

**MIRACLES ACCEPTED FOR THE BEATIFICATION AND
CANONISATION OF SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE-
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The first miracle was that which concerned a young nurse 20 years of age, Vittoria Ferry, serving in a hospital at Orleans, France.

In 1832, while carrying out her usual nursing duties, she was brutally assaulted by a mad woman who threw her to the ground and, in a frenzy, stabbed her many times. Although expected to die, Vittoria in some way survived but was from then on subjected to dreadful sufferings: a high fever, sudden vomiting of blood and inflammation of the whole body. Occasionally she would remain as though dead in her mother's arms for three to four hours. During the twelve years that she endured these sufferings, she became empty of all her blood some 260 times.

In 1844 when her death appeared to be imminent, someone spoke to her about the Venerable John Baptist de La Salle. The account of the graces and miracles attributed to the servant of God had an unexpected and extraordinary effect on her. She read his life and at once felt great confidence in him. One night she saw him and heard him say to her "You are cured". In the morning she got up and went to the church to thank her benefactor. From that day on she never had any recurrence of all the ills that had so long tormented her.

The second miracle was in favour of a Brother Adelminiamo who in 1866 directed the school of *Saint Nicholas des Champs* in Paris. Brother Adelminiamo was stricken with progressive multiple sclerosis and had to give up every kind of activity. A famous doctor to whom he went to be healed said to him: "My dear Brother, no one is cured of this illness." Seeing no hope in everything said to him, Brother turned instead to his Father and Founder, John Baptist de La Salle. Courageously, he left Paris and had himself taken to the tomb of De La Salle in the city of Rouen.

On 5th January 1868, after finishing a novena without any result, the Brother, who was full of faith, began a second novena. Suddenly he was stricken with sufferings far greater than anything he had previously experienced. It was at first thought that he would die

but instead found himself instantly cured forever by the intercession of the Venerable John Baptist de La Salle.

The third miracle was that of Stefano de Suzanne, an eleven year old boy. His condition was grave. He suffered from a form of rickets so violent that his pulse was 140, his body so bent that his forehead touched his knees. His parents, who were good Christians, had lost all hope of him being saved but wished him to receive his First Communion before he died. [note: at this time the age of first communion was usually about 12] When the parents spoke of their resignation and sorrow to Cardinal Bonhomme, he said: "If I was in your situation, I would ask the Venerable De La Salle to cure your child. He cured Brother Adelminiamo and he will save and free your son as well."

The boy's grandmother who loved her grandson dearly was present and she immediately began a novena. On the third day the boy stated that he believed he would be cured. Gradually the boy's sufferings became less frequent while he continued to say, "Yes, yes, he will cure me at the end of the novena!" Turning to his mother, he said "Get my clothes ready for going to Mass." By the end of the novena the boy felt that he was completely cured. The following day he was received in church to thank God for the cure that he had received.

The above three cures were accepted by doctors as beyond any kind of medical explanation. They were therefore accepted as miraculous and the *Venerable John Baptist de La Salle* was beatified on 19th February 1888 and formally proclaimed *Blessed John Baptist de La Salle*.

Two further miracles that took place in 1889 were eventually recognised by the Church so that the canonisation of Blessed John Baptist de La Salle took place in Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, on 24th May 1900.

The first miracle was that of Leopoldo Tayac, a pupil of the boarding college in Rodez (France). As Leopoldo was stricken with a serious lung infection and of lesions in the central part of the brain,

doctors had given up all hope of any recovery and declared that he would soon be dead. The whole staff of teachers and pupils gathered in the college chapel to pray for his cure through the intercession of the recently beatified John Baptist de La Salle. When the doctor who was treating Leopoldo received an urgent message to return to the college, he assumed that it was to write the Death Certificate. To his astonishment, he found Leopoldo completely restored to health.

The second miracle was in favour of Brother Netelmo of the community at Maisonneuve, near Montreal in Canada. Afflicted by an incurable paralysis that allowed no movement at all of the spine, Brother Netelmo could not move in any way at all and suffered grievously. On the 4th May, when the feast of Blessed De La Salle was being celebrated, Brother Netelmo begged him with tears to have pity on him. Suddenly he felt movement again in the paralysed parts of his body, stood up by himself, and was completely cured.

On the 24th May in the Jubilee year of 2000, the Feast of the Ascension, Pope Leo XIII solemnly declared that John Baptist de La Salle would henceforth be inscribed in the calendar of the Saints.

[Text translated from Italian]