



Prayer in Vocation

Blessed Father Nicolas Roland (April 27)

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world... whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12)

(light the candle)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three come together in your name, you are there with them. The light of this candle symbolizes your presence among us, and the fire of your spirit within our vocation.

And so, let us remember...

All: ...that we are in the holy presence of God.

Our Lasallian Heritage Speaks

At age 21 while in the seminary studying to be a priest, Saint John Baptist de La Salle received the news that his mother had died. Because his father died earlier and since he was the oldest child, De La Salle became the legal guardian of his six siblings.

"It might easily be presumed that under these circumstances De La Salle would have struggled through a crisis in his vocation to the priesthood. Man of faith that he was, he might well have been inclined to interpret these events as a sign that God was directing him along another path. But he had also learned in the months at the seminary of Saint Sulpice not to trust his own judgment in such matters. Accordingly

he looked about for a spiritual director to guide him through this difficult time.

He found such a one in the person of Father Nicolas Roland. In order to keep open the option of the priesthood, Roland suggested that he enroll at once in the University of Reims to complete the theology courses that he had begun the previous autumn in Paris."

De La Salle often sought the advice of his guide Roland. Though many of Roland's friends had tried to interest De La Salle in the work of education without success, Roland's own enthusiasm for the cause of education was to bear fruit in the work of the Founder of the Brothers.

The Work Is Yours: The Life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, by Br. Luke Salm, FSC (p. 25)

Response: John 16:13-18, 20 (adapted)

But when the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you to all truth.
He will not speak on his own,
but he will speak what he hears,
and will declare to you the things that are
coming.

He will glorify me,
because he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you.

Everything that the Father has is mine;
for this reason I told you
that he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you.

A little while and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while later
and you will see me.

Amen, amen, I say to you,
you will weep and mourn,
while the world rejoices;
you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

Reading: John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs

away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.

Reading: from the "Meditation for the Second Sunday of Easter," Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Jesus compares those who have care of souls to a good shepherd who has great care for his sheep. One quality he must possess, according to our savior, is to know each one of them individually. This is also one of the most essential qualities required of those who teach, for they must get to know their students, and discern the manner in which to act towards them.

They must show more mildness toward some, more firmness toward others. There are those who call for much patience, those who need to be stimulated and spurred on, some who need to be reprovved and punished to correct them of their faults, others who must be constantly watched over to prevent them from being lost or going astray.

This guidance requires understanding and discernment of spirits, qualities you should frequently and earnestly ask of God, for they are most necessary for you in the guidance of those placed in your care.

Meditation

Intercessions (*The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*, adapted; art. 53)

Reader: We are determined with one spirit to be brothers and sisters among ourselves...

All: ... **Lord, open the eyes of Your faith working in us, so that we may see You in one another.**

Reader: We are determined with one spirit to be brothers and sisters to the adults we deal with...

All: ...**Lord, open the ears of our hearts, so that we may hear You in those with whom we serve.**

Reader: We are determined with one spirit to be older brothers and sisters to the young people confided to our care...

All: ...**Lord, open the hands of our generosity, so that we may be Your ministers.**

Reader: In all our relationships we are concerned about persons in their deepest hopes and desires...

All: ...**Lord, may our entire commitment to You strengthen us in nurturing Your salvation, wholly and viably present in the lives of all persons You set before us.**

Reader: And for what else shall we pray?

Our Father

Closing Prayer:

**God, we thank You for sending Blessed Nicholas Roland
who guided De La Salle and inspired in him
the courage to work through education for the salvation of the young,
especially those who are poor, through education.**

**May we follow Your call to become more deeply
that which Saint La Salle, through the use of the Scripture, calls us to be:
*Ambassadors for Christ, Guardian Angels, and Good Shepherds.***

**Help us to bear witness to You
in each other,
in those with whom we work,
and in those we serve. Amen.**