



## LASALLIAN SPIRITUALITY

The clue to understanding Lasallian spirituality is to be found in the spirit of faith. According to the Brothers' Rule, the spirit of our Lasallian family is a spirit of faith. For St. John Baptist de La Salle, the spirit of faith was the motivating force of his life. When De La Salle speaks of the spirit of faith, he means a profound and radical trust in God.

De La Salle's faith awareness came from the experience of God in his own life. Little by little, he became aware that God was working in him as persons and events led him from one commitment to another. He wrote in his memoir on the origin of the Christian Brothers: "God, who guides all things with wisdom and serenity and whose way it is not to force the inclinations of persons, willed to commit me entirely to the development of the schools. He did this in an imperceptible way and over a long period of time, so that one commitment led to another in a way that I did not foresee in the beginning."

It is against the background of such experience of the action of God in his own life that De La Salle insisted in his *Rule* that the spirit of faith should induce the Brothers "not to look upon anything but with the eyes of faith, not to do anything but in view of God, and to attribute all to God." It was the spirit of faith that led De La Salle to abandon himself and his Institute completely into the hands of Divine Providence.

Consider this example. In the face of a decision as to whether or not to use his personal fortune to endow the schools, he addressed his Lord in these words: "My God, I do not know whether I should endow the schools or not. I do not know what you want. So I will not contribute in any way to endowing the schools. If you endow the schools, they will be well endowed; if you do not, they will be without endowment. I beseech you to make your Holy Will known to me."

This radical attitude of faith in Divine Providence remained with De La Salle through his whole life. Here is one of his retreat resolutions: "I shall always look upon the work of my salvation and the foundation of our community as the work of God. Therefore, I will abandon the care of both to Him in order to act only by His orders. I will consult Him frequently regarding all I must do for the one or the other. Often I will say to Him the words of the Prophet Habacuc: Domine, Opus Tuum. Lord, the work is Yours."

*From the writing of Br. Luke Salm, FSC*