

# Our Enduring Legacy



De La Salle

Life, Vocation, Mission  
Scholar  
Visionary  
Lover of Children/  
Advocate of the Poor  
Community Builder  
Faithful Founder

## SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE: The Scholar and Classroom Innovator

**Leader:** Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

**Reading:** One of the most enduring legacies of Saint John Baptist de La Salle were his writings. These texts include *The Rules for Christian Politeness*, the first etiquette book for students and the *Meditations for the Time of Retreat*, a guide for the Brothers during their annual retreat. Perhaps the most recognizable and most widely referenced text by De La Salle is *The Conduct of the Christian Schools*. According to Lasallian scholar, Br. Luke Salm, FSC, "...The Conduct of the Christian Schools was developed over the years by the Founder in collaboration with the Brothers to serve as a guide for the policies and practices to be observed in the schools." One of the most innovative aspects of this text was that, according to Salm, "It was progressively modified to conform to the experience of the Brothers and the need to experiment with new pedagogical methods." It was this innovative approach to teacher training that was a hallmark of Christian Schools. In addition to authoring texts for instructional purposes, De La Salle's innovative approach in the classroom was evidenced through teaching in French, not Latin. De La Salle observed that the ability to read and write in French would be much more beneficial to the students. De La Salle also pioneered the method of simultaneous instruction, where small groups of students were created based on their specific learning capabilities. In this way, the classroom became a vibrant, exciting center of learning for all students.

**Reflection:** How can you be an innovator in your role as a trustee? How can you focus your energy and creativity for the benefit of the students this university serves?

**Closing Prayer:**

As members of the Board of Trustees, we renew our dedication and our commitment to the work begun by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. We strive to recognize the needs of the students of this University and to provide for their spiritual, intellectual, and social development in the decisions and plans that we make. We also strive to support the faculty, staff and administrators in their efforts to establish a Christian community by creating an environment of acceptance and by promoting faith, justice, and association. We do this, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Leader:**

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, scholar and innovator... Pray for Us!  
Live Jesus in Our Hearts...Forever!