



Prayer in Vocation

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

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world... whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.” (John 8:12)

(light the candle)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three come together in your name, you are there with them. The light of this candle symbolizes your presence among us, and the fire of your spirit within our vocation.

And so, let us remember...

All: ...that we are in the holy presence of God.

Our Lasallian Heritage Speaks

On May 15, 1950, Pope Pius the Twelfth made the following proclamation:

“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.”

The entire proclamation can be found at: <http://www.lasalle2.org/English/Institutions/Calendars/inca.html>

Response: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 19

The word of the LORD came to me thus:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

"Ah, Lord GOD!" I said,
"I know not how to speak; I am too young."
But the LORD answered me,
Say not, "I am too young."
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand
and touched my mouth, saying,
See, I place my words in your mouth!

This day I set you over nations
and over kingdoms,
To root up and to tear down,
to destroy and to demolish,
to build and to plant.

They will fight against you,
but not prevail over you,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.

Reading: Matthew 23:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers."

Saint Paul tells the Church at Corinth, "Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way."

Meditation

Intercessions (*various quotations of Saint John Baptist de La Salle*)

Reader: Let it be clear, then, in all your conduct towards the children who are entrusted to you that you look upon yourselves as ministers of God, carrying out your ministry with love and a sincere and true zeal.

All: **Lord, deepen our commitment to the education of the young, such that we minister through the trust given to us.**

Reader: You must help your students to be gentle and to have a tenderness for one another, mutually forgiving, as God has forgiven them in Jesus Christ, and love one another as Jesus Christ has loved them.

All: **Lord, may our communal care and compassion move us toward forgiveness and charity in all our relationships.**

Reader: God wills not only that all come to the knowledge of truth, but also that all be saved. God cannot truly desire this without giving children the teachers who will assist them in the fulfillment of his plan.

All: **Lord, in our dedication to our Lasallian mission, help us contribute to Your plan of salvation.**

Reader: Consider, then, that your reward in heaven will be all the greater as you will have accomplished more good in the souls of the children who are entrusted to your care.

All: **Lord, may the educators who have gone before us and showed us the way to You, continue to live in Your eternal peace.**

Reader: And for what else shall we pray?

Our Father

Closing Prayer:

God, in our vocation as teachers we look toward the example of Saint La Salle as we carry out the ministry entrusted to us.

May we remain attentive and faithful to your word working through us such that we become instruments of your salvation. Amen.