

Shepherds of the Flock of God

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

“Be the shepherd of the flock of God that is entrusted to you; watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly.” (1 Pt 5:2)

FIRST MOVEMENT

1. **Take a few minutes to recollect yourself and then contemplate God's presence in the persons of those entrusted to your care.**

“The faith which animates you should lead you to respect Jesus Christ in their persons.” (Meditation No. 80.3)

2. **Ask God to make your will one with his.**

“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me.” (Jn 4:34)

SECOND MOVEMENT

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

Read the following passages a few times slowly. What words or phrases especially appeal to you? Ponder what is being said. Lovingly contemplate Jesus the good shepherd, and how you resemble him.

“In the Gospel, Jesus compares those who have care of souls to a good shepherd who is very careful of his sheep. One of the qualities which Our Lord says distinguishes him is that he knows them each individually. This is also one of the essential qualities required of those who instruct others, for they must get to know their pupils and discern the manner in which to act toward them.” (Meditation No. 33.1)

“It is also necessary, says Our Lord, that the sheep should know their shepherd, in order to follow him. Two things are required, therefore, of those who have charge of others and should characterize them. First, they should be very virtuous, in order to serve as an example, for unless they walk in the right path, those who follow them would be led astray. Secondly, they should manifest great tenderness for the well-being of those confided to them, so that anything which might be capable of injuring or wounding these young

people will call for their attention. In this manner, the sheep will love their shepherd and be pleased in his company, since they will find therein their repose and their relief." (Meditation No. 33.2)

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

Who are the people for whom you are a shepherd?

How careful of them have you been?

How well do you know them individually?

Do you teach by example?

Are those with whom you work happy in your company?

THIRD MOVEMENT

5. Resolve to Be More Open to the Spirit Who Works in and Through You Today

How could you better be a good shepherd who cares for those who are entrusted to you?

Where is the Spirit drawing you to resemble Jesus, the good shepherd?

Ask God to give you the Spirit to help you to be a good shepherd so that through you others might find repose and relief.

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*.