

LASALLIAN SPIRITUALITY

"the strength to begin anew"

(Rule, 144)

Bro. Jean-Pierre Lauby

1. "By the movement of his Spirit" (Rule of 1718, c. II)

Make yourself available to the Spirit:
its presence will move you.
Welcome this living presence in you as a GIFT.
It is the essential axis of your being and your action:

As a transforming force
of divestment and detachment from yourself,
of light and knowledge,
of the new life which lives in you and fills you up.

As an operating force
that forces you to tune into the most urgent needs
around you,
that gives you the stimulus of hope
to come up with answers,
that helps you confront with constancy
the obstacles and unwillingness
in order to continue being faithful and in solidarity.

As a unifying force
among those whom you love and the one you serve:
Jesus Christ and your brothers,
between your life of prayer
and your many commitments,
among all those with whom you act
"together and be association".

2. "By God's direction" (Rule of 1718, c. II).

Open your heart to the light of God,
to SEE with the eyes of faith
beyond mere appearances,
people and things,
events and situations,

as God sees them:
attentive, above all, to WHAT IS NOW, here and now:
– listen, welcome, respect, implore...
attentive also to what still
MAY BE,
with the certitude the hope precedes us,
and that, having seen, listened and discerned
you will win over consent and commitment.

Called by the Father, animated by the Spirit,
you march determinedly behind Christ,
completely abandoning yourself to his wishes,
letting him rule
over all your internal movements,
in a way which is absolutely his,
and so dependent on you,
that you can really say:
that it is no longer you who live,
but that it is He living in you.

Apply yourself to wanting only what God wants,
when He wants it and how He wants it.

Let Him be the master of your heart,
and be docile to everything He demands of you.
Keep your gaze fixed on the hand of your master
in order to constantly OFFER HIM your daily living.
His grace will produce fruit in you.
And by means of this fruit you will procure the glory of God.

3. "With the intention of pleasing him" (Rule of 1718, c. II).

Since you are in this world only to love God,
breathe God and think of nothing else but pleasing him,
you should consecrate every moment of your life to him,
conserve only what might please him,
so that everything exalts him
by the offering that you make to him.

The offering of your life
renewed each day, knowing that
"being used only by Him
is truly making a sacrifice to God".

The offering of your time
preferring service of God to any other thing
that might be the object of your love;
"Oh, how good it is to serve God!"

The offering of all your actions
done in a holy way,
in the spirit of adoration of his divine presence,
in a way that they might be worthy of Him,
trying to please him in all details,
in order to witness to the greatness
of your esteem for Him.
– "Do you do all things before God,
as being for God,
and only for the purpose of pleasing God?"

"How happy you will be if all your thoughts
deal only with God and are only for Him!"

4. "...Sacred Scripture...the first and principal Rule" (Rule of 1718, c. II).

Find in your listening and meditation of the Word
the continual nourishment,
and the daily grace of conversion.

Do it in your **personal prayer**
and in the time you dedicate
to the **informal reading of Scripture**,
and even throughout the day,
with texts that come to mind,
as nourishment for your intelligence,

light for your feet,
a raging fire for the heart,
or a simple, spontaneous, modern prayer...

Do it in **community**,
in the moments of encounter when you share
the experience of God.
meditation on His Word,
questioning of apostolic commitments,
as a precious fraternal bastion,
during Lauds and Vespers,
when the shouts of life
which give you happiness, stimulate you or tear you
apart,
join these to the prayers of the psalms...

Do it in **Church**:
during the daily Eucharist,
when the Word illumines and appraises
your commitments and your decisions,
and can cure your blindness, your deafness,
your lameness, or your paralysis...
So that you do not forget that you are
an apostle and a witness
of the Lord and His Good News.

5. "As ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ" (Meditation 195.2; 201.2).

Make the children and the poor
of the world and of the Church
your **preferential option**.

Because you are called to the **Ministry of Education**,
by means of which you direct the Good News
to the humble and to the poor,
and to **young people** who can grow
as people and children of God,
everything that happens in your country in the world
concerns you and beseeches you;
and all your activities contribute to the building up of
the "already here" Kingdom,
but "not yet" in its definite fullness.

Remember, nevertheless, that you cannot
really fulfill your Ministry
if you do not live in a **permanent conversion**
that again brings up to date your commitments,
toward greater truth and freedom,
toward greater justice and love
in the assuming of your responsibilities
both personal and institutional.

6. "Often ask God for the grace to touch hearts": (Meditation 81.2).

Fulfill your mission with an "ARDENT ZEAL"
by the generous gift of your time,
your talents and your strengths,
for the continual improvement of your abilities,
with the firmness of a father and the tenderness of a
mother,
with the will to make your job a ministry,
as in the example of the Good Shepherd.

Deal with others with a "Poor Heart".

It is God who sends you to do your work.
You are his "voice"..., his "colleague".
Without the action of his Spirit, your means are very fragile,
Be conscious of your limits:
that will help you to accept those of others,
without a spirit of superiority.
Learn to ask God earnestly
for what you do not find in yourself,
and to hope that He will fructify your efforts.
That which prepares the instrument effectively
is a school of humility, patience, indulgence,
disinterest, availability...

With the wish to act
"TOGETHER AND BY ASSOCIATION".
By means of "association" and the "shared mission"
you will be freed from being closed in on your work;
open to the action of others
you multiply your apostolic efforts
and you are in solidarity with the evangelization of the
world.

Whatever may be your responsibilities or place of work,
you know that fulfilling
the ministry that is today confided to you,
you contribute to carrying out
the mission confided to the Institute by the Church.
Your strength is in being sent, accepted, supported!

If you are already aware of a decrease or a cessation in your activities,
because of age or illness,
you should be certain
that you still play a very active role
in the vitality of ministry and of the Institute,
and in doing so you still bear fruit
by a living solidarity
in which each one is certain to fulfill
the one and the same mission.

7. "How fortunate you ought to consider yourselves, to be working in the field of the Lord" (Meditation 207.1).

No life is easy.
The ministry of education is hard and at times thankless.
Community life is in a constant process of building.

To follow Christ is an urgent journey!

With a body which sometimes you have to drag...
With a character which does not always facilitate relation-
ships...
With an atmosphere which is almost never deliberately
chosen...

And, nevertheless, you are called to experience,
on this earth, now,
true HAPPINESS,
fulfilling your ministry of human and Christian education
in the footsteps of CHRIST, the GOOD SHEPHERD,
source of true HAPPINESS.
who offers to transform your whole life
with his tender mercy,
renewed each morning (Luke 1:77-78).

All that remains for you is to communicate this joy that fills
you
to those who ask you for the reason
for the hope that is in you! (1 Peter 3:15).