

**"In The Words of
John Baptist De La Salle"**



100 Short Quotes

100 very short quotes of St John Baptist De La Salle

The 100 brief quotable lines from De La Salle's writings are gathered thematically. Use of this resource could be a practical means of enabling staff, students and parents gain greater access to the inspiration of John Baptist De La Salle, perhaps helping make more overt certain Lasallian characteristics of the school. Among these accessible phrases can be found:

- words that can be quoted or incorporated into a school's documentation;
- appropriate phrases for use in PowerPoint presentations;
- memorable quotes in preparing for Founder's Day;
- a selection of phrases which could appear one at a time in regular printed staff bulletins and parental newsletters, possibly as a 'pause for thought';
- a quote-a-day/week for display on a desk or wall (a separate file can be emailed to you as an

attachment, laying out the 100 quotes in large type, as detailed at the end of this introduction);

- texts that can be superimposed on photographs taken in school that portray encounters and relationships, which are then printed and laminated/framed as A3 posters. This could be a challenging project for students to undertake themselves, and posters can easily be transformed electronically into cards and bookmarks.

Included in this collection are poignant phrases such as *"touching hearts"* (46,59,96-98), *"the children of a king"* (95), *"know your students individually"* (91), *"show cheerfulness in your face"* (79-80), *"inspire and lead others by encouraging them"* (81), *"being on friendly terms with others"* (71-81), *"the friendship of Jesus"*, (29), *"God carrying us when the road is rough"* (68), *"the miracles of God's providence"* (53), *"seeing things quite differently"* (54), *"God has chosen you to make him known"* (15-18), *"thank God for his many blessings"* (34-35),

and “*take pride in your ministry*” (27).

Even amidst the brevity of these quotes from 300 years ago, we can perceive that much is conveyed in John’s occasional use of the term “*disciples*” (23,44-47) in addition to “pupils/students”, of “*guiding*” (22,42) as well as “teaching”, and of “*correction*” (87) rather than “punishment”.

The number of each quote has a suffix: ‘**T**’ being those passages applicable only to teachers and colleagues, whilst ‘**A**’ designates those that can refer to **All**: to students and educators alike. With most quotes being only a sentence in length, the context may not be appreciated fully, but precise references are given, enabling the reader to discover more from the sources. When re-printing any of these quotes for the likes of posters, there is unlikely to be a need to incorporate the detailed source reference, but the name of St John Baptist De La Salle should be included.

IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1-A

“Wherever I go
I will find you, my God.”

*(Explanation of the Method of
Interior Prayer:
example of an act of faith)*

2-A

“Often remind yourself
that God is with you.”

*(Letter 87 - to an unnamed Brother,
date unknown)*

3-A

“Often remind yourself
that you are in the presence of
God.”

*(Letter 3 - to Brother Denis in
Rethel, 30 May 1701)*

4-A

“Learn from Jesus
by often being in his
company.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,
Apostle)*

5-A

“It is in the company of Jesus

that you work for the glory of
God.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,
Apostle)*

6-A

“Remembering that God is with
you
will help and inspire you
in all that you do.”

*(Letter 2 - to a Brother, 15 May
1701. This letter is the
earliest extant letter of the Founder
written to a Brother,
and the original is preserved in the
Provincialate, Oxford)*

CALLING

7-A

“How long has Jesus
been knocking
at the door of your heart,
waiting to enter?”

(Med 85.1 - Vigil of the Nativity)

8-A

“Prepare a path for God
so that he can enter your
heart.”

(Med 2.1)

9-A

“God inspires us
to walk in the footsteps of his
Son.”

(Med 3.3)

10-A

“Walk along God’s path.”

(Med 75.3)

11-A

“Follow the inspirations
that come to you from God.”

*(Letter 86 - to an unnamed Brother,
date unknown)*

12-A

“May God continue
what he has begun in you.”

*(Letter 46 - to Brother Robert in
Darnetal,
just outside Rouen, 1709)*

13-A

“You have received
talents and graces
from God.”

(MTR 13.1 [Med 205.1])

14-A

“God has given you

so many graces.”

(Med 51.2)

15-A

“God has chosen you
to do his work.”

(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

16-A

“God has chosen you
to make him known to others.”

*(Med 146.2 - on St Anne,
mother of the Most Blessed Virgin)*

17-A

“You are called like the
apostles
to make God known to others.”

*(Med 78.2 - Feast of St Andrew,
apostle)*

18-T

“God has called you to your
ministry.”

(MTR 14.1 [Med 206.1])

19-T

“God entrusts to you
his care of the young.”

(Med 37.3)

20-T

“Young people
need good teachers,
like visible angels.”

(MTR 5.1 [Med 197.1])

21-T

“To be entrusted
with the teaching of the young
is a great gift and grace of
God.”

(MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])

22-T

“Young people need
the light of watchful guides
to lead them
on the path of salvation.”

(MTR 5.3 [Med 197.3])

23-T

“Have you been helping your
disciples
practice the good
that is appropriate to their
age?”

(Med 51.2)

24-T

“Do your part
to help build up
the kingdom of God

in the hearts of your students.”

(Med 67.1)

25-T

“This work of teaching
is one of the most important
in the Church.”

(MTR 7.1 [Med 199.1])

26-T

“Fulfil your ministry
with all the affection of your
heart.”

(MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])

27-T

“Take pride in your ministry.”

(MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])

28-T

“Take care that your school
runs well.”

*(Letter 42 - to Brother Robert in
Darnetal,
26 February 1709)*

PRAYING

29-T

“As teachers,
you need to be honoured
with the friendship of Jesus.”

(Med 88.1 - feast of St John the evangelist)

30-A

“Show the great love
you have for Jesus
by being eager
to talk with him in prayer.”

(Med 144.3 - on St Mary Magdalen)

31-A

“Say to Jesus as the apostles
did:
‘Lord, teach us to pray’.”

*(Letter 111 - to a member of a
religious community
of women, date unknown)*

32-A

“Each day
renew your offering to God.”

*(Letter 32 - to Brother Gabriel Drolin
in Rome:
from St Yon [in a suburb of Rouen],
5 December 1716)*

33-T

“Thank God
for the grace he has given you
in your work.”

(MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])

34-A

“Do not forget to thank God
for his many blessings.”

*(Letter 76 - to a Brother Director,
date unknown)*

35-A

“I have received, my God,
so many blessings from you.”

*(Explanation of the Method of
Interior Prayer
- example of an act of thanksgiving)*

36-A

“I shall pray to God for you,
and will have many others
pray for you and your needs.”

*(Letter 23 - to Brother Gabriel Drolin
in Rome:
from Paris, 12 May 1706)*

37-A

“I will often pray to God for
you.”

*(Letter 58 - to Brother Mathias in
Mende: from Paris, 13 January 1708)*

38-A

“I do not fail to pray for you
and for the success of your
work.”

*(Letter 28 - to Bro Gabriel Drolin in
Rome: 12 May 1710)*

39-A

“Let us pray
before starting
whatever we need to do.”

*(Med 107.1 - for the feast of St
Matthias, apostle)*

40-A

“The more you devote yourself
in prayer
the more you will do well in
your work.”

(Med 95.1 - Feast of St Genevieve)

41-A

“Prayer
draws down God’s graces
on others.”

*(Letter 5 - to Brother Denis in
Darnetal,
5km from Rouen city centre, 1
August 1708)*

42-T

“Lift up your hands to heaven
to draw down God’s blessings

on those you are guiding.”

(Med 189.1 - feast of St Martin)

43-T

“You must pray not only for
yourself
but also for those
whom you are guiding.”

*(Med 187.2 - feast of St Charles
Borromeo)*

44-T

“Bring to Jesus in prayer
the needs of your disciples.”

(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

45-T

“It is important
that you teach your disciples
to pray.”

(MTR 10.2 [Med 202.2])

46-A

“Often ask God
for the grace to touch hearts.”

*(Med 81.2 - feast of St Ambrose of
Milan)*

47-T

“When you encounter some difficulty in the guidance of your disciples, turn to God with confidence.”

(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

EXAMPLE

48-A

“Example makes a much greater impression than words.”

(MTR 10.3 [Med 202.3])

49-T

“Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”

(Med 99.2 - on the life of St John Chrysostom)

50-T

“The young should be able to see in your wisdom how they should behave.”

(Med 132.1 - on St Norbert)

51-T

“The way you behave should be a model for those you teach.”

(Med 132.1 - on St Norbert)

52-T

“Your faith should be a shining light for those whom you teach.”

(Med 178.1 - feast of St Luke, evangelist)

BEING FAITHFUL

53-A

“The miracles of God’s Providence take place every day.”

(Part of the Founder’s address to the first teachers about Providence, as quoted in Blain)

54-A

“In the light of faith you see things quite differently.”

(Letter 118 - to a laywoman, date unknown)

55-A

“Live by the spirit of faith.”

(Letter 111 - to a member of a religious community of women, date unknown)

56-A

“Let your chief study be the Bible, that it may be the guiding rule of your life.”

(Med 170.1 - for the feast of St Jerome)

57-A

“Let it be your chief study to put the Gospel into practice.”

(Med 171.3 - for the feast of St Remigius, Patron of Rheims)

58-A

“Let the way you live be that of the Gospel.”

(Med 84.3 - feast of St Thomas, apostle)

59-A

“God’s word is powerful in touching hearts.”

(Med 180.2 - feast of St Hilarion)

60-A

“Receive Jesus today with respect and thanksgiving.”

(Med 114.2 - on St Leo)

61-A

“Earnestly ask Jesus that his Spirit may be alive in you.”

(MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

62-A

“Think of what a blessing it is that the Holy Spirit lives in you.”

(Med 62.2)

63-A

“You can do more with the grace of God than you think.”

(Collection of Various Short Treatises: Reflections - the use of time)

64-A

“Don’t be discouraged by anxieties and troubles. Life is full of them.”

(Letter 102 - to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)

65-A

“Do not be disheartened
by the difficulties you
experience.”

*(Letter 90 - to an unnamed Brother,
date unknown)*

66-A

“Do not have any anxiety
about the future.
Leave everything in God’s
hands
for he will take care of you.”

*(Letter 101 - to an unnamed
Brother, date unknown)*

67-A

“God is more ready than ever
to welcome you into his arms.”

*(Letter 108 - to a member of a
religious community
of women, date unknown)*

68-A

“Throw yourself into God’s
arms.
He will carry you when the
road is rough.”

(Palm Sunday)

69-A

“God’s compassion for you
is greater than the troubles you
have.”

(Med 38.1)

70-A

“Leave the result in God’s
hands.”

*(Letter 11 - to Brother Hubert
[probably at Chartres]:
20 July 1709)*

RELATING**71-A**

“It is impossible to please God
if you do not live
on friendly terms with others.”

*(Letter 47 - to Brother Robert in
Darnetal, 1709)*

72-A

“God of love,
set me aflame
with love for you
and for my neighbour.”

*(Explanation of the Method of
Interior Prayer
- example of considering Jesus
Christ in the form of the Blessed
Sacrament)*

73-A

“Put up with the faults of others and be generous towards them.”

(Letter 105 - to a member of a religious community of men, date unknown)

74-A

“Be warm-hearted to everyone, speaking to others in a gentle and respectful way.”

(Letter 105 - to a member of a religious community of men, date unknown)

75-A

“Never speak to anyone except with kindness.”

(Med 65.2)

76-A

“Always address people by their names and with great respect.”

(Rule, Chapter 8)

77-A

“Have great respect for each person you are with.”

(Part 1, Chapter 2 of ‘The Rules of Christian Decorum and Civility’)

78-A

“I always have for you the highest esteem and regard.”

(Letter 122 - to a layman)

79-A

“Your face should be happy, showing gentleness and respect.”

(Part 1, Chapter 4 of ‘The Rules of Christian Decorum and Civility’)

80-A

“Always show cheerfulness in your face.”

(Collection of Various Short Treatises: Virtues - Modesty)

81-A

“Inspire and lead others by encouraging them.”

(MTR 1:2 [Med 193.2])

82-T

“Look upon those whom God has entrusted to you as his own children.”

(Med 133.2 - on St Margaret, Queen of Scotland)

83-T

“Your students
are living images of Jesus.”

(Med 80.3 - feast of St Nicholas)

84-T

“Are you ready
to give your very life,
so dear to you
are the young people
entrusted to you?”

(MTR 6.2 [Med 198.2])

85-T

“Enkindle the love of Jesus
in the hearts of the young.”

(Med 102.2 - on St Ignatius, martyr)

86-T

“To deal with young people
very harshly
is to forego all hope
of bringing about any good.”

(Med 114.2 - on St Leo)

87-T

“How to correct others
depends on knowledge
and discernment
of character.”

(Med 33.1)

88-T

“Some students require great
mildness,
while others need to be
directed with firmness.”

(Med 33.1)

89-T

“Take care not to let yourself
be carried away
by impatience in class.”

*(Letter 60 - to Brother Mathias in
Mende:
from Paris, 23 March 1708)*

90-A

“(First-time teachers)
should enter the classroom
with a deliberate and grave air,
head held high
and looking at all the students
in a bold manner,
as if they had thirty years’
experience.”

(The Conduct of Schools)

TOUCHING HEARTS**91-T**

”Know your students
individually
and be able
to understand them.”

(Med 33.1)

92-T

“Show much kindness and love
for the young people you
teach.”

(Med 134.2 - on St Barnabas)

93-T

“Have much care and affection
for the young people entrusted
to you.”

(Med 110.3 - feast of St Joseph)

94-T

“By the care you take of your
students
show that you have a real love
for them.”

(Med 80.3 - feast of St Nicholas)

95-T

“Take even more care of the
education
of the young people entrusted
to you
than if they were the children
of a king.”

*(Med 133.2 - on St Margaret,
Queen of Scotland)*

96-T

“You can perform miracles
by touching the hearts

of those entrusted to your
care.”

(Med 180.3 - feast of St Hilarion)

97-T

“To touch the hearts of your
students
is the greatest miracle you can
perform.”

(Med 139.3 - feast of St Peter)

98-T

“God expects you
to touch hearts.”

(Med 139.3 - feast of St Peter)

99-T

“The more loving you are to the
young,
the greater will be the effects
of God’s grace.”

(Med 134.2 - on St Barnabas)

100-T

“Do you build on the affection
that the young people have for
you
to lead them to God?”

*(Med 101.3 - on the life of St
Francis de Sales)*