

**THE VEN. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA
SALLE: THE TRUE FRIEND OF
YOUTH, FOUNDER OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

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The Ven. John Baptist de la Salle: The True Friend of Youth, Founder of the Brothers of the Christian School by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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- THE -

VEN. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE,

THE TRUE FRIEND OF YOUTH.

FOUNDER OF THE

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

NEW YORK:
DE LA SALLE INSTITUTE,

44—50 SECOND STREET.

1885

—INSTITUTE—
OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

Prospectus of the Novitiate.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, which has its Mother House at 27 Rue Oudinot, Paris, is a religious congregation, the object of which is the sanctification of its members and the Christian education of youth, especially the poor.

This Institute was founded in 1680 by the Venerable John Baptist de la Salle, and it was approved as a religious congregation by our Holy Father Benedict XIII. in the Bull. IN APOSTOLICÆ DIGNITATIS SOLIO, given on the 7th day of the calends of February, in the year of the Incarnation, 1724, (January 25th, 1725.)

The establishments conducted by the Brothers of the Christian Schools comprise gratuitous schools, orphanages, reformatories, art and agricultural schools; also academies, colleges and normal schools for lay-teachers.

From sixteen to twenty-five is the most appropriate age for the admission of candidates. Educated men can be admitted at a more advanced age.

Boys of about fourteen are admitted in the Preparatory Novitiate, to test their vocations.

The qualities indispensably required in those who apply for admission are : 1st. Good health and fair ap-

pearance. 2d. A sound judgment, with the ability to make the required studies. 3d. Good character, control of temper, a docile and sociable disposition, detachment from worldly goods and interests, zeal for the glory of God, for the salvation of children, and one's own perfection.

The principal impediments to the admission of candidates are: Illegitimacy; bad reputation of the family; necessity of providing for parents; any grave and apparent deformity, deafness, or bad sight; inability to pay debts contracted personally; obligation to discharge the duty of guardian, or the management of property; condemnation by civil authority for some misdemeanor.

The time of probation is two years: the first in the Novitiate, the second either in the scholasticate, school, or in any other position assigned.

A candidate who is at least eighteen years of age, and who during his trial of two years has given satisfaction, may be admitted to annual vows.

Those only are admitted to triennial and perpetual vows whose application to duty and observance of Rule entitle them to that favor.

Every candidate is required, on entering the Novitiate, to bring with him the following papers: 1st. A letter of recommendation from his pastor. 2d. His Baptismal certificate. 3d. The consent, in writing, of his parents, if he is a minor.

The board for the first year is \$200. This sum should be paid on entering the Novitiate. Candidates unable to pay will communicate with the Brother Visitor of the district, or his representatives.

If the candidate leave before the expiration of the first year, a proportionate sum will be charged for the time he has spent in the Novitiate.

The outfit consists of the following articles :

Six linen shirts, four undershirts, four pairs of drawers, twelve handkerchiefs, six towels, six pairs of socks, two or three complete suits of clothes, of which one is to be black, two black neckties, two pairs of shoes. These articles should be new or in good condition.

After the year of probation, the Institute bears the expense of maintaining the subject, both in sickness and in health, as also the expenses necessary for his training and studies ; but it reserves to itself the right of requiring his withdrawal for what it may judge sufficient cause.

If a Brother should leave the congregation or be expelled from it (whether he has vows or not), for any of the causes mentioned in the Rules, he has no right to, and cannot legally claim either indemnity or pension or assistance of any kind, whatever may have been his position in the Institute, or the length of time spent in it; for it is well understood that all duties are to be accepted and discharged gratuitously through a pure zeal for the glory of God and the welfare of our neighbor.

On the other hand, the congregation will not make any claim upon him for expenses occasioned by his studies, training and support.

Particulars may be obtained at any of the establishments of the Institute. Application can also be made to the Brother Visitor of the District or to the Brother Director of the Novitiate.

Novitiates of the Institute have been established in this country in Amawalk, Westchester Co., N. Y., Baltimore, St. Louis and San Francisco.

PREPARATORY NOVITIATE.

The Preparatory Novitiates are schools annexed to our Novitiates, in which boys of about fourteen years of age, who wish to embrace the religious life, are received and wherein the course of studies and religious exercises are suited to their age.

Those boys only whose conduct gives signs of vocation can be admitted to the Novitiate. Arrangements for their board are made with their parents or guardians. The other conditions are the same as those for postulants to the Novitiate.

All extra expenses are charged to parents until the candidates enter the Novitiate.

Form to be Filled by the Parents or Guardians.

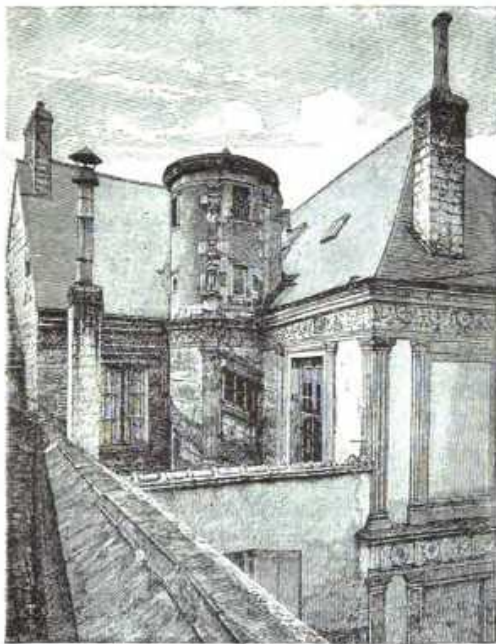
I, the undersigned,*.....
 living.....
 after having carefully read the above prospectus, consent that†
who is my.....becomes a member of the Institute
 of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.....

Done at.....
 on the.....day of.....18.....

* Name and surname of the parent or guardian.

† Name and surname of candidate.

THE
VENERABLE JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE,
THE TRUE FRIEND OF YOUTH. FOUNDER OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.



THE HOUSE IN WHICH THE VENERABLE DE LA SALLE WAS BORN.

I.

Among the illustrious names in the firmament of Catholic history none shines with greater brilliancy

than that of the Venerable John Baptist De La Salle. The great and glorious work he was to accomplish was foreshadowed in him from birth. From the earliest dawn of reason he showed remarkable piety, gentleness and urbanity. Blessed with fervent, God-fearing parents, his eager soul drank in with avidity their holy teachings, and while yet young in years, he became mature in heavenly wisdom and understanding.

At an early age he entered the University of Rheims. Here with his surpassing talents and unwearied application he made such rapid progress in his studies that he distanced all his companions. This might have roused their jealousy against him, but his gentle, winning ways gained their affection, and none rejoiced more than they at his success. When but sixteen years old, his worth was so well known that the Chancellor of the University and Archdeacon of Champagne, Pierre Dozet, who had been canon for over fifty years, chose him as his successor in the canonry. In his humility La Salle would have refused the honor, but through obedience was obliged to accept it. The way he filled the office fully justified the Chancellor's choice. In 1670, having graduated at the University of Rheims, he went to the Seminary of St. Sulpice, in Paris, to pursue his theological studies under the best masters of the times. In this beloved retreat, where as everywhere else he gained the love and respect of all, by the holiness of his life and the angelic sweetness of his disposition, he remained till the death of his father, following close on that of his mother, called him home. In dying his father had left his other children, six in number, to his care. He could not refuse so holy a legacy, though for one of his years (he was then but twenty) it entailed heavy responsibilities.