



Lasallian Reflections

No. 5a

Brothers of the Christian Schools

March 2002

Union in Community

Union in a community is a precious gem. (De La Salle)

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

Opening Song As appropriate [for example, “Where Charity and Love Prevail”]

Reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, #45

The whole Church greatly depends on the witness of communities filled “with joy and with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:52). She wishes to hold up before the world the example of communities in which solitude is overcome through concern for one another, in which communication inspires in everyone a sense of shared responsibility, and in which wounds are healed through forgiveness, and each person’s commitment to communion is strengthened. The nature of the charism in communities of this kind directs their energies, sustains their fidelity, and directs the apostolic work of all toward the one mission. If the Church is to reveal her true face to today’s world, she urgently needs such fraternal communities, which, by their very existence, contribute to the new evangelization, inasmuch as they disclose in a concrete way the fruitfulness of the “new commandment” [that we love one another even as Christ has loved us].

Our response from *1 Corinthians 13*

Side One: If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal.

Side Two: If I have the gift of prophecy
and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries,
if I have faith great enough to move mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.

Side One: If I give everything I have to feed the poor
and hand over my body to be burned,
but have not love, I am nothing.

Side Two: Love is patient; love is kind.
Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs,
it is not snobbish.



St. Joseph Hig, FSC

Side One: Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking,
it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries.
Love does not rejoice in what is wrong
but rejoices with the truth.

Side Two: There is no limit to love's forbearance,
to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.
Love never fails.

All: Glory 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.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Meditation 91.2* by John Baptist de La Salle

If you experience any ill feeling toward any of your brothers, think of what Moses said to the two Israelites of his day who were giving trouble to one another and quarreling – that they are brothers – and of what Saint Paul says – we must support one another in charity. Pay attention to this word “support”; it shows that we must suffer for one another. That is why in another place Saint Paul says that we must bear each others’ burdens. Each one has his burdens, and ordinarily it is not exactly the one who has the burden who carries the burden, for he does not feel its weight. It is the burdens of others that one has to carry; and so each one must carry willingly and charitably the burdens of the others, if we wish to keep peace with them.

Our response from *Letter 66* of John Baptist de La Salle

Side One: You are well aware...
that we must have great love for one another

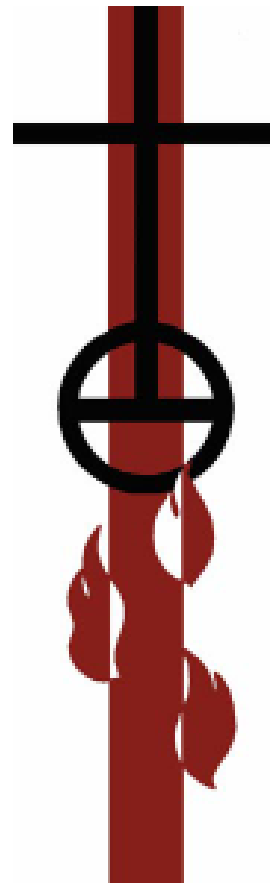
Side Two: and for that purpose
we must bear with one another
in the mistakes into which we often fall
through human weakness.

Side One: It is in this way especially
that we carry out the precepts of charity,
which we should all hold in great honor.

Side Two: We must love our brothers
in order to correct them with gentleness and affection,
for otherwise a correction will not normally bear fruit.

Side One: Our brothers have to overcome their own weaknesses
and correct their own faults.

Side Two: But we too must do the same
and correct our own faults
if we are to give others the good example



that will help them change.

All: Glory 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.

Pause for quiet reflection

- *how am I being called to be more loving, forgiving, and supportive of those with whom I live and work?*
- *what burdens do I carry? who helps me carry the burdens that I bear?*
- *am I a witness of love and forgiveness in the community?*

Intercessions

- *for whom or for what shall we pray?*

Closing prayer inspired by *Meditation 39* of John Baptist de La Salle

All: God of all hearts,
we believe that it is you yourself who have called us
to live in community
and that it is you who have obliged us
to inspire your love
in the hearts of those entrusted to our care.

We believe that you take great delight
in answering our prayers,
and we are confident
that we shall receive that for which we ask.

And so in faith and confidence,
and with a profound sense of humility,
we earnestly implore you
to grant us the graces necessary
to be one in mind and heart with our brothers
and to inspire in the hearts of others
a deep and sincere love of you.

We entreat you,
God of hearts,
to make our hearts
and those of our brothers
one in the heart of our brother Jesus.

Amen

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!

