

**A PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
PROFILE
OF A LASALLIAN
LAY TEACHER**

HIS WORK AS A TEACHER

1. He does all he can to be competent as a cultured person and as a teacher. He studies.
2. He is sensitive where justice is concerned with regard to both pupils and his colleagues in school. He goes so far as to claim for them what is best not only from an economic point of view, but also and especially from one that is moral, cultural and even spiritual.
3. He shows solidarity, willingness to work with others, responsibility and commitment (in acts rather than in words).
4. He tries to have relationships in school that are characterised by closeness, a family spirit, elegance and cordiality.
5. His approach to his profession is enthusiastic and joyful. He makes his vocation bear fruit through his efforts and conscientious attitude.
6. He realises that he is his pupils' teacher even when he is not all the time with them.
7. He shows concern for his own self-improvement, seeing in it the means of ensuring that his teaching is more professional and up to standard.
8. He is wary of theories and utopias, especially where fundamentals are concerned, because he is convinced that it is important for a teacher to be practical and concrete.
9. He is always spontaneous and bright, doing all he can to win his pupils' confidence, and ensuring his influence over them rather by his love of teaching than by exorbitant demands.
10. He is always studying. He is prepared to learn by experience all he needs to know in order to do his job properly as a teacher.

HIS SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. He tries to increase his faith as a Christian by his own continuing formation and by putting into practice evangelical and Church criteria.
2. As a believer, he reads the Word of God frequently, seeking nourishment for his soul, avoiding all subjectivism, and following the guidelines of the Church found in the pronouncements of the Magisterium.
3. He shows great respect for the conscience of others, while developing his own.
4. He prays often and pursues his favourite devotions. Above all he develops his baptismal life by means of the sacraments.
5. Among all his other various and worthwhile devotions, he finds his greatest pleasure in his devotion to the Mother of God, the teacher of her Son.
6. In all the events of his life, he sees the hand of God who is always close to man.
7. He values professional virtues, especially charity, justice, patience, strength, joy, etc.
8. He always has a positive attitude towards life, towards events and people, even when he has to confront them.
9. In his own life he sets a high value on sincerity so that his personal witness may have a very strong impact on his pupils.
10. He often meditates in his heart on the person of Christ: he should become his principal source of inspiration, since he is the model of all teachers who have a heart. As a teacher full of faith he imitates Christ.

HIS APOSTOLIC ZEAL

1. He is aware of his responsibilities as a teacher, and considers his work as an evangelical service that he must offer with enthusiasm.
2. He gives disinterested help to the most needy, and sound advice to the lonely, the afraid, those with no will power, and the friendless.
3. He is always attentive to the spiritual needs of others, and he provides them with enough light and strength to overcome the temptations, dangers and obstacles that surround them.
4. He always manages to find the best ways of doing good: he gives advice and encouragement; he leads

people to forgive and understand; he offers criteria inspired by the Gospel.

5. By the witness of his life he demonstrates in what direction good lies: he teaches how to pray; he encourages the frequentation of the sacraments; he points out criteria for just behaviour; he offers solutions to problems; he is constantly pointing the way to the Gospels.

6. He gives of himself unstintingly, even at great personal cost, when someone near him, whoever he may be, needs his help.

7. He always gives freely what he has received freely, for he realises that God's gifts are free.

8. He does not become discouraged at apparent failure, for he understands that, in the eyes of God, there are no failures when what is done is done in his name.

9. He is always prepared to face new situations, without being over attached to persons, places or resources.

10. He thanks God often for having chosen him for the important work of Christian education. He sees his profession as a sublime gift which marks him as someone specially chosen by God.

HIS ATTACHMENT TO THE CHURCH

1. He realises and feels that he belongs to the Church, and he follows faithfully the directives that come to him with the authority of the Magisterium.

2. He studies with great interest the documents and instructions of the Church, so that they become for him the norms for his conduct and, especially, a source of inspiration.

3. He takes pains to ensure his pupils feel what it means to belong to the Church, and he tries to make them go beyond the stage of seeing it only in sociological terms.

4. He defends the Church of Jesus with objectivity and sincerity, without glossing over, however, the mistakes that individuals or institutions may have committed.

5. By all the means at his disposal, he seeks to deepen his knowledge and love of the Church. He tries likewise to make his pupils share his own convictions and feelings.

HIS LASALLIAN SPIRIT

1. He considers himself fortunate to have been chosen to work in a profession inspired by the charism of John Baptist de La Salle.

2. He tries to increase his knowledge of the spirituality and pedagogical approach of the Founder of the Christian Schools. He acts on the basis of what is to be found there.

3. He feels he is a partner in the work he does and not simply a salaried teacher with no interest in these principles.

4. He works with others as a teacher at a local level, and feels proud at being part of a movement which is truly ecclesial and international.

5. He supports all the undertakings and initiatives that help to spread the work of the Christian Schools, including the fostering of vocations of various sorts to undertake this work.

THE LASALLIAN TEACHER CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE A PARTNER IN A CHURCH UNDERTAKING

This Church undertaking transcends time and space.

It transcends time because it is a response to a charism which has inspired an undertaking for 300 years, and which consequently has been approved by the Church for the same length of time.

It transcends the narrow limits of where we live, because it is spread over 5 continents and is to be found in almost all the countries where the Church has taken root. Its international character ensures its catholicity, oecumenism, and its work of evangelisation.

Far from shutting itself up in an impoverishing cliquish mentality, it sees in these two areas of transcendence a reason to feel even more deeply that it belongs to the Church of Jesus, and to realise that it is committed to work in a specific area, it is true, but with a vocation also to be universal.