



## *Prayer in Vocation*

**Pope Pius the Tenth Declares Brothers “Apostles of Catechism” (1907)**

### **A School Prayer:**

Today we remember Pope Pius the Tenth’s July 11, 1907 proclamation of the Brothers as *Apostles of Catechism*.

Loving Creator, in the life and ministry of the Brothers, we are reminded of all those called to be teachers of our faith.

May we come to understand the simple ways we can learn about our faith. May we open ourselves to your word this day through our teachers and others who care for us. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

### **A Classroom Prayer:**

Jesus, we are important to each other.

As we remember the Brothers being proclaimed “Apostles of Catechism” we consider the ways we act as teachers with each other.

May we, like the Brothers, build community in our class today, and be examples of love and faith in the kindness and concern we show to each other.

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

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

In proclaiming the Brothers *Apostles of Catechism*, Pope Pius the Tenth places religious education at the heart of all teaching. May we, as parents, open ourselves to the spiritual lives of our children and see religion as a way to help our children come to understand the God inspired gift that they are to their family, their friends, and their community. May we find strength in our call of service to the world in the raising of our children. Amen.

### **The Story:**

As early as 1684, St. La Salle named the men dedicating themselves to the children they taught as “Brothers of the Christian Schools.” The more homelike word “Brother” appealed to the familial experience of all people. The followers of St. La Salle were to be Brothers in Christ to one another, and elder Brothers to their pupils. The word “Christian” was included in the title to remind them that their mission in life was to be imitators of Christ, the Divine Teacher of “the way, the truth, and the life,” and that they were to instruct children in the doctrine and tradition of the Catholic faith. It is for this reason that the Brothers were designated “Apostles of the Catechism” by Pope Pius the Tenth on July 11, 1907, a little over seven years after St. La Salle was canonized a saint. The word “Schools” emphasized the particular field of the Brothers’ apostolate (or “ministry”). By this limitation, they were to consecrate themselves together and by association unreservedly to the education of youth.

Today, the Brothers continue to foster the “human and Christian education of the young” in whatever field of study they teach or in whatever form of school ministry they perform.