



## Prayer in Vocation

**Blessed Nicholas Barré , priest (May 31st)**

### A School Prayer

Almighty God, you inspired your priest Blessed Nicholas Barré to devote himself to the education of poor girls and through him led and inspired Saint John Baptist de La Salle to commit himself to the education of poor boys. We ask that the following example of these two holy priests, many young men will embrace the clerical state and gladly give their lives to accomplish the apostolate you entrust to them. We ask this through the intercession of our High Priest, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Classroom Prayer

**Lord, you who called both Nicholas Barré and John Baptist de La Salle to create and develop new schools for the Christian education of poor and marginalized youth. Help us today to become aware that you continue to call each of us, both faculty and students to continue this work of education.**

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

**Heavenly Father,  
Blessed Nicholas Barré was a pioneer in educating young girls. He also encouraged John Baptist de La Salle to move into the work of educating young boys. We as parents, thank you for the gifts of these two men in carrying out your mission of educating and forming young men and women to be followers of your Son.**

Father Barré had been busy since 1660 training women teachers for all sorts of schools, especially those devoted to the religious instruction of children of the poor. When De La Salle needed advice he sought a friend who could help him to understand what God was asking of him. True to his Sulpician training and his personal need to discern the will of God, De La Salle decided to seek spiritual direction. Accordingly he went to Paris to consult with Father Barré. Barré had known both Roland and Nyel and had long been active in the cause of education for the poor classes. Now that Barré was in Paris, De La Salle came to the monastery near the Place Royale to seek his advice. Barré had the reputation as a gifted director who could see intuitively into the heart of a problem and the heart of a person. Sizing up both the situation and his client, Barré responded with a direct and uncompromising challenge. He advised De La Salle to take the teachers into his house and to live with them. Father Barré died in 1686. It was he who had guided De La Salle through the difficult choices involved in committing himself to the work of schools now was the time for De La Salle to honor Barré expectation by opening a school in Paris. De La Salle was anxious to establish a foothold in or near Rouen, the capital of Normandy and a city hallowed by memories of Barré, Roland and Nyel. It was more that 25yrs since Nyel had left Rouen to open a school in Reims; it was time for De La Salle to bring the maturing project back to the site of its origins.