



Lasallian Reflections

No. 10b

Brothers of the Christian Schools

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Pastoral Letter to the Brothers, “Associated with the God of Life: Our Life of Prayer”

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The purpose of the following questions is to help the Brothers take a deeper look at some aspects of the “Christmas letter.” The intent is not to cover in any sweeping way all the aspects of this document. Some of these questions may be used for personal or community reflection.

1. The Founder invited us to do spiritual reading “as if we were reading a letter that Jesus Christ had sent us in order to make manifest his holy will to us.” This year, on the occasion of Christmas 2002, we received a letter from our Brother Superior General. What was my own attitude on receiving this letter as I read it?
2. If each Brother could re-think the way he tackles the reading and the way he interiorizes this Christmas message, what might be the collective effect of such an undertaking?
3. Having read this letter, what title would you give to this message so as to summarize it?
4. John Baptist de La Salle invited us to be attentive today to the neglect of the “children of the artisans and the poor,” since doing just that was the root of his vocation. What events have you experienced this past year that have significantly influenced you and which motivate you now to new ways of searching after and seeking answers, as a way of living out our Lasallian charism?
5. God loves us. He constantly calls us; and, if we allow ourselves to love, we respond to him. In this dynamic, what responses do I give as a commitment to the Lord, which will help the young, who have been entrusted to us, to feel that they are called and challenged by God?
6. In the real world that has little regard for God and which sees God as not being necessary in life’s expression, do we come across as people who have seen the Invisible? How do we come across to others?
7. Am I able to say, as I speak with others, how God has touched me by means of the senses? How was such an experience of God possible by means of the senses?



8. In my experience of God, what has helped me to gauge what is important in my life, in my educational responses, in my relationships with my Brothers and to put urgent need in perspective?
9. According to your experience in communicating with God, how have you made real the Founder's invitation that "the only thing I should ask God in prayer is that I discover what he wants of me and that I place myself at his disposal?"
10. If discernment has this dual aspect, to discover if things come from God and to lead us to Him, how can one make practical, among the Brothers and among those confided to our care, this way of seeking as Christians?
11. Am I able to name, without hesitation, three indicators in the educational work in which I am involved, that respond to the question: Is God the center and the focus of our educational activities?
12. As I nurture my own spiritual and inner life, how do I distance myself from my normal activities and concerns?
13. In my moments of interior meditation, what movement, rhythm, or process has helped me to think of Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life?
14. What suggestions can I make to my community for sharing the experience of God with my Brothers in a way that is free, spontaneous, natural, and cheerful?
15. What can be done so that we learn to meditate on the Bible as a community?
16. Can you write more frequent personal "ejaculations" or short prayers that come spontaneously from your heart during times of prayer?
17. A feeling of being in communion is an experience that translates into actions and attitudes for others, the surrounding environment, and God. During the Eucharistic celebration, what attitudes help me to feel that I am in communion and allow me to experience the "communion of saints?"
18. Can you relate a personal community experience wherein the unity of everyone was made manifest, in light of faith, by means of the Eucharist?
19. Is community prayer for me a stimulus for hope, a taking up again of my vocational journey with new strength? What are my feelings during community morning prayer?
20. In light of my experience, what has changed or will change within the community, as it faces the decision to open participation in community prayer to other persons from outside the community?

