



Prayer in Vocation

Blessed Father Nicolas Roland (April 27)

A School Prayer:

Today we remember the life of Blessed Father Nicolas Roland, the spiritual director of Saint La Salle when he was a young man. Loving Creator, we often do not know how to make important decisions. Help us to find support in the wisdom of holy people. May we rely on your voice speaking through others who have great faith in you and can hear your voice in the lives of others.

We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, in our culture, we rely so much on the value of independence and individualism. As we remember Blessed Father Nicolas Roland, we look to the value of interdependence, mutuality, and attentiveness to your voice in others.

May we, like Saint La Salle, lean on the wisdom of holy guides, the mentors that truly draw us into the assurance that can only come from you working in us. Amen.

A Prayer for Parents *(could be used in a newsletter):*

Blessed Father Nicolas Roland was the spiritual advisor of Saint La Salle. May we as parents often seek the counsel of wise and holy people who can help us to hear the voice of God in our lives. May the words of wisdom help us as we guide our children in that which is best, not only for them, but also for the goodness in those with whom they have relationships. Amen.

The Story:

At age 21 while in the seminary studying to be a priest, Saint John Baptist de La Salle received the news that his mother had died. Because his father died earlier and since he was the oldest child, De La Salle became the legal guardian of his six siblings.

It might easily be presumed that under these circumstances De La Salle would have struggled through a crisis in his vocation to the priesthood. Man of faith that he was, he might well have been inclined to interpret these events as a sign that God was directing him along another path. But he had also learned in the months at Saint Sulpice not to trust his own judgment in such matters. Accordingly he looked about for a spiritual director to guide him through this difficult time.

He found such a one in the person of Father Nicolas Roland. In order to keep open the option of the priesthood, Roland suggested that he enroll at once in the University of Reims to complete the theology courses that he had begun the previous autumn in Paris.

De La Salle often sought the advice of his guide Roland. Though many of Roland's friends had tried to interest De La Salle in the work of education without success, Roland's own enthusiasm for the cause of education was to bear fruit in the work of the Founder of the Brothers.