

**PRAYING WITH
JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE**

Brother José Luis Hermosilla

6. THE CHILD JESUS

JESUS, YOU HAVE BECOME A CHILD

Jesus, you have become a poor and simple child and the most lovable of all children. What most attractive signs of love you give me! I would at least like to return something of love to you, and show it with all my affection, all my soul and all my strength.

I consecrate all that I am and all that I have to you, Divine Child, since all that I can do is to surrender myself totally to you, since you already love me.

Your love for the simple moved you to draw near to them, to the point of becoming a child, like us, born of the Virgin Mary.

I adore and revere you in the arms of your Holy Mother; like the most worthy throne for your Majesty, after which you have heaven itself next to your Divine Father.

You are, Jesus, the Christ, I say along with the apostle Peter; you are the Son of the living God, the Messiah who was sent, announced by the Prophets and awaited for so long. You are the only one for whom the world could wait for its salvation.

Receive the proof and recognition of my affection. I declare that you are our King and the master and Lord of our hearts.

I ask you, Jesus, that as the stamp makes an impression on soft wax, you leave on my heart the proofs of virtue of which you are the model in your Holy Infancy: simplicity, humility and love; the spirit of a son for our eternal Father, and intimate love for Mary, your Mother and mine.

Please, Jesus, sustain and increase my faith which is weak. SO BE IT.

(Extracts from the Explanation of the Method of making Mental Prayer)

7. PRAYER LITANY

• Union in a community is a precious gem (Meditation 91.2)

– *Lord, teach us to love.*

• The teacher is called by God to the Ministry of the Schools. Guide your students with authentic spiritual fatherhood.

(Meditation 193.2).

– *Lord, let us not forsake the gift of leadership which you give us.*

– *Help us to guide our students with diligence.*

• I adore in all things the will of God in my regard, De La Salle frequently said.

– *Fulfill in us, Lord, the Father's desire at all times. Blessed are you forever!*

• “No one should ask God more earnestly than by being united in heart and spirit with your Brothers and with the persons with whom you must deal every day. In this you will find happiness and peace for your soul”.

– *We ask you, Lord of hearts, that you form our hearts and those of our Brothers into just one in the heart of Jesus.* (Meditation 39.3).

• “Among the best means that you have to fruitfully carry out your ministry of teaching is to proclaim a very special devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary” (Meditation 150.3).

– *Our Lady, Queen and Mother of the Christian Schools: may we never tire of instilling your love in the hearts of the children which God has entrusted to our care.*

• “If you deal with children with the firmness of a father in order to free them from evil, so too you should deal with them with the tenderness of a mother in order to welcome them and procure for them the good that is in your hands”.

– *Lord, may we know how to take advantage of the affection which the children have for us so that we might more easily bring them to you.* (Meditations 101.3; 115.3).

• “So that Jesus Christ may reign in your hearts and those of your students it is necessary that in all your actions you have no purpose other than that of pleasing him in all that you do. Surrender yourselves completely to the action of his grace in you. (Meditation 22.1,2,3).

– *Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!*

• May your lives shine in the light of faith especially because of your ministry. Do not cease carrying out your actions by the spirit of faith (Meditation 147.3).

– *Lord, we firmly believe, but increase our faith, we say to you along with the apostles.*

• “How happily you should consider yourselves for being able to have the Holy Gospels: in them are contained treasures of wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ” (Meditation 159.1).

– *Lord, may our souls be nourished daily by your holy maxims, so that they may make us members of the household.*

• “Prayer is the foundation and the support of all virtue and the source of the grace that you need to sanctify yourselves in your daily tasks” (Collection, page 124).

— *Lord may dialogue and conversation with you never cease, in spite of the difficulties that we find in carrying it out.*

8. JESUS, PRESENT AMIDST BROTHERS WHO ARE GATHERED TOGETHER

What a great happiness I feel, Lord,
of being before you in prayer together with my Brothers.
I believe in the words you said one day:
“Where two or more are praying in my name, I am there in their midst”.

I firmly believe
that you are found, Jesus, among us,
in order to spread your holy Spirit with an abundance of gifts, as on Pentecost.
By this same Spirit I ask you for the grace
of having a close union
of mind and heart with my Brothers
and with the students whom I teach.
May the burning zeal for the salvation of souls cause me to
surrender myself completely in my ministry.

You are among us, Jesus,
in this silent and peaceful place,
in order to give us the spirit
of the maxims and truths of your Gospel.

You yourself encourage us to make them
the rule and guide of our lives.

Teach us to put them into practice throughout the day
which you give to us as gift each day.

I wholeheartedly thank you
for the happiness that you give me
for being in this Community,
in which you become present.
Jesus, you are the Bread of our lives:
you are their Center.
In the same way that the radii of a circumference
converge towards the center,
may it be in you where we find rest
for our tiredness and strength in weakness.

You only are capable of
giving meaning and center to our lives.
In the way that the sun is in the firmament and its heat
gives plants the virtue of producing,
and fruits the ability to mature,
may the influence of your life and virtue on us
give our lives
the ability to produce flowers of virtue
and fruit ripened in sanctity.

Jesus, you are for us like the vine.
The vine shoots receive life and strength
in the measure that they are connected to the vine.
You are, Lord, this fruitful vine;
we are the vine shoots.
We earnestly ask you
that you remain united to us;
in our very house and heart.
And so we will be supported in good works
since you, Jesus, are the author and giver of all that is good.

AMEN.

(Extracts from the Method of Making Mental Prayer). •