



Lasallian Reflections

No. 18f

Brothers of the Christian Schools

June 2005

Our Mission as a Religious Community

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

First Reading *from "A Call to Evangelization"*
by Barbara Hendricks, MM

Reader 1: "Those who are called by God's penetrating word and who leave all are first of all called into a community, and, as members of the community, are nourished by the love, hope, and faith of the community. The call to be a messenger of salvation cannot be realized in a purely individual way. It is a way of life that can be presented in a concrete, viable way only in the context of community."

Reader 2: "The apostolic community does not stand apart with its own private mission. It, too, is sent by the ecclesia. It exists in the church for a special need of the church-in-mission-to-the-world ... The personal call to mission, the call of the community to mission, and the pastoral mission of the local church are intimately related and cannot be conceived of as separate responses to the call of the Lord to mission."

Our Response

Leader: We are called to help each other lead holy lives:

All: For a greater actualization of the personal holiness to which Jesus has called us, we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Leader: We are called by name:

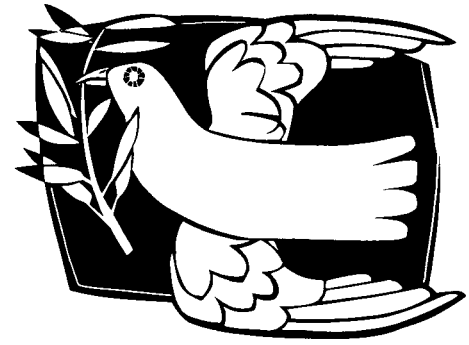
All: For a greater awareness and appreciation of the great gift of Jesus in his personal invitation to each of us to follow him in our vocation, we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Leader: We are called to dedicate ourselves completely to God's kingdom:

All: That Jesus might give us the grace of cheerful self-denial for his sake and for the sake of the kingdom, we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Second Reading *from "A Call to Evangelization"*
by Barbara Hendricks, MM

Reader 3: "The very first word which a religious community speaks is not an oral articulation of God's word, but it is the sign which it lifts up for all to see and touch - the witness of a closely-knit interpersonal community of those who come together for the sole reason that they have been gathered by the Lord Jesus to incarnate his presence among men and women."



Our Response

Leader: We are called to build communities of love:

All: That the Holy Spirit might bless each of us with the charism for creating community,
we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Leader: We are called to make known the kingdom of God in the world of education:

All: That we might personally experience the kingdom of God in our lives
so as to be better able to proclaim it to others,
we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Third Reading *from "A Call to Evangelization"*
by Barbara Hendricks, MM

Reader 4: "The second word which a religious community speaks to the world is the healing and reconciling ministry which its members perform, once having recognized the most critical and festering wounds of its neighbors. If today we have at last realized that we have woven evil into the very fabric of our structures and institutions, there is a grave obligation on the part of the religious community to evaluate its presence and works to see if we are indeed attending to the needs of the poor, the oppressed, and the alienated groups of our society - both nationally and globally ... It must be obvious to everyone what we are all about, and that we have a message which is a new and different one that brings new life and creates human communities of love and care."

Our Response

Leader: We are called to bring to all people, especially the young,
the truth for which they hunger:

All: That Jesus might give us the gift of compassion
for our suffering neighbor and the courage
to seek him out despite the risks this might entail,
we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Leader: We are called to service on behalf of justice:

All: That we might find in Jesus' example

the strength to challenge the attitudes and structures
that lead to injustice and oppression, we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Pause for Quiet Reflection *[2 to 5 minutes]*

Fourth Reading *from "A Call to Evangelization"*
by Barbara Hendricks, MM

Reader 5: "The third word which the religious community speaks to the world is the word of faith in the Lord Jesus. It is the explicit preaching of the "name" which gives salvation. This word must be spoken as a word which has relevance and intelligibility in our contemporary society. The one who speaks this word and the community which proclaims it must be continually questioned by the word in contemplation, and must search together in communal discernment and prayer for the guidance of the Spirit."

Our Response

Leader: We are called to deepen our faith in Jesus:

All: That we might allow ourselves to be questioned by the word of God
and courageously respond by being more faithful
to the evangelizing mission of Jesus,
we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Leader: We are called to proclaim that Jesus is Lord:

All: That we might live the Gospel without compromise,
striving always to be a simple, praying, and fraternal community,
we unite our hearts in humble prayer.

Closing Song *[choose a suitable song]*

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

Live, Jesus, in our hearts, forever!