



Lasallian East Asia District  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Novena Prayer  
April 2021

**“SHARED RESPONSIBILITY - SHARED MISSION”**

(Declaration 2020, p. 49)

**General Instructions:**

1. Find a prayerful atmosphere and reflective mood and bring a journal or a notebook during the Novena Prayer.
2. There will be three (3) Prayer Periods. Spend 5-10 minutes in quiet reflection on each prayer period.
3. There will be Reflection Questions that will be given after each prayer period, take time to write your reflections in your journal.

**Invitation to Worship**

John Baptiste de La Salle was led to found a community of men who were enlightened by God to share in his saving plan. They associated themselves to respond to the needs of the young people who were poor and far from salvation. Even today, every community of Brothers finds its fundamental source of inspiration in this event.

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God...

**Opening Song | Prayer for Generosity**

Bukas Palad

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve You as I should.  
To give and not to count the cost.  
To fight and not to heed the wounds.  
To toil and not to seek for rest.  
To labor and ask not for reward.  
Save that of knowing that I do Your most holy will.

**NOVENA PRAYER**

**APRIL 2021**



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## PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qS27Bf3nScQ>

### Opening Prayer

And God said: "You are my servant whom I have chosen. It is you whom I brought from the confines of the Earth and called from the ends of the world, it is you whom I said: You are my servant - I have chosen you, not rejected you.

You are my servants whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed you with My spirit, that you may bring true justice to nations.

Faithfully you will bring to justice, you will neither stop, not be crushed, until true justice is established on earth, for my people are awaiting my law.

Thus says God who created the heavens and spread them out. Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it. Who gave breath to its people and life to the creatures that move in it.

### Prayer Period 1 | "Saying Yes to God"

Source: <https://retreatday.com/meditations/saying-yes-to-god>

If you read through the Bible about all the men and women who decided to say "yes" to God, you will find that it was always of their own free will. Noah had the choice of building an ark or not building an ark. Fortunately for us (and him), he chose to build it. Moses stood before a burning bush and said yes to God, even though doing so placed him in great danger returning to Egypt. Blessed Mary said yes, with her beautiful answer, "my soul



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magnifies the Lord". The disciples said "yes" even though it meant danger, deprivation and persecution.

By saying "yes" to God, we are essentially saying that He is the most important thing in our lives, and that all good things spring from that wonderful fact. In the book of John, Jesus says: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples—your love for one another." We have a special challenge each and every day to live with love. Some days are easier than others.

It took me longer than it should have to say "yes" and as I look back now with the perspective of time, I realize that God had been asking me to change for a long time and that more and more I had been whispering (not shouting) "yes"...gaining faith by baby steps. I think that one yes just naturally leads to another. As you know, there are many, many great ways to say "yes" to your faith, no matter what your age, your gender, your situation or your particular talents.

## Reflection Question

What will change in your life when you say "yes"?  
What will stay the same?

## Prayer Period 2 | Commitment

Source: [https://voice.dts.edu/article/commitment-to-your-ministry-hendricks-howard/?fbclid=IwAR3xeJ\\_KEY5XHLspOnuqThm40LC7aYGVGQbE0Qx7W82ui3PUpHKIsCrWk](https://voice.dts.edu/article/commitment-to-your-ministry-hendricks-howard/?fbclid=IwAR3xeJ_KEY5XHLspOnuqThm40LC7aYGVGQbE0Qx7W82ui3PUpHKIsCrWk)

When I reflect on the half-century of teaching at Dallas Theological Seminary that God has given me, the years tend to blend together. In my mind's eye, I see all of my thousands of former students sitting in a giant classroom. "Prof," they ask, "what's the magnet that keeps pulling you back into class every day, every semester, every year?" Putting it all into one word, I have to answer them, "Commitment." It's the switch that turns on my light. Shakespeare's King Henry V spoke apt words that apply here. Before the battle of Agincourt, the king blazoned to his men, "He today that shed his blood with me shall be my brother." Teaching is all about doing battle with shoddy thinking, with upgrading inferior concepts, with spilling cerebral blood to eradicate ignorance. Seminary teaching is about



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getting a student together with God on His pages. I live with the dread of tame, domesticated, de-clawed Christianity. I fear for my students that they will chase after what they want—and therefore miss what God wants. I yearn for them, in Peter's words, to entrust their souls to a faithful creator in doing what is right (1 Pet. 4:19). That resolve is truly high-risk. In our expansive youth, many of us hardly hesitate to put our heads in the lion's mouth; we jump off the high dive; we want to accomplish great things for God. But when injuries occur or circumstances turn sour, our words begin to float without a framework of faith, and discouragement wilts us. Jeremiah's question thunders, If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan? (Jer. 12:5). God's message demands tenacity. My experience is that commitment is like birthdays. They keep coming up every year, demanding that I acknowledge once more my humanity. Me? Don't take that too seriously. God? A long obedience in the same direction.

## Reflection Question

When was the last time your commitment was tested?  
How did you face it and bring yourself back on track?

## Prayer Period 3 | "Sharing the Mission"

*Declaration on the Lasallian Education Mission*

We are part of an international Institute which is present in all continents and in diverse cultures, and this gives us enormous possibilities because of the plurality of educational provision, the breadth of outlooks, the realisation of joint projects, the optimisation of human talent and the infrastructures available.

Education should not be viewed as synonymous with school. Our mission has found other pathways to follow through informal education, pastoral action, evangelisation in other forums and by virtual presence in the media outside the school setting. The fundamental Lasallian values find new possibilities in their up-to-date implementation in the pedagogy of accompaniment.



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## Reflection Question

How can I strengthen my commitment with other Lasallians in serving the people entrusted to our care?

## Scripture Reading | The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

*Matthew 20: 1-6*

Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard to further explain what the Kingdom of God is like. A landowner goes out early in the morning and hires men, agreeing to pay them the daily rate - a silver coin for a day's work. He hires them at various times throughout the day - 9am, 12pm, 3pm and 5pm and promises all of the workers a fair wage. When the end of the day came, the landowner said to his manager to pay the workers, starting with those who had been hired last. Those who began working at 5pm were given the daily rate - one silver coin. When it came to those who had been hired first (early in the morning) they thought that they were going to receive more. When they too were given the standard daily wage they began to grumble. They were angry because they had done a lot more work than those who had started later in the day. The landowner did not listen to their complaints and reminded them that they had agreed to the daily rate of pay when they were hired. He said, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? The landowner then says, "The last will be first and the first will be last.

## Intercessions

**Response: Lord keep us together in your love.**

May Pope Francis, our bishops, and our priests continue to serve as stewards of the Gospel and nourish us with the life-giving Body and Blood of Christ. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**

May our government officials remember their duty to serve and unite the people, especially the poor without recompense or recognition for their efforts. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**



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May all of us be kept safe from the many diseases and other dangers that threaten our well-being and fruition of our honest labor. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**

May our students, teachers, staff and administrators continue to be enlightened and inspired on the mission that our Founder St. John Baptise De La Salle has left to us in teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**

May the Lasallian Mission continue to flourish in the different communities of our District and inspire other men and women to be part of it. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**

As Lasallians of East Asia District, may we continue to be aware of the needs of many poor and young people in different places and also teach us to strengthen one another and carry one another's burden. We pray:

**R: Lord keep us together in your love.**

**Our Father ...**

**Opening Song | Ubi Caritas**

Jacques Berthier



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4P\\_7XoMB14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4P_7XoMB14)

Ubi caritas et amor,  
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est



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## **Closing Prayer** | 46th General Chapter Prayer

We ask you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
who guide all things in our lives as Brothers and Partners,  
to grant us joy in thanksgiving, boldness in truth,  
and strength in decisions.

Despite our fragility, our hearts are filled with reasons to hope,  
because of our desire to commit the Institute  
to following new paths to transform lives.

With your grace, we will have the strength and courage  
to move to the peripheries and release our creative energies.

Together, as Brothers and Partners committed to the Lasallian  
mission, we want to work in the spirit of the gospel  
to change our way of viewing the world,  
to take care of our common home.  
And to become true missionary disciples.

We ask Our Lady of the Star,  
Saint John Baptist de La Salle,  
all our Lasallian saints and holy Brothers to intercede for us.  
Amen.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Christian schools,  
*Pray for us.*

St. Joseph, Protector of the Institute,  
*Pray for us.*

St. John Baptist de La Salle,  
*Pray for us.*

All Lasallian saints,  
*Pray for us.*

Live Jesus in our hearts  
*Forever!*