



Prayer in Vocation

De La Salle Renounces His Canonry (August 16, 1683)

A School Prayer:

Loving Creator,
we enter our school year
to learn of your love in our lives.
Strengthen us
to let go of our selfishness
and to embrace generosity.
May we leave today
having helped draw the best out
of each other.
Inspired by your spirit at work
through the life of St. La Salle,
we pray through your Son,
our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

In renouncing his canonry, Saint La Salle let go of a need for prestige, and allowed himself to become one with his Brothers. During class today, may put aside any desire to have others accept our opinion as the only opinion, and help one another to learn. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Brother. Amen.

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

In giving up his title "Canon in the Cathedral of Rheims, France" Saint John Baptist de La Salle embraced the responsibilities needed to support his community of Brothers and their mission of education of youth, particularly those from situations of poverty. May we, as parents, embrace the challenges that call us to further leadership in forming our family as a community of faith and witness to our neighbors and friends. Help us Lord, to be families open to the needs of others. Amen

The Story:

In the summer of 1683, after a lengthy period of discernment, De La Salle announced that he would relinquish his canonry. De La Salle was convinced that God was asking for an unreserved sacrifice of all he possessed, and that this was what was pleasing to Him.

"It is impossible to state how the news stirred up the city when it became known. His relatives and friends were most disturbed. His opponents became stronger and stronger. The consequences of his resolution were pointed out to him: his family would leave him, his friends would be disappointed in him; unforeseen accidents must be expected, for his institute was but a dream which would easily fail; his credit was not sufficient to stand up to the demands that he would have to make upon it. Since he had taken the firm resolution to abandon himself to the Providence of God, none of these reasons were sufficient to make him change his mind."