

PIETY the 11th virtue of a good teacher

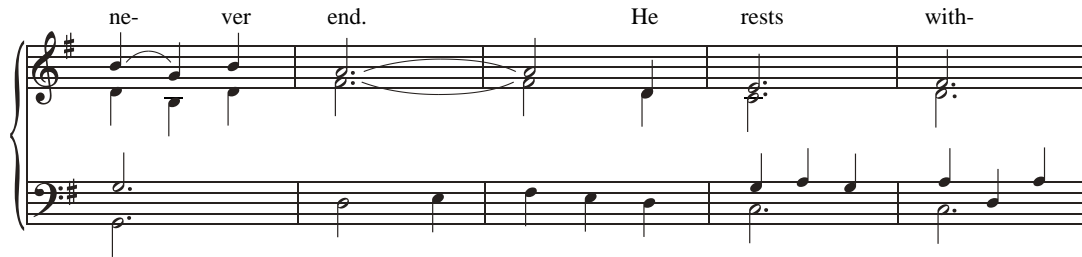
Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song My God loves me

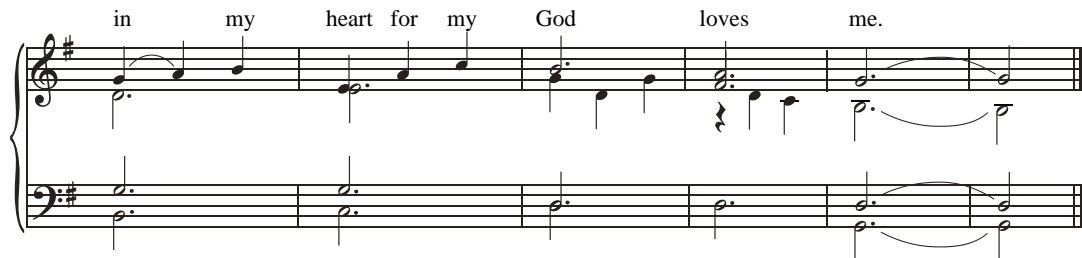
My God loves me. His love will



ne- ver end. He rests with-



in my heart for my God loves me.



2. His gentle hand
he stretches over me.
Though storm-clouds threaten the day
he will set me free.

3. He comes to me
in sharing bread and wine.
He brings me life that will reach
past the end of time.

4. My God loves me,
his faithful love endures,
and I will live like a child
held in love secure.

5. The joys of love
as offerings now we bring.
The pains of love will be lost
In the praise we sing.

Words: Verse I: Author Unknown
Verses 2-5: Sandra Joan Billington

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

Piety is a virtue which makes us fulfill worthily our duties toward God.

A teacher should possess the virtue of piety in an eminent degree. His piety should be both interior and sincere for otherwise he would be only a hypocrite. It should also be outward and exemplary because he should show exteriorly the sentiments which fill his heart.

Why has Jesus Christ entrusted children to the teacher? Was it merely to make them good penmen, great mathematicians, clever calculators, learned persons? He entrusted them to the teacher to preserve in them the precious and priceless gift of innocence.

A teacher must have the greatest care to bring up his pupils in religious sentiments. He shall make them understand well the Christian and moral virtues: faith, hope, charity, justice, goodness, honesty, wisdom, prudence, fortitude and temperance, modesty in talk and in all their conduct, etc. By all these instructions, he will form in them the qualities which make a good Christian, a good citizen, a good father of a family, a good magistrate, a good soldier, a good businessman, etc. The teacher's piety, then, should be outstanding.

Our response from *1 Tim 3 and 4*

Side One: A church leader must be without fault; be sober, self-controlled and orderly; he must be able to teach.

Side Two: He must not be a drunkard or a violent man, but gentle and peaceful; he must not love money.

Side One: He must be able to manage his own family well and make his children obey him with all respect.

Side Two: He must be mature in the faith, so that he will not swell up with pride and be condemned, as the Devil was.

Side One: He should be a man who is respected by the people outside the church, so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the Devil's trap.

Side Two: Keep away from those godless legends which are not worth telling. Keep yourself in training for a godly life.

Side One: Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life both for the present and for the future.

Side Two: Be an example for the believers, in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity.

All: Glory be to the FatherAmen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Christian Top 1000*

Piety is a word which does not have good press. For the majority of people it evokes over-devout practices of people who do not have their feet on the ground. We speak about "pious wishes" to qualify unrealistic wishes.

However, true piety is the rarest virtue which can be found on earth. It is hidden mysteriously but is acting in the hearts of those who are faithful to Jesus Christ.

Piety is nothing else than the normal functioning of the relationship between a believer and God. The believer is placed into this relationship by his faith in Christ. God makes himself known to the godly man and the godly woman who live in the intimacy of Jesus.

This does not go without wrestling. The world is not satisfied to make fun of piety; it hates it. The Bible declares, "All those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Tim 3:12)

Our response from *Meditations 98, 110, 122, 174* of John Baptist de La Salle.

Side One: You have been charged with a holy work, requiring that your piety and your virtue be more than ordinary.

Side Two: Piety by itself is ordinarily useful only for the persons who possess it but when learning is united with piety, it makes for great persons.

Side One: Prayer draws down the grace of God and keeps temptations away. Take care not to neglect prayer which is so necessary to maintain you in piety and to grow in it.

Side Two: You must pay great attention to preserving or procuring the innocence of the children entrusted to your guidance, to keep them away from whatever might interfere with their education or prevent them from acquiring piety.

Side One: Does everything you tell them produce in them the spirit of piety and religion? This is the best gift you can give them when they leave you.

Side Two: You on your part should pray much for your students to obtain for them from God the gift of piety, something he alone can give them.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

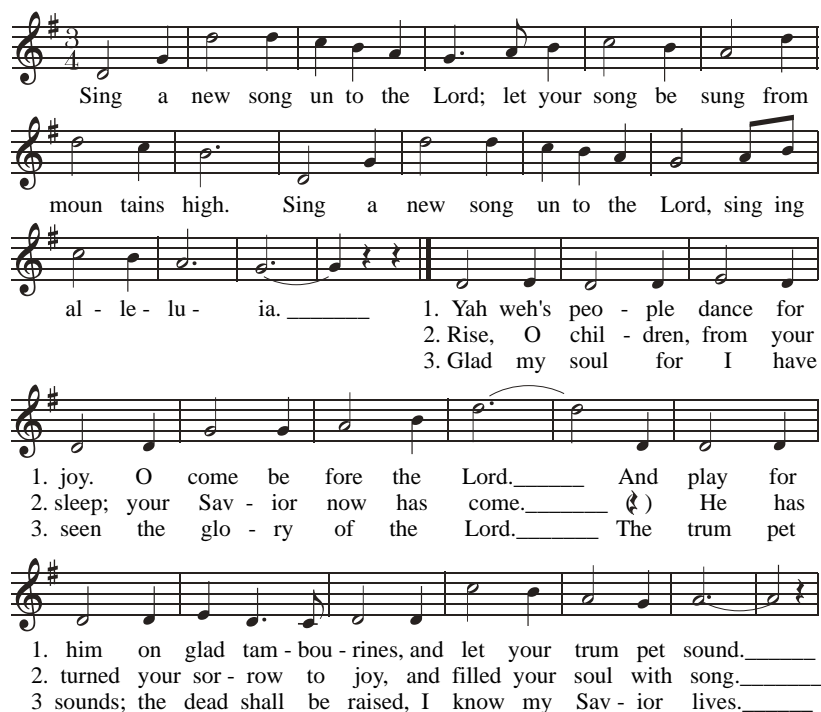
Intercessions

Closing Prayer

All: God be in my head,
and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes,
and in my looking.
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking.
God be in mine end,
and at my departing.
Amen

(Sarum Primer 1527)

Closing Song **Sing a new song**



Sing a new song un to the Lord; let your song be sung from
moun tains high. Sing a new song un to the Lord, sing ing
al - le - lu - ia. _____ 1. Yah weh's peo - ple dance for
2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your
3. Glad my soul for I have
1. joy. O come be fore the Lord. _____ And play for
2. sleep; your Sav - ior now has come. _____ (¢) He has
3. seen the glo - ry of the Lord. _____ The trum pet
1. him on glad tam - bou - rines, and let your trum pet sound. _____
2. turned your sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song. _____
3. sounds; the dead shall be raised, I know my Sav - ior lives. _____

Speak to your students of everything that can lead them to piety. (St. La Salle)

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