

**PRAYERS IN THE SPIRIT
OF JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE**

The prayers which follow are written with particular reference to the Founder's MEDITATIONS, MEDITATIONS FOR THE TIME OF RETREAT, and LETTERS. Letter III-25, for example., refers to Letter 25 in part 3 of Battersby's "Letters and Documents". The symbol "/" indicates that the same theme is found in more than one passage.

Bro. Nicholas Hutchinson

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| <p>1. Lord,
I pray that your Spirit
may come alive in me
since you have chosen me
to do your work. MTR 4
May I be completely transformed
by your Spirit dwelling within. Med. 152</p> | <p>5. Spirit of God, guide me.
May I act only under your influence
and not through any self-seeking. MTR 3
May I see through the eyes of faith,
and in all things Med. 32
may I adore the will of God
in my regard. Final words</p> |
| <p>2. Lord,
in your providential care
you have called me to this ministry.
Help me to put to good use
the gifts
and talents you have given me. MTR 1/Med. 170</p> | <p>6. Lord,
may I grow in the spirit
and love of prayer, MTR 4/Med. 36/80
often recalling your presence. Letter I-36
May I always join prayer to my efforts
for, failing this,
my action will have little effect. Med. 160/159</p> |
| <p>3. Holy Spirit,
I thank you for your many gifts to me. MTR 7
Make known to me
all the gifts with which I have been favoured.
Inspire me
to communicate these gifts to others. Med. 189
I ask you to supply what I lack,
and to give me abundantly what I need. Med. 37
Give me the graces I need
both for myself
and for those entrusted to my care. Med. 62</p> | <p>7. Lord,
if it is not you who makes me speak.
then I am no better
than echoing bronze
or the clash of cymbals,
because all that I say
will have no effect
and will be incapable of bearing fruit. Med. 3
I acknowledge that this work is not mine, MTR 4
for it is in your name that I teach. MTR 3
I may plant and water the seed,
but it is you who make it grow.
You are the one who brings this work
to fulfilment. MTR 4
May I grow in awareness
of my dependence on you
because all my care
for the children entrusted to me
would be useless
if you did not give me
the power, the quality, and the energy that is need
to render my care useful.
May all my work with young people
be energised by the Spirit
and draw all its power from him. MTR 3</p> |
| <p>4. Jesus, Son of God,
you wish to come into my heart
to make me share in your nature.
For a long time
you have been knocking
at the door of my heart
and have been waiting to enter,
and I have not wished to receive you,
because I love other things
so much more than I love you. Med. 85
May I come to know myself
just as I am. MTR 13
I believe that you have a greater wish
to bestow your favours upon me
than I have to receive them.
Your compassion for me
is greater than my anxiety. Med. 38</p> | <p>8. Father,
your Son came that all might have life
and have it to the full. MTR 9
You have called me
to announce your Word to young people MTR 1
an to make Jesus live anew
in their hearts. Med. 157
May they receive your Word
not as the word of men
but as the Word of God,
powerfully at work within them. MTR 15
I pray that those in my care
may come to feel
their need of salvation. Med. 56</p> |
| <p>9. Lord,
may I bring your love</p> | |

- into the hearts of those
 confided to my care. *Med. 102/139*
 May I supply their spiritual needs
 to the best of my ability,
 looking upon them
 as your loved ones. *Med. 180*
 Help me to teach them to pray. *MTR 10*
10. God, my Father,
 you are the same Lord
 who commanded light to shine out of darkness
 who now kindles a light in my heart. *MTR 1*
 I ask for the graces I need
 to accomplish all things well,
 and to draw down the light I need
 to form Jesus
 in the hearts of those confided to my care,
 and to inspire them with the Spirit of God. *Med. 80*
11. Lord,
 may I look upon those
 whom you have entrusted to me
 as your children.
 May I take much more care over their education
 than if they were the sons of a king. *Med. 133*
 May it appear,
 by the care I take of them,
 that I have a real love for them,
 a great tenderness towards them. *Med. 180/133*
 May I show them much kindness *Med. 134*
 and may love guide me
 in all my actions. *MTR 12/MTR 9*
 May I avail myself
 of the affection the children have for me
 to attract them to you. *Med. 101*
12. Lord,
 it is you who have called me.
 It is you who have chosen me for this ministry.
 It is you who have sent me
 to work in your vineyard,
 entrusting me to bring the gospel
 to young people.
- May I fulfil my ministry
 with all the affection of my heart,
 working entirely for you. *MTR 9*
 May your love be the driving force
 of my life. *MTR 9/Med. 171*
13. Jesus, Good Shepherd,
 enable me to touch the hearts
 of those in my care. *Med. 139/MTR 4*
 You call me
 to bring your love into their hearts. *Med. 39/102*
 I raise each of them before you
 and ask you to answer their needs.
 You are the One who can do everything
 and I am an instrument in your hands;
 I turn to you with confidence. *MTR 4*
14. Lord Jesus,
 you have entrusted me
 to bring the gospel to young people. *MTR 9*
 I am told that my role as your minister
 is to write your letter of Good News
 not with ink,
 but with the Spirit of the living God;
 not on tablets of stone, like Moses,
 but on tablets of flesh:
 in the hearts of those in my care. *MTR 9*
 By gentleness and patience
 may I lead those under my guidance
 into the liberty of the children of God. *MTR 11*
15. Lord,
 I ask that I may accept with much patience
 the difficulties I have to suffer,
 even to being ready to give my very life,
 so dear to me
 are the children entrusted to me. *MTR 9/MTR 6*

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