

Builders of the Church

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

“Look upon your work as one of the most important and excellent in the Church, since it is most capable of sustaining it and of giving it a solid foundation.” (Meditation No. 155.1)

FIRST MOVEMENT

1. **Take a few minutes to quiet yourself, to remember that God is present, and to renew your confidence in him.**

“Blessed be, Yahweh, my rock.” (Ps 144:1)

2. **Placing your trust in God once more, ask for a more perfect union of your will with God’s will.**

“Happy are those who put their trust in you.” (Ps 84:12)

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 catch your attention? Listen to what is being said in openness to the mystery into which you are being drawn, contemplate this God who chooses to work in the world through you.

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. Let each take care how one builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor 3:9-11)

“In his providential care, God has (when necessity required it) appointed others to fill in for fathers and mothers. ... He sends persons with the necessary enlightenment and zeal to help children attain the knowledge of God and his mysteries. According to the grace of Jesus Christ given to them by God, they are like good master builders who give all possible care and attention to lay the foundation of religion and Christian virtue in the hearts of children. ... You have been called by God to this ministry and you have been

given the grace of teaching and the gift of exhortation for the sake of those entrusted to your responsibility.” (Meditation No. 193.2)

“You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. You form a building which rises upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him, the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord: In him, you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.” (Eph 2:19-22)

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

Do you look upon the good you are trying to accomplish with them as the foundation of the good they will be able to practice for the rest of their lives?

Do you realize that when you teach young people the mysteries of their faith that you are laying the foundation for the building of the Church?

Do you help your students grow in a greater appreciation of the Church and a greater love of the whole People of God?

Are you helping them in all things to grow to full maturity in Christ, our head, through whom the whole body of the Church is growing, being supported, and building itself up in love?

Does your work contribute to the promotion of the common good? Have you helped your students to acquire those traits that will enable them to help make the world in which we live a better place?

Do you help form young disciples to bear witness by their behavior to Gospel values and to cooperate with all people of good will to bring about greater peace, justice, liberation, and wholeness of life for the whole human family?

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 grace he has given you of sharing in this important ministry in the Church.

What could you do that would help make you a more “skillful master builder” and a more qualified minister of the new covenant?

Where is the Spirit gifting and drawing you to sacrifice yourself today that others may have fuller 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*.