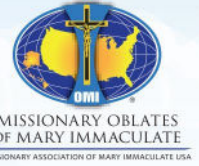




OBLATE ACADEMY

HELPING CHILDREN KEEP GOD IN THEIR LIVES



Saint of the Month for April 2024: Saint John Baptist de la Salle

Teaching Tips for Grades 3-5

Saint John Baptist de la Salle born on April 30, 1651, in Rheims France. He was the son of aristocratic parents and the eldest of 11 siblings. When his mother and father died, he left the seminary to take care of his brothers and sisters. After his siblings had grown and were able to take care of themselves, he returned to the seminary to finish his formation and was ordained a priest.

Saint John believed all young people—not just the rich—should acquire good, quality education. He gathered together schoolmasters who wanted to teach poor children and spent his own fortune opening schools. Saint John was able to form a congregation known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools, whose primary purpose was to serve the educational needs of society, especially the poor.

The Christian Brothers grew in numbers and opened numerous schools, teaching children both rich and poor in ethics, literature, physics, philosophy, Latin and mathematics. They even helped introduce the blackboard to enable students to learn more easily.

Saint John described schools as a network of faith. He wrote that teachers were “ambassadors of Christ” and “ministers of grace.”

Saint John Baptist de la Salle died on Good Friday. His feast day is April 7. He is the patron saint of school principals and teachers.

Today, we are invited to encounter the living God in the Eucharist, and we have an opportunity to welcome Him into our hearts as St. John Baptist de la Salle did.

Join me in standing together with the saints of the holiness of God’s kingdom. All are invited to find a home in the heavenly Jerusalem, as the multitude of nations are united under the common banner of Christ.



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MISSIONARY OBLATES
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MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MARY IMMACULATE USA

Prayer to St. John Baptist de la Salle

Saint John Baptist de la Salle, as you withdrew from school to help care for your siblings until they grew and were able to take care for themselves, help me to be like you and care for those in need.

As you taught both rich and poor children, help me to use my talents to help instruct our youth.

As you used your fortune to help establish schools for children to learn, help me to assist our missionaries in need educating poor children.

You are the patron of principals and teachers. Guide and direct our principals and teachers in these chaotic and challenging times for our youth.

Help me to seek Christ's face always.

Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Saint John Baptist de la Salle, pray for us!