



“Since you are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ in the work that you do, you must act as representing Jesus Christ himself. He wants your disciples to see him in you and receive your instructions as if he were giving them to them. They must be convinced that your instructions are the truth of Jesus Christ who speaks with your mouth, that it is only in his name that you teach, and that it is he who has given you authority over them”

MR 195.2.1

De La Salle

Reflection by Br. Michael French, FSC – USA

Miguel Campos, in the essay he wrote for the General Chapter of 2007, *Fidelity to the Movement of the Spirit: Criteria for Discernment* uses the expression “iconic images” for the many metaphors the Founder presents us in the Meditations for the Time of Retreat. The double iconic “Ambassadors and Ministers” from the third meditation is in a section Campos calls “images relative to the mystery of Christ”.

In the French school of Spirituality, we note the emphasis of the identification with Jesus Christ as central and each of these “icons” denotes some aspect of that identification. La Salle uses “icons images” (Miguel Campos) as metaphors for the way the Brother/Lasallians are to embody Christ in their daily contact with their students in their educational endeavor.

This embodiment is how they make Christ present in the world, that is, the school. Ambassadors represent someone/something to the outside world; so too, the Brothers/Lasallians embody Christ to those with whom they come in contact, the students. The use of “ministers” relates to being ambassadors of reconciliation which adds a nuance to the term ambassador.

In this way La Salle enjoins the Brothers to be present in the world, his educational spirituality is thus not just an idea or a spiritual attitude: it is a way of doing spirituality. As he states in his Meditation on the Good Shepherd “You will persuade them much more readily through your example of wise and prudent behavior than through all the words you could speak to them (M33.2).

The icon/metaphor of Ambassador thus moves us out to act (on the peripheries) while icon/metaphor of ministers introduces the call to be a reconciling presence to those for whom we are Ambassadors.