



Prayer in Vocation

Saint John Baptist de La Salle proclaimed “Patron of Teachers” (1950)

A School Prayer:

Today we remember Pope Pius the Twelfth’s 1950 proclamation of Saint John Baptist de La Salle as *Patron of All Teachers*.

Loving Creator, in the person of Saint La Salle we find a model of faith and zeal for those dedicated to teaching. May our teachers, coaches, counselors, and staff continue to find in themselves your guidance and strength as they minister to the students entrusted to their care.

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

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, we are the ones primarily responsible for learning.

As we remember Saint La Salle being proclaimed “Patron of All Teachers” we look at the ways we, in our learning, are teachers. May we, like Saint La Salle, build community in our class today, learning from our teachers to be teachers of each other. May we be open to learning how to be better teachers here at school as well as at home.

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

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

In proclaiming Saint La Salle *Patron of All Teachers* Pope Pius XII drew our attention to the spiritual role of educators. May we, as parents, take to heart our responsibility as the primary educators of our children. In our role may we be strengthened in faith, to teach our children by our example as well as our words that they are loved by God, that they are a gift for the service of God in the world. Amen.

The Story:

On May 15, 1950, Pope Pius the Twelfth proclaimed:

“John Baptist de La Salle, a man of great holiness and natural gifts, not only educated young people himself but continues to do so through the excellent principles and practices he established in the Society [of Brothers] he founded. Not only that but, in order to prepare teachers for so important a mission in remote rural districts, he established training colleges. Teacher training colleges are now to be found everywhere, but their origin must be attributed to De La Salle.”

“This illustrious educational pioneer had such a high regard for the work of teaching that he would not allow his Brothers to become priests lest they be drawn away from their principal mission. He was convinced that their calling could lead them to authentic holiness.”

“Hence, in order that teachers and student teachers may have a role model to imitate... Saint John Baptist de La Salle be marked ... as *heavenly patron of all teachers*, men and women alike, clerical as well as lay, actually engaged in, or preparing for, the profession.”

“...The education of the young is a matter of the first importance and [we] wish that those to whom the mission of teaching has been entrusted, or who are preparing to undertake that mission, should have a further strong incentive to fulfill their noble calling in accordance with the principles of faith.”