



Prayer in Vocation

Saint Benilde, Institute Patron of Vocations (Aug. 13)

A School Prayer:

Today we remember Saint Benilde, a De La Salle Brother known for his dedication and prayerfulness. Loving Creator, in the person of Saint Benilde we see the holiness that can be in "doing common things in an uncommon way" especially when they benefit the growth and happiness of others. May we be open to your presence in the common interactions of our day, seeing your grace in all that we encounter. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, you ask us to be attentive to others. As we remember Saint Benilde, the Patron of Vocations, we are attentive to your voice calling your goodness from within us. May we, like Saint Benilde, open ourselves to your call and put our goodness to action in the daily tasks of today. May we continue to discover in our gifts, the ways we can minister to others. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

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

Saint Benilde's life points us toward a way of understanding God in the common tasks and relationships of our day. May we be open to the presence of goodness and faith in the small encounters of our day. Help us to see our children as gifts of God's grace and to see our care for our family as an act of God's grace. Amen.

The Story:

Pierre Romançon was born in the village of Thuret in south-central France. Despite the objection of his parents, who wanted to keep him at home, and the reluctance of the superiors, who thought he was too short of stature, he was finally admitted to the novitiate. From 1821 to 1841 he taught successfully in the network of elementary schools conducted by the Brothers out of the administrative center at Clermont-Ferrand. In 1841 he was appointed Director of a school that was opening in Saugues, an isolated village on a barren plateau in southern France. For the next twenty years he worked quietly and effectively as teacher and principal to educate the boys in the village and some from the neighboring farms, many of whom were in their teens and had never been to school before. Small as he was, he was known as a strict but fair disciplinarian. In time the little school became the center of the social and intellectual life of the village, with evening classes for the adults and tutoring for the less gifted students. Brother Benilde's extraordinary religious sense was evident to everyone: at Mass with the students in the parish church, teaching catechism, preparing boys for first communion, visiting and praying with the sick, and rumors of near-miraculous cures. He 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 Saugues. At his beatification, Pope Pius XII stressed that his sanctification was attained by enduring "the terrible daily grind" and by "doing common things in an uncommon way."