

TRIDUUM PRAYER
for
Saint John Baptist
de La Salle
Patron Saint of Teachers

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

Opening Prayer (common for three days)

Lord Jesus, you told us that the poor would be with us always (Mt 26:11, Mk 14:7, Jn 12:8). Help us to challenge ourselves and not be afraid to see the poor, alienated, and oppressed in our own backyards and in the world. Help us to recognize in them your face and the wounds and the suffering that you bore for our salvation. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who loved you in loving and reaching out to the poor and marginalized of his time and place. We make this prayer in his name, through the intercession of St. La Salle, while we commit ourselves to bringing about God's reign of justice and peace throughout our world. **AMEN!**

FIRST DAY (July 27, 2011)

John Baptist de la Salle responds to God's call

Reading

(Luke 4: 18 – 19)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”



Lasallian Response

(Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Meditations, 173.1.)

“You are required by your work to love the poor, since the task you have in this work is to devote yourself to their instruction. Look upon them with Saint Francis as images of Jesus Christ, and as those who are best disposed to receive his Spirit in abundance.”

Prayers of Intercessions

Leader: God our loving Father, we are here now in your loving presence aware that you understand us and know our needs before we ask them. In your loving mercy, pardon our failings and hear our prayers.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bring to us something of our peace and stillness. Come to meet us in the quiet of our hearts, for you are there already, forgiving us, redeeming us, assuring us, healing us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: May we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith as we journey through life. May He who has begun this work in us, bring it to completion in Him.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, you are full of love and generosity. Continue to fill us with love and gratitude. Lead us to celebrate your constant goodness to us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we bring to you all the hours of our days, all our talents and gifts, all our successes and failures, all the love we have received and given, all those to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. May your love and light continue to heal, restore, and inspire us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our loving Father, we lay before you all the petitions we have in our hearts, our concerns and problems. Speak to us, lead us, and guide us. Deepen our trust in your holy will.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All: Our Father in heaven...

Closing Prayer (common for three days)

God our Father and Lord of the harvest, you chose St. John Baptist de la Salle through education. May his example raise up teachers who will devote themselves whoelheartedly to the human and Christian education of the youth. We beg you to invite many of our young people today to become good Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and Lay Apostles as faithful laborers in the abundant harvest of your Church. Help all of us to live that, by your grace, the quality of our daily life may attract others to join us in your work of building your Kingdom of truth and of justice, of love and of peace here on earth. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

SECOND DAY (July 27, 2011)

John Baptist de la Salle builds a community

Opening Prayer (refer to the first day)

Reading

(Acts 2:42 – 47)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. Those who believed shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need. They went to the temple area every day, while in their homes they broke bread. With exultant and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lasallian Response

(Article 141 of the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools)

“The words of St. John Baptist de La Salle are still true: ‘The need for this Institute is very great’. The young, the poor, the world and the Church still need the ministry of the Brothers [and Lasallian partners]. Despite the difficulties which they meet, the Brothers [and Lasallian partners] know, in faith, that God does not abandon ‘his work’ but that ‘it pleases him, to make it bear fruit day by day’.”

Prayers of Intercession *(adapted from the “Rule for a New Brother” of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers)*

Leader: The community is the first place where you will make God’s kingdom incarnate. Accept with gratitude the community that God provides you. Your task is to serve and build up one another as members of one body.

All: **Lord, lead us to help one another, to be united, and to live in peace.**

Leader: Give instead of demanding, serve instead of being served, bless instead of cursing. So be attentive to others to work for their happiness.

All: **Lord, inspire us to lead lives worthy of our vocation.**

Leader: Never disappoint the trust another puts in you. Be warm and merciful and let none go from you empty-handed. The least you can offer is your time and patience, your affection and your prayer.

All: **Lord, may Your Spirit lead us to hospitality and to prayer.**

Leader: Do not grow isolated from your community. Open yourself to joys and sorrows of life together. Support one another.

All: **Lord, fill us with your Spirit, that we may confirm that each person is your work of art.**

Leader: Keep in mind how much you lack yourself; be aware of your own poverty and dare to hold out your hands to receive from others and learn from them. Look critically at your own shortcomings, but be sure that with the Lord there is always abundance of redemption.

All: **Lord, you take away our sin. We rejoice that your kindnesses are never exhausted.**

All: Our Father in heaven...

Closing Prayer (refer to the first day)

THIRD DAY (July 29, 2011)

John Baptist de la Salle serves the poor with gladness



Opening Prayer (refer to the first day)

Reading

(Matthew. 25:31-40)

“...when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before him; and he will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will put the sheep on his right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me. . . . Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers or sisters of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me. . . .’”

Lasallian Response

(Associated with the God of the Poor, Pastoral Letter of Brother Superior Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, 25 December 2003, pp. 49-50.)

“...providing welfare is not enough. It is important to get to the root causes of poverty and search for solutions of a structural nature. At the same time, we need to be aware that we cannot do everything and that we ought to respond, first and foremost, by means of Christian education. But it is important to be familiar with reality. The Rule tells us that the Founder *was deeply moved and concerned*. . . . Education for justice should not be merely a specific subject area but a common thread that runs through the entire curriculum. This common thread should be reinforced by daily practice within the school. . . . It is important that within the school there exists an experience of justice in which values, such as solidarity, communion, and participation are top priorities.”

Prayer of 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.

All: Our Father in heaven...

Closing Prayer (refer to the first day)

Source: Adapted from Prayer Services for Lasallian Ministries