



La Salle Noviate  
40217 Lipa City  
Batangas  
Philippines  
16th September 2018.

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Dear Brothers,

Our first and principal rule has always been the New Testament, the source of our hope and inspiration. We no longer use various verses as "proof texts" because we know that the Gospels are highly structured literary works, in which the words and works of Jesus recalled by the evangelists are ordered in ways to ponder the profundity of his mission. The Gospels demand a response on the part of the reader/listener. The meaning of the words and actions of Jesus' stories, arranged into new literary contexts, are deepened by that context.

It would seem that Matthew's main interest was in writing for small groups of "two or three" initiates at Antioch helping them to find the meaning of their inner personal experience of walking with the resurrected Jesus. Matthew wanted to lead his readers along the path to continual conversion and not merely inform them of some of the events of the life of Jesus.

Jesus' plea to pray to the Lord of the harvest for new reapers (**Matt. 9:36**), the reason for our monthly Vocation Prayers, comes as the climax of a narrative that begins with Chapter 8. In this narrative, Jesus becomes aware of the depths and the challenges of his mission, which he cannot do on his own. Matthew inserts Jesus' plea to pray the Lord of the harvest for reapers and leaves his readers with a time for silent reflection to meditate on the problem. Using the creative power of a prophet, Matthew, the literary artist, shows those he is instructing that the answer to this prayer, in his case, was the calling of the Apostles and that the answer to their prayers for future 'reapers' would always within the local groups!

Matthew invites his readers with 'a hiatus of silence' to inner growth and, beyond their expectations, calls them to become 'reapers of the harvest', to venture into the unknown like "sheep among wolves". Once the community asks the Lord of the harvest for 'reapers' the community accepts the responsibility for solving this same problem that faced Jesus. Possessing the Spirit, the followers of Jesus are empowered with skills to develop communities of faith, because having been taught how to pray for 'their daily bread' they are awake to the realities of their local situation and not afraid to speak the truth, they can respond positively to new pastoral needs of the 'shepherd-less sheep'.

It is important for us to realise that the responsibility for recruitment of new 'reapers' rests with all members of our associated Lasallian communities. "There is an urgent need, especially nowadays, for a more widespread and deeply felt conviction that all the members of the Church, without exception, have the grace and responsibility to look after vocations" (**PDV, par.41**). However, those we ask to join us in this search can only be successful if we accompany them on their prayer journey and talk with them about prayer as Jesus did with his disciples. They must learn how to pray privately and communally, modelling for one another the prayer Jesus taught us. This is something new for many of us. We are invited to be companions of those who sing "a new song to the Lord"(**Ps. 97.1**).

Enjoy the season of new life with its new sounds after the dreary days of winter and be awake to those the Lord is calling to join us in this project of prayer for new 'reapers' to continue the mission.

God bless. In peace and joy, **Brother Mal Yates, fsc**

# Morning Vocation Prayer Service

## September 25th, 2018

### Legend:

- Normal print **read by the Leader**
- **BOLD print** read by all present
- **BLUE** to be read privately
- **GREEN** is for listening while being read aloud
- **RED** is something to be done
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### INTRODUCTION: REMEMBRANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD:

Let us be still and remember we are in the Holy Presence of God.

**(Pause to remember)**

Accept, **I beg you, my God, the desire that I have of pleasing you alone, and of glorifying you perfectly in the unceasing accomplishment of your divine will, (EM. No.338d)**

**Glory be to the Father... Amen. Alleluia!**

### PSALMODY: Psalm 145(146) (Gelineau)

Commentary: **When we recite this psalm, we join with our Jewish elder brothers and sisters throughout the world in their morning prayer. Written in post-exilic times, the People of God state in definite terms that trust alone can be placed in Yahweh, who is all-powerful as the Creator of the Universe. This power is only a pale symbol of God's faithfulness. Not even the most powerful of men and women can determine the course of history. Our God embraces the afflicted, those reduced to poverty and slavery, the sick and those who are helpless and unprotected, especially the strangers in our midst who have no citizenship rights. This is a reminder for us to pray for refugees who have been abandoned to a life of uncertainty, unable to flourish as human beings.**

Alleluia!

My soul, give praise to the LORD; I will praise the LORD all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes, in mortal man who cannot save.

Take their breath, they return to the earth,  
and their plans that day come to nothing.

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God, whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all they contain,  
who preserves fidelity forever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the LORD who sets prisoners free,

the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the just,  
the LORD who protects the stranger  
and upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The LORD will reign forever, the God of Sion from age to age.  
Alleluia!

**Glory be to the Father....**

*(The Revised Grail Psalms Copyright © 2010, Conception Abbey/The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.,  
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*The Revised Grail Psalms were confirmed by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 19, 2010 (Prot. N. 172/09/L).*

## **PSALM PRAYER:**

O Lord God, you live among us as our Servant-Leader, give us grace that we may seek your help, and fix our hopes in you, for you alone can grant deliverance to those oppressed by the rich and powerful.

**Feed our zeal to satisfy our hunger for justice, to right un-rightable wrongs, to raise up those who labour and are heavily burdened and the oppressed who are unable to flourish, so that no one walks in darkness and the shadow of death, but all can walk in the light of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(The Psalter of David with titles and collects according to the matter of each psalm. Vaughan, Robert. Oxford: Printed by Leonard Lichfield. 1644. Adapted). <http://name.umdl.umich.edu/A27790.0001.001>*

## **LECTIO DIVINA: MATTHEW 9:9-13**

As Jesus was walking on he saw a man named Matthew sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

While he was at dinner in the house, it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?' When he heard this, he replied, 'It is not healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. Go and learn the meaning of the words: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. And indeed, I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**(pause for reflection)**

## **REFLECTION: FROM A SERMON OF SAINT BEDE THE VENERABLE**

*Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him: Follow me. Jesus saw*

Matthew, not merely in the usual sense, but more significantly with his merciful understanding of men.

He saw the tax collector, and because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him, he said to him: *Follow me*. This following meant imitating the pattern of his life – not just walking after him. St John tells us: *Whoever says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way in which he walked*.

*And he rose and followed him*. There is no reason for surprise that the tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as the Lord commanded him. Nor should one be amazed that neglecting his wealth, he joined a band of men whose leader had, on Matthew's assessment, no riches at all. Our Lord summoned Matthew by speaking to him in words. By an invisible, interior impulse flooding his mind with the light of grace, he instructed him to walk in his footsteps. In this way, Matthew could understand that Christ, who was summoning him away from earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of heaven in his gift.

## RESPONSE

Be attached only to Jesus Christ, his doctrine, and his holy maxims,  
**because he has done you the honour of choosing you in preference to a great many others**  
to announce truth to the young,  
**whom he loves so especially.**

Think highly of your work, which is apostolic, and  
**carefully study the Gospel of Saint Matthew,**  
in which we find proposed the holiest maxims of Jesus Christ and  
**the fundamental truths of Christian piety.**

The more you study this, the more learned you would become in the science of the saints,  
**and the better prepared you will be to instruct others**

(De La Salle, Meditation 167.2)

## BENEDICTUS ANTIPHON:

Lord, from you, spring life; – **in your light, we shall see the light.**

## BENEDICTUS: (ICET 1995 Text)

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who shepherds the people and sets them free.  
God raises from David's house a child with the power to save.

Through the holy prophets, God promised in ages past to save us from enemy hands, from the grip of all who hate us.

The Lord favoured our ancestors recalling the sacred covenant, the pledge to our ancestor Abraham, to free us from our enemies so we might worship without fear and be holy and just all our days.

And you, child, will be called Prophet of the Most High, for you will come to prepare a pathway for the Lord by teaching the people salvation through forgiveness of their sin.

Out of God's deepest mercy, a dawn will come from on high, light for those shadowed by death, a guide for our feet on the way to peace.

**Glory be to the Father...**

Lord, from you, spring life; – **in your light, we shall see the light.**

## **INTERCESSIONS:**

Father, as you laid the foundation of creation, the stars of the morning sang for joy, and the sons of God in chorus chanted your praise: **All you spirit, worship the Lord.**

Lord, in the past you provided brothers to guard, lead and proclaim good news to the youth of the world. **Keep us faithful to your call to pray for devoted brothers and sisters to work in your vineyard.**

Lord, each day, Brothers stand before your throne to praise and worship you: **help us to seek others to join us in our mission to youth and to teachers.**

Lord, we are called to be like angels of light: **keep us focused on the message that you have entrusted to us.**

Lord, we thank you for your glorious power; we praise your victory over the powers of darkness: **for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for all ages to come.**

**For what else shall we pray this morning?????**

## **OUR FATHER.....**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Lord God, through our ministry of the human and Christian education of youth, you hold out the light of your Word to those who do not know you. Strengthen in our hearts the faith you have given us, so that no trials may quench the fire of zeal; your Spirit has kindled within us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF THE FOUNDER**

Father, you endowed Saint John Baptist De La Salle with the spirit of an apostle to give himself to the service of poor youth and the formation of teachers. Give us a share of the same spirit that we may love what he loved and did as he taught us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING (THE SENIOR BROTHER)**

May our words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to our listeners. **Amen.**

Be the Elder Brothers of the little ones God has called into the kingdom, and be kind, forgiving them as readily as God forgave us in Christ. **Amen.**

May committed disciples of Jesus appear in our country, prepared to proclaim the truths of the gospel to poor and marginalised youth. **Amen.**

And may almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and lead us to life everlasting. **Amen.**

And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen!**

## **MARIAN PRAYER**

**Virgin of listening and contemplation, Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are, that she may never be closed in on herself or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom. Amen**

## **FINAL INVOCATIONS**

Jesus, who on his cross drew all people to himself! **Have mercy on us**

Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones! **Pray for us.**

Mary conceived without sin! **Pray for us, who have recourse to you.**

Mary, Mother of Sorrows! **Pray for us.**

Archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel! **Pray for us.**

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist! **Pray for us.**

Saint John Chrysostom! **Pray for us.**

Saint Gregory the Great! **Pray for us.**

Saint Andrew Kim and Martyrs of Korea! **Pray for us.**

Saint Solomon! **Pray for us.**

Saint Robert Bellarmine! **Pray for us.**

Saint John Baptist De La Salle! **Pray for us.**

Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop! **Pray for us.**

Blessed Brothers Roger, Uldaric and Leon, Martyrs of the French Revolution! **Pray for us.**

## **CALL TO MISSION**

Live Jesus in our Hearts! **Forever**

# Evening Vocation Prayer Service

## September 25th, 2018



### Legend:

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## INTRODUCTION: REMEMBRANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God who is always with us as we journey in faith, hope and love to announce good news.

**(pause in silence while the candle is lit)**

Am I alone in your presence, Lord, yearning for the recovery of vision, of authentic outrage, of gentle connectedness, of the truth that sets us free?

Have you ever told me that such idealism is impossible in a world of junk mail, easy money, fleeting icons, fragile relationships, and grinding poverty?

Can we still hear your single voice of love through these myriad cries or see in our neighbor, your face smiling on us?

My friend, in your uncertainty, you stand with my pilgrim people, sharing life and love with them, broken like them; but also, with them-propelled still to befriend the amazing and unpredictable wisdom I have offered to you in my only-begotten Son, Jesus your servant-leader.

**Glory be to the Father.... Amen. Alleluia!**

*(adapted from Way Marks [Cf Jeremiah 6:16] page 3)*

## OPENING PRAYER:

Let us pray,

O God, whose will it is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon your abundant harvest and be pleased to send workers to gather it in. May the Gospel be preached to all creation and your people gathered by the word of life, and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, advance in the path of salvation and love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## PSALMODY: PSALM 90(91)

**Commentary:** This psalm shows that God is interested not only in the national community but also in the individual pious person who makes time to get to know God intimately by dwelling and abiding in God's all-embracing presence. The person on such terms with the Lord has no fear in asking the help of the One who has provided freedom and security throughout life. It is a wonderful expression of Faith in the goodness of a loving God. The love of God is certain during the crises of sickness and ill health that befall even a good person, and so suddenly through causes unknown. For us, following the Founder's model of being angels sent by God for the liberation of poor youth, we are commanded to be vigilant and keep those confided to our care along smooth pathways bearing them up should they stumble along the way. It is a prayer to see the miracles of God's love in every day.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the LORD, "My refuge,  
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

He will free you from the snare of the fowler, from the destructive plague;  
he will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings, you will find refuge.  
His faithfulness is buckler and shield.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness, nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand falls at your right:  
you it will never approach.

Your eyes have only to look to see how the wicked are repaid.  
For you, O LORD, are my refuge. You have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach your tent.  
For you has he commanded his angel to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
On the lion and the viper, you will tread, and trample the young lion and the serpent.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him, protect him, for he knows my name.  
When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress;

I will deliver him and give him glory.  
With a length of days, I will content him; I will show him my saving power.

**Glory be to the Father...**

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## PSALM PRAYER

O Lord God our hope and our stronghold, have mercy upon us and defend us under the shadow of your wings, that we trusting your constant protection, may by your faithfulness and truth cover us with the shield of Faith. **Give your messengers joy in working with your people that they may be preserved and kept from the culture of death that surrounds us. May we be strengthened by your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*(The Psalter of David with titles and collects according to the matter of each psalm. Vaughan, Robert. Oxford: Printed by Leonard Lichfield. 1644. Adapted).*

## SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 21:1-6

Like flowing water is the heart of the king in the hand of the Lord, who turns it where he pleases. A man's conduct may strike him as upright, the Lord, however, weighs the heart. To act virtuously and with justice is more pleasing to the Lord than sacrifice. Haughty eye, proud heart, Lamp of the wicked, nothing but sin. The hardworking man is thoughtful, and all is gain; too much haste, and all that comes of it is want. To make a fortune with the help of a lying tongue, such the idle fantasy of those who look for death. The wicked man's soul is intent on evil; he looks on his neighbor with dislike. When a mocker is punished, the ignorant man grows wiser; when a wise man is instructed, he acquires more knowledge. He who shuts his ear to the poor man's cry shall himself plead and not be heard.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSE: BROTHER SUPERIOR'S PASTORAL LETTER 25TH DECEMBER 2016

Today, the Spirit's "one call" to us Brothers who live in fraternal association for the purpose of responding joyfully, creatively and courageously to the human and Christian educational desires of poor, vulnerable and excluded young people is comparable to the foundational invitation:

*"Deeply moved by the human and spiritual distress 'of the children of artisans and the poor,' and in response to the call of God, John Baptist de La Salle and his first Brothers made a lifelong commitment to God to provide these children with a human and Christian education, and so extend the glory of God on earth."*

## LECTIO: THE DELIGHTFUL AND COMFORTING JOY OF EVANGELIZING.

The Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: "Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others".

When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelisation, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For "here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means". Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelising, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not

from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ”.

*(Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, November 2013, 10)*

## **RESPONSE:**

The God of hope fills us with all joy and all peace in believing, **that we may be overflowing with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

*(Romans 15:13)*

## **THE EVENING CANTICLE:**

**(MUSICAL VERSION: CD, "O HOLY MARY", FARRELL/ALSTOTT, TRACK 1)**

- 1.** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.  
My spirit sings to God, my saving God,  
Who on this day above all others favored me?  
And raised me up, a light for all to see.
- 2.** Through me, great deeds will God make manifest,  
And all the earth will come to call me blest.  
Unbounded love and mercy sure will I proclaim  
For all who know and praise God's holy name.
- 3.** God's mighty arm, protector of the just,  
Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.  
But mighty kings will swiftly fall from thrones corrupt.  
The strong brought low, the lowly lifted up.
- 4.** Soon will the poor and hungry of the earth  
Be richly blest, be given greater worth.  
And Israel, as once foretold to Abraham,  
Will live in peace throughout our promised land.
- 5.** All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle Comforter,  
All glory be, both now and evermore.

**The God of hope fills us with all joy and all peace in believing, that we may be overflowing with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **INTERCESSIONS: (ADAPTED FROM THE HYMN: WE WALK BY FAITH)**

We walk by faith and not by sight: in dark and difficult times, no gracious words we hear or feel surrounded by the love of our good God. **But we believe the Lord is near, guarding us as the apple of his eye.** We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod, **yet we rejoice in the promises of Jesus and cry, 'My Lord and God!'** Help then, Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound, **For when you are near, we call on you to send reapers into the harvest to announce the good news that the**

**Kingdom has come.** When our life of faith is done, and we are welcomed into realms of clearer light, **may we behold you, as you are, in full and endless night.**

**For what else shall we pray this evening???**

Together we pray the prayer of Jesus, the Lord of the harvest, taught us: -

**OUR FATHER....**

**CONCLUDING PRAYER (ROMAN MISSAL: 1330)**

Holy Father, who, through urging all the faithful to perfect charity, never cease to prompt many to follow more closely in the footsteps of your Son, grant, we pray, that those you have chosen for this special calling of the human and Christian education of youth may, by their way of life, show to the Church and the world a clear sign of your Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever **Amen.**

**PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT SOLOMON**

Lord of the harvest and God of all goodness, strengthen us by the example of Saint Solomon and the Blessed Martyrs of the French Revolution to follow our conscience and develop a critical stance towards what we see and hear in our contemporary society.

Grant that, we may grow in wisdom and personal integrity of character to become confident in knowing how to call young men to follow their call to follow Christ as Brothers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESSING: (SENIOR BROTHER)**

May young men grow in integrity of character, developing a true sense of values through following Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. **Amen**

And may they learn from us, and our lay partners, how to discern the call of God to live the consecrated life as Brothers. **Amen**

May almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and lead us to life everlasting. **Amen.**

And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

**MARIAN PRAYER**

**Star of the new evangelisation, help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world. Amen**

**FINAL INVOCATIONS**

Jesus, who on his cross drew all people to himself! **Have mercy on us**

Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones! **Pray for us.**

Mary conceived without sin! **Pray for us, who have recourse to you.**

Mary, Mother of Sorrows! **Pray for us.**

Archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel! **Pray for us.**

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