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## THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN TEACHER ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

("Integração", District of Porto Alegre publication, Nº 51, December 1988, p. 43)

### ATTITUDE OF THE TEACHER TOWARDS GOD

### TOWARDS YOUNG PEOPLE, HIS PUPILS

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| 1. Accept the action of the Holy Spirit: the gift of faith and of the apostolic ministry of education                  | to touch the hearts of the young people who are furthest from salvation and to provide for their most urgent needs.  |
| 2. Share in God's plan to save all men especially poor young people.                                                   | to collaborate in God's work for the poor and so act that they learn the will of God.                                |
| 3. Imitate God who, in Jesus Christ, became man so that mankind could benefit from salvation.                          | to be the presence of Christ in the midst of young people and make them share in God's plan of salvation.            |
| 4. Pray to God who calls him and sends him to do his work                                                              | to reveal to young people the signs of the love he has for them.                                                     |
| 5. Offer himself to God                                                                                                | to communicate to young people the knowledge of the truth about God and man.                                         |
| 6. Live the life of the Spirit                                                                                         | so that young people likewise enlightened by the Spirit will come to lead a truly Christian life.                    |
| 7. Clothe himself in Jesus Christ                                                                                      | to clothe young people with Jesus Christ himself and the Holy Spirit.                                                |
| 8. "Ask God for the grace to watch over his pupils zealously and to be their guardian angels",                         | to discern whatever could be an obstacle to the salvation of young people and to steer them clear.                   |
| 9. Become aware that God has chosen him "to be his minister and the ambassador of his Word",                           | to put the means of salvation within the reach of young people by proclaiming the Word.                              |
| 10. To be faithful to God's grace                                                                                      | to change the hearts of young people through love and disinterested service so that they are faithful to the Gospel. |
| 11. To love the Church as Christ loved it                                                                              | so that young people love it also and share in its life.                                                             |
| 12. To thank God for the grace of being able to share by his ministry in the mission of the bishops and of the Church. | to carry the Gospel to young people by the apostolic ministry of education.                                          |
| 13. Live in the presence of God                                                                                        | so that his pupils also live in the presence of the Lord.                                                            |

## VALUES CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CHRISTIAN TEACHER

("Integração", District of Porto Alegre publication, Nº 51, December 1988, p. 91)

Values	Pedagogical synonym	Pedagogical influence on the pupil	Behaviour which weakens this pedagogical attitude
1. Piety	Capacity to relate with the transcendent	The teacher must live according to Christian values both in his private life and at school. He teaches by example.	Weakening the principles of the Christian religion and not giving religious practices the value that is their due.
2. Zeal	Responsibility	The faithful accomplishment of one's duties as a teacher despite difficulties that may occur.	Not much interest in improving oneself. Routine. Lack of class preparation. Lack of interest. Passivity. Letting oneself be depressed by personal difficulties.
3. Prudence Discretion	A balanced view of reality	The ability to see, judge and to act appropriately. The ability to strike the right balance. Balance. Self-control. Reflection and analysis.	Haste, lack of thought, negligence, lack of trust.
4. Patience	Ability to control oneself	An open and accepting attitude. Knowing persons individually.	Lack of politeness. Offensive words and attitudes. Unjust punishments. Acting on impulse. Indifference with regard to the needs of the pupils.
5. Humanity	Adult self-assessment of personal qualities	The assessment of personal qualities leads to efficiency in work. It leads to esteem, friendship and kindness.	Selfishness. Not relying on others. Pessimism.
6. Gentleness	Ability to keep oneself in check	This is the exterior manifestation of charity. Strength: overcoming difficulties and unpleasantness.	Anger and bad humour. Brusque and insensitive manners.
7. Firmness	Moral strength	It presupposes the courage to direct activities with a firm and steady hand. Giving way without hesitation. Doing what one has promised.	Repression. Lack of flexibility. Intimidation.
8. Constancy	Perseverance in undertakings	To be able to keep on going in spite of difficulties.	Instability. Changing constantly without justification.
9. Gravity	Serenity	Confidence, respect, esteem.	Lack of self-control. Fits of anger. Shouting.
10. Silence	Self-discipline and availability to listen.	Ability to converse. Careful use of language. Keeping silent when one should not speak, and vice versa. Obtaining information before making judgments.	Garrulousness. "The teacher who speak a lot is not listened to much". Making innumerable remarks and recommendations.
11. Vigilance	Life with the pupils	Being generally aware of pupils' behaviour under all circumstances, at all times, and in all places. Preventive attitude in and out of class. Paying special attention to pupils with most need of it.	An attitude of mistrust, unease, suspicion and impatience. Not being with the pupils at the right time. Being naive or over scrupulous.
12. Balanced judgment	Being able to judge things at their true value.	A balanced attitude when dealing with people and events. An attitude which gives a teacher balance and moderation as a person, and likewise affects his action. Presupposes good judgment and ability to weigh up things.	Prejudices and bias with regard to pupils. Volatile disposition. Speaks and acts without thinking.
13. Wisdom	Knowledge, critical sense, discernment	Constant updating in all areas of knowledge, culture and pedagogy. Search for truth. Creating a hierarchical set of values and opting for a system of education that teaches them.	Routine. Lack of reading. Giving too much time to leisure activities and rest. Ignorance in some areas of education.
14. Generosity	Availability to work and to work with others	Love and esteem for the educational mission to which one has been called. Disinterested devotedness to educational work. Sacrificing personal interests for the good of one's neighbour.	Leading a life which relies on praise and applause. Keeping grudges. Seeking one's own interests to the detriment of the good of the pupils.