

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: COMMUNITY BUILDER

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

First Reading: Adapted from the *Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*

From the beginning of the Institute, we Lasallians have fulfilled our mission “together and by association.” Each one of us exercises his or her apostolate as a member of an educational community by whom he or she is known, accepted, supported, and entrusted with the mission.

We are in solidarity with our community, our District, and the Institute as a whole. In fulfilling our ministry, whatever our individual assignment may be, we are contributing as a community to the unique mission of the Institute within the Church.

Together and by association we labor to accomplish God’s saving work in a profession where “the poor have the gospel preached to them” and where young people grow as human persons and children of God.

By the gift of freedom, God has willed to place the destiny of the Institute into the hands of we who are committed to work together so that it will prosper and remain faithful to its mission. It is always, and above all, to Jesus Christ, to his gospel, and to his Spirit that we are faithful.

Second Reading: A selection from *Lasallian Association for Mission: 1679-2007, A Personal Reflection on an Ongoing Story*, by Bro. John Johnston, FSC, former Superior General of the Institute

John Baptist de La Salle reveals that faith enables him to know that God has united him to the Brothers (*Rule and Foundational Documents*, 205). I believe that our Founder would not hesitate to declare today that God is uniting him not only to the Brothers but also to partners and associates. He would agree that the charism, or spiritual gift, that the Spirit has granted him for the salvation of youth goes “beyond the confines of the Institute that he founded” (*Rule*, 146). He would readily recognize that God is leading Brothers, partners, and associates into *association for mission*.

De La Salle shares with us his conviction that Providence has established the first Christian Schools and the *association* of Brothers that makes them a reality (*Meditations, 193.1*). I believe that we can affirm with confidence that Providence in our day—that is to say, God, in loving concern for the education of children and youth, especially those “poor, abandoned, and far from salvation”—is calling Brothers, partners, and associates *to live today, together and by association, our founding story*, to live today **Lasallian Association for Mission**.

Reflection: What is your experience of being a “partner” in the mission of this Lasallian university?

In what ways are members of this Board building a sense of belonging and co-responsibility for the Lasallian mission?

How are members of this Board working to create connections that will help realize the full potential of the Lasallian mission of this University?

Closing Prayer: Loving God, we come before you today
to renew our dedication to your call
to be ambassadors of your Son,
to be your Good News
for those entrusted to our care.

As John Baptist de La Salle
allowed himself to be led by you imperceptibly,
step by step, to ever deeper commitment
to the establishment of the Christian Schools,

We, too, recognize your gentle and persistent presence
and grace in our own lives.

With faith in your loving plan of salvation,
we place ourselves in your hands
to be your ministers of the Gospel
in a world badly in need of your grace.

We represent different vocations
and different lifestyles;
we bring different gifts, different abilities,
different reflections of your love.

Together we share a common zeal
for our Lasallian vocation
to provide a human and Christian education
to the young, especially the poor.

Amen.

Leader: Saint John Baptist de La Salle, community builder...Pray for us!
Live Jesus in our hearts...Forever!

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY  LEWIS UNIVERSITY  SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Christian Brothers of the Midwest District