

# *The Words of the Founder*

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

On May 15, the Church recognizes John Baptist de La Salle as Saint (1900) and Patron of Teachers (1950). At the time of his death in 1719, the Institute consisted of 100 Brothers, 99 of whom lived and ministered in France. In the 285 years since the Founder's death, the Institute has grown to include over 83,000 Brothers, members of other religious congregations, and lay men and women committed to the human and Christian education of nearly 1,000,000 students in over 80 countries around the world. Let us take a few moments to reflect on a few of the words of this most unusual saint, who was as grounded in the practical realities of everyday life as he was visionary.

## *Words of the Founder*

1. Do not have any anxiety about the future,  
But leave everything in God's hands,  
For God will take care of you.  
Be satisfied with what you can do,  
Since God is satisfied with it,  
But do not spare yourself in what you can do with grace;  
And believe that, provided you want it,  
You can do more with the grace of God than  
you think.
2. You can perform miracles...  
By touching the hearts  
Of the children entrusted to your care...
3. Live by the spirit of faith.  
You are in God's presence;  
That is more than enough for you.
4. Be convinced of what St. Paul says,  
That you plant and water the seed,  
But it is God through Jesus Christ  
Who makes it grow,  
That he is the one  
Who brings your work to fulfillment.



5. For the love of God, make the effort.
  
6. Your ministry requires that you should devote yourself  
To the well-being of the poor,  
Since it is your duty to instruct them.  
Like St. Francis, look upon the poor as the image of Jesus Christ,  
And as being the best disposed  
To receive his Spirit abundantly.  
In this way, the more you cherish them  
The more you will be united to Jesus Christ.
  
7. Never speak to anyone except with kindness,  
And if you fear to speak otherwise, keep silent.
  
8. Leave the result in God's hands.
  
9. Consider Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd of the Gospel  
Seeking the lost sheep,  
Placing it upon his shoulders,  
And bringing it back to the fold.  
Since you are taking his place,  
Look upon yourself as obliged to do the same thing.
  
10. God, who conducts all things  
With wisdom and gentleness,  
And who is not at all accustomed  
To force the inclinations of men,  
Wishing to draw me into undertaking entirely  
The care of the schools,  
Has done so in a quite imperceptible way and in a short time,  
So that one commitment led me into another  
Without my having foreseen it in the beginning.

Loving God, we thank you for the life and witness of John Baptist de La Salle. May we continue to be inspired by his example and his words. We make this prayer through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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