

PRAYERS

OF A CHRISTIAN TEACHER

THE CHRISTIAN TEACHER

Being a Christian teacher does not consist so much in winning over the complete trust of the pupils as in making them discover ways of being themselves.

Being a Christian teacher means leading a pupil to know himself and discover his role in society and in the Church.

Being a Christian teacher is a gift from God, a marvellous choice on the part of the Father; but it also means searching and striving; it is a dialogue; it is an undertaking which is forever new and forever old.

Being a Christian teacher is to make God the prime mover in a life which is prepared to make a new start: each person receives a unique plan as a free gift. A teacher accompanies a person on his journey without taking his place nor substituting himself for him.

John Baptist de La Salle experienced what it means to be a teacher and a teacher of Christian teachers. The process was a slow and painful one: it brought him into opposition with his family, society, various members of the clergy, and it ended on his own Golgotha.

Towards the end of his life, he gathered all his theological and pastoral teaching intended for Christian teachers in a work called "meditations for the time of retreat".

The present article attempts to present the same teaching but in the form of prayers.

The Christian teacher who bases his life on God will find light and guidance here for his work.

TEACHERS, WITNESSES, MESSENGERS...

Lord our God,
You created man
And you wish us all to know the Truth,
The Truth that is you,
Revealed by Jesus, announced by the Apostles,
and proclaimed by the Church.

Lord, you wish
All human minds
To be enlightened by the light of faith.
How can they believe
If they have never heard anyone speak of You?
How can they hear about You
If there is no one to speak of You?
Send preachers and teachers
to announce your Word.

Lord,
You spread your goodness
Through the ministry of men;
You have made the light shine
In the midst of darkness;
You enlighten the hearts
Of those you choose to be teachers of children,
So that they can share your glory with them.

Lord,
You who entrusted to us
The ministry of Christian education,
Enlighten us so that we announce your Word
And not our own;
So that we make known your Truth
And not our own,
For we are your ministers
And the dispensers of your mysteries.

You are a marvellous Father
And you wish children and young people
To come to know and live their faith in Jesus;
When parents, through ignorance,
Through business worries,
Neglect their work as educators...
You send Christian teachers
To share your Truth.

Enlighten us, Lord,
So that guided by the example of Jesus,
We may lay the firm foundations
Of faith and piety
In the hearts of children.

You have chosen us, Lord,
To instruct, to teach, to exhort,
And to touch the hearts and wills of pupils
So that they follow Jesus.
Help us to complement,

As brothers and friends,
The educational work of parents.

Lord, you wish all men
To know the Truth
And to be saved.
To bring this about, You continue
To send Christian teachers
To accomplish this mission among children.

You, Lord, are the ploughman
Working in the field.
You, Lord, are the architect
Building the house.
We are your gardeners and your masons
Whenever we proclaim your Gospel,
Whenever we share your Truth.

Thank you, Lord,
For calling us to announce
The Gospel message that never grows old
To young children,
And so helping them to find salvation.
With simple words,
We wish to teach them about the crucified Jesus,
The source of salvation.

We, Lord, only sow,
But You, Lord,
Make the seed sprout,
And make the plant grow
And bear fruit.

Our mission,
Is to teach with simple words.
That is why, Lord, we beg you
To teach us to be good teachers
And to help us to be your witnesses.

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FATHER, BROTHER, FRIEND

The mission of the Christian teacher
Is to work with parents
To educate their children:
Some parents want to help but cannot:
Others could but don't want to:
They are too lazy, not interested,
Selfish, don't see why...

Lord,
We wish to be the parents of those who have none,
The elder brothers and sisters of those
Who are alone,
The true friends of those who
Have no one to guide them,
And teachers for all.

Lord,
Bad habits acquired
In childhood and youth
Are difficult to correct.

And You, Lord?
You inspired and urged John Baptist de La Salle
To found the Christian Schools;
We, Christian teachers,
Wish to continue teaching knowledge and religion.

Thank you, Lord,
For wanting to continue your work of salvation
Through our work in schools;
To teach selflessly is a path to salvation.
On completing our mission,
We say: "Thank you, Lord".
To be a Christian teacher,
Is to educate the whole person;
It is to teach in the spirit of Christianity;
It is to strengthen the will to do good.

Lord,
We wish to consecrate our whole life
To the education of children and young people;
We wish to inspire piety
By example and by word.
For all the times we have failed,
For all the times selfishness overcame us,
For all the times we were impatient,
Forgive us, Lord.

Not to make a distinction
Between work in school and saving our souls,
Is to be a good professional teacher
And a living witness to Jesus of Nazareth.
To integrate faith with culture,
And faith with life, is to be a Christian teacher.
"Faith without works is dead".
"All knowledge, all faith,
are nothing without charity".

Lord,
Give us the strength to teach the truths of the Gospel.
Help us to be other Christs,
For children and young people
Need teachers who are also witnesses.

Lord,
Enlighten the minds of children and young people;
Move their will
So that they discover you
And respond to you with generosity.

Lord,
We offer you our words,
We offer you our life,
Do your work through us, Lord.

Brother Celestino Hernando