

Hints for prayer

Psalm 132

Psalm 132 underscores the significance of faithfulness and perseverance in our relationship with God.

Remember, O LORD, for David
all his hardships;
How he swore an oath to the LORD,
vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:*

"I will not enter the house where I live,
nor lie on the couch where I sleep;
I will give my eyes no sleep,
my eyelids no rest,

Till I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
"We have heard of it in Ephrathah;‡
we have found it in the fields of Jaar.‡

Let us enter his dwelling;
let us worship at his footstool."
"Arise, LORD, come to your resting place,
you and your mighty ark.

Your priests will be clothed with justice;
your devout will shout for joy."
For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your anointed.

The LORD swore an oath to David in truth,
he will never turn back from it:
"Your own offspring
I will set upon your throne

Prayer

O God, source of mercy, who in Blessed Luke, your priest, revealed your love for the little ones and the poor, grant that, through his intercession, our hearts may be kindled with the fire of divine charity, so that, by living the Gospel, our faith may grow and we may bear the fruits of good works. Through Christ our Lord.

Collect prayer from the proper liturgy of the feast of Blessed Luca Passi of the Institute of the Sisters Teachers of Saint Dorothy.

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The passion for the Gospel

with Father Luca Passi



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Allow me to introduce myself: I am Fr Luca Passi.

Bergamo, January 22, 1789 - Venice, April 18, 1866

“Zeal enkindles charity as warmth enkindles fire.”

As a child, when I encountered boys and girls abandoned to themselves, without education and therefore without a future, I felt growing within me the need to draw close to their poverty... I wondered what I could do for them.

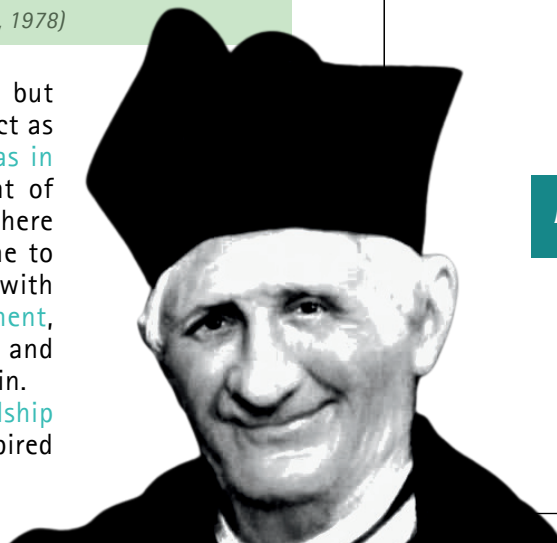
Around me, I had examples of bold and innovative priests who were already working hard to create healthy educational environments. It was thanks to these “models of holiness” that I established the Pia Opera of St. Dorothy, an initiative that, on feast days, gathered around Christian doctrine girls—especially those who were poorest and most abandoned—entrusting them to the care of supervisors and collaborators who would look after them even during the week. I had understood that educating young girls meant educating the women of tomorrow, and therefore the families of the future.

You may be wondering, *why St. Dorothy?* Although she was a saint of the 4th century, she seemed to me a model still relevant today for educating girls in the faith, because through her testimony she brought back two friends who had drifted away from the Lord during the persecutions. For this reason, I said to the sisters of the “Institute of the Sisters Teachers of St. Dorothy,” which I founded in Venice in 1838:

“Are you apostles? Then remember: only those who burn within can set others aflame. Are you saints? Then surrender yourselves entirely to Providence and strive to do the will of God!!”

(see G. Papàsogli, Don Luca Passi, Vatican Polyglot Printing House, 1978)

The Pia Opera The Pia Opera was born in my Bergamo, but seeing it as valuable for other cities as well, I began to act as a “missionary,” bringing it to dioceses across Italy. It was in this way that I met Father Antonio Farina: during Lent of 1827, I arrived at the parish of San Pietro in Vicenza, where the parish priest, Father Giovanni Orlando, introduced me to his young chaplain as a dedicated animator to entrust with the Pia Opera. He took it on with great commitment, devoting all his talents as an educator and teacher, and working attentively with the young girls who began to join. Although our paths diverged over the years, our friendship remained steadfast in God who united us and who inspired our shared passion for truth and justice.



Passion for Gospel yesterday...

...and today!

“Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others”. When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For “here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 10

**Like Father Luca, we too leave the safe shore...
...and let ourselves be passionate about the mission!**

Some questions to reflect on



- What needs can I recognized around me?
- To whom can I share the Gospel? And how?
- What securities does the Lord ask me to leave behind in order to truly commit myself to reaching out to those in need?

A practical step for today

- Send a message or make a phone call to someone who is going through a difficult time or whom you haven't heard from in a while.

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