

**MINISTERS OF GOD,
LOOK UPON YOURSELVES
AS THE DISPENSERS OF HIS MYSTERIES
(J.B. de La Salle)**

Br. Henri Elsen

God has made me his minister, his ambassador: he has called me to his service.
And what a service!

He calls me quite simply to be "a dispenser of his mysteries."

● **Let us first turn to Varillon for an explanation of the word "MYSTERY".**

"The word mystery needs to be well understood. Just think! When I was a child, they told me a mystery was something you couldn't understand. Well, I wasn't too sharp in those days! If I'd had just a little bit of intelligence, I could have answered: It's funny all the same! If God speaks to me it's because he wants me to understand: and so it's strange to say on the one hand that God reveals his life to me, and on the other that you can't understand him.

It's exactly the same as if I were to say to one of you: I really like you, I really do: if you've got a moment, I'll tell you all about myself, what I like, what I do, who my friends are and so on. And you say to yourself: That's nice! This really proves he's a good friend of mine! If then at that point I start speaking in Chinese, what will you think? He's completely crazy!: he tells me he likes me, and he's going to tell me all his secrets, and then he starts speaking to me in Chinese!

Well, that's exactly what we do when we say that a mystery's something you can't understand.
(...)

St. Augustine never defined a mystery as something you couldn't understand, but as something that you never finished understanding, which is quite different.

Recently, a man who had been married for 20 years and who was very happy at home, came to see me and said, "You know, Father, my wife is still a mystery to me." I answered: "That doesn't mean to say that there's something puzzling about her: it simply means that after 20 years of married life you haven't fathomed her out yet completely. That's great! You still have some marvellous things to discover about your wife." (...) God reveals his mystery to us. We are involved personally. It's not a question of intellectual curiosity, of answering a philosophical question: who is God? It's a question of discovering what our vocation is. We have to become what he is and for that we have to know who he is." (1)

● **God calls me to reveal to children the Mystery of his Person:**

- What does God say to me about himself through his Son Jesus' birth?
- What does God say to me about himself through his Son when he goes to the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector?
- What does God say to me about himself through his Son Jesus who "kneels down" before people and washes their feet?
- What does God say to me about himself through his Son Jesus who during the agony on the cross "forgives" his executioners?
- What does God say to me about himself through his Son Jesus who "restores speech" to a dumb child?
- What does God say to me about himself through the father who at last "puts his hand" on the shoulder of his son and "begins speaking" with him?
- What does God say to me about himself through this teacher who "encourages me" with a wink?
- What does God say to me about himself through this friend who "writes to me" at a most difficult time in my life?
- What does God say to me about himself if not the profound mystery of his being:
 - a God-with-us, a God-servant
 - a God of forgiveness and creation
 - a God of tenderness, a God of trusting complicity
 - a God of Peace, a God of LIFE!

To say this about himself to young people and children,
this God calls me "to dispense" to them
all these mysteries about his Person.

And all this not only through my catechisms,
but also by my tenderness, my understanding,
my creativity, my peace, my "God-winks"!

In our adult educational communities,
let us support one another,
and so be "dispensers of God's mysteries"!

(1) Fr. Varillon, s.j., "Joie de croire, joie de vivre", Ed. Le Centurion, Paris 1981, pp. 20-21.