



Because La Salle said yes...

Chances are if you're reading this, your life has been influenced by St La Salle in some way. If you're reading this, you probably belong to the worldwide family of students, teachers, alumni, parents, Brothers and Sisters that has been following the example of this priest turned educator from France. And this family that you belong to will be celebrating his 370th birthday tomorrow.

All because, once upon a time in France, La Salle said yes.

Pope Francis spoke of La Salle's "yes" in his message to the Lasallian Family on the occasion of St La Salle's 300th death anniversary: *"His example and testimony confirm how original and new his message for today's Christian community is, highlighting the way forward. He was brilliantly and creatively innovative in the vision of the school, in the concept of the teacher, in teaching methods."*

Imagine how different our lives would be if St La Salle had chosen differently. Think about it this way... In the course of the 342 years that the schools have been around, how many life-long friendships have been formed? How many families have grown in and with

the schools across the world? How many young people have found their purpose and meaning in their La Salle schools? Think of all the music, art and inspiring ideas that have come out of our communities all these years.

All of this because La Salle said yes.

We come together in prayer to celebrate his birth and legacy. May we be renewed and inspired to say our own yes so that we may touch more hearts.

Pope Francis reminds us of the enormity of what St La Salle and the early Brothers did: *"It was this principle that led him to establish an **original experience** of consecrated life: the presence of religious educators who, without being priests, could interpret the role of "lay monks" in a new way, **throwing themselves completely into the reality of their time, and thus contributing to the progress of civil society.**"*

Today, we enjoy the fruits of the work that they started and that thousands of Lasallian educators before us continued. Because of them, our institutions are trusted in their respective communities. As we gather in prayerful gratitude, we ask the Holy Spirit



Spirit for the courage to look beyond what we have and enjoy. We ask for humility and patience to bring our gifts together and throw ourselves “*completely into the reality of our time*”, and **become the change the world needs us to be**.

We end our prayer with these words from Pope Francis: “*May you carry out your mission among the younger generations with renewed vigour, with that **reforming boldness** that characterized John Baptist de La Salle: he announced to all the Gospel of hope and charity.*”

Because La Salle said yes... we are here.

Imagine what would happen, all the good that could be made real to more people, if we, too, continue to say yes.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever.

Br Arian Lopez FSC

Message of Pope Francis to the Brothers of the Christian Schools and to the Lasallian Family, Aug 30, 2019
<https://axis.smumn.edu/2019/08/30/message-of-pope-francis-to-the-brothers-of-the-christian-schools-and-to-the-lasallian-family/> ry/Lent/firstfourdays.html



Lasallian Reflection is developed by the Lasallian Formation for Mission Team.

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