



01-E-02

## "WHY STAND YOU THERE LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN?"

(Eleven celebrations  
for vocations) (1)

**THEME:** Masters and Apostles  
To-day de La Salle is ourselves.

### **Text of de La Salle:**

"This is also one of the essential qualities required of those who instruct others, for they must get to know their pupils and discern the manner in which to act towards them. Some require great mildness, while others need to be directed with firmness. Some require much patience; others need to be goaded on. It is necessary to punish and reprehend some, in order to correct their defects, whereas others need to be continually watched lest they should wander and perish. This varied conduct must depend on knowledge and discernment of character, and this grace you must beg of God most earnestly, as being one of the most essential for you in the direction of those over whom you have charge."

### **CREATION OF ATMOSPHERE**

#### **Has the Christian school a role in evangelisation?**

That is a critical question which requires serious analysis and one we should often ask ourselves during our tricentenary celebrations in order to be able to give satisfactory answers to those who trust us, as well as to the frequent criticisms we receive.

All periods of history, which brought important changes in civilisation, knew similar crises. The solution lay, not in closing the school or abandoning it to its fate, but in renewing it. Continuing renewal, the constant law of all pedagogy, coincides with the need for continuing conversion in every Christian, apostolic community. What urges us to act in this sense is our quest for a true Christian identity.

John Paul II says, "The proper character and the basic *raison d'être* of the Catholic school is precisely the quality of religious education integrated in the general education of the pupils."

**Hymn Themes** ★ The song of Ruth  
★ If the Lord is for us  
★ Come, come follow me.

### **Gospel Text:**

"Whoever welcomes in my name one such child as this welcomes Me." (Mt. 18,5)

★ "Que haceis mirando al cielo?" by Aingeru Castaños, F.S.C. Edic. S. Pio X. Madrid, 1982. This gives 11 Celebrations of the Word and each is a paraphrase of a Chapter of the Brothers' Rules. They pray and commemorate the Rules in as much as they propose a way of living and call for personal and community commitment. Written by Brothers these pages offer the Lasallian spirit to youth groups, teachers, men and women of the Signum Fidei movement. They deal with poverty, obedience, the spirit of faith, life of prayer, active apostolate, the community, teachers, apostles, religious consecration and fidelity.

### **To-day's Text:**

"To-day de La Salle is ourselves, even if we find it difficult to believe. This challenge demands effort... because in the light of his teaching we have found today that the Christian school does not concern the teachers alone. It concerns us all. All of us support its walls and its roof. All of us maintain its enthusiasm and its ardour." (*F. Gainza*).

#### **Has the Christian school a role in evangelisation?**

Do not try to give easy, abstract, general answers. Each school is more or less capable of evangelisation to the extent that those in charge are able to animate it.

Our presence in any school, our presence and especially our action in the school should aim at giving a really satisfactory answer to the question. If that were not so the *raison d'être* of the Institute would be called in question and the heritage of St. John Baptist de La Salle would be no more than an historic memory.

May the constant meditation of the saint's message and the sincere request for his help bring us nearer to him and, by that very fact, bring us closer together while bringing our schools more into conformity with the model he put before us.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Advice:** The sacrifice of His life, which Jesus is about to offer, gives meaning to all prayer. The unity of all among themselves and with the Father is the fruit of the love which gives life in giving up its own life. The Father and Jesus are one because He did the will of the Father who lives in Him. "If we love one another God is in us."

**a) Reading from the first letter of St. John, the apostle (4.11-16)**

"Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another: no one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and His love is made perfect in us.

We are sure that we live in union with God and that He lives in union with us, because He has given us His Spirit. And we have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone declares that Jesus is the Son of God, he lives in union with God and God lives in union with him. And we, ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us."

**Hymns for meditation (Themes)**

- ★ The Spirit lives to set us free
- ★ All over the world the Spirit is moving
- ★ Alabaré
- ★ Glory, glory, Alleluia...

**b) Reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John (17.11-19)**

"I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. Holy Father keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me. I protected them and not one of them was lost, except the man who was bound to be lost — so that the scripture might come true. And now I am coming to you and I say these things in the world so that they might have my joy in their hearts in all its fullness. I gave them your message and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. Just as I do not belong to the world they do not belong to the world. Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth."

**Acclamation (Themes)**

- ★ Jesus you are the Lord
- ★ All glory to you
- ★ How lovely on the mountains

**REFLECTION (One of six given in the book)**

**Unpublished letter of St. John Baptist de La Salle**

De La Salle's style in his letters is rather harsh, exigent and critical, like that of the prophets. He calls a spade a spade. He gives laconic answers to questions of conscience and administrative problems. Strict use of the rudder to keep on course.

"I see you doing ordinary things. Prepare yourself for the extraordinary. The Spirit will blow strongly. I allowed myself to be led. They all took me for a fool — my family, the archbishop, even that first handful of chance companions. One saw nothing at all. But the Spirit continued to blow powerfully. Up to the time of the heroic vow. With what joy! Eat the bread of charity but be in the breach. Without yielding to the pressure of hypocrites nor to be persecutions of the writing masters nor to the fatigue of travelling companions. Temper your soul for risks. The Lord's ways are not our ways. You must be a tracker dog. Dig among the garbage and the ruins till you find his traces. Open up paths. Beware of easy solutions.

The young are waiting for you. Look at the swarming mass of young people in town on a Sunday evening. They are as sheep without a shepherd. Lift up your eyes and see the fields ripe unto the harvest. How many good qualities, how many anxieties await the friendly hand of the harvester. You must find a way. Study will help you. But that is not enough. You should develop intuition, a taste for adventure, for risk, intelligent dedication to team work. Charismatic friends of the young."

**Guide: COMMUNITY REVISION (The book contains 17)**

★ Do we offer the young more active ways of participating in and expressing themselves than mere formal, silent presence in the councils of adults?

★ Do we allow the young to think about their future responsibilities social, civic and political. Do we ever reflect that by restraining them we leave them more vulnerable?

★ Do we not allow students to move from one class to the next without learning to be responsible, either as individuals or as a group?

★ Do we not place obstacles to their freedom by an excessive work load and obligatory activities, without the possibility of choice; by reserving information for the few and by not taking the young seriously?

★ Is the witness given by educators before the young an invitation to know the hope of liberation assured by faith in Jesus Christ? (Brother Aingeru Castaños - Editions San Pio X - Madrid)