

**"In The Words of  
John Baptist De La Salle"**



**100 Short Quotes**

# 100 very short quotes of St John Baptist De La Salle

The 100 brief quotable lines from De La Salle's writings are gathered thematically. Use of this resource could be a practical means of enabling staff, students and parents gain greater access to the inspiration of John Baptist De La Salle, perhaps helping make more overt certain Lasallian characteristics of the school. Among these accessible phrases can be found:

- words that can be quoted or incorporated into a school's documentation;
- appropriate phrases for use in PowerPoint presentations;
- memorable quotes in preparing for Founder's Day;
- a selection of phrases which could appear one at a time in regular printed staff bulletins and parental newsletters, possibly as a 'pause for thought';
- a quote-a-day/week for display on a desk or wall (a separate file can be emailed to you as an

attachment, laying out the 100 quotes in large type, as detailed at the end of this introduction);

- texts that can be superimposed on photographs taken in school that portray encounters and relationships, which are then printed and laminated/framed as A3 posters. This could be a challenging project for students to undertake themselves, and posters can easily be transformed electronically into cards and bookmarks.

Included in this collection are poignant phrases such as *"touching hearts"* (46,59,96-98), *"the children of a king"* (95), *"know your students individually"* (91), *"show cheerfulness in your face"* (79-80), *"inspire and lead others by encouraging them"* (81), *"being on friendly terms with others"* (71-81), *"the friendship of Jesus"*, (29), *"God carrying us when the road is rough"* (68), *"the miracles of God's providence"* (53), *"seeing things quite differently"* (54), *"God has chosen you to make him known"* (15-18), *"thank God for his many blessings"* (34-35),

and “*take pride in your ministry*” (27).

Even amidst the brevity of these quotes from 300 years ago, we can perceive that much is conveyed in John’s occasional use of the term “*disciples*” (23,44-47) in addition to “pupils/students”, of “*guiding*” (22,42) as well as “teaching”, and of “*correction*” (87) rather than “punishment”.

The number of each quote has a suffix: ‘**T**’ being those passages applicable only to teachers and colleagues, whilst ‘**A**’ designates those that can refer to **All**: to students and educators alike. With most quotes being only a sentence in length, the context may not be appreciated fully, but precise references are given, enabling the reader to discover more from the sources. When re-printing any of these quotes for the likes of posters, there is unlikely to be a need to incorporate the detailed source reference, but the name of St John Baptist De La Salle should be included.

## **IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

### **1-A**

“Wherever I go  
I will find you, my God.”

*(Explanation of the Method of  
Interior Prayer:  
example of an act of faith)*

### **2-A**

“Often remind yourself  
that God is with you.”

*(Letter 87 - to an unnamed Brother,  
date unknown)*

### **3-A**

“Often remind yourself  
that you are in the presence of  
God.”

*(Letter 3 - to Brother Denis in  
Rethel, 30 May 1701)*

### **4-A**

“Learn from Jesus  
by often being in his  
company.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,  
Apostle)*

### **5-A**

“It is in the company of Jesus

that you work for the glory of  
God.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,  
Apostle)*

### **6-A**

“Remembering that God is with  
you  
will help and inspire you  
in all that you do.”

*(Letter 2 - to a Brother, 15 May  
1701. This letter is the  
earliest extant letter of the Founder  
written to a Brother,  
and the original is preserved in the  
Provincialate, Oxford)*

## **CALLING**

### **7-A**

“How long has Jesus  
been knocking  
at the door of your heart,  
waiting to enter?”

*(Med 85.1 - Vigil of the Nativity)*

### **8-A**

“Prepare a path for God  
so that he can enter your  
heart.”

*(Med 2.1)*

**9-A**

“God inspires us  
to walk in the footsteps of his  
Son.”

*(Med 3.3)*

**10-A**

“Walk along God’s path.”

*(Med 75.3)*

**11-A**

“Follow the inspirations  
that come to you from God.”

*(Letter 86 - to an unnamed Brother,  
date unknown)*

**12-A**

“May God continue  
what he has begun in you.”

*(Letter 46 - to Brother Robert in  
Darnetal,  
just outside Rouen, 1709)*

**13-A**

“You have received  
talents and graces  
from God.”

*(MTR 13.1 [Med 205.1])*

**14-A**

“God has given you

so many graces.”

*(Med 51.2)*

**15-A**

“God has chosen you  
to do his work.”

*(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])*

**16-A**

“God has chosen you  
to make him known to others.”

*(Med 146.2 - on St Anne,  
mother of the Most Blessed Virgin)*

**17-A**

“You are called like the  
apostles  
to make God known to others.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,  
apostle)*

**18-T**

“God has called you to your  
ministry.”

*(MTR 14.1 [Med 206.1])*

**19-T**

“God entrusts to you  
his care of the young.”

*(Med 37.3)*

**20-T**

“Young people  
need good teachers,  
like visible angels.”

*(MTR 5.1 [Med 197.1])*

**21-T**

“To be entrusted  
with the teaching of the young  
is a great gift and grace of  
God.”

*(MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])*

**22-T**

“Young people need  
the light of watchful guides  
to lead them  
on the path of salvation.”

*(MTR 5.3 [Med 197.3])*

**23-T**

“Have you been helping your  
disciples  
practice the good  
that is appropriate to their  
age?”

*(Med 51.2)*

**24-T**

“Do your part  
to help build up  
the kingdom of God

in the hearts of your students.”

*(Med 67.1)*

**25-T**

“This work of teaching  
is one of the most important  
in the Church.”

*(MTR 7.1 [Med 199.1])*

**26-T**

“Fulfil your ministry  
with all the affection of your  
heart.”

*(MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])*

**27-T**

“Take pride in your ministry.”

*(MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])*

**28-T**

“Take care that your school  
runs well.”

*(Letter 42 - to Brother Robert in  
Darnetal,  
26 February 1709)*

## **PRAYING**

### **29-T**

“As teachers,  
you need to be honoured  
with the friendship of Jesus.”

*(Med 88.1 - feast of St John the evangelist)*

### **30-A**

“Show the great love  
you have for Jesus  
by being eager  
to talk with him in prayer.”

*(Med 144.3 - on St Mary Magdalen)*

### **31-A**

“Say to Jesus as the apostles  
did:  
‘Lord, teach us to pray’.”

*(Letter 111 - to a member of a  
religious community  
of women, date unknown)*

### **32-A**

“Each day  
renew your offering to God.”

*(Letter 32 - to Brother Gabriel Drolin  
in Rome:  
from St Yon [in a suburb of Rouen],  
5 December 1716)*

### **33-T**

“Thank God  
for the grace he has given you  
in your work.”

*(MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])*

### **34-A**

“Do not forget to thank God  
for his many blessings.”

*(Letter 76 - to a Brother Director,  
date unknown)*

### **35-A**

“I have received, my God,  
so many blessings from you.”

*(Explanation of the Method of  
Interior Prayer  
- example of an act of thanksgiving)*

### **36-A**

“I shall pray to God for you,  
and will have many others  
pray for you and your needs.”

*(Letter 23 - to Brother Gabriel Drolin  
in Rome:  
from Paris, 12 May 1706)*

### **37-A**

“I will often pray to God for  
you.”

*(Letter 58 - to Brother Mathias in  
Mende: from Paris, 13 January 1708)*

**38-A**

“I do not fail to pray for you  
and for the success of your  
work.”

*(Letter 28 - to Bro Gabriel Drolin in  
Rome: 12 May 1710)*

**39-A**

“Let us pray  
before starting  
whatever we need to do.”

*(Med 107.1 - for the feast of St  
Matthias, apostle)*

**40-A**

“The more you devote yourself  
in prayer  
the more you will do well in  
your work.”

*(Med 95.1 - Feast of St Genevieve)*

**41-A**

“Prayer  
draws down God’s graces  
on others.”

*(Letter 5 - to Brother Denis in  
Darnetal,  
5km from Rouen city centre, 1  
August 1708)*

**42-T**

“Lift up your hands to heaven  
to draw down God’s blessings

on those you are guiding.”

*(Med 189.1 - feast of St Martin)*

**43-T**

“You must pray not only for  
yourself  
but also for those  
whom you are guiding.”

*(Med 187.2 - feast of St Charles  
Borromeo)*

**44-T**

“Bring to Jesus in prayer  
the needs of your disciples.”

*(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])*

**45-T**

“It is important  
that you teach your disciples  
to pray.”

*(MTR 10.2 [Med 202.2])*

**46-A**

“Often ask God  
for the grace to touch hearts.”

*(Med 81.2 - feast of St Ambrose of  
Milan)*



### **47-T**

“When you encounter some difficulty  
in the guidance of your disciples,  
turn to God with confidence.”

*(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])*

## **EXAMPLE**

### **48-A**

“Example makes  
a much greater impression  
than words.”

*(MTR 10.3 [Med 202.3])*

### **49-T**

“Preach by example,  
and practice  
before the eyes of the young  
what you wish them to accept.”

*(Med 99.2 - on the life of St John Chrysostom)*

### **50-T**

“The young should be able  
to see in your wisdom  
how they should behave.”

*(Med 132.1 - on St Norbert)*

### **51-T**

“The way you behave  
should be a model  
for those you teach.”

*(Med 132.1 - on St Norbert)*

### **52-T**

“Your faith should be a shining  
light  
for those whom you teach.”

*(Med 178.1 - feast of St Luke,  
evangelist)*

## **BEING FAITHFUL**

### **53-A**

“The miracles of God’s  
Providence  
take place every day.”

*(Part of the Founder’s address to  
the first teachers  
about Providence, as quoted in  
Blain)*

### **54-A**

“In the light of faith  
you see things  
quite differently.”

*(Letter 118 - to a laywoman, date  
unknown)*

**55-A**

“Live by the spirit of faith.”

*(Letter 111 - to a member of a religious community of women, date unknown)*

**56-A**

“Let your chief study be the Bible, that it may be the guiding rule of your life.”

*(Med 170.1 - for the feast of St Jerome)*

**57-A**

“Let it be your chief study to put the Gospel into practice.”

*(Med 171.3 - for the feast of St Remigius, Patron of Rheims)*

**58-A**

“Let the way you live be that of the Gospel.”

*(Med 84.3 - feast of St Thomas, apostle)*

**59-A**

“God’s word is powerful in touching hearts.”

*(Med 180.2 - feast of St Hilarion)*

**60-A**

“Receive Jesus today with respect and thanksgiving.”

*(Med 114.2 - on St Leo)*

**61-A**

“Earnestly ask Jesus that his Spirit may be alive in you.”

*(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])*

**62-A**

“Think of what a blessing it is that the Holy Spirit lives in you.”

*(Med 62.2)*

**63-A**

“You can do more with the grace of God than you think.”

*(Collection of Various Short Treatises: Reflections - the use of time)*

**64-A**

“Don’t be discouraged by anxieties and troubles. Life is full of them.”

*(Letter 102 - to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)*

**65-A**

“Do not be disheartened  
by the difficulties you  
experience.”

*(Letter 90 - to an unnamed Brother,  
date unknown)*

**66-A**

“Do not have any anxiety  
about the future.  
Leave everything in God’s  
hands  
for he will take care of you.”

*(Letter 101 - to an unnamed  
Brother, date unknown)*

**67-A**

“God is more ready than ever  
to welcome you into his arms.”

*(Letter 108 - to a member of a  
religious community  
of women, date unknown)*

**68-A**

“Throw yourself into God’s  
arms.  
He will carry you when the  
road is rough.”

*(Palm Sunday)*

**69-A**

“God’s compassion for you  
is greater than the troubles you  
have.”

*(Med 38.1)*

**70-A**

“Leave the result in God’s  
hands.”

*(Letter 11 - to Brother Hubert  
[probably at Chartres]:  
20 July 1709)*

**RELATING****71-A**

“It is impossible to please God  
if you do not live  
on friendly terms with others.”

*(Letter 47 - to Brother Robert in  
Darnetal, 1709)*

**72-A**

“God of love,  
set me aflame  
with love for you  
and for my neighbour.”

*(Explanation of the Method of  
Interior Prayer  
- example of considering Jesus  
Christ in the form of the Blessed  
Sacrament)*

**73-A**

“Put up with the faults of others  
and be generous towards  
them.”

*(Letter 105 - to a member of a  
religious community  
of men, date unknown)*

**74-A**

“Be warm-hearted to everyone,  
speaking to others  
in a gentle and respectful  
way.”

*(Letter 105 - to a member of a  
religious community  
of men, date unknown)*

**75-A**

“Never speak to anyone  
except with kindness.”

*(Med 65.2)*

**76-A**

“Always address people by  
their names  
and with great respect.”

*(Rule, Chapter 8)*

**77-A**

“Have great respect  
for each person you are with.”

*(Part 1, Chapter 2 of  
'The Rules of Christian Decorum  
and Civility')*

**78-A**

“I always have for you  
the highest esteem and  
regard.”

*(Letter 122 - to a layman)*

**79-A**

“Your face should be happy,  
showing gentleness and  
respect.”

*(Part 1, Chapter 4 of  
'The Rules of Christian Decorum  
and Civility')*

**80-A**

“Always show cheerfulness  
in your face.”

*(Collection of Various Short  
Treatises:  
Virtues - Modesty)*

**81-A**

“Inspire and lead others  
by encouraging them.”

*(MTR 1:2 [Med 193.2])*

**82-T**

“Look upon those  
whom God has entrusted to  
you  
as his own children.”

*(Med 133.2 - on St Margaret,  
Queen of Scotland)*

**83-T**

“Your students  
are living images of Jesus.”

*(Med 80.3 - feast of St Nicholas)*

**84-T**

“Are you ready  
to give your very life,  
so dear to you  
are the young people  
entrusted to you?”

*(MTR 6.2 [Med 198.2])*

**85-T**

“Enkindle the love of Jesus  
in the hearts of the young.”

*(Med 102.2 - on St Ignatius, martyr)*

**86-T**

“To deal with young people  
very harshly  
is to forego all hope  
of bringing about any good.”

*(Med 114.2 - on St Leo)*

**87-T**

“How to correct others  
depends on knowledge  
and discernment  
of character.”

*(Med 33.1)*

**88-T**

“Some students require great  
mildness,  
while others need to be  
directed with firmness.”

*(Med 33.1)*

**89-T**

“Take care not to let yourself  
be carried away  
by impatience in class.”

*(Letter 60 - to Brother Mathias in  
Mende:  
from Paris, 23 March 1708)*

**90-A**

“(First-time teachers)  
should enter the classroom  
with a deliberate and grave air,  
head held high  
and looking at all the students  
in a bold manner,  
as if they had thirty years’  
experience.”

*(The Conduct of Schools)*

**TOUCHING HEARTS****91-T**

”Know your students  
individually  
and be able  
to understand them.”

*(Med 33.1)*

**92-T**

“Show much kindness and love for the young people you teach.”

*(Med 134.2 - on St Barnabas)*

**93-T**

“Have much care and affection for the young people entrusted to you.”

*(Med 110.3 - feast of St Joseph)*

**94-T**

“By the care you take of your students show that you have a real love for them.”

*(Med 80.3 - feast of St Nicholas)*

**95-T**

“Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king.”

*(Med 133.2 - on St Margaret, Queen of Scotland)*

**96-T**

“You can perform miracles by touching the hearts

of those entrusted to your care.”

*(Med 180.3 - feast of St Hilarion)*

**97-T**

“To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform.”

*(Med 139.3 - feast of St Peter)*

**98-T**

“God expects you to touch hearts.”

*(Med 139.3 - feast of St Peter)*

**99-T**

“The more loving you are to the young, the greater will be the effects of God’s grace.”

*(Med 134.2 - on St Barnabas)*

**100-T**

“Do you build on the affection that the young people have for you to lead them to God?”

*(Med 101.3 - on the life of St Francis de Sales)*