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18 - 15 - C - 79

PRAYERS

OF A CHRISTIAN TEACHER (3)

(1: 16-9-C-63; 2: 17-13-C-73)

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APOSTLES, GUIDES...

Lord, you manifest yourself to the world
by the gifts of your grace.
You have chosen us to be your adopted sons,
we thank you,
we are proud to have been singled out by you.

Lord,
in the same way as the angels
went up and down Jacob's ladder,
our apostolate as teachers
is to go up to you by prayer
to get to know you better,
and then to go down to the children and young people
with your message, your Word.
Our challenge, Lord, is
to learn Christian truths and maxims,
and to adapt them to the life
children and young people lead.

Jesus, be our Master.
Like you, we too consecrate our lives
to the marvellous work of showing
the way to the Kingdom of God.

Our apostolate is not restricted
to enlightening and enriching the minds of the pupils.
We have to obtain for them the means
to do good
according to the will of God.

Lord, Father of all light and all gifts,
we ask you for the strength and light
to guide the lives of children and young people
according to the Gospel message
and to offer our support in doing good.

It is not easy, Lord,
to encourage those who are not brave,
to support the weak

to be patient with everyone;
and yet, following the example
of Jesus and the Apostles,
we dedicate ourselves to our work as ministers.

To be a teacher and a guardian angel means:
encouraging others to do good,
teaching them to pray,

encouraging them to frequent the sacraments,
leading them away from sin and
helping them to look for the Kingdom of God.

Your Apostle Paul shows us the way
to build up the body of Jesus Christ
in the hearts of children and young people:
– By reminding them that they are
the temples of the Holy Spirit
by virtue of their baptism and confirmation.
– By encouraging them to be honest
with God and their neighbour.
– By encouraging them to gentle and kind,
forgiving one another
by loving one another, following Jesus' example.

We want to remain vigilant
as we work as ministers
teaching our pupils
and giving them good example.

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MISSIONARY, CATECHIST...

Lord, You chose Paul and destined him
to spread the Gospel.
He went down the highways and byways
announcing the Kingdom
always building the Church
on the foundation of faith in Christ.
Now, You confide to us that same mission.
We beseech You to grant us
a profound knowledge of Jesus
and a generous commitment, Paul's style.

We are honored to be educators
for teaching is the basic call of the Church.
We collaborate with parents and pastors
in the mission of helping Christ grow
in the minds of children and youth.

Ours is the mandate
to build the foundations of the Faith
– to teach the truths and maxims of the Gospel
– to instruct in the mysteries and love of God
– to encourage acceptance of the will of God.

The Church honors us as it entrusts to us
the work of educating to the Faith
and chooses us to pass on to children
a knowledge of Religion
and the spirit of Christianity.

Lord, make us Your humble apostles.

You sent the Apostles to teach Your word.
The early Fathers of the Church
understood the importance of being catechists:
St. Cyril, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose...
all taught catechism.
St. Jerome even wrote:

"A more beautiful thing it is to catechize children than to tutor an emperor".

The mission You gave to Your Apostles
has not passed away.

You told them to teach the Kingdom of God:

"Go, and teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit".

Peter and Paul were model
catechists and educators.

Even You, Lord, spent more time as MASTER
than PRIEST.

Three years of your public life
went into announcing the Good News about God.

Thank You, Lord,
for choosing us for so great a mission.
We ask You to help us
that we may complete it with dignity and love,
like the Apostles and Saints.

Lord, Your Apostle Paul
gloried that he was sent to preach the Gospel.
He taught the message of the Cross of Christ
folly for the Gentiles, scandal for the Jews,
but Divine Wisdom
for those who believe the Gospel of Christ.

Lord, it was You who filled his mind and heart
with such a zeal for Your glory
that he became the Apostle of the Gentiles.
Thank you, Paul!
Many who were strangers to God's Covenant
became sons of God and temples of the Holy Spirit
through faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, like your Apostles and Saints
we value the mission
of the Christian education of children and youth.
Because of it they will become sons of God
and by it will persevere in their Faith.

Thank You, Lord, for choosing us to be
MINISTERS OF YOUR GOSPEL.

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WITNESSES

Lord, to instruct children and youth in the faith
is to establish the foundations of the Church.
To us You have confided the work
of building that foundation.

Day by day the Apostles spread the Good News
and the number of believers grew and grew.
When the number of the faithful was overwhelming,
they chose seven deacons to manage ordinary affairs
while they devoted themselves

to the one important thing,
the teaching of the Divine word.

Jesus, Master, You taught daily.
We pray that you increase
our diligence in Your service.

We are successors of the Apostles
in the great enterprise
of catechizing and instructing the poor
in the truths of Faith.

We know that without You we can do nothing.
So we pray to You,
asking for necessary graces
to exercise our ministry worthily.

Prayer and study,
the two pillars of Christian ministry.

Our labor as apostles does not end
with teaching the Truth.
It is complete only when it produces Christian living.

The Apostles
encouraged early Christian communities to live
in the communion of the breaking of the Bread,
and to pray daily in the Temple
and especially to live in union with each other.

We want to be Your apostles,
we are prepared to contribute
to the extension of Your Kingdom
by educating in schools
by pastoral efforts outside the school.
The pastoral and catechetical work of the Apostles
was based on instruction about Christ,
it was complemented
by the administration of the Sacraments,
and it grew through prayer and commitment.

Lord, give us the strength and the dream
of donating our time and our efforts
to forming our young into real Christians:
instructing, forming, organizing,
with **COMMITMENT.**

Lord, we hope that our children
will not simply believe;
we ask that You stir up in their hearts
a truly Christian life.

We want to go beyond reaching
we want to be witnesses to You,
witnesses who will inspire youth
to join in Christian community.

Show us the way
to prayerfulness, simplicity, and commitment
so that we may follow You and have the joy
of seeing our children with us
on the road to salvation.

Brother Celestino Hernando