



**The Conversion of St. Paul
Celebrated January 25**

*“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting”
(Acts 9:5b)*

A prayer for a faculty meeting in January

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

Reader 1:

St. Paul’s entire life can be explained in terms of one significant experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. He saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot’s hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass his followers: “...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment” (Acts 8:3b). But now he himself was “entered,” possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

(Franciscan Media <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/conversion-of-saint-paul/>)

Pause for reflection: *What is my own goal in life? To what am I enslaved? Addicted? What gives meaning to my daily life?*

Reader 2:

From the moment that grace came to St. Paul, he was faithful to it. Jesus Christ made known to him...that it was he whom Paul was persecuting...Jesus Christ has called you to fulfill his ministry and to teach the poor. Are you as faithful to God’s voice as St. Paul was? Do you correspond as promptly as he did to all the movements of God’s love? Are you as zealous as he was to fulfill the duties of your work? Do you say with St. Paul, Lord, what do you want me to do?

(De La Salle’s Meditation 99.2 The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul)

Pause for reflection: *Do the questions De La Salle asks of his young teachers challenge me today?*

Reader 3:

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, ‘Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked

this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?'²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus* was the Messiah.* (Acts 9:20-22)

ALL:

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance
and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God,
give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth
stand in awe of him.

(Psalm 67)

St. John Baptist de La Salle **ALL: Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts **ALL: Forever**