

# *Quality Education*

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

## **God's Word**

*(Jeremiah: 18: 1-6)*

This word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Rise up, be off to the potter's house; there I will give you my message. I went down to the potter's house and there he was, working at the wheel. Whenever the object of clay which he was making turned out badly in his hand, he tried again, making of the clay another object of whatever sort he pleased. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done? Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel.

## **Our Lasallian Heritage Speaks**

### **First Reading**

*(The Second Meditation for the Time of Retreat)*

Consider that it is the practice only too common for the working class and the poor to allow their children to live on their own, roaming all over like vagabonds as long as they are not able to put them to some work; these parents have no concern to send their children to school because their poverty does not allow them to pay teachers, or else, obliged to look for work outside their homes, they have to abandon their children to themselves.

The results of this condition are regrettable, for these poor children, accustomed to lead an idle life for many years, have great difficulty adjusting when it comes time for them to go to work. In addition, through association with bad companions they learn to commit many sins which later on are very difficult to stop, because of the persistent bad habits they have contracted over such a long time.

God has had the goodness to remedy so great a misfortune by the establishment of the Christian Schools... Thank God, who has had the goodness to employ you to procure such an important advantage for children.

### **Second Reading**

*(Brother Michel Sauvage FSC)*

His attention to realities is especially noticeable in his concern for the smooth running of the schools. It is because he is so keen on their success that he tries so much to improve the educational methods used by the Brothers and, above all, to give them an adequate

professional training. His concern for the success of his schools cannot be explained by merely religious reasons. It is true that Catechism occupies a central position in Lasallian schools; nevertheless, De La Salle is more clear than many others of his time because he is able to perceive the secular value of this educational experiment: that is, to prepare the children not only for the next life, but for an earthly life which is both useful and happy.

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### ***We Listen in Meditation***

From our readings, what speaks to your heart? What is God saying **to you**?

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### ***Intercessions***

*(Adapted from Brother Nicholas Hutchinson and Brother Damian Lundy)*

**Reader:** Loving God, we pray for all young people and colleagues entrusted to our influence in the past, present, and the future. God, in Your mercy...

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We pray that those who guide and care for the young people may express kindness and tenderness, especially to those most in need. God, in Your mercy...

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We pray that teachers may live in such a way that the young people may have affection for them: affection which the teachers may build upon to lead them to the healing and salvation and fullness of life offered in Jesus, Your Son. God in Your mercy...

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We pray for teachers, administrators, and support staff: that their vision may be clear, that the love of others may support them, and that their faith may lead them to grow closer to You through following Jesus, Your Son and our Brothers. God, in Your mercy...

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For whom and for what else shall we pray?

***Closing Prayer (together)***

Loving God,  
You have called us to the ministry of education.  
Bless students, both young and old,  
    In Lasallian schools throughout the world.  
Give us the grace  
    To be Your presence  
    To those entrusted to our care –  
    A presence that brings peace,  
    A presence that brings hope,  
    A presence that draws us to love You  
    By loving those most in need.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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