

ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION

BACKGROUND & GUIDE



Background

This prayer service is based on the report of the International Assembly on Mission that took place in Rom in the summer of 2013, entitled “One Family, One Mission: Lasallian Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor.” The opening letter sets the context:

“In 2007, the 44th General Chapter received “with enthusiasm the work done by the International Assembly 2006 presented in the document ‘*Associated for the Lasallian Educational Mission*’.” Further, the Chapter asked that all levels of the Institute take into account the conclusions of that Assembly in planning for the future. In addition, the Chapter asked that the new General Council consider the request for a second international assembly prior to the 45th General Chapter in 2014.”

“We, the members of the Writing Committee of the 2013 International Assembly, offer this report to all members of the Lasallian Family, including the Brother Capitulants to the 45th General Chapter, as a record of what took place from May 6 until May 16, 2013, at Casa Generalizia in Rome, when more than 150 Brothers and Partners from around the world gathered to discuss both the challenges and opportunities of the international Lasallian Educational Mission today. During these 11 days, the delegates participated in a process whereby they identified a number of major challenges in accomplishing faithfully and authentically the Lasallian Mission, and articulated thoughtful and wide-ranging responses to these challenges.”

Guide

- ❖ Choose readers before the meeting. Ask them to read their part and become familiar with it, so that they are able to read it slowly and deliberately.
- ❖ Provide any instructions (For example: “We will read Common Prayer on the back together, and the group reflection will be in groups of 3 people...”)
- ❖ Be sure to observe a pause (1 – 2 minutes) for the Personal Reflection Moment.
- ❖ The Common Prayer Responses may be said together (fairly slowly), or by individuals around the table, taking a small section each.
- ❖ If at all possible, do NOT skip the Group reflection, because that is where the prayer and formation come together. It’s the “meat” of the prayer service.
- ❖ Invite people to voice their prayer intentions – allow for silence – and put in the “Let us pray to the Lord...” if the person does not do so themselves.
- ❖ The closing prayer may be said by the leader or by everyone together.
- ❖ **NOTE:** If possible, it will be helpful to have copies of the IA 2013 printed and available for the Board members, either before the meeting or afterwards.

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

[PAUSE]

Reading: (*DLS Meditation 96 – Adoration of the Magi*)

We cannot sufficiently admire the faith of the holy Magi.... They behold a new, extraordinary star. At this sight they leave for a distant land to seek one whom they do not know, who is not known even in his own land.... The star did not appear to them in vain, for this sight caused them to receive the grace of God... because they showed themselves most faithful to the divine inspiration.

Are we attentive to the inspirations we receive from God? Are we as quick to follow them as these holy Magi were in letting themselves be led by the star which guided them? What holy audacity in our Magi... They feared nothing because the faith which inspired them and the grandeur of him whom they were seeking

The Magi entered the stable and found a little Child wrapped in poor swaddling clothes in the company of his mother, Mary. At this sight how could the Magi not fear to have been deceived; are these the marks of a king? Where is his palace, his throne, his court? This stable does not appear to them deserving of disdain; these poor swaddling clothes are not shocking in their eyes; they feel no disappointment to see a poor child being nursed by his mother. They prostrate themselves before him, says the Gospel. They honor him as their King and adore him as their God. Behold the faith that profoundly filled their spirit and caused them to respond in this way.

Recognize Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children whom you have to instruct. Adore him in them.

[PAUSE]

Reading: (*From the Report of the International Assembly – 2013*)

We Lasallians must take into account the current upheavals affecting the world of education: new educational paradigms, new technology, commercialization of education, institutional financial shortages, and so on. The Lasallian educational tradition has demonstrated its relevance to the service of the poor for three centuries. This service is still valid today, and it calls for a revitalized understanding of our charism and solidarity among educational communities. These challenges will have to be addressed by future generations who will discover the Lasallian charism first through programs of formation.

...

We Lasallians recognize that we live today in a world that is in search for meaning, faith, and spirituality. This search happens in contexts and societies that are increasingly becoming diverse, divided along cultural, economic, religious, political and technological lines, and divided as well through linguistic differences. In this environment people, especially the poor and those who are displaced by economic or political reasons, are rendered vulnerable. We Lasallians further recognize that evangelization (bringing the good news and values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples) is humanizing, welcoming, dialogic done both in word and in witness, and addresses the whole person.

...

There is a need for all members of the Lasallian Family to strengthen and advance the understanding and the experience of living Association for the Lasallian educational mission.

Personal Reflection Moment:

- What sort of faith does it take to make the readings alive in your own context?
- Are there some practical ways to keep our Lasallian priorities in front of us?

Our Common Prayer Response: *(From Psalm 62)*

In God alone is my soul at rest; my help comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress; I stand firm.

Take refuge in God, all you people; trust him at all times.
Pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

Common folk are only a breath, the great are an illusion.
Placed in the scales, they rise; they weigh less than a breath.

Do not put your trust in oppression, nor vain hopes on plunder.
Do not set your heart on riches, even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing; only two do I know:
That to God alone belongs power, and to you, Lord, love;
and that you repay us all according to our deeds.

Group Reflection *[Optional but Valuable]*

(Questions posed by Br. Alvaro, Superior General, at the 2013 International Assembly)

- ❖ How would you characterize the Lasallian school of the future in a world that is so economically, culturally, and religiously diverse?
- ❖ How would you really opt for the poor; for the unloved; for those who do not find meaning in their lives; for those who find it difficult to learn; for immigrant children and young people? Are you learning how to join gratuity with effectiveness?

Intentions

We pray to the Lord....**Lord, hear our prayer!**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, our work is great and our resources are small. Let your grace infuse us with a zeal for what we do, a faith in who we are, and a will to move ahead. Help us to look at those we serve in the light of today's realities, and give us the confidence to follow De La Salle's star of faith, just as the Magi did, so that we may come to know, love, and adore Jesus present in the good that we accomplish.

It is your work that we do; help us to be worthy of the task. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN**

St. John Baptist de La Salle ... Pray for us! Live, Jesus, in our hearts Forever!