



Prayer in Vocation

Saint John Baptist de La Salle Canonized a Saint (May 24, 1900)

A School Prayer:

Today we remember John Baptist de La Salle being a canonized a Saint in 1900.

Loving Creator, in the person of Saint La Salle we are shown what it means to see your hand of Providence in the everyday events of our life.

May we, like Saint La Salle, make a sincere and daily effort in prayer to identify your vocation in us, so that we may respond to others as reflections of your love.

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

A Classroom Prayer:

Do I experience the presence of God in those sitting with me here in class?

As we remember John Baptist de La Salle being declared a Saint, may we be encouraged in our efforts to see and be the presence of God.

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):*

In declaring John Baptist de La Salle a Saint, the Church recognizes holiness in a person dedicated to the care of youth through education. 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, and that they are called by God to be of service in the world. Amen.

The Story:

On May 24th 1900 for the very first time in Vatican history electrical lighting was used. The occasion was to light the basilica of St. Peter's in proclaiming the first Saint of the twentieth century, John Baptist de La Salle. Pope Leo XIII performed the ceremony. Though there was no air travel at that time, many pilgrims came from France to witness the canonizing of their fellow countryman, and Lasallians from many countries around the world joined them.

As with the advance from candle light to electrical light, so it is with schools and teaching. Just as nowadays we take electricity for granted (at least in many parts of the world), so too, again in many parts of the world, we take good school systems and well-trained teachers for granted. Saint La Salle's special merit is that over 300 years ago he made moves that started to bring education for ordinary people out of the "candle" era into the "electrical" era. He is a pioneer of modern education. His particular genius was to make schooling for the masses an effective practice. The practical training of teachers was a keystone in his method.

Saint La Salle continues to inform us today in the methods of a practical spirituality. Lasallian educators strive for the attainment of *salvation*, of health and wholeness in their students, thus also accomplishing their own salvation. To this end, Saint La Salle continues to inspire Lasallians to "touch hearts" with God's love in the everyday events of a school.