

SILENCE The 2nd virtue of a good teacher

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

Opening Song I believe in the sun

I be lieve in the sun, _____
e - ven when it is n't shin - ing; I be lieve in love, _____
e - ven when there's no one there. _____ And I be -
lieve in God. _____ I be lieve in God. _____ e - ven
when He is si _____ lent. _____

1. I be - lieve. _____ in mir - a cles. _____ I be -
2. I be - lieve in the Son of God. _____ I be -

1. lieve _____ in light. _____ I be - lieve there can al - ways be a
2. lieve _____ his way. _____ I be - lieve He can lead us to the

1. way. _____ I be lieve that no - thing is im -
2. light. _____ I be lieve that He _____ is _____

1. pos - si - ble. I be - lieve that no - thing is im - pos - si - ble: that
2. call - ing us, I be - lieve that He _____ is _____ call - ing us; and

1. all things are pos - si - ble with God. _____
2. He _____ will lead us on our way. _____

CODA

lent. e - ven when He is si _____ lent.

Reading from Brother Agathon 1785, translated by Brother Gerard Rummery 1998

Silence is a virtue which leads the teacher to avoid talking when he must not speak, and to speak when he should not be silent.

The first effect of silence produces order and calm in the classroom, insures the progress and advancement of the students and gives the teacher some rest. Indeed, if he speaks too much the students will do the same. They will ask and answer questions out of turn; they will meddle in what is none of their business; they will excuse themselves and try to excuse others.

Moreover, experience shows that the teachers who talk a lot are hardly listened to, live in perpetual agitation and that little account is taken of what they say.

Our response from *James 3*

Side One: All of us often make mistakes. But if a person never makes a mistake in what he says, he is perfect and is able to control his whole body.

Side Two: Think of a ship: big as it is and driven by such strong winds, it can be steered by a very small rudder, and it goes wherever the pilot wants it to go.

Side One: So it is with the tongue: small as it is, it can boast about great things.

Side Two: No one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison.

Side One: We use it to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God.

Side Two: Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, this should not happen!

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *With Open Heart* by Michael Quoist

Many people today look for silence, solitude and peace. They dream of places where they can rest away from the daily hassles of living which tear them apart, exhaust them and leave them dissatisfied, wounded, bleeding and always alone. But they won't necessarily find peace and quiet waiting for them in other places.

There is a place within us where quiet reigns, the centre, our heart of hearts. There we can find him who is the plenitude of silence. But who will guide us? We must learn the way.

Our response from *Letters 49, 85 and 113* of John Baptist de La Salle

Side One: You should be most careful not to speak so haughtily, as you tell me you sometimes do. The Spirit of God does not allow that sort of talk.

Side Two: So let humility and gentleness be always evident in whatever you say. Nothing will make you more pleasing to God and men than these two virtues.

Side One: So never rebuff anyone; that gives very bad example. On the contrary, speak politely, which is altogether in keeping with the Spirit of God.

Side Two: You say that often you don't know how to keep from speaking. You must try to learn this. It is great wisdom to know how to keep silence when the occasion requires it.

Side One: You will find silence a very useful even a very necessary virtue, if you are to adore God, serve him in spirit and in truth, resist temptations, and save yourself from falling into sin.

Side Two: You must learn how to be silent and to speak only when necessary. Always remain silent when others annoy you, and let God alone be the witness of your innocence.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Closing prayer

All: Lord God, cleanse my lips and my heart that I may truly be a witness of your truth. Sprinkle the salt of your wisdom upon my tongue, that I may weigh my words. Place the burning coal of your love in my heart, so that learning to hold my peace, I may praise you and may marvel at the stillness of your presence. Speak, Lord ! that I may be silent.
Amen

Closing Song

God is dwelling in my heart

God is dwell - ing in my heart He and I are
 one. All His joy He gives to me through Christ His
 Son, And with Je - sus in my heart
 what have I to fear! For He is the Son of
 God in my heart He, is near.
 1. Chris tians, who are bap - tised ___ have you ev - er re - a - lised: ___
 2. This joy, God gave to you, ___ share it, then, with oth ers too. ___
 The great ___ mys te - ry: ___ God dwells in you and me: ___
 Tell them that God is Love; lifts their - hearts a - bove. ___

When you speak, do so in a simple and unaffected manner, without trying to improve what others say. (St. La Salle - Collection)

**St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.
Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**