

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER and FOUNDER JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE



Born: April 30, 1651
Ordained: April 9, 1678
Founded Brothers of the Christian Schools: 1680
Died: April 7, 1719
Canonization: May 24, 1900
Declared: Patron of Teachers: May 15, 1950

A French priest, educational reformer, and founder of an international educational movement called the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He dedicated more than forty years of his life to the education of the children of the poor. In the process, he standardized educational practices throughout France, and wrote meditations on the ministry of teaching (along with catechisms, politeness texts, and other resources for teachers and students). He was to influence many other religious congregations dedicated to education that were founded in the 18th and 19th centuries.

“Earnestly ask Jesus Christ to make His Spirit come alive in you
since He has chosen you to do His work.”
De La Salle

Glorious Patron, low before you
kneel your children with hearts aflame,
And our voices blend in music
Singing praises to your name.
Saint John Baptist glorious patron,
Saint La Salle, we sound your fame.

Lover of our Queen and Mother
You to her first vowed your heart;
Earth and all its joys forsaking
You did choose the better part.
Saint La Salle, our glorious Father
Saint La Salle, we sound your fame.

Model of the Christian teacher
Patron of the Christian youth;
Lead us all to heights of glory
As we strive in earnest truth.
Saint La Salle, our patron help us
Saint La Salle, we sound your fame.

To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle.”
De La Salle

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18: 1-5

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoever receives one child such as this in My name receives Me.”

REFLECTION

Not so long ago, things were bad enough in Europe (as the story of Oliver Twist illustrates). And even today, it is so easy for young people to make a mess of their lives by dropping out of the school system and following an "alternative education" in the streets. It is important to remind children that schools were invented to give them a chance to grow and develop, so as to make something of their lives. If they understand this, the children will be more inclined to think highly of the teachers who see it as their vocation to give them the benefit of an education. They will also understand why the Church honors the man who did more than most to invent schools as we know them today, and who is known as the Patron Saint of Teachers.

LITANY

Response: Pray for us.

De La Salle, holy priest of God,

De La Salle, our Father and Founder,

De La Salle, patron of Christian teachers,

De La Salle, innovator of teaching methods,

De La Salle, animated by a great zeal for the salvation of souls,

De La Salle, always aware of the presence of God,

De La Salle, lover of Sacred Scripture,

De La Salle, continually led by the Spirit of God,

De La Salle, concerned for the poor,

De La Salle, always resigned to the Will of God,

De La Salle, interested in the education of the working class and the poor,

De La Salle, patient in tribulations,

De La Salle, instrument in gathering together and forming the first Brothers,

De La Salle, always living in a spirit of faith,

De La Salle, man of prayer,

De La Salle, devoted to our Blessed Mother,

De La Salle, always solicitous for the Brothers,

De La Salle, continually obedient to the Church,

De La Salle, spiritual director of souls,

De La Salle, model of holiness,

PRAYER

O holy father, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, we praise and thank you for your life and example. By the power of your love and intercession for us your faithful followers, grant us

O holy founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, we praise and thank God for your life and a greater share in service, faith, zeal and prayer, to the glory of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Live Jesus in our hearts.

Forever!

“I adore in all things, the holy will of God in my regard.”

De La Salle