



## *Prayer in Vocation*

**Birthday of John Baptist de La Salle (April 30<sup>th</sup>)**

### **A School Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, today we celebrate the birth of a man who was destined to bring glory to your name by spreading the gospel to the poor and marginalized in France and eventually through his disciples and Lasallian Partners though out the world. As we commemorate this event let us to continue to ask you though the intercession of St. La Salle to bless our work of teaching minds and touching hearts.  
Amen.

### **A CLASSROOM PRAYER:**

God, ever-faithful, we thank you for the gift to your Church of Saint John Baptist De La Salle. We pray that, like him, we may deepen our friendship with you and grow more aware of your presence in our lives each day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Lord Jesus, as we recall the birthday of John Baptist de La Salle, we give you thanks for gifting your Church with so great an educator. Since we, as parents, are also educators of our children may we receive through the intercession of St. La Salle the graces we need to raise our children to follow you in procuring your glory.

### **The Story:**

John Baptist De La Salle spends the first 13 years of his life in the De La Salle family home in Rheims: the Hôtel de la Cloche (later re-named Hôtel De La Salle, and owned by the Brothers). In this house John starts his formal education with private tutors at the age of 6. His father (Louis) is a magistrate, and his mother (Nicolle) is of the Moët champagne family. Some consider that it is from his mother that John begins to develop the deep sense of the Presence of God that will become such an important part of the lives of Brothers and other Lasallian educators and their students in the years to come.

John enjoys visiting the vineyards and the country home of his maternal grandparents in Brouillet, some 20 km south-west of the walled city of Rheims. These grandparents are also his godparents. From the time that he is able to read Latin, Jean Moët and his grandson pray the Office together.

At the age of 10, John is enrolled in the city's Collège des Bons Enfants, being a school of the University of Rheims. In 1669 he gains his degree of Master of Arts, two years after being installed as one of the 64 Canons of the Cathedral (aged 15). The canonry is offered to him by his distant elderly relative, Pierre Dozet, and the accompanying stipend will increase the family income by half. As a student, John is exempted from some of the daily duties of a Canon, which includes gathering together to sing the Office and participate in the Eucharist.