



# Prayer in Vocation

**John Baptist de La Salle Forms First Community (June 24, 1681-82)**

## **A School Prayer:**

Today we remember John Baptist de La Salle forming the first community of teachers.  
Loving Creator, in living together to support each others' vocation, the first group of school teachers grew into a brotherhood.  
May we, like Saint La Salle, cultivate the wisdom and skills that allow us to gather others in your name for the service of those most in need. As a school, may deepen our community through faith and service  
We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

## **A Classroom Prayer:**

How do I contribute to the strength of the learning community we call "class"?  
As we remember John Baptist de La Salle forming the first community of Brothers, we recall the challenges and support needed to build a supportive environment.  
May we, like Saint La Salle, build community in our class today, and not shy away from the ways we can bring out the best in each other.  
We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

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

Saint La Salle undoubtedly faced many struggles and successes as he joined with his Brothers in forming the first community.  
May we, as parents, patiently address the challenges of forming a family *with* our family. May we accept with gratitude the good that each member of our family lends to the unity of our community. May we be beacons of love and peace to our neighbors. Amen.

## **The Story:**

Pinpointing the moment when Saint La Salle formed the first community of Brothers is not possible. The hand of God in this regard worked over at least a two year period, touching twice June 24<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Saint John the Baptist. June 24<sup>th</sup> was the traditional "moving day" in France when leases expired. So on that date in 1681, Saint La Salle moved his band of teachers into his family home where he was taking care of his younger brothers and sisters, most of whom moved out to the homes of relatives. A year later, in 1682, he sold his family ancestral home and moved the teachers into their own house, thus setting a committed course for the binding of these school teachers into a community of Brothers and the eventual establishment of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. "In time the house would be known as the 'cradle of the Institute,' the date as the birthday of the community. It is not known exactly how many teachers followed the Founder there, probably no more than five or six."

By gathering the teachers together to live in one place there "were present all the elements that were to characterize the organization to come: one central house servicing several schools; one person as the uncontested leader; a team of teachers, growing in professional competence and indisputably dedicated to the Christian education of the children of the poor."