

# 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: Faithful Founder

**Call to Prayer:** Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

**First Reading:** A reading from *The Mémoire on the Beginnings*

It was, because of these two events, the encounter with Monsieur Nyel and the proposal made to me by this lady (Madame de Croyeres), that I began to take care of the school for boys. I had not thought of doing this before, but not because others had not suggested that I do such work. Several friends of Monsieur Roland had tried to inspire me in this direction, but the work had no appeal for me, and I did not feel inclined toward it. And if I had ever thought that the care I took of the school masters, simply out of charity, would impose on me the duty of living with them, I would have stopped doing this. For, naturally, I ranked lower than my valet those whom I was forced to employ in the schools, particularly in the beginning, and the very thought that it would be necessary to live with them would have been insupportable to me.

...Apparently, then, it was for this reason that God, who directs all things with wisdom and gentleness, and who is not accustomed to force the wills of [persons], but who wanted to lead me to take complete direction of the schools, did this, in a very imperceptible manner, and over a period of time, so that one commitment led me into the next one without my having foreseen this in the beginning.

**Second Reading:** An excerpt from Bro. Luke Salm's reflection, *The Gospel Journey of John Baptist de La Salle*

The spirituality of De La Salle finds its best expression in this effort to animate all his actions by the spirit of faith, an ideal to which he vowed himself from the moment of his own conversion without any prospect of ever turning back. His spiritual teaching had its beginning and took its shape gradually in the living relationships he had with his brothers. For De La Salle it is the

Spirit who leads him to an ever more profound knowledge of the mystery of the living God who saves. For De La Salle, it is the Spirit who leads his brothers as it had led him to see the most urgent needs of young people. It is the Spirit who sends these teachers to the young with enthusiasm, hope, and the power to enter into combat against the injustice of the world, so that it might be possible for these young to have access to the promise and covenant with God in Jesus Christ and the Church.

**Reflection:**

As Lasallians today we are called to see all things with “the eyes of faith” as De La Salle did. In order to fully realize the Lasallian mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we are all called to be “prophets” and “founders.”

As a Board member at this University, this Lasallian University, what are you being called to do, to create, to “found” that might challenge you, the Board and the university? What do students, especially the poor, need in order to be successful at this Lasallian university?

**Closing Prayer:**

Holy Spirit,  
whose mission it is to direct and guide our lives,  
draw down upon us the wind and fire  
of a Pentecost for our times.

Spirit of God,  
help us to see the signs of the times,  
and open our hearts  
so that all Lasallians  
may respond to the calls you make to us  
in the world of young people,  
especially the poor.  
Help us to find the correct guidelines and priorities  
to respond to these calls.

We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever,

Amen!

*(Adapted from the “Prayer for the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter”)*

**Leader:**

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, our faithful founder...Pray for us!  
Live Jesus in our hearts...Forever!