



Lasallian Reflections

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The Patient Passage from "Me" to "Us"

A community lacking in union and charity is a kind of hell. (De La Salle)

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

Opening song As appropriate [for example, "Day God Gives Me"]

Reading from Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?*, p.58

Community is like a large mosaic. Each little piece seems so insignificant. One piece is bright red, another cold blue or dull green, another warm purple, another sharp yellow, another shining gold. Some look precious, others ordinary. Some look valuable, others worthless. Some look gaudy, others delicate. As individual stones, we can do little with them except compare them and judge their beauty and value. When, however, all these little stones are brought together in one big mosaic portraying the face of Christ, who would ever question the importance of any one of them? If one of them, even the least spectacular one, is missing, the face is incomplete. Together in the one mosaic, each little stone is indispensable and makes a unique contribution to the glory of God. That's community, a fellowship of little people who together make God visible in the world.

Our response *Psalm 27 & Matthew 9:27-31*

All: Behold, our Lord shall come with power
to enlighten the eyes of God's servants.

Side One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

Side Two: One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
to dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate God's temple.



Side One: I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

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.

All: Behold, our Lord shall come with power
to enlighten the eyes of God's servants.



Reading from *Instruction on Fraternal Life in Community*, #39

We must continue to seek a just balance, not always easy to achieve, between the common good and respect for the human person, between the demands and needs of individuals and those of the community, between personal charisma and the community's apostolate. And this should be far from both the disintegrating forces of individualism and the leveling aspects of communitarianism. Religious community is the place where the daily and patient passage from "me" to "us" takes place, from my commitment to a commitment entrusted to the community, from seeking "my things" to seeking "the things of Christ."

Pause for quiet reflection

- *do I see in those with whom I live and minister the one big mosaic portraying the face of Christ?*
- *how aware am I that each of us is indispensable and makes a unique contribution to the glory of God?*
- *do I seek a just balance between my own needs and interests and those of the community?*
- *how committed am I to the patient passage from seeking "my things" to seeking "the things of Christ"?*

Our response *Colossians 3: 12-17*

Side One: Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy,
with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Side Two: Bear with one another;
forgive whatever grievances you have against one another.
Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.

Side One: Over all these virtues put on love,
which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.
Christ's peace must reign in your hearts,
since as members of the one body
you have been called to that peace.

Side Two: Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.
Let the word of Christ,
rich as it is, dwell in you.
In wisdom made perfect,
instruct and admonish one another.

Side One: Sing gratefully to God from your hearts
in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs.
Whatever you do,
whether in speech or in action,
do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Give thanks to God the Father through him.

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.

Intercessions • *for whom or for what do we pray?*

Closing Prayer

All: O Lord, Jesus, God of Love,
you are the center of the human family;
and yet you humbled yourself
and came to live as a man among us.

Take our community
assembled here in hope and prayer,
and let your peace be with us.
Help us to be open to your presence here among us
and to accomplish your will in all that we say or do.

Guide us, Jesus,
in our care of one another,
in our community decisions,
in our financial needs and worries,
and in our work and play.

Give us a strong faith;
strengthen our relationships
with one another and with you.
Lord, keep us on the path to the Father;
and we ask all of this in your holy name.
Amen



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!