



# Lasallian Reflections

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## And Who Is My Neighbor?

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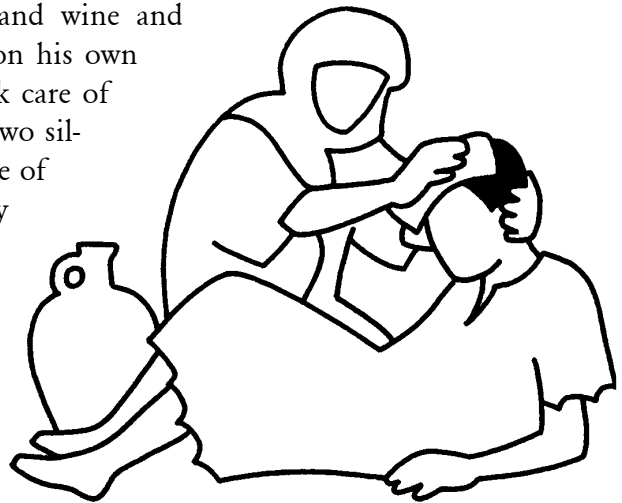
*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.*

**Opening Song**     *[choose an appropriate song]*

**First Reading**     *Luke 10:30-37*

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way; and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him. The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "the one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."



**Brief Pause for Quiet Reflection**     *[about 3 to 5 minutes]*

**Our Response**     *Psalms 103: 11-18*

**Side One:**     As the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his love for those fearing him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove from us our sins.

**Side Two:**     As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord pities those who fear him.

For he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.

**Side One:** The days of mortals are like grass;  
they bloom like a flower of the field;  
but the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
his field will not see him again.

**Side Two:** But the Lord's kindness is forever  
with those who fear him;  
so is his justice,

**Side One:** for their children's children,  
for those who keep his covenant  
and remember his commands,  
for those who put them into practice.

**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 ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Second Reading** from "Seekers of Wells and Roads: Two Icons"  
*by Dolores Aleixandre, RSCJ*

"And then came the shock," he confessed to us. Instead of going through the laws and directives that were familiar to me, that puzzling teacher began telling me a surprising story that had nothing to do with what I had learned. In it, everything was turned upside down. The figures that I respected and admired, the priest and the Levite, didn't measure up and were disqualified. The name of God was never mentioned, and the only remote reference to His Law..., was flagrantly violated. But, above all, it was the conclusion that I found absolutely insufferable; Jesus proposed that I follow the example of a heretical Samaritan schismatic in order to become a neighbor!

I tried to run away, but the hand of that stranger had grabbed mine and taken hold of me, with no quarter given, setting me at the crossroads where I now find myself. He is inviting me to leave behind all the roads I'm used to, and to set out on an absolutely unfamiliar one, full of unknowns. He didn't demand that I renounce the inheritance I had received, but starting from it, to create something new and very unexpected...

It's slowly dawning on me that the life that I'm looking for is not linked to laws, temples, rites, buildings or customs, but to that word on which Jesus placed all the emphasis in His story: compassion. The imperative that He addressed to me, "Do likewise," is weighing on me; and I'm debating whether to return to the already known world of my certainties based on books, or enter into contact with flesh-and-blood human beings and discover that it is in the company of the most downtrodden people that one gets to know eternal life."

**Pause for Quiet Reflection** *[about 10 to 15 minutes]*

- *What example has "Jesus proposed that I follow"?*
- *Am I being invited - by present realities, by the world around me, and by my experience of God - to "leave behind all the roads I'm used to and to set out on an absolutely unfamiliar one"?*

- *Who is the “true neighbor” who, with his or her “flesh-and-blood” presence, challenges me to be a person of “compassion”?*

**Closing Prayer**      *Inspired by Lk 10, Mt 25, M 37, & M 197*

**All:**    Compassionate and merciful God,  
          help us, we ask you,  
          to love you more fully and  
          to love our neighbor more selflessly.

Inspire in us and  
          in all consecrated men and women  
the openness, generosity, and compassion  
          to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty,  
          to welcome the stranger and clothe the naked,  
          to comfort the ill and visit the imprisoned,  
          to teach the ignorant and correct the wayward.

Strengthen in us the desire  
          to assist the youngsters and other people entrusted to our care,  
          to walk in the company of the marginalized and downtrodden,  
          to be your instruments of healing and reconciliation,  
          to follow you on this unfamiliar path into the unknown.

We ask all of this through Jesus, our brother and savior. Amen.

*St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.*

*Live, Jesus, in our hearts, forever!*

[Dolores Aleixandre, RSCJ, “*Seekers of Wells and Roads: Two Icons for a Samaritan Religious Life*” (Rome: Religious Life Congress, 2004)]