

Prayer Service in Honor of SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

Let us remember...**that we are in the Holy Presence of God.**

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, we gather together to thank you for all good gifts, including the inspiration of John Baptist de La Salle. Through you and following after him, we strive to live in the light to which you call us every day. Our world needs joyful people committed to love, justice and service. May we, who gather this day, take heart from our Founder and live as you have shown us through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Brother. AMEN.

Our Lasallian Heritage:

On May 15, 1950, Pope Pius the Twelfth made the following proclamation:

“John Baptist de La Salle, a man of great holiness and natural gifts, not only educated young people himself but continues to do so through the excellent principles and practices he established in the Society [of Brothers] he founded. Not only that but, in order to prepare teachers for so important a mission in remote rural districts, he established training colleges. Teacher training colleges are now to be found everywhere, but their origin must be attributed to De La Salle.”

“This illustrious educational pioneer had such a high regard for the work of teaching that he would not allow his Brothers to become priests lest they be drawn away from their principal mission. He was convinced that their calling could lead them to authentic holiness.”

“Hence, in order that teachers and student teachers may have a role model to imitate... Saint John Baptist de La Salle be marked ... as *heavenly patron of all teachers*, men and women alike, clerical as well as lay, actually engaged in, or preparing for, the profession.”

“...The education of the young is a matter of the first importance and [we] wish that those to whom the mission of teaching has been entrusted, or who are preparing to undertake that mission, should have a further strong incentive to fulfill their noble calling in accordance with the principles of faith.”

The entire proclamation can be found at:

<http://www.lasalle2.org/English/Institutions/Calendars/inca.html>

Response:

A Reflective Reading, based on Matthew 25 [six separate voices suggested]

I was hungry for a generous word,
And you smiled and talked warmly.

I was thirsty for encouragement,
And you affirmed me and built me up.

I was a stranger to care and appreciation,
But you treated me with courtesy and respect.

I felt naked because my dignity and self-respect were undermined,
But you restored my confidence and faith.

I was tired and downcast,
But you lifted my spirits.

I felt imprisoned by people who judged me and sentenced me
But you accepted me for who I am.

Period of Reflection:

*From our very beginnings, we have been called to serve the last, the least and the lost.
As we come together in that very legacy, what is my commitment to those we will
continue to serve?*

Sharing of Reflections and Prayers

Closing Prayer (alternate choirs)

We give thanks for the gift of John Baptist de la Salle,
For his responsiveness to the needs of his era
And for his willingness to risk everything on behalf of poor children.

We give thanks for the legacy of De La Salle
For the countless Lasallians throughout 329 years who have
dedicated themselves to many eras of needy youth of 82 countries.

We give thanks for the vibrant Lasallian world
Where people of all religions and backgrounds
Take up the cause of needy youth in our modern era.

We give thanks to the Lasallians of the Midwest District
Who inspire us all with their commitment and creativity
In reaching the least, the last and the lost of our part of the world.

**(Together) To You, O Precious Lord, the Source of all life,
Be all the praise and glory, both this day and forever. AMEN**

St. John Baptist de La Salle. **Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts. **Forever!**

A cursive signature of "De La Salle" in black ink, written in a flowing, elegant script.