

**PRAYING WITH
JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE**

Brother José Luis Hermosilla

4. RECONCILED WITH GOD

**Place in my path
that person who is pleasing to you**

Lord, you search and know my heart
and nothing is hidden from your eyes.
The desire to return to you and walk in your presence
is sincere and trustworthy.

You, who chose David to lead your people
and who gladdened your heart
while walking in your presence with loyalty,
place in my path that person who is pleasing to you
and who will act as father and charitable physician for me .

Good Father, you who are interested in my spiritual welfare,
as if you were dealing with your own salvation;
you who look for the necessary means
so that I may grow in virtue.
You are the Father who treats me
tenderly yet firmly at the same time.

So that, as a good doctor, Lord,
and remembering your example,
you might heal with love and kindness
the wounds that sin has left in my soul.
May you preserve it with the heat of your grace.
Enlighten, Lord, your thought,
so that the advice that you give me might be wise.

Since now my feelings are no longer hidden from you
give me the necessary docility
in order to accept my spiritual director's advice
that I be brave and have the courage to carry it out,
and the abundant and effective grace
to not fall again into the sin

for which I am always sorry.

This is what I yearn for to be fulfilled with my entire soul
and which no one but you, Lord, can give me as gift.
This is what I hope to achieve today
due to your great kindness. **SO BE IT.**

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 170-172).

"LORD, YOU WILL OPEN MY LIPS"

My tongue, Lord, loosens in praise
and deep recognition of you.
I confess with my heart
that honor and glory are due only to you,
because only you are infinitely good,
you are kindness and holiness themselves.

No one, Lord, has shown so much love to man:
– You sent us Jesus, your Son

who has rescued us from sin and freed us
from our own wickedness.
– You want to make us participants in your own happiness
enjoying your endless happiness.
– When you created us you sought only our good.

May man thank you in all things, Lord,
and love you as you deserve:
"Your will be done on earth
as the blessed carry it out in heaven".

May I announce your mercy, Lord,
together with the rest of your creatures.
Only in you will I find the happiness that I long for.
"Lord, open my lips
so that I can proclaim your praise".

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 175-180).

**"AGAINST YOU, AGAINST YOU ALONE
HAVE I SINNED, BLOT OUT MY OFFENSES
WITH YOUR GREAT MERCY"**

Lord, I left your hands cleanly
and without any trace of wickedness.
You created me in your image and likeness.
You know me from within better
than I know myself from without.
You penetrate to the depths of the heart
and none of what I think or feel is hidden from you.

As water springs forth from the hollows of the earth,
so my soul sprang forth from your kindness;
but over the years I allowed myself to be dragged
along by the impetuous current of evil.

I realize, Lord, that I abandoned my own judgment
and I alienated myself from you.
But what good and solid thing did I find
when I sought support
in what was fleeting and transient?...
How miserable an abyss man can fall
into if he allows himself to be carried along
by the unchecked impulses of his heart!

To be inclined towards evil and then to fall into it
was exactly what my weakness did
and it was the worst that could possible happen to me:
– my spirit was blinded and my heart hardened;
– I lived in chains and as a slave of evil,
which you, Lord, abhor so much.

Lord, you who are the doctor of my soul,
cure my sickness and help me out of it.
You are the one who suggests within my heart
repentance which gives life;
you advance my cure while bestowing generous pardon.
My entire being should direct itself towards you,
as the shot arrow heads for the bull's-eye.

I hear your voice in my inmost being
it asks me to lovingly surrender to your love.
I humbly confess
that pardon and mercy come from you,
the abundant redemption which saves
my soul and snatches it from the deep abyss.

AMEN

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 180-190).

**“A SINCERE HEART IS PLEASING TO YOU
AND YOU NOURISH WISDOM IN MY INNER SELF”**

Lord, my heart

cannot live in plenitude and receive any happiness,
if it remains attached to all that you have created:

- Even though it possesses all goods
and enjoys honors that are given;
- even though it is esteemed,
recognized and praised by everyone;
- even though it makes my feelings happy
with as much as is available within my reach...

Can it be said and confessed that my entire being
is more than satisfied with your desires and needs?...

Lord, I humbly confess that only you
can lay claim to our hearts.

Born only for you, nothing nor anyone can satisfy
our infinite desires which you yourself have sewn in us.

By means of your Spirit, inculcate in us
the wisdom which you send from above, so that it is He
who guides and directs our lives along the right path.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 190-191).

**“LORD, RENEW MY INNER BEING AND
MAKE ME FEEL YOUR HAPPINESS AND JOY”**

Lord, renew me inside, as you did with Zaccheus.
You furthered his desires and infused in his heart
a generous response to a change in lifestyle.

Like Mary Magdalene I find myself at your feet.
May the strength of your grace strengthen my heart
and my feet,
so that they will not return to the former fortunes of sin.

Like Peter I weep bitterly
about my deviations from and negation of your kindness.
Like the prodigal son I want to return to my father's house
and I recognize, on my knees before you,
that I have missed your love,
and I have stayed away from you.

Dress me with the robe of your grace;
give me the Father's embrace,
and so I again will be pleasing in your eyes.

Like the publican in the Gospel, I give you humble thanks
because you listen to me and your consoling Word
“has filled my heart with joy and happiness,
more than an abundant harvest of wheat and oil”.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 179-180).

**LORD, STRENGTHEN ME
WITH A GENEROUS SPIRIT**

This is my prayer before you, Lord,
it is like a shout that comes forth from my heart and my lips;
it is like a wind that, in violent desperation,
escapes through all the windows of my being:

- Remove from my path, Lord,
occasions for committing evil;
if you allow it to visit my house,
do not allow me to make friends with it.
 - Do not leave me abandoned to my own strength,
carried and swayed by the impetuous currents
of my mad passions.
 - Place in my heart a deep love for good
and a sincere attachment to truth.
 - If one day I am visited by sickness, Lord,
let it not bring me death.
- Place your very self in my heart,

with wishes of a quick recovery.
Make straight my steps along the road
that leads to the source of health.

I show you my wounds, Lord,
so that, like a doctor of the soul,
you can cure them with loving kindness.
Whatever is not fitting for me, Lord of all goods
which you have placed at my disposal
in order to offer you all that I am, along with them,
place all that I have or might have generously
at your service.

I place my hope in you, Lord;
that I may never waver from or be separated from you.
AMEN.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 200-210).

**I GIVE YOU THANKS, LORD, BECAUSE
YOU HAVE MARVELOUSLY CHOSEN ME**

I give you thanks, Lord, because you have chosen me
and you have saved me in a marvelous way.

You placed your gifts within
this fragile clay vessel which I am,
and your hands modeled an image
and likeness similar to yours.
And finding you was an admirable discovery
like a “hidden treasure” of inestimable value
within my heart.

Now I enjoy your Presence; I relish your Word of Life;
I admire and meditate on this Word
because in it you tell me:
– that you are the Father who accepts me and embraces me;
– that I am your son,
even though one day I may turn my back on you;
– that you are happy when I return to you
and you have prepared a well-served table
to celebrate that event.

I am the son that you admit into your house;
the paralytic whom you have cured of his disease;
the lost sheep that you have snatched
from the bramble patch and returned to the sheepfold.

Thank you, Lord, because you make me participate
in the inheritance of your Kingdom, for all eternity.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 210).

LORD. YOU ARE MY STRENGTH; I TRUST IN YOU

Lord, you are the “rock” on which I sit,
and the “Strength” which sustains me.
You are the faithful God, the one who never fails,
who always pardons and is ready to help
and to forget about a distressing past.

Even though the amount of money
which I contribute might be small,
as our friendship is sealed, with your help:
– I will take care to find my way to you through prayer;
– by way of my neighbor,
through charity and the practice of good;
– at all times, living a life of self-surrender,
abandoning myself entirely to your holy Spirit.

May this Spirit of Kindness be the one
who directs my footsteps
along the paths of the good that I love,
and may my days be consumed in your perseverance:
this I desire with all my heart.

(Instructions et prières...CL 17, 215-216). •