

SAINTS ALIVE! APRIL 7: ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE



John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719) was a priest in Reims, France. He founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a small group of lay teachers who devoted themselves to providing free education for the poor.

De La Salle and his Brothers responded to the needs of the poor with practical innovations — teaching the students in the common language rather than in traditional Latin, focusing on classroom learning rather than on private instruction, and integrating religious instruction with secular subjects.

John Baptist de La Salle is the patron saint of teachers. His feast day is April 7th

Teachers need the prayers of John Baptist de La Salle, because they share an awesome privilege and a significant responsibility.

Connecting the Dots: From Third Grade to Life

A U.S. student who can't read on grade level by third grade is four times less likely to graduate by age 19 than a child who does read proficiently in third grade.

Dropouts make up nearly half the prison population.

As of 2012, 1 out of 7 U.S. **adults** can't read. One out of 5 U.S. adults read *below* a 5th grade level. One out of 5 high school **graduates** cannot read. 63% of prison inmates cannot read. [U.S. Illiteracy Statistics Data](#)

People with low literacy are more likely to need unemployment checks, food stamps and subsidized housing.

This is just the United States. Education is a global issue.

Pope John Paul II included education in his list of most important human rights.

Pope Francis said "It is vital that government leaders and financial leaders take heed and broaden their horizons, working to ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and healthcare." Also, "In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons."

Catholic Relief Services and its partners promote and support access to quality basic education for all. Some of its goals include:

- Promoting girls' education
- Improving access to education
- Improving the quality of education
- Improving infrastructure and school environments
- Promoting inclusive education

Education is the surest way out of poverty. It's also a basic human right.

On April 7, pray to St. John Baptist de La Salle in thanksgiving for all teachers.



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