

**PRAYING WITH
JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE**

Brother José Luis Hermosilla

3. HONEST DIALOGUE WITHIN THE LITURGY

THE SAVING WORD

No father on earth
loves his children
as much as you love the beings you created, Lord.
Not content with just giving them existence
you inspire them with the means
for happiness in this life and someday
having a place in your House.

First through the prophets
and then through your holy apostles,
you have given us the Word of Life.
But it was through Jesus, your beloved Son,
that you gave the definitive Word
to the world: the "Good News" that saves us.

Strengthen us, Lord, against our weakness;
guide our steps
along the road you have pointed out:
Christ our brother, who is the Way,
he Truth and the Life.

(At the point in the Eucharist known as the Collect)

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 76).

THE WORD OF LIFE

Lord, your Word contained in the Bible
is the Letter that you send to your children.

I believe that it is in the person of Jesus
where you fulfill what you announced
through the prophets and the apostles.

Give us understanding and wisdom
of the holy mysteries which we celebrate;
the grace to listen to the teaching
which we now hear with a submissive spirit.
May we know how to "like" the truths
which are contained therein
and adapt our lives to such holy counsels.

So be it.

(At the reading of the Word of God)

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 76).

THE WORD THAT DEMANDS COMMITMENT

Lord, the Gospel that I read
is not only your Word:
it is your Law; the norm and the guide
for all Christians.

I receive it as the Word which came from you.
I hear it respectfully
and I believe it with sincere faith.

It is you, Lord, who have given it to us
by means of the holy apostles
whom you inspired to put it into writing.

Lord, I thank you for giving me
so wonderful a teaching
that guides my life like a beacon and a model
to which to adapt my behavior.
My commitment to read this divine Word
each day is firm and sure.

By means of reflection and meditation
I will understand what is the object of my faith
and I will not be ashamed to give witness
to it under any circumstance.

I will sing and proclaim forever
that the Lord is good and kind
towards all his creatures.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 77).

OFFERING

Lord, you remind me in the bread and wine
that the priest offers to you
of the generous self-surrender of Jesus on the Cross.
His life has been poured out for all of us.

I also offer to you, Lord,
following the example of Jesus,
all that I am and all that I have;
all that I feel and all that I desire;
I promise to do to everything
in order to please you in the specific mission
that I carry out each day.
May all of this effort be guided by the Gospel
and may I never look for anything
except to please you in all things.

AMEN

IT IS A SONG OF PRAISE

My tongue is untied in praise of my God,
because his mercy with mankind
has no limits and he is loving
with all his creatures across the centuries.

I unite my voice with that of the angels and saints
to sing the glory of God
in heaven and his peace on earth.

Through Christ in whom you, Father, are pleased;
with Christ and in Christ may every praise, power,
honor and glory be given to you throughout the ages.

SO BE IT.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 81-82).

A COMPLETE CHANGE OF HEART

That which was bread
is now more than bread.

That which was wine
is now more than wine.
Bread and wine, by divine will
and by means of the priest, have become
the food of life and drink of salvation.

And I, Jesus, even though I receive you into my soul,
I continue on with my passions and evil inclinations.
Lord, change my heart
in such a way that from now on,
and as a result of grace received,
I might have no other satisfaction on earth
than that of loving you and completely
following your holy will.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 84-85).

GIVE ME YOUR PEACE, LORD

In the possession of true peace
is found the source of happiness.
But I will only find this in you;
united to you, Lord,
and not in allegiance with evil.

Give me, Lord, this Peace: your Peace;
that which comes from the heart which possesses you;
the Peace that is born out of totally
following your will and desire.

If I possess this,
nothing will be able to disturb me,
since I shall not want anything
but to please you in everything.

Lord, may I spread this peace to all men,
above all with those with whom I live,

since in rejecting my brother
I would be not be united to you.

Give me kindness and patience
that will be visible to others.
May I be capable, by your love,
of accepting the injuries and insults,
misunderstandings and unpleasantness
that I might receive.

May nothing nor anyone, Lord,
succeed in taking peace away from me
which can only come from you
and which you alone can give.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 89-90).

BURNING DESIRE

My savior Jesus Christ,
I have a burning desire to receive you.
This desire occupies my heart day and night.

The Communion of your Body is for me
a consolation amidst pain; strength in weakness;
an effective support against temptation.

When I possess you new Life
is evident within me:
Jesus, you are the Life of the soul.
When I draw away from you,
I languish and die.

Jesus, you are my happiness;
I place all my happiness in you,
because I cannot find it elsewhere more lasting
nor more secure than by enjoying your Presence:
this is the good that I receive each time
I draw near to receive you in Communion.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 90).

IN THANKSGIVING

Lord, I thank you with all my heart
for what you give me as food for my soul;
also for what is felt internally as strength
that is renewed in the fight against evil;
as a doctor and a medicine
which are capable of curing all ills.

Therefore, full of joy, I sincerely proclaim:
you are, Lord,
the health of my soul
and the greatest happiness
that I can experience in life
and with which nothing can compare.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 92). •