

## Guardians and Guides

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

“Ask God today for the grace of watching so well over those confided to you that you will take every possible care to shield them from serious faults and to be such good guides, through the light your prayer will obtain for you from God and the fidelity you bring to your work, that you will see clearly every obstacle to their good and keep away every harm that could injure them.” (Meditation No. 197.3)

### FIRST MOVEMENT

- 1. Take a few minutes to quiet yourself and to remember that God is present within you and that through you God chooses to make his care and presence known to those whom you serve.**

“Earnestly ask Jesus Christ to make his Spirit come alive in you, since he has chosen you to do his work.” (Meditation No. 196.1)

- 2. Ask for a more perfect union of your will with God’s will.**

“Teach me your way, O God, and lead me on a level path.” (Ps 27:11)

### SECOND MOVEMENT

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

Read the following Scripture passage a few times slowly. What words or phrases especially catch your attention? Listen to what is being said. Enter into the mystery of God’s benevolent care. Lovingly contemplate this God who watches over you and on whose behalf the care of others has been entrusted to you.

“I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;  
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from Yahweh,  
who made heaven and earth.  
Yahweh does not allow our footsteps to slip!

Indeed, our guard does not sleep!  
The guardian of Israel  
neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Yahweh is our guardian;  
Yahweh is our shade.  
Yahweh is beside us  
at our right hand.

The sun cannot harm us by day,  
nor the moon at night.

Yahweh guards us from all harm  
and protects our lives.

Yahweh watches over our coming and going,  
both now and forever more." (Ps 121)

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

As you have been invited to be the guardians and guides of God's children (Meditation No. 205.1), spend some time now reflecting on how well you exercise this ministry.

Are you doing as much as you are able and as God requires of you for the human and Christian formation of those who have been entrusted to you?

Do you inspire your students by your instruction and good example and help them to keep clear of whatever obstacles they might encounter?

Do you help them to be kind to one another, compassionate, mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven them in Christ, and loving one another even as Jesus Christ has loved them?

Have you helped them to develop the virtues of gentleness, patience, love, respect for their parents, and all the conduct that is proper for a Christian?

Do you reprove and correct those in your care when they fall into some fault? Do you exhibit prudence, gentleness and patience when making corrections?

Do you help those with whom you work to come to a more loving knowledge of God?

Have you taught them to pray to God, as Jesus taught those who followed him?

Through the ministry you exercise, how are the hearts of the faithful being strengthened in holiness and justice?

### **THIRD MOVEMENT**

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

Take a few minutes and thank God for the ministry with which you have been entrusted and ask for the grace to do it well.

What could you do today that would help you to give yourself with greater zeal and affection to this ministry?

Where is the Spirit drawing you to sacrifice yourself today 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*.