



Lasallian Reflections

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Brothers of the Christian Schools

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Loving Communities

As Jesus Christ says in the holy Gospel, you are all brothers. (De La Salle)

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

Opening song As appropriate [for example, “Amazing Grace”]

Reading from Henri Nouwen’s “Compassion: Solidarity, Consolation, and Comfort” in *America*, 18 March 1976, p. 195

Once there was a very old man who used to meditate early every morning under a large tree on the bank of the Ganges River in India. One morning, having finished his meditation, the old man opened his eyes and saw a scorpion floating helplessly in the strong current of the river. As the scorpion was pulled closer to the tree, it got caught in the long tree roots that branched out far into the river. The scorpion struggled frantically to free itself but got more and more entangled in the complex network of the tree roots.

When the old man saw this, he immediately stretched himself onto the extended roots and reached out to rescue the drowning scorpion. But as soon as he touched it, the animal jerked and stung him wildly. Instinctively, the man withdrew his hand, but then, after having regained his balance, he once again stretched himself out along the roots to save the agonized scorpion. But every time the old man came within reach, the scorpion stung him so badly with its poisonous tail that his hands became swollen and bloody and his face distorted by pain.

At that moment, a passer-by saw the old man stretched out on the roots struggling with the scorpion and shouted: “Hey, stupid old man. What’s wrong with you? Only a fool risks his life for the sake of an ugly, useless creature. Don’t you know that you may kill yourself to save that ungrateful animal?”

Slowly the old man turned his head, and looking calmly in the stranger’s eyes, he said: “Friend, because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting, why should I give up my own nature to save?”

Our response *Psalm 118: 1-9*

Side One: I give thanks to you, Yahweh, for you are good;
your love is everlasting!
Let the House of Israel say,
“Your love is everlasting!”

Side Two: Let the House of Aaron say,
“Your love is everlasting!”
Let those who fear Yahweh say,
“Your love is everlasting!”

Side One: In desperation I called to you, Yahweh;
you heard me and came to my aid.
With Yahweh at my side helping me,
what can anyone do to me?

Side Two: With Yahweh on my side, best help of all,
I can triumph over my enemies.
I would rather take refuge in you, Yahweh,
than rely on other people;

Side One: I would rather take refuge in you, Yahweh,
than rely on human rulers.

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 John Johnston’s *Pastoral Letter: Look to the Future*, 1 January 1998, p. 62

“Active concern” means taking the initiative and not just reacting to what others do. Carl Rogers once spent several days with a friend who passed a street vendor each morning and always greeted him with a respectful “Good Morning!” But Rogers noticed that the vendor never reciprocated the greeting. He asked his friend why he continued to greet the vendor. “I greet him because it is the right thing to do. I hope that eventually he will respond as he should.”

Pause for quiet reflection

- *am I kind, merciful, and forgiving in my dealings with others?*
- *how much is my behavior toward others conditioned on the quality of their response to me?*
- *how am I respectful and attentive on a daily basis of those with whom I live and work?*

Our Response *Psalm 118:13-16, 19-21, & 28-29*

Side One: I was hard pressed, about to fall.
But Yahweh came to my help –
Yahweh, you are my strength and my courage.
Yahweh, you have been my savior.

Side Two: Let shouts of joy and victory ring out
in the tents of the righteous;
Yahweh’s right hand has done mighty things.
Yahweh’s right hand is lifted high.



Yahweh's right hand has done mighty things.

Side One: Open the gates of justice to me.
I will come in and give thanks to you, Yahweh.
This is Yahweh's gateway,
through which the righteous may enter.

Side Two: I thank you for having heard me;
you have been my savior.
You are my God, I give you thanks.
I celebrate you, my God;

Side One: I give you thanks for having heard me.
You have been my savior.
I give you thanks, Yahweh, for you are good;
your love is everlasting!

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.

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

Closing Prayer [*Source Unknown*]

All: Lord, come and possess me.
Take hold of my faculties.
Immolate my selfishness.
Shape my life according to your ideals.
Impress yourself on my soul.

Work in me; shine though me.
Make me a light and savior
in union with all the saints
for the glory of the Father.

From your generosity,
let me learn to keep giving –
the world to God,
God to the world,
and myself to both.

Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!