

**CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDER
SAINT JOHN BAPTIST de LA SALLE**

1651 - 1719

Priest of the Diocese of Rheims, France
Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools
Patron of Christian Teachers
Father of Modern Teaching Methods
Canonized: May 24, 1900



Let us rejoice in the presence of God. Alleluia!
We shall rejoice in God's everlasting presence. Alleluia!
Let us be filled with gladness. Alleluia!
Glory to You, Source of All Being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.



Now Let Us Praise

Now let us praise a man of true greatness
Who gave up all to follow Christ Jesus;
And, though poor himself, left all humankind richer
John Baptist de La Salle.

He saw the poor deprived of education,
Left to themselves and prone to all disorders;
He, led by Providence far beyond his knowing,
Formed the Christian Schools.

Centuries after, we his followers here now
Follow that vision, led by his example;
Faith as our guiding light, zeal in all our working,
Brothers and sisters to all the world.

Praise to You, Father, Source of all our blessings;
Praise to You, Jesus, John's great Exemplar;
Praise Holy Spirit, Prompter, Guide, Sustainer of
John Baptist de La Salle.



The Lord has given him unending glory; his name shall be an everlasting remembrance.

De La Salle became involved with a group of men and inspired by the plight of the poor who seemed so “far from salvation”, he determined to put his own talents and education at the service of the children, who often left to themselves, were badly brought up.

Servants of the Lord bless the Lord.

Renouncing his wealth and distributing it to the poor, De La Salle took the group of men into his own home and formed them into teachers. They became known as The Brothers of The Christian Schools. De La Salle instilled in them a reliance on the providence of God and the realization that they continually lived in the presence of a loving God.

The saints will exult in glory; they will sing for joy as they bow down before the Lord.

De La Salle created a new form of religious life, a community of consecrated laymen to conduct gratuitous schools “together and by association.” He inaugurated several novel methods of instruction such as teaching in the vernacular rather than Latin and grouping students according to ability and achievement, and the integration of religious instruction with secular subjects, well prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission, and the involvement of parents. He pioneered programs for training lay teachers, Sunday courses for working young men, and began one of the first institutions in France for the care of delinquents.

God found him pure and strong; he will have everlasting glory.

De La Salle had a great love for Sacred Scripture. He instilled this love in his followers as well as a strong sense of prayer. De La Salle himself spent long hours in prayer and was known to undertake personal penances. He desired to unite his will with that of the Lord.

God’s holy ones will be filled with love and mercy; God watches over His chosen ones.

De La Salle faced many trials and tribulations from others because of his work. Some were jealous while others wished to gain control of the endeavor. He died just weeks before his sixty-eighth birthday worn out by austerities and exhausting labors De La Salle, always obedient to the wishes of the Church, saw his efforts grow into a network of quality schools throughout France and now in 81 countries around the world.

Psalm 119

In my heart I treasure Your promise.
How can the young walk without fault?
Only by keeping Your words, O Lord.
With all my heart I seek You.
Do not let me stray from Your commands.
In my heart I treasure Your promises
That I might not sin against You.
Blessed are You, O Lord;
Teach me Your ways.
I find joy in all Your words
More than in all riches.
In my heart I treasure all Your promises.

2 Corinthians 3: 2-3

You are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all,
shown to be a letter of Christ administered by us,
written not in ink
but by the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.

Intercessions

That we as the Lasallian Family will continue to keep alive the spirit of De La Salle, we pray:

May the Spirit of God lead us where we did not plan to go.

That all children will receive a good education that will equip them to be productive and contributing citizens in today's world, we pray:

May You, Lord, help us to nurture these precious gifts.

That along with their minds and hearts, our youth will also have their spiritual lives nurtured, we pray:

Lord, may the young come to You for the Kingdom of God belongs to them.

That Catholic and Christian schools will continue to thrive and pass on the message of Jesus to their students through dedicated teachers and staffs, we pray:

Lord, send dedicated people to be Your ministers of the Gospel to the young.

That all benefactors of our schools and our educational endeavors will continue to support us in our mission to touch hearts, we pray:

Lord Jesus, bless and reward them for their generosity, support, and encouragement.

That all who have gone before us and have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the youth through teaching, coaching, social work, and campus ministry may enjoy the fruits of their labors we pray:

Lord, bless and reward them for the good they have done.



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,**

Let us pray:

Father and founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian schools, you realized the value of competent Christian educators and worked untiringly for the instruction of the working class and the poor always relying on the providence of God.

Send generous followers to live your ideals of a spiritual life through the service of Christian education.

May we be filled with the spirit and zeal of those first Brothers who ministered so diligently for the salvation of youth through Christian education.

May we and our Lasallian colleagues be Christ-like models for others and may the spirit of Jesus be forever in our hearts. Amen.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!