



17th May, 2021

My Dear LSPS Students,

Today is La Salle Day. It is an important day as we honour the legacy of our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle.

Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Patron of Christian Teachers



John Baptist de La Salle was born into a world very different from our own. He was the first son of wealthy parents living in France over 300 years ago. Born at Reims, John Baptist de La Salle received the tonsure at age eleven and was named Canon of the Reims Cathedral at sixteen.

Though he had to assume the administration of family affairs after his parents died, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a doctorate in theology. Meanwhile he became tentatively involved with a group of rough and barely literate young men in order to establish schools for poor boys.



At that time a few people lived in luxury, but most of the people were extremely poor: peasants in the country, and slum dwellers in the towns. Only a few could send their children to school; most children had little hope for the future. Moved by the plight of the poor who seemed so "far from salvation" either in this world or the next, he put his own talents and advanced education at the service of these children.

To be more effective, he left his family home, moved in with the teachers, renounced his position as Canon and his wealth, and formed the community that became known as the **Brothers of the Christian Schools**.

John Baptist de La Salle was a pioneer in founding training colleges for teachers, reform schools for delinquents, technical schools, and secondary schools for modern languages, arts, and sciences. His work quickly spread through France and, after his death, continued to spread across the globe.



In 1900 John Baptist de La Salle was declared a Saint. In 1950, because of his life and inspirational writings, he was made **Patron Saint of all those who work in the field of education**. He inspired others how to teach and care for young people, how to meet failure and frailty with compassion, how to affirm, strengthen and heal.





Born at Reims, France April 30, 1651

Ordained priest April 9, 1678

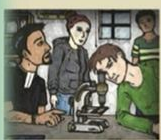
Died April 7, 1719

Beatified February 19, 1888

Canonized May 24, 1900

Proclaimed Patron of Christian Teachers May 15, 1950

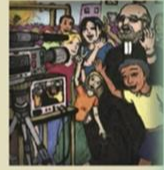
Source: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/lasallian-holiness%20/st-john-baptist-de-la-salle/>



LASALLIAN EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD

For more on Lasallian Education, visit these helpful websites:
BrothersVocation.org
LasallianResources.org
LaSalle.org
Lasallian.info

St. John Baptist de La Salle
Patron Saint of All Educators of Youth



RELAN

Lasallian Region of North America
Canada
United States
Bethlehem, Israel

RELAL

Lasallian Region of Latin America
Andorra
Cuba
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica

RELEM

Lasallian Region of Europe and Mediterranean
Austria
Belgium
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
France
Greece
Guinea

RELAF

Lasallian Region of Africa-Madagascar
Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Chad
Congo
Eritrea
Ethiopia

PARC

Pacific Asia Region
Australia
Cambodia
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
Myanmar

80 Countries
1,130 Schools
3,230 Brothers in 590 communities
103,500 Lasallian Partners
1,039,250 Students
64 Colleges & Universities
Statistics as of 2020

The La Salle Brothers Today

It all began in 1680 in France with John
Baptist de La Salle
a man in a hurry
fresh from university
gifted with youth, wealth and noble birth

Touched by the crowds of children
roaming the streets
without education
he surrendered all
in order to devote his talents to the
education of youth
especially the poor
He was prepared to go where others could
not or would not, go.



He created many
educational works,
opened educational centres in poor areas,
organised catechetical programmes and
composed texts,
set up technical schools
opened hostels,
provided remedial education for troubled
students,

produced texts on politeness and civility
for students
and manuals for teacher trainees

His main focus was the teacher
For him, the teacher was to be a brother
to his fellow teachers,
even more,
a brother to the youth he sought to serve

God blessed his pioneering enterprise
His pupils, schools and Brothers
multiplied all over France
and, later, spread to other countries

Today we serve in all continents
In Asia we run a variety of educational
works
extending from projects for street
children
to running universities in countries
ranging from Japan to Papua New Guinea,
from the Philippines to Paskistan

As Brothers we are
committed to education



in particular to those in greatest need

The needs have never been so many

The demand for Brothers never so great

Source: <https://www.lasalle.org.hk/pages/pages.php?name=thebrothers>



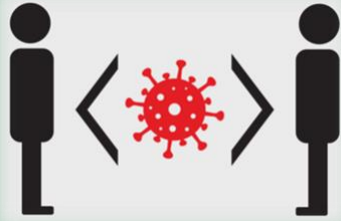
We would like to thank all the Brothers in Hong Kong for their dedication and commitment into fulfilling St. John Baptist de La Salle's vision. We would like to give special thanks to our Supervisor, Brother Patrick Tierney (the second from left).

Thank you!

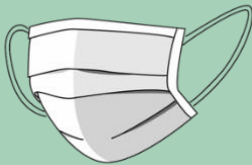


Below are some reminders to you all:

We look forward to seeing you all back in campus for face-to-face classes in the coming week.



Remember to maintain social distancing measures when you are back in school. If you are sick, please do not come to school and see the doctor at once.



Please keep writing to me. I enjoy reading letters from you all. My letterbox is right outside the School Office. 😊



Here is a prayer I want to share with all of you:

Dear God, may we become more aware of the ways in which we can serve as your instruments in order to open possibilities for others that they had previously not thought possible. Dear God, I thank you for the people that you have placed on my journey in this life, that have set me on a path that I never would have known.

Dear God, may we trust only your plan, and remain open everyday to the possibility of changing course. May we commit to our faith and our service to others and may we not worry about trying hard to find our purpose because God already has it in place - we need only submit and trust as our founder did.

Amen.

St. John Baptist de La Salle,

Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts,

Forever

Source: Mr. Armandao Monge, La Salle Academy