

Successors to the Apostles

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

"You are successors to the apostles in their task of catechizing and instructing the poor."
(Meditation No. 200.1)

FIRST MOVEMENT

- 1. Pause for a few minutes and try to place yourself in a more conscious awareness of the presence of the God who wants you to know the secret mysteries of his being.**

"For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ." (Eph 1:9)

- 2. Since God has, out of his infinite love, chosen to reveal to you things which others do not see and to make known to you secrets which are hidden from many, take some time now and reoffer yourself to God to do his work and to fulfill his will.**

"I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will last." (Jn 15:16)

SECOND MOVEMENT

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

Read the following passages a few times slowly. What word or words especially catch your attention? Listen to what is being said. Watch what happens. Try to become part of the mystery. Lovingly contemplate Jesus who invites you to be his ministers in the world.

"And Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved; but those who do not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'" (Mk 16:15-18)

"After this the Lord appointed 70 others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself about to come. And he said to them: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. ... When you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them. The kingdom of God has come near you.'" (Lk 10:1-9)

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

Spend some minutes in a more conscious awareness of the realities of the world around you. Who are those who are thirsting hungering for truth, love and justice? Who lacks education? Who is excluded from hearing the good news of the Gospel?

In what ways are you being invited to continue the mission of Jesus in the world today? How might you be able to "quench the thirst" and "satisfy the hunger" of those who come to you in expectation and need?

How is God inviting you to leave behind your own small, secure "world" and to become more available for the work of the kingdom?

THIRD MOVEMENT

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

Has any one thing particularly stirred in you during this time in prayer? What response, if any, to Christ and God's movement in you do you feel inclined to make today?

What step would you be willing to take today to put yourself a bit more completely at the service of the will and the reign of God?

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*.