



Prayer in Vocation

Pope Benedict XIII Approves the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1725 (January 26)

A School Prayer:

Today we recall the approval of the Brothers' Institute as an official congregation in the Church. Loving Creator, you give us the spirit of your Son, Jesus, working through St. La Salle in the founding and ongoing formation of the Institute. May we contribute to our school community in ways that touch hearts and minds, transforming us into people of love, people of God. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, many times we wrestle with our uniqueness in the midst of institutions like church and school. As we remember the acceptance of the Brothers' Institute as a congregation in the church, we recall their struggle to touch hearts and not lose track of their mission of educational service. May we, like the Brothers, find our unique role in the many groups we choose and to which we find ourselves a member. Amen.

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

After 45 years of trying, the Brothers were accepted in the Church as an officially recognized religious congregation. We pray, loving Creator, for the patience and fortitude to foster our sons and daughters' development as people of faith, regardless of the challenges and supported by the triumphs. Amen.

The Story:

Five years had passed since the death of their Founder, John Baptist de La Salle, and the Brothers found themselves at a threshold in the 45 year history of their Institute. Pope Benedict XIII, encouraged by the educational work of the Brothers, recognized the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as an official congregation of the Church.

The Pope declared, "We willingly direct Our attention to those things which may bring about the due fulfillment of the pious intentions of the faithful, more especially in what regards the foundation of Institutes which promote literary culture, favor the progress of children of the poor who are desirous of studying in order to cultivate with fruit the Lord's vineyard, and increase learning and wisdom." Among many things, the approval recognized that the Institute was primarily for the education of the poor and that the Brothers did not aspire to the priesthood.

Living today in the spirit of faith and zeal of their founding, the Brothers' vocation calls them to serve God through education, a ministry entrusted to them by the Church which the Brothers share with their lay Partners.