



Prayer in Vocation

Brother Gabriel Drolin's, First School, Rome 1709

A School Prayer

Heavenly Father, St John Baptist de La Salle and the early Brothers vow to associate themselves together to procure your glory by caring for the poor and marginalized through education. In memory of Brother Gabriel, who for 25 years worked tirelessly for the Christian education of youth in Rome help us to remember that perseverance is a key to success in working for You and for the spreading your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord and brother. Amen.

A CLASSROOM PRAYER

O God: you give us an example, in the life of Brother Gabriel Drolin, that with your help one person can do marvels for your greater honor and glory.

Brother Gabriel through his hard work and perseverance fulfilled the dream of his Founder and dear friend by starting a school in Rome. Help us today through his prayers that as teachers and students we may continue to strive to become good Christian leaders in our school community.

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

Brother Gabriel was a man of great fortitude and perseverance. He left the Brothers in France and for 25 years labored in Rome so that a dream of John Baptist de La Salle could be fulfilled. 200 yrs. This dream is still a reality. As parents let us see in the life of Brother Gabriel, an example of this type of fortitude and perseverance that is necessary to raise our children to be men and women of faith. Amen.

Gabriel was son of a bourgeois family. He was born on May 12th 1663. Like John Baptist de La Salle from early on wanted to be a priest. He had made classical studies and received the tonsure before entering the new Institute. His relatives wanted to go for priesthood because of the benefices. What made Gabriel think of the Brothers?

In 1679 the school at St. Jacques was opened and Gabriel was really impressed with how the school was run. He became a very close friend of John Baptist and shared with him many of the frustrations including the heroic vow which he made with Nicholas Vuyart 1691. In 1702 Gabriel was sent to Rome in order to open a school. It took him 7 years to finally open a "Lasallian" school. The many letters written between de La Salle and Gabriel show the great friendship that had built up with these two men.

Gabriel stayed in Rome until 1727 when he returned to France. Among the papers that he had kept with him since 1690 was copy of the "Heroic Vow".

Gabriel is an example of a true missionary Brother who was sent to Rome in order that God might bless the work of the Institute.