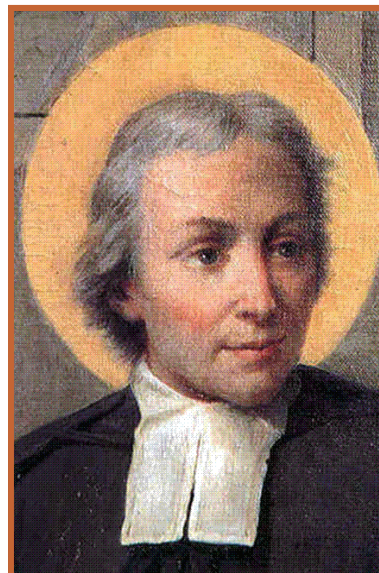


PART THREE

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE: A SAINT FOR TEACHERS

1. What spoke to you personally in this article?
2. "It was the interplay of human factors, not mystical insights, that served to reveal God's will to John Baptist de La Salle and to move him along the path of his journey" (p. 28). In what ways do you experience God's presence through "human factors, not mystical insights"?
3. The Brothers' *Rule* states: "The spirit of this Institute is, first, a spirit of faith.... Secondly, the spirit of this Institute consists of an ardent zeal for the instruction of children..." (*Rule*, THE SPIRIT OF THIS INSTITUTE). What feeds your own faith and zeal?
4. The article speaks of the concern of Lasallians for the "salvation" of the young people entrusted to their care. What does this mean to you—to be concerned about the "salvation" of your students?
5. The article speaks of the importance of community in the accomplishment of the Lasallian educational mission. Reflect on your experience of community in your Lasallian ministry. What are your community's strengths? What are some of the challenges you face, either as a community or as individuals working to build community?



JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

FOUNDER, EDUCATOR, SAINT

The Founding Story of Lasallian Education

PUBLISHED BY THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT



A STUDY GUIDE PREPARED BY GREG KOPRA

PART ONE

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE: HIS LIFE AND TIMES



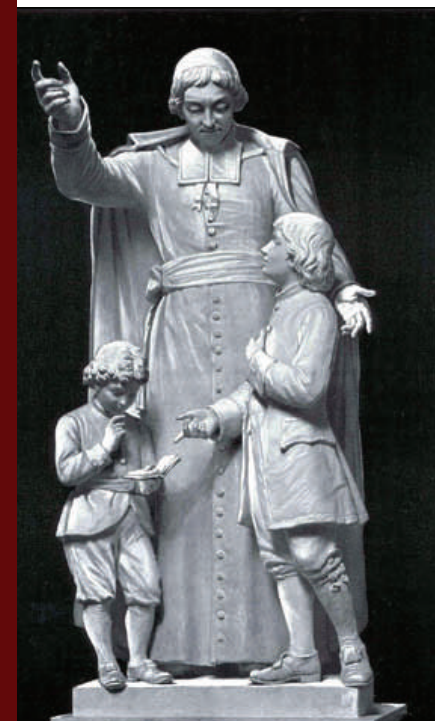
1. What spoke to you personally in this article?
2. On page 4, it is noted that the “visible beginning” of De La Salle’s educational ministry was his encounter with Adrien Nyel at the door of the sister’s convent. What clues can you glean from De La Salle’s earlier life that foreshadow his success?
3. Think about the sequence of events in De La Salle’s growing involvement with the education of students in great need, and about his response to these events....
 - What parallels do you see between De La Salle’s story and your own vocational journey?
 - What can you draw from De La Salle’s story to inform and inspire your ongoing vocational journey?
4. After reading this article, how would you describe the personal gifts and strengths of John Baptist de La Salle? In what ways could you say his personal “stamp” is on the Lasallian educational mission today?
5. What echoes of De La Salle and the founding story do you hear in your own Lasallian school or agency?

PART TWO

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE: EDUCATOR AND VISIONARY

1. What spoke to you personally in this article?

2. One of the many “revolutionary” (p. 20) contributions De La Salle and the early Brothers made to education was the belief that “teaching has a religious as well as a human dimension” (p. 20). Think of how you exercise your educational ministry (whether that be in a classroom, a social service agency, in administration, or some other setting). In what way are you a religious educator as well as a human educator?



3. Out of necessity, De La Salle and the early Brothers adopted innovative educational practices and fine-tuned them into a system of education. As the article correctly states, many of these innovations have become accepted practice in schools. Innovation in response to need is a hallmark of the Founding Story.
 - What innovations stood out for you as you read this article?
 - In what ways do you see innovation taking place in ministries, Districts, and the Region today?
4. What initially attracted you to work in the Lasallian mission? What keeps you working in the Lasallian mission? Are your answers to these two questions the same? Or different?