

A Master Builder

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

“God chose and destined Saint Paul ... to preach the Gospel to the nations; and God gave him such a knowledge of the mysteries of Jesus Christ that he was established, as a good master builder, to lay the foundation for the building of faith and religion which God erected in the cities where Saint Paul announced the Gospel.” (Meditation No. 199.1)

FIRST MOVEMENT

1. **Take a few minutes to place yourself into the creative presence of the Creator, God who is the perfect master builder. Think for a few minutes of the beauty, majesty and perfection of God’s creation and of God’s loving care for everything that he has made. Recall that this is the God who made you and gifted you and watches over you with infinite tenderness.**

“Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name.” (Is 40:26)

2. **While you are aware of the creative presence of God, try to be more aware of how beautifully and wonderfully you have been made. Try to be aware of the desire that God has placed within you to grow into that person he wants you to be in Christ.**

“God created man and woman in his own image, in the divine image he created them.” (Gen 1:27)

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. Lovingly contemplate the ongoing re-creation of the world in Christ.

“Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk in it: ‘I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice. I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who

live in darkness. I am the Lord, this is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now foretell: Before they spring into being, I announce them to you.” (Is 42:5-9)

“Then I saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out: ‘This is God’s dwelling among humanity. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people and he shall be their God who is always with them. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away.’ The one who sat on the throne said to me, ‘See, I make all things new!’” (Rev 21:1-5)

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

As you reflect on the plan of God to restore and renew the world and to make it a place of peace, love, happiness and justice, do you have any thoughts about how this might affect your life? Do you think that you, like Saint Paul, might have a role to play in restoring and renewing the lives of those with whom you live and work, and especially in the world of youth and of the poor?

Think about the world in which you live. Try in your mind now, to walk along its streets, along the corridors of its schools, and among its families. What are its joys? What are its sorrows? What invitation does this world make to you? How does God speak to you in the hopes and the sorrows of the people of this world?

How is God calling and leading you to be an instrument of his ongoing re-creation and renewal of the earth and of all humanity in Christ?

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?

Try to make just one resolution now to involve yourself in and to make a contribution to the building up of a society of love and justice here in the place where you are.

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*.