

PATIENCE The 6th virtue of a good teacher

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

Opening Song God gives His people strength

Slowly 1, God gives his peo - ple

strength, If we be - lieve in his way, he's

swift to re - pay all those who bear the

bur - den of the day. God gives his peo - ple

1, 2, 3, strength. 4. peace.

2. God gives his people hope.
If we but trust in his word,
our prayers are always heard.
He warmly welcomes anyone who's erred.
God gives his people hope.

3. God gives his people love.
If we but open wide our heart,
he's sure to do his part;
he's always the first to make a start.
God gives his people strength.

4. God gives his people peace.
When sorrow fills us to the brim,
and courage grows dim,
he lays to rest our restlessness in him.
God gives his people peace.

Medical Mission Sisters

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

The practice of this virtue consists in accepting without complaint, all the ills that befall us. The fruit of Christian patience, says Our Lord, is the peaceful possession of our souls. (Luke 21:19)

As the good teacher is nearly always with his students, this virtue consists in supporting the disagreeable and the unpleasant occurrences which may be met within his employment. Consequently, he will not take to heart the students' whims, jokes, and bad manners, or those of their parents. He never grows disheartened or weary from repeating the same things to them often and at length, but always does so with goodness and affection. For the fact is that by instructing, warning, remonstrating, and correcting students one sooner or later attains the end sought.

The defects opposed to this virtue are: to rebuff the students by offensive, crude words, to treat them roughly, using harsh language, violent and excessive acts, striking them with the hand, and impetuosity which does not take the time to reflect before acting or speaking.

A good teacher never forgets these words of St. James (James 1:4): "Patience has a perfect work."

Our response from *James 5 and Romans 15*

Side One: Be patient then, my brothers and sisters, until the Lord comes. See how patient a farmer is as he waits for his land to produce precious crops.

Side Two: He waits patiently for the autumn and spring rains. You also must be patient.

Side One: Remember the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Take them as examples of patient endurance under suffering. We call them happy because they endured.

Side Two: You have heard of Job's patience, and you know how the Lord provided for him in the end. For the Lord is full of mercy and compassion.

Side One: Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us.

Side Two: And may God, the source of patience and encouragement, enable you to have the same point of view among yourselves by following the example of Christ Jesus.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Perception Articles* by Douglas F. Parsons.

In Chinese folklore there is a story of a household so happy that for nine generations none of its members had left it, except for the daughters that marriage had taken away. The fame of such domestic bliss reached the ears of the Celestial Emperor. He sent an envoy to discover the secret. The old father of the house, taking paper and brush, painted many characters, then handed his answers to the imperial envoy. But when the Emperor unfolded it, there was nothing there but the character for "Patience" repeated 100 times.

No virtue is extolled more in the Bible than that of patience, perseverance, steadfastness. James wrote, "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."

There are at least three kinds of patience that we need to exercise every day. One is patience with circumstances, a second is patience with others and the third, patience with ourselves.

Our response from *Meditations 74 and 206* of John Baptist de La Salle.

Side One: The charity which is required of us presupposes a patience that is proof against everything. Everybody has defects and we bring them with us everywhere we go.

Side Two: Consequently, it is only by overlooking them among ourselves that we can maintain peace and union even in the most select societies.

Side One: This is why St. Paul has said that charity endures all things; and so that we might be convinced that he was not mistaken, and that he did not say this thoughtlessly, he repeated it twice.

Side Two: Think seriously about this: If you believe that you come to community without being obliged to suffer the defects of your Brothers, you are deceiving yourself and you made a mistake in coming here.

Side One: Do not overlook the account you will have to give of your patience and the control of your passions. There is nothing you must be more on your guard against than allowing your passions to run away with you.

Side Two: This is a very important point to which you must be very attentive, especially when the children in your care do something out of order, and you are required to reprove or correct them.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Intercessions

Closing Prayer

All: Patience is a virtue of the Lord. He awaits the return of his children. Forgive me my trespasses Lord, for many times have I tested you.

Grant me a small measure of your patience and tolerance that I may refrain from harmful words and control my wayward passions. Instead let me be a source of encouragement and blessing for all I meet, an instrument of your saving presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Closing Song

Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose
trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy, be
there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your
bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

2. Lord of all eagerness,
Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours,
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

3. Lord, of all kindliness,
Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing,
and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness,
Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

Words : Jan Struther (1901,,53)
Music : Traditional Irish melody,
harmonised by Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

You expect patience from others, then you must show patience yourself. (St. La Salle)

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