

**Lord, Who Am I ... that you would
speak to me so softly?**

**Conversation with the love most
high ... Who Am I?"**

**(Performed by: Point of Grace,
Sweet Water Music)**

Now that's gentle!

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Be Gentle



“Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart.” (Mt 5:4) These are the words of Jesus who is the ultimate revelation of the gentleness of God. (Mt 12:18ff) The Old Testament sings of the boundless and gentle goodness of God (Ps 3) made evident in His rule of the universe and we are invited to taste of it. (Ps 34:9) To be gentle means that we should strive to deal with others in a serene, kind, and patient manner. It is only those who are docile to God who can show gentleness toward others. (Si 4:8) Gentleness is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:23) and is a sign of the presence of wisdom from on high. (Jm 3:13, 17) Gentleness characterizes Christ (2 Cor 10:1), His apostles, (Gal 6:1) and followers. (1 Tm 6:11)

Gentleness has been a great part of the Lasallian life from the very beginning. It was one of the characteristics that St. John Baptist De La Salle used in describing a good teacher. In 1785, Brother Agathon, the fifth Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, in his circular letter gave a detailed explanation of gentleness. He states that gentleness is the perfection of charity and shows itself in patience, meekness, goodness, sensitivity and tenderness. Brother Agathon states: “Jesus Christ is the most accomplished model of this virtue.”

We are all aware that we live in a broken world. The lives of so many people have been shattered by terrorism, war and fear. Now more than ever we need to be gentle in our dealings with one another. All of us have had to ask the questions: Who am I? What is my place in this world? Perhaps, some of us are still asking these questions and searching for the answers. Can we imagine, or even begin to understand what our young people must be going through in defining their identity and place in a world that is less than sane. All those who are entrusted to our care need our gentleness as they discern what path to take in life. Remember, discernment is a time of growth for the one discerning and the one who accompanies. The role of the one who assists another in discernment is to help a person put one foot in front of the other during the process. Also, the person who accompanies doesn't have to feel that his responses have to always be philosophical or profound - just honest. Be a gentle presence and voice to the one discerning.

In the beautiful song “Who Am I,” written by Nathan and Christy Nockels, one hears the words:

“Who Am I ... that you would love me so gently?

Who Am I ... that you would recognize my name?