



Lasallian Reflections

No. 3a

Brothers of the Christian Schools

September 2001

Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor

[Adaptation of a prayer service by Brother Raymond Suplido of the Philippines]

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song As appropriate [for example, “City of God”]

Reading From “Association in the Present World” in *Circular 447: The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter* (1 October 2000), p. 1.

“More and more, each day, concerned individuals and groups seek to take the future into their own hands and to influence the course of events, by expressing their opinions and making decisions in areas which concern them. It has been noted that, in most parts of the world, large organizations such as non-governmental organizations (especially those which promote education and the rights of children), are linked to numerous associations.

“For its part, the Church is trying to promote a broader concept of the Kingdom of God, one in which each person becomes aware - both through [one’s] own and other traditions, history, culture, and hopes - that he or she is a son or daughter of the same Creator, a member of the same family, called to take part with others in building up a Kingdom of God in which all will see themselves as sons and daughters of God.

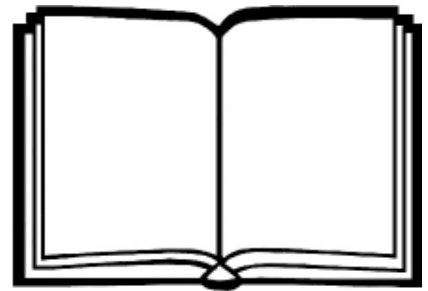
“The Church is very interested in Christians who work on behalf of their brothers and sisters, and who wish to do so in the ‘Areopagus’ (*Vita Consecrata* N° 96-99) where previously only religious congregations were present. The Church recognizes the action of the Spirit in this and gives its support.”

Pause for quiet reflection

Our response *Psalm 145*

Side One: I will extol you, O my God,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

Side Two: Great are you, Yahweh, and highly to be praised;
Your greatness is beyond understanding.
Generation after generation
praises your works and proclaims your might.



Side One: They speak of your splendor and of your glorious majesty
and proclaim your wondrous works.
They discourse of the power of your wonderful deeds
and declare your greatness.

Side Two: They publish the fame of your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your justice.
Yahweh, you are gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Side One: Yahweh, you are good to all
and have compassion on all your works.
All your works give you thanks, O God,
and your faithful ones bless you.

Side Two: They discourse on the glory of your reign
and speak of your might.
May humankind learn of your power
and the glorious splendor of your reign.

Side One: Your reign is a reign for all ages,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
Yahweh, you are faithful in all your words
and holy in all your works.

Side Two: You lift up all who are falling
and raise up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

Side One: You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Yahweh, you are just in all your ways
and holy in all your works.

Side Two: You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you sincerely.
You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.

Side One: You watch over all who love you,
but all the wicked you will destroy.
May my mouth speak your praise, Yahweh,
and may all creatures bless your holy name forever and ever.

Side Two: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;

Side One: As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.



Reading

From “Guidelines for Lasallian Association” in *Circular 447: The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter* (1 October 2000), p. 3.

“The development of the Lasallian Mission requires the Institute to allow itself to be stimulated by the dynamism apparent among Partners and Associates, and to encourage and support collaboration among themselves and with the brothers, so that all can deepen their own understanding of association, in the light of the observations made, the Lasallian charism, and the present theology of the Church...

“The Institute is the first form of association desired by St. John Baptist de La Sane. The original vow for the service of the poor, which associated the Founder with twelve Brothers in 1694, is the source of Lasallian associations of lay persons and religious who wish to be part of the Lasallian Mission. This is where new forms of association for the mission have their origin.”

Our Response *Psalm 103*

Side One: Bless Yahweh, O my soul;
and all my being, bless God’s holy name.
Bless Yahweh, O my soul,
and forget not all God’s faithfulness.

Side Two: Yahweh pardons all your iniquities
and heals all your ills.
Yahweh redeems your life from destruction
and crowns you with kindness and compassion.

Side One: Yahweh fills your lifetime with good things.
Your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.
Yahweh secures justice
and the rights of all the oppressed.

Side Two: God’s ways were made known to Moses,
and Yahweh’s deeds to the children of Israel.
Merciful and gracious is Yahweh,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

Side One: Yahweh’s wrath does not last forever;
it exists a short time only.
Not according to our sins does Yahweh deal with us,
nor are we requited as our guilt and our sins deserve.

Side Two: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is Yahweh’s kindness toward those who fear God.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has Yahweh put our transgressions from us.

Side One: As parents have compassion on their children,
so Yahweh has compassion on those who fear God,
for Yahweh knows how we were formed;
Yahweh remembers that we are dust.



Side Two: Our days are like those of grass;
like a flower of the field we bloom;
the wind sweeps over us, and we are gone,
and our place knows us no more.

Side One: But the kindness of Yahweh is from eternity
to eternity to those who fear God,
and God's justice toward their children's children
among those who keep the covenant
and remember to obey its precepts.

Side Two: Yahweh has established a throne in the heavens,
and rules over all.
Bless Yahweh, all you angels,
you mighty in strength, who do God's bidding,
obeying God's every command.

Side One: Bless Yahweh, all you nations,
ministers, who do God's will.
Bless Yahweh, all you creatures,
in every part of the world.
Bless Yahweh, O my soul!

Side Two: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;

Side One: As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.



Pause for quiet reflection

“In the light of this, the Brothers need to question themselves continually on how, in practice, they are associated among themselves, so that this association may be a source of nourishment for them, and stimulate their growth as persons, their solidarity with others, and their listening to what God says about the community mission, the educational service of the poor the reason for their association” [from “Guidelines for Lasallian Association” in *Circular 447: The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter* (1 October 2000), pp. 3-4].

Prayer of intercession

Adapted from *Circular 447: The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter* (1 October 2000), p. 7.

1. That in the light of the orientations of the 43rd General Chapter, each Region, District, Sub-District, and Delegation promote the association of Partners, Associates, and Brothers to reflect on their identities as associates and to develop forms of association for the Lasallian Mission, let us pray to the Lord.

Our Response: *Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission.*

2. That more serious thought be given in the Institute to the way in which we share the Lasallian charism with educators and young people who are of other faith traditions, let us pray to the Lord.

Our Response: *Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission.*

3. That our Institute continue to develop its collaboration at all levels with the Lasallian Guadalupana Sisters, the Lasallian Sisters of Vietnam, and the Union of Catechists of Jesus Crucified and Mary Immaculate, let us pray to the Lord.

Our Response: *Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission.*

4. For whom or for what else do we pray?

Our Response: *Lord, guide us to carry out our common mission.*

Closing Prayer Adapted from the “Prayer for the 43rd General Chapter”

All: Holy Spirit,
 whose mission it is to direct and guide our lives,
 draw down upon us the wind and fire
 of a Pentecost for our times.

Spirit of God,
help us to see the signs of the times,
and open our hearts
so that Brothers, Sisters, Clerics, and Lay Lasallians
may all respond to the calls you make to us
in the world of young people
and, especially, of the poor.
Help us to find the correct guidelines and priorities
to respond to these calls.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!