

14

**THE PRAYER OF THE BROTHER**  
**The determination for**  
**continued rejuvenation (Rule 145)**

**Bro. Jean-Pierre Lauby**

**1. The Lord is relying on you:**  
**devote some time to Him each day.**

You have neither gold nor silver...  
 What you do have, **your time**, give it to the Lord!  
 Give it, as you complete your work,  
 and also stopping for Him and lingering next to Him.  
 Freely.

According to the generosity of your heart.  
 Because you love Him,  
 and because you want to witness to Him in that way  
 "how great is the esteem you feel for Him".

Find Him in silence,  
 in order to renew your personal relationship  
 with God, your very dear Father,  
 with Jesus, your Savior,  
 with the Spirit of love, who lives within you,  
 with the Most Holy Trinity,  
 to whom you have consecrated your entire life,  
 in an attitude of adoration and praise,  
 of having received and returned love in gratitude,  
 of a son in abandonment and total availability,  
 that allows the "Potter" to work his "clay".

Privileged moments  
 of supply and a period of grace  
 that help you to give meaning  
 to the many activities that fill your day,  
 offering them to the One who is  
 "the beginning and end" of all that you do.

A prayer that turns into a libation,  
 a holocaust of your time,  
 the sacrifice of your best self,  
 where you can express the "yes", the "amen" of the disciple  
 who listens to the Master  
 who shows himself in unexpected circumstances.

**2. God sends you to others:**  
**they urge you to return to Him.**

**You always leave from God.**  
 It is He who calls you each day  
 in order to send you as his ambassador  
 to cooperate in his work.  
 Listening to Him, contemplating Him,  
 frequently going to Him,

you will learn to identify with Him,  
 to become Him,  
 in order to be able to work in His name.

Without this daily  
 "heart to heart" prayer,  
 put to your work, even though the work may be brilliant,  
 it will essentially fail.

**And you return to God:**

– filled with intentions and pleas  
 for all the setbacks and rebuffs,  
 for injustices and passiveness,  
 that you find in others and in yourself:  
 not that you ask God to take your place,  
 but that He might help you begin something,  
 to find the words that you should say,  
 the gestures that you should make,  
 the attitudes that you should adopt;  
 so that He might give you the strength to confront the reality,  
 the energy to still fight,  
 the will to keep on living  
 for those who need you;  
 so that He might help with His grace  
 your work of interior conversion  
 so that you might be able to help others  
 in their own progress  
 influencing the change of their environment.

– **abounding also in thanksgiving and praise**  
 before the omnipotence of your Love  
 for which you often are an astonished witness,  
 and sometimes the direct or indirect instrument,  
 the humble and happy dispenser of your mysteries.

Prayer and ministry, ministry and prayer,  
 tide and ebb tide of the very impulse of faith and zeal,  
 of a tireless march  
 while following Christ freely and faithfully!

**3. Remember that you are**  
**in the holy presence of God.**

The richness of the "present" moment throughout the day:  
 the bearer of a "Presence",  
 welcomed as "gift" ...  
 A presence that helps you  
 live in clarity and in truth.

A presence that accompanies and protects you,  
that drives you and stimulates you.

A presence that helps you overcome all your fears,  
and confront serenely  
struggles and upheavals.

A presence that sows "heaven"  
in all your activities.

The presence of the known and loved Christ  
in each person you meet:  
"You did it to me"!

**Your presence** also,  
attentive to The One who fills you up always and every-  
where,

who works unceasingly in you by means of his Spirit,  
who lives in you by his grace,  
like a life-giving sap,  
who waits for you in the Blessed Sacrament,  
who is in the midst of those who pray in his name,  
who speaks to you with His Word  
so that it might fill your memory  
and be light for your journey.

Because this familiar communion  
with the Blessed Trinity,  
source of eternal life,  
that springs forth in you from the day of your baptism  
and is reinforced by your religious consecration,  
continues to be the essential process of your life,  
according to the solid expression  
of St. John Baptist de La Salle:  
*"My God, it is sufficient to be a Christian,  
who should be animated by your Spirit,  
in order to always have the heart raised up to you".*

#### **4. Widen your prayer to include the world dimension.**

---

**Everything in the press,  
the radio, television, mail...**  
that makes you familiar with the WORLD every day,  
has its place in your prayer,  
in order to awaken your faith  
in this "creation that groans in the agony of labor":  
"God is acting at this moment" ...  
in order to awaken your Hope  
in the saving action of Jesus  
still offering himself today for all and for each one;  
in order to awaken your Charity and make it resourceful  
in the multiple forms of gifts and services  
as much of a benefit  
for the closest disinherited ones  
as for the unknown ones  
on the other side of the world.

**Pray with the entire CHURCH**  
during the liturgy of the Office  
and above all at the Eucharistic Celebration  
where your thanksgiving and your intercession  
will unite themselves to the crying of the entire world  
which are gathered up and offered to the beloved Father  
by the same Christ;  
where the gift of **Christ**  
makes you become son and brother at the same time;  
where the **Holy Spirit**

comes to be a universal fraternal communion,  
always so difficult to maintain:

"May the Holy Spirit make us  
into one body".

#### **Pray with your Brothers, IN COMMUNITY:**

there it is possible to "marvel together",  
to share together  
the work of grace through one and the same mission,  
and also the slow times,  
the difficulties, the failures...  
which are inherent in any common life:  
being certain that your presence  
is a support for your Brothers,  
just as theirs is a support for you.

#### **5. Accept the fact that your prayer may often be the humble prayer of a poor person.**

---

##### **Yes, often your prayer will take on a form of battle.**

A battle against a body  
so soon weakened by fatigue or sorrow,  
that you will need to try to bring it relief  
and change it into an ally  
and gently including it in your prayer.

A battle against the **need for action**  
that will invade all your available time,  
so critical faced with what seems to be  
an evasion, time wasted,  
a matter for a specialist.

A battle against the fear of silence and of being **face to face**,  
that beseeches and bothers...

A fear, in summary of the demands of love!

##### **Fight where you least shine!**

You, so efficient throughout the day,  
in your command post,  
of leadership or organization;  
you, who are respected and admired  
for competence and good work;  
There you are in prayer,  
facing your limits, facing failure,  
in a poverty situation, in spite of your efforts;  
there you have experienced your spiritual poverty  
and humbly recognize that "I don't know how to pray!"

##### **Really providential moments of thanksgiving:**

perhaps the only moments of the day  
in which you again are what you have never ceased to be:  
the "disciple" of the Teacher whom you serve,  
the only "Teacher" capable of still teaching you,  
how to pray.

Open your heart, open your hands, open your lips,  
in the attitude of a son, a "beggar",  
who hopes to receive everything gratuitously  
from the infinite love of your Father, your Lord,  
invisible, but present!

Lord, teach me to pray!  
Lord, teach me to love!  
Lord, teach me to work with You!

*"Eamestly beg of God this spirit of prayer"* (Meditation 95.1).