

Instruments of Divine Providence

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

“He who did not spare his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also freely give us all things with him?” (Rom 8:32)

FIRST MOVEMENT

1. **Take a few minutes to quiet yourself. Become aware of the present moment of your existence, your breathing, your body sensations. What is going on within you? You are alive. God’s creative power is at work within you, making you live and grow, bringing out the best in you.**

“For in him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

2. **Feel confident in God who dwells in you. Release all anxiety and worry about your life, and the lives of your loved ones. Pray these words several times as you breathe slowly:**

“In you, I put my trust.” (Ps 143:8)

SECOND MOVEMENT

3. **Contemplate the Mystery of God’s Love at Work in the World**

Read the following Scripture passage slowly and reflectively. Try to understand the mind and the feelings of the characters in the story. What words or phrases of this dialogue especially catch your attention?

“After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he replied, ‘Here am I.’ God said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’ ... And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘My father!’ And he replied, ‘Here am I, my son.’ Isaac said, ‘Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God will himself provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’ So they went both of them together.

“When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he replied, ‘Here am I.’ The angel said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord, it shall be provided.’” (Gen 22:1-2, 6-14)

4. Reflect on the Mystery of God’s Love at Work in Your Own Life

What is the “mount of the Lord” in your life? What does God provide you? What does he ask of you? What do you withhold from him? What do you give to him?

Lovingly contemplate the mystery of Christ, the paschal sacrifice. How do you better unite yourself with him today?

You may read the following passage as well:

“When, in your troubles, you have had recourse to those who guide you and they have been unable to supply the appropriate remedy, God requires that you should remain in a state of entire abandonment to his good pleasure, awaiting from his goodness the help you need, after the example of the multitude of people who had followed our Lord and who waited patiently for him to supply their wants without even troubling to expose them. You may, in fact, rest assured that God will not allow you to be tried beyond your strength. It is when we are powerless that he does all, and thereby manifests his power and goodness in a striking manner.” (Meditation No. 20.2)

What are your needs, hopes, fears and anxieties in your ministry? Can you put your trust in God’s loving care?

How do you feel, right now, as a Christian educator? Be grateful to God for the growth that is taking place in your life and in the lives of those whom you serve.

When do you feel weak or powerless in your ministry? “Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you.” (Ps 55:22)

THIRD MOVEMENT

5. Resolve to Be More Open to the Work of the Spirit in and Through You Today

Resolve to be more open to the Spirit who leads you along the path of righteousness. “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good Spirit lead me on a level path.” (Ps 143:10)

How are you an instrument of God’s providential and loving care for others?

Where is the Spirit drawing you to sacrifice yourself that others may have life?

This prayer meditation is an excerpt from *Ambassadors of Jesus Christ: Prayer Meditations for Christian Educators* (1995) by Brother William Mann, FSC, Brother Henry Dissanayke, FSC, and Brother Isaias Tzegay, FSC. This book contains 35 meditations that invite one to enter into the three movements of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's *Method of Interior Prayer*.