

# Hints for prayer

## Psalm 131

*Psalm 131 speaks of humility, inner peace, and complete trust in God. It is a hymn to renouncing pride and the pursuit of things beyond our reach, inviting the soul to rest confidently in God's faithfulness.*

LORD, my heart is not proud;  
nor are my eyes haughty.  
I do not busy myself with great matters,  
with things too sublime for me.

Rather, I have stilled my soul,  
Like a weaned child to its mother,  
weaned is my soul.

Israel, hope in the LORD,  
now and forever.



## Prayer

O God, by whose gift blessed saints. persevered in imitating Christ, poor and lowly, grant us through their intercession that, faithfully walking in our own vocation, we may reach the perfection you have set before us in your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Mass For Religious)

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# Humility

with Valentino Piccoli



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# Allow me to introduce myself: I am Father Valentino Piccoli.

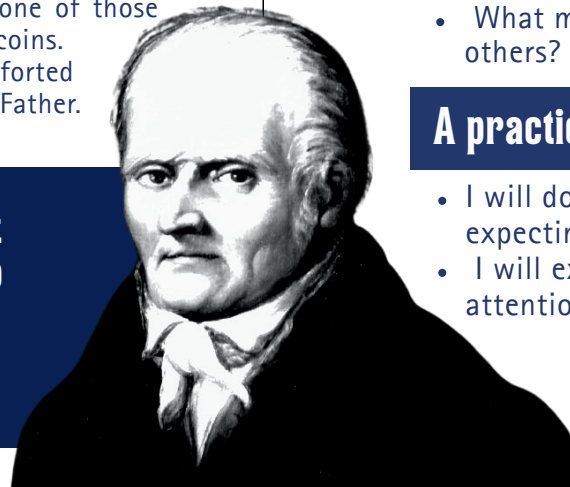
Vicenza, 1767 – Vicenza, January 20, 1839

## If someone asks you to go one mile with them, go two miles with them.

I was never a particularly enterprising type, and despite having a wonderful family—my wife and three beloved daughters—my shy nature had left me in a sort of “hibernation,” closed off and dim. But when, in November 1827, I received an invitation from my parish priest, Don Giovanni Orlando, to collaborate with the School of Charity by offering my finances and knowledge, I felt almost “compelled” to rekindle the faint flame of my faith. I owe my renewal to my dear friend, Father Angelico Carlesso. He persuaded me to bring forth my best virtues so that my religiosity would not remain sterile but would bear fruit through the work that only the Charity of the Heart of Christ can offer. By accepting the request to go one mile, I soon found myself, out of love, going two. Those poor girls reached out to me; I felt that I had to become a father to them, seeking by all means the daily bread for their sustenance, just as I did for my own family. That is why I took on the mission of collecting alms from the city’s benefactors, overcoming my shyness: fatigue did not weigh on me, and I was happy to do everything necessary to add even a few coins, just to give the girls a sense of security. Even when the school faced a crisis and was at risk of closing, I did not stop. On the contrary, together with Felice de Maria and Father Angelico, we endured that harsh test of fidelity even more united. It was then that we experienced a new spring brought by the dear chaplain, Don Giovanni Antonio Farina. Soon our friendship became like a second home to me. With them and with the girls, I could only express the joy I felt inside, often finding myself laughing and playing with them until evening. In this work of charity, I rediscovered myself and found God... and with me, my wife and daughters were drawn in as well, supporting and encouraging me with their wise counsel. The Lord called me home soon, on the evening of one of those days when I had spent all my energy collecting a few, yet precious, coins. In my final moments, I wanted my friends near, and as Redenta comforted me with her maternal tenderness, I found myself in the arms of the Father.

“While the girls at the boarding school raise innocent prayers for his soul, above his grave another group of the poor those he had helped and clothed shed desolate tears.

(cf. Felice de Maria, Article for the Gazzetta di Venezia, January 28, 1839)



## Humbly in the service of God yesterday... ...and today!

*Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God's family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism. The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God. Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in a spirit of solidarity.*

*Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in veritate, 78*

**Like Valentino, we too are willing to go  
beyond our limits...  
...and to place our gifts at the service of  
others, with great humility.**

### Some questions to reflect on



- What limitation of mine do I need to overcome in order to place my gifts at the service of others?
- Who can help me in this journey?
- What motivations drive me when I do something good for others?

### A practical step for today

- I will do a small act of kindness for someone, without expecting recognition in return.
- I will express my gratitude to those who show me care and attention.

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