

VIGILANCE the 10th virtue of a good teacher

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

Opening Song

Yahweh, I know you are near

Chorus

Yah - weh, I know you are near, _____ stand - ing

al - ways at my side, _____ You guard me from the

foe and you lead me in ways ev - er last - ing. _____

1. Lord, you have searched my _____ heart, and you know when I

sit and when I stand. Your _____ hand is up - on me pro

tect ing me from death, keep - ing me from harm. _____

2. When can I run from your love?
If I climb to the heavens, you are there.
If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,
still I'd find you there.

3. You know my heart and its ways,
you who formed me before I was born,
in secret of darkness, before I saw the sun,
in my mother's womb.

4. Marvellous to me are your works;
how profound are your thoughts, my Lord;
Even if I could count them, they number as the stars,
you would still be there.

Words (based on Psalm 139) and Music: Dan Schutte

Reading

From Brother Agathon 1785, translated by Brother Gerard Rummery
1998

Vigilance is the virtue which makes us diligent in fulfilling our duties. A teacher needs this virtue both for himself and for his pupils.

He must watch over himself, over the thoughts of his mind, over the movements of his heart, over the use he makes of his senses, and over his entire person so as not to do anything save what is good.

A teacher should be vigilant over his pupils: he is their guardian angel. If he is obliged to absent himself it should only be for a very serious necessity and for as short a time as possible. When in class, the teacher observes everything; he sees all that goes on. In this way he maintains the students in order and application. A good teacher watches over the behaviour of the pupils everywhere he finds himself among them. It is especially in church that his application, care, and attention should be concentrated on the students to maintain them in order, modesty and the respect due to the sanctity of the place.

Still the teacher's vigilance should not be restless, suspicious, worried, accompanied by ill-founded conjectures. For, while striving to protect the children's morals, one should act in such a way that they do not develop into hypocrites.

Our response from *Ephesians 6*

Side one: Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks.

Side Two: Stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace.

Side One: At all times carry faith as a shield for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One.

Side Two: And accept salvation as a helmet and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you.

Side One: Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads.

Side Two: For this reason, keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people.

Side One: And pray also for me, that God will give me a message when I am ready to speak so that I may speak boldly and make known the gospel's secret.

Side Two: For the sake of this gospel, I am an ambassador. Pray that I may be bold in speaking about the gospel as I should.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Meditations 186, 111 and 197* by John Baptist de La Salle

Each of you is to be a vigilant guardian of the flock God has entrusted to you and consequently you are obliged to keep watch over all those who belong to it.

Are you careful to keep your students away from whatever might corrupt their morals, especially bad company? Are you so vigilant over their conduct that you prevent them from doing wrong in your presence? Do you show them how to avoid all occasions of evil when they are no longer under your supervision?

Ask God today for the grace of watching so well over the children confided to you, that you will take every possible precaution to shield them from serious faults. Ask him to be such good guides that you will see well every obstacle to the good of their souls. This is the principal care you must have for the children entrusted to you.

Our response from *Ezekiel 34*

Side One: I, the Sovereign Lord, tell you that I myself will look for my sheep and take care of them.

Side Two: I will let them graze in safety in the mountain meadows and the valleys and in all the green pastures.

Side One: I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that wander off, bandage those that are hurt, and heal those that are sick.

Side Two: I will get rid of all the dangerous animals in the land, so that my sheep can live safely in the fields and sleep in the forests.

Side One They will live in safety and no one will terrify them. I will give them fertile fields and put an end to hunger in the land.

Side Two: Everyone will know that I protect Israel and that they are my people. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen

Pause for quiet reflection

Intercessions

Closing Prayer

All: Lord you are my patience, my strength, my light and my counsel. You guide me in what I have to say to my students, and you make them responsive to my words.

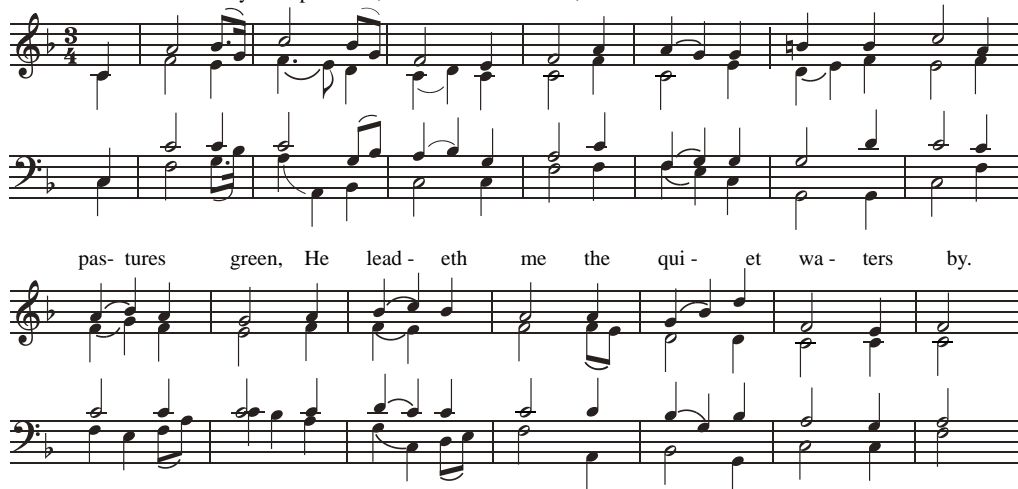
These children are precious in your sight. Let me be for them a good shepherd, a guardian angel, a minister of grace, leading them into your love and care and away from all dangers to soul and body.

I ask you this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing Song The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want, he makes me down to lie in
pas - tures green, He lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.



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| 2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake. | 4. My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows. |
| 3. Yea, though I walk in death' s dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still | 5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be. |

Words: Paraphrased from Ps. 22(23) in the 'Scottish Psalter' 1650

Music: J. Irvine (1836-87), harmony by T. C. L. Pritchard

Be calm but vigilant, because your enemy the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion,
looking for someone to eat. (1 Pet 5:8-9)

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