



Prayer in Vocation

Saint John Baptist de La Salle Celebrates His Last Mass (Mar. 19, 1719)

A School Prayer:

Today we remember the last Mass that Saint La Salle celebrated with his Brothers in honor of the Patron Saint of the Brothers, Saint Joseph.

Loving Creator, we often struggle to get done what we need to get done. Help us to be present to our family and friends as if each moment with them will be our last. May we be strengthened in our faith and by gathering with others of our faith.

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

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, so much of our day is taken up with worry about tomorrow. As we remember Saint La Salle and his effort to celebrate one last Mass with his Brothers, may we look to the moment we are in right now.

May we, like Saint La Salle, lean on the strength we get from our mentors and community. May we be present to God in others, our world and ourselves. May we live as if there is no tomorrow except in You. Amen.

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

Saint La Salle called on his reserve of strength to make one last act of faith for and with his Brothers. Much like his Patron Saint, Joseph, he realized the importance of being present to those God had entrusted to his care. May we as parents be present to the needs of our children, regardless of the time and energy it takes, especially when our presence calls the best from our children. Amen.

The Story:

As a priest, Saint John Baptist de La Salle lived the importance of the Eucharistic Liturgy we call, "the Mass." The Mass provides a central understanding in the Lasallian mission of experiencing a "human and Christian education." Our need for the wholeness and unity of God within our human struggles and frailty comes together in the Eucharist. Br. Luke Salm writes about De La Salle's final days of life. Though they themselves were not priests, the Brothers understood the importance of the very ill De La Salle celebrating his last Mass. Br. Luke writes, "As March 19, the feast of Saint Joseph, was drawing near, De La Salle expressed a great desire to celebrate Mass in honor of this special patron and protector of the Institute. So weak was his condition and so intense the pain, that any such idea seemed to be out of the question. However, on the eve of the feast, he felt all of a sudden that the pain was subsiding and that his strength had returned. At first he thought he was dreaming, but in the morning he was well enough to get up and celebrate Mass for the Brothers. They were overjoyed at the prospect that a miraculous cure had returned their Father to them. But almost immediately thereafter he relapsed into his former condition. It became clearer than ever that the end was near and that it was in honor of Saint Joseph that he had celebrated Mass for the last time."