

**THE CONTENTS OF
«DUTIES OF A CHRISTIAN» 1
IN THE VARIOUS EDITIONS**

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(numbers correspond to columns)

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COMMENTS:

* This is not the place to spend much time considering in detail the kind of person for whom De La Salle wrote **Duties 1**. His readers fall into one of the following categories: the Brothers, pupils' parents, the pupils themselves, and the faithful in general.

* If we judge this work according to internal criteria, we could say that he had the latter category in mind. However, in the course of history, it was the pupils who drew most benefit from it. This is what this present article aims to show.

* The 1703 edition, considered at present to be the first edition, and those that followed it up to the year 1773 contained the original text without additions. Subsequent editions had a variety of additions, which preceded or followed the original text, and which described current daily classroom practice.

* The nature of the additions leads one to suppose that **Duties 1** was a text used every day in class by all or by the majority of pupils.

1. In the first place and generally speaking, **Duties 1** was used as a reading text in the classroom. As its use by pupils became more widespread, additions were made consisting of texts which contributed to the spiritual life of the pupils. One can be certain that these additions were of benefit also to the pupils' families and the faithful in general. It would not therefore be too presumptuous to attribute a Christianising role to **Duties 1**.

2. In a certain way, these additions turned **Duties 1** into a manual on the theory and practice of the duties of a Christian.

3. The tables show us that certain Christian practices were maintained over the years and continued to be included in new editions and reprints. Other practices, on the other hand, came and went easily. This helps us to judge the relative importance of all these practices.

4. It would be interesting to make a study of the additions made to the text of **Duties 1**, taking into account the editors involved, the place and the year of publication. This would be a valuable contribution to the study of the history of this work.

Brother Manuel F. Magaz