The Words of the Founder

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

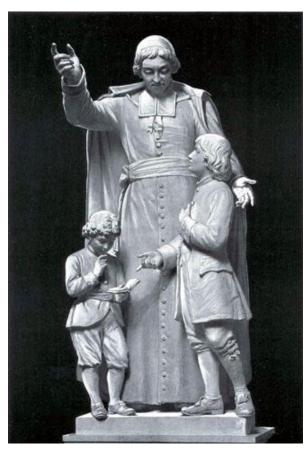
On May 15, the Church recognizes John Baptist de La Salle as Saint (1900) and Patron of Teachers (1950). At the time of his death in 1719, the Institute consisted of 100 Brothers, 99 of whom lived and ministered in France. In the 285 years since the Founder's death, the Institute has grown to include 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

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...
- 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.
- 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 though Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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