READING— MATTHEW 5:13-16
Just so, your light must shine before others
That they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Heavenly Father.

REFLECTION
We reflect on these words of Jesus at a time when our country finds itself in doubt about the integrity of our leaders. We long to find the just men and women who in their concern for the poorest and most marginalized among our countrymen, will give witness to God’s compassion and goodness. In the course of the years, after many anomalies have been exposed and investigated, there is much disappointment only that few, if any, have reached any kind of solid conclusion. The parade of witnesses continues and these we hope convince us that something is being done. But we would be wrong to think that we are after only the prosecution of the perpetrators. Those passionate for God’s justice are invited to seek the creation of structures that are more just - of structures that effectively serve the poor and marginalized. Even when we have demanded reparations from those involved in the NBN-ZTE or PDAF scams, let us not forget the question that still remains to be answered: How shall we more effectively address the needs of our country’s poor and marginalized sectors?

RESPONSE
ONE LA SALLE PRAYER
Let me be the change I want to see
to do with strength and wisdom
all that needs to be done...
and become the hope that I can be.

Set me free from my fears and hesitations
grant me courage and humility
fill me with spirit to face the challenge
and start the change I long to see.

Even if I’m not the light
I can be the spark

In faith, service, and communion
Let us start the change we want to see
The change that begins in me.
Live Jesus in our heart, Forever!
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq4iluUJLB0)

LIFE AFTER THE PORK BARREL FORUM-
WORKSHOP
Despite having been a long-time practice, the pork barrel system has been declared by the Supreme Court (SC) as unconstitutional. Considering all the abuse and corruption that have accompanied legislators’ pork barrel whether it is called Countrywide Development Fund or Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), the SC seems to have given in to public pressure that it is time to end all the abuse.

The question now is how can government provide for the needs of the poor? What kind of mechanisms should the national government adopt so that the poor (who at one time depended on the largesse of their legislator-patron) are given sufficient assistance? Will simply transferring pork barrel funds from the legislators to the national agencies do the trick? Or will it just be a case of pork barrel of the executive agencies?

These are some of the questions we want to address in the DLSP-LJPC Governance Forum which will be co-sponsored by DLSU’s Office of the University President-Committee on National Issues and Concerns (CONIC). The Governance Forum will start from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM on 12 February. Venue will be at Henry Sy Sr. Bldg. at DLSU.
BIRTHDAYS

11 FEB  Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC
14 FEB  Br. Joseph Dougherty FSC
15 FEB  Br. Quilino nFSC (Myanmar)
19 FEB  Br. Rey Mejias FSC
23 FEB  Aimee Patiño (DLSPCH-AdS)

PRESIDENT AQUINO COMMENDS BR. ARMIN LUISTRO FSC

In his speech, given in the ceremonial turnover in Carmona, Cavite, President Aquino III praised Education Secretary Brother Armin Luistro FSC for addressing the educational backlog facing the country. “Ito nga pong si Kalihim Brother Armin naman, kilala na rin ang aking pagiging metikuloso sa detalye. Hindi na po ako magugulat kung isa siya sa mga nakukulitan sa akin. Ang masasabi ko po sa kanya, at sa mga kawani ng DepEd: Salamat at maraming salamat sa isang job well done. (“Brother Armin knows me for being meticulous. I won’t be surprised if he’s already annoyed by my persistence. But the one thing I can say about him and the members of DepEd: Thank you very much for a job well done.”

Aquino also thanked Brother Armin for choosing to serve. “Matagumpay at tahimik ang kanyang buhay sa kanyang bokasyon. Sa gobyerno, nag-aabang sa kanya ang sakit ng ulong hatid ng mga problemang ipinamana po sa atin, pati ng mga pambabatikos ng ilan na naging trabaho na ang magkalat ng negatibismo. Hindi po nagpasindak si Brother Armin: Finili niyang tumaya at higit na po makapaglingkod. Hindi siya nagpakahon sa mga limitasyon, at hinigitan pa niya ang husay at pagsisikap na naging kakabit na ng kanyang pangalan. Maraming salamat, Secretary Armin. (“He has a successful yet quiet life in his vocation. In the government, only problems lie await, along with criticisms. Brother Armin was not daunted: He chose to serve. He did not surrender to limitations, and went beyond the hard work already associated with his name. Again, thank you, Secretary Armin.”)

Through Brother Armin and DepEd, the administration provided 66,813 classrooms. The President also cited other achievements, such as providing 62 million books in 2012, and providing 2.5 million chairs that were made using logs seized from illegal loggers. Aquino also mentioned that from 2010 to 2013, almost 103,000 teaching positions were filled.

The President even took time to joke about the La Salle-Ateneo rivalry. “Siyempre, si Brother Armin po, hindi lang produkto, namuno pa ng De La Salle. Si Secretary Singson ng DPWH, galing rin sa La Salle. Si Secretary Purisma, galing rin sa La Salle. Kaya siguro, itong araw po, mapatapawad ng aking kapwa mga Atenista kung sasabihin kong, ‘Animo La Salle!’ Malamang hindi na naman tayo maimbahang magsalita sa Ateneo. Baka sa La Salle na lang. (“Of course, Brother Armin is not only a product of La Salle but headed the institution. Secretary Singson is also from La Salle. Secretary Purisma is also

from De La Salle. Today, I think my fellow Ateneans will forgive me if I say, ‘Animo La Salle!’ Looks like I won’t be invited to speak in Ateneo. Maybe in La Salle.)”

VOCATION NOVENA

16-25 FEBRUARY

Let us pray that more young people will be inspired to commit their lives to the Lasallian Mission.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God,
You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others.

Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others’ lives. Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me.

Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You.

Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place by serving as Lay Minister, Sister, Priest, Brother or Deacon. Amen.

(http://www.usccb.org)