

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance  
Never settle for the path of least resistance  
Livin' might mean takin' chances but they're worth takin'  
Lovin' might be a mistake but it's worth makin'  
Don't let some hell-bent heart leave you bitter  
When you come close to sellin' out reconsider  
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance  
I hope you dance . . . I hope you dance  
Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along.  
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder  
where those years have gone.

Lee Ann Womack, "I Hope You Dance"

✠ **Closing prayer**

O wise and gentle God, who led John Baptist de La Salle from one commitment to another and so inspired him to found a community dedicated to the Christian education of young people, especially the poor and marginalized, grant that through his intercession and example, we may be animated by an ardent zeal to rescue young people from the difficulties of our time—help us to touch their hearts and provide them with an education founded on the Gospel. May we renew and refound the work begun by Saint La Salle and his first community in our day and in our school. May we be open to the guidance and radical demands of your Spirit as we address the needs of our young people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother, the intercession of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, our founder, and Saint Paul, our patron. Amen

(Arranged by Brother Tim Coldwell)

“Together and by  
Association”  
the risks of educational ministry

Faculty Orientation Day  
Our Lady of Peace Chapel  
August 16, 2001

## ✠ Opening Remarks

“. . . I, John Baptist de La Salle, priest, promise and vow to unite myself and to remain in Society with Brothers Nicolas Vuyart, Gabriel Drolin, and [ten names follow] to keep together and by association gratuitous schools wherever they may be, even if I were obliged to live on bread alone . . . .”

Vows (taken June 6, 1694)

## ✠ Risk one: committing ourselves to others

Better one hand full, along with peace of mind, than two full, along with toil; that is a chasing of the wind. Here again I saw futility under the sun: someone without a friend, without son or brother, toiling endlessly yet never satisfied with his wealth—“For who,” he asks, “am I toiling and denying myself the good things of life?” This too is futile, a worthless task.

Two are better than one, for their partnership yields this advantage: if one falls, the other can help his companion up again; but woe betide the solitary person who when down has no partner to keep him up.

And if two lie side by side they keep each other warm; but how can one keep warm by himself? If anyone is alone, an assailant may overpower him, but two can resist; and a cord of three strands is not quickly snapped.

Ecclesiastes 4

## ✠ Risk two: a willingness to mentor and be mentored

With every generation we must begin all over again, teaching our children the realities of life and death, of eros and psyche, of heart and soul. The spiritual community is our most valuable heritage, as well as the greatest gift we can give our children and those whom we choose to mentor. It is the gift of seeing with the heart, of helping others perceive that there is more to life than what we see with our eyes or what our culture may have come to value.

It is based on the conviction that death itself has no lasting endurance, for life is the greater power that unites us with those we love and who have loved us. Somehow every generation must discover this for itself, and yet there is a way we can prepare them for that discovery. The way is through developing a spirituality based on care and participating in ministries of mentoring.

Edward C. Sellner, *Mentoring: The Ministry of Spiritual Kinship*

## ✠ Risk three: openness to mystery

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder  
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger  
May you never take one single breath for granted  
God forbid love ever leave you empty-handed  
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean  
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens  
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance  
I hope you dance . . . I hope you dance