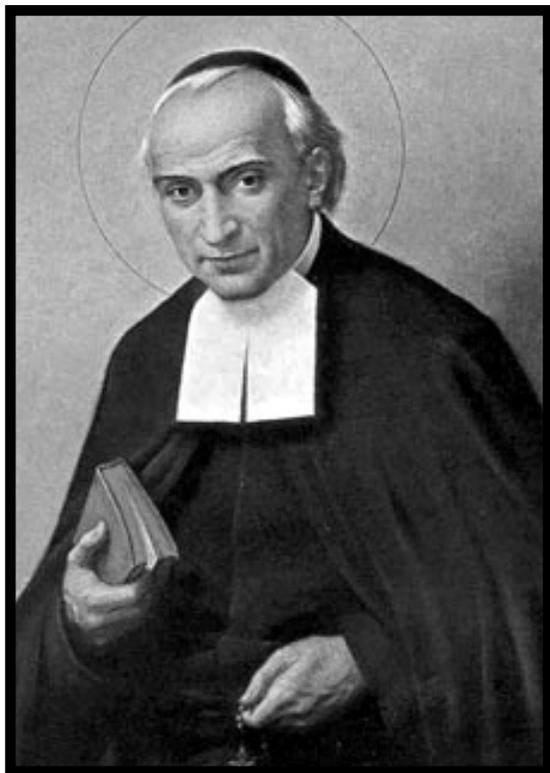


# A PRAYER in HONOR of SAINTLY BROTHER BENILDE

## APOSTLE of VOCATIONS



Born: Thuret, France in 1805

Entered the Brothers: 1820

Died: August 13, 1862

Canonized: October, 1967

Feast: August 13

My life is at the service of the Gospel.  
God has given me the gift of His grace.

Brother Benilde, a French De La Salle Brother, was especially effective in attracting religious vocations. At his death more than 200 Brothers and an impressive number of priests had been his students at the school in Sauges, France where he ministered for twenty years. Pope Pius XII stressed that Brother Benilde's sanctification was attained by enduring "the terrible daily grind" and by "doing common things in an extraordinary way."

Let us pause and remember that we are in the holy presence of God.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sion rejoices, celebrates the glory of Saintly Brother Benilde, apostle of the classroom. Daily he gathered workers for the harvest. May the example of his faith and zeal inspire us to foster vocations to Priesthood, the Diaconate, Brotherhood, Sisterhood and dedicated Lay Ministry.

Saintly Brother, you spent your life in witness of the Gospel.  
We, the Lasallian Family, rejoice as we remember your witness and we thank and praise God for the gift of you.

## Psalm 63

God, You are my God, for You I long.

For You my body yearns; for You my soul thirsts,

like a land parched, lifeless and without water.

So I look to You to see Your power and Your glory.

Your love is better than life.

I will bless You as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call upon Your name.

With joyous lips my mouth shall honor You.

You indeed are my help and in the shadow of Your wings I shout for joy.

Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be. Amen.

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My children, to My words be attentive,

to My sayings incline your ear;

let them not slip out of your sight;

keep them within your heart.

For they are life to those who find them.

Let your eyes look straight ahead

and your glance be directly forward.

Survey the path of your feet

and let all your ways be sure.

Turn neither to the right or the left,

and keep your feet far from evil.

– Proverbs 4: 22-27

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
You have the words of eternal life.

Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.

Your word shall last forever,  
Your faithfulness for every generation.

## Reflections of De La Salle

God wills that not only all come to the knowledge of faith, but also that all be saved. God cannot truly desire this without giving children the teachers who will assist them in the fulfillment of His plan.

You must, then, look upon work as one of the most important and most necessary services in the Church, one which has been entrusted to you by pastors and by fathers and by mothers.

Often recall to mind the purpose of your vocation, and let this command you to do your part to establish and maintain the Kingdom of God in the hearts of your students.

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Jesus, our Lord and Master,

sought to make Himself a servant in the midst of His disciples.

Give us Your Spirit, Lord Jesus, that we might be at the service of all.

Jesus, Lord of the harvest,

You still call men and women to service within the Church.

Help us, Lord, to be Your disciples in praying for  
and in helping others discern their call in life.

Jesus, our Brother and Friend,

give us the grace to be faithful to our vocation in life.

May we consecrate ourselves to Your service for the rest of our lives.

Jesus, Divine Providence,

watch over all who are in leadership roles in the Church, the Institute  
of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and in our government.

Send Your Holy Spirit to guide and guard them  
and to give them the wisdom to make good decisions for all.

Jesus, Eternal Life,

be with all of our faithful departed

and especially all who consecrated their lives to You as Brother.

May they enjoy forever the peace and joy of Your presence.

Jesus, Giver of all good gifts,

You gave us the gift of Brother Benilde.

Help us to be people of thanks and praise

and imitate the example of this saintly Brother.

O Lord, hear our prayers and answer them as only You know best.  
May we graciously accept Your will in our regard.

O God, You called Saint Benilde to be an excellent educator who touched the hearts and lives of his students. Through his intercession and example may we be faith-filled and faithful in our ministry. Amen.

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Almighty God, we pray that we may make Your Kingdom incarnate.  
May we accept with gratitude the Brothers and Lasallian colleagues  
that You give us to help us on the way.  
May we serve and uphold one another as members of the one body.  
May we continue to live in faith with joyfulness and hope  
and cause others to come to know and serve You, O God.  
Blessed be Your will in our regard.

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Saint John Baptist, our Father and Founder,  
walk with us on our journey to the Father.

Saintly Brother Benilde,  
inspire us to encourage and support vocations to Church ministry.

Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!