearts of your students and inspire them with the Christian spirit? This is the greatest miracle you can perform and the one that God asks of you, for this is the purpose of your work.* (139.3)

4 ~ We do have faith, but we lose it sometimes when our students don't pay attention, when they don't care, or when they test our limits. It is hard to believe that we can touch their hearts when we feel like we can't even teach their minds.

DLS ~ You must *be convinced that the main conversion is of the heart; without it, the conversion of the mind is quite sterile.* (175.2)

5 ~ But, Brother, you don't know what kids are like today. They question everything. They resist everything we try to do for them.

DLS ~ *You ought to be patient and moderate in correcting those who offer resistance... this is one of the best ways to win and touch the hearts of those who have fallen into fault.* (204.2)



6 ~ But, Brother, many of our students care more about their cars and their jobs than about reading or religion. Anything we say is lost the minute they get to a party and start drinking.  
DLS ~ Then you must *make your care and your most fervent prayers directed to win over to God the hearts of those who are prone to evil.* (186.3)

7 ~ And their parents are no help!

DLS ~ Now you know that I know this! Didn't I tell you in my very first Meditation for the Time of Retreat that *it is one of the main duties of fathers and mothers to teach their children religion, but most parents are not sufficiently enlightened in these matters; some of them are so taken up with their daily concerns and the care of their families; and others, who are under the constant anxiety of earning the necessities of life for themselves and their children, cannot take the time to teach their children their duties as Christians.* (193.2)

8 ~ That's why *God, in His mercy, has given us such a ministry.* (193.1)

DLS ~ Exactly! *Look upon yourselves as ministers of God and dispensers of his mysteries.* (193.1)

9 ~ But, I don't think of myself as a *minister*; I'm a teacher. I don't have time to teach kids how to live; I'm too busy trying to teach them how to do their homework!

DLS ~ One of your Brothers told you already: *You carry out a work that **requires** you to touch hearts.* My very dear Brother, *you must consider the **obligation** you have to win the hearts of your students.* Unless you do that, everything else you do is in vain. (43.1)

10 ~ That's why we are here this morning – remember? To pray for our students. To pray for ourselves and for the grace to perform these miracles.

11 ~ And to pray for our Colleagues who do this with us, *together and by association.*

12 ~ And to pray for our families and loved ones who support us in this great work.

DLS ~ So, my Sisters and Brothers, for whom and for what shall we pray?

*(Intentions)*

DLS ~ Let us gather our prayers into the words that Jesus gave us.

All ~ Our Father... *(brief pause)*

DLS ~ Deliver us, Lord, from doubt and discouragement which, rob us of *the spirit of faith and zeal.* Give us the grace we need to do Your will. Bless us and all of our Sisters and Brothers who minister to Your children in our Christian Schools, *diffusing the fragrance of Your knowledge throughout the world!* (193.1) *Live, Jesus, in our hearts...*

All ~ *Forever!*



(Arranged by Brother Richard Kovatch)



## Evening Prayer for the Feast of St. Valentine

*"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly..."*

As the Feast of St. Valentine draws to a close,  
let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

1 ~ We are in the presence of God and of one another in prayer. We feel the presence of our family members and loved ones who have been apart from us today. We acknowledge the presence of all of our Colleagues who have made it possible for us to be here today, who have subbed for us, and who have prayed for us. And we recall the presence of our students, those who were in class without us today – and all those who have touched our hearts, and whose hearts we have touched over the years. We pause, and in the silence of our hearts, we feel their presence...

*(brief pause)*

2 ~ In the prayerfulness of our hearts, we are grateful to those students who have touched our hearts and who have helped make our lives and our labors worthwhile. We are also grateful to God for giving us the grace to touch the hearts of so many young people – those who have told us “thank you” and those who will tell us “thank you” before God on the last day.

3 ~ In the prayerfulness of our hearts, we forgive those students who ignored us or rejected us or hated us. And we apologize to those students whom we have ignored, whom we have hurt, whom we have failed in some way.

4 ~ In the prayerfulness of our hearts, we picture those students who are in need of our prayers, our patience, our time, our vigilance, our warmth, and our zeal. We commit ourselves to finding a way, with the grace of God, to touch their hearts...

*(brief pause)*

5 ~ In one of his many presentations on “love,” Leo Buscaglia reminds us of an essential element in touching the hearts of our students: “Having worked with children all of my life, I realize that the only thing of value we can give these kids is what we *are*, not what we *have*. Too often we give only the external things. But we have learned in our wisdom, as we get older, that those aren’t the most important things. In dealing with children, the most essential thing we have to give them is *who and what we are*.”

6 ~ He draws his word “essential” from The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupery. In the story, a little prince goes on a long journey because he does not know how to love – or be loved by – his rose. On his journey, the little prince tames – and is tamed by – a fox, who teaches him “the secret” for which he was searching: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.” Curiously, the fox adds an essential afterthought for the prince: “It is the time you have wasted on your rose that makes your rose so important.”

*(brief pause)*

*...sitting down or lying down...listening or following along...remembering or journaling....*

A prayer of forgiveness: *(Reflect on Prayer #3 from the opening of this prayer service.)*

“Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word,” (Joe Cocker/Elton John)

What’ve I gotta do to make you love me? What’ve I gotta do to make you care?  
What do I do when lightning strikes me, and wake to find that you’re not there?  
What do I do to make you want me? What’ve I got to do to be heard?  
What do I say when it’s all over, and “sorry” seems to be the hardest word?  
It’s sad, so sad. It’s a sad, sad situation. And it’s getting more and more absurd,  
It’s sad, so sad. Why can’t we talk it over? “Sorry” seems to be the hardest word.

A prayer of resolve: *(Reflect on Prayer #4.)*

“Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?” (Rod Stewart / Van Morrison)

Have I told you lately that I love you? Have I told you there’s no one else above you?  
Fill my heart with gladness, take away all my sadness, ease my troubles – that’s what you do.  
For the morning sun and all its glory greets the day with hope and comfort too.  
You fill my life with laughter and somehow make it better, ease my troubles – that what you do.  
There’s a love that’s divine, and it’s yours and it’s mine – like the sun.  
And at the end of the day, we should give thanks and pray to the One, to the One...

A prayer of thanksgiving: *(Reflect on Prayers #1 and #2.)*

“Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” (Elton John/ Tim Rice)

There’s a calm surrender to the rush of day,  
when the heat of the rolling world can be turned away.  
An enchanted moment, and it sees me through.  
It’s enough for this restless warrior just to be with you.  
And can you feel the love tonight? It is where we are.  
It’s enough for this wide-eyed wanderer that we got this far.  
And can you feel the love tonight? How it’s laid to rest?  
It’s enough to make kings and vagabonds believe the very best.  
There’s a time for everyone, if they only learn  
that the twisting kaleidoscope moves us all in turn.  
There’s a rhyme and reason to the wild outdoors,  
when the heart of this star-crossed voyager beats in time with yours.  
And can you feel the love tonight?  
...It’s enough to make kings and vagabonds believe the very best.

*...coming back together...sharing...praying.....closing prayer:*

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

St. Valentine, **pray for us.** St. John Baptist De La Salle, **pray for us.**

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



(Arranged by Brother Richard Kovatch)