

**Justice in the World
and the Mission of Lasallian Education Today:
Enacting the Common Good**

**LACU Livestream Symposium
April 7, 2021
Feast Day of Saint John Baptist de La Salle**

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Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

We are living in a time of unbearable dissonance between promise and performance: between good politics and good policy; between professed and practiced family values; between racial creed and racial deed; between calls for community and rampant individualism and greed; and between our capacity to prevent and alleviate human deprivation and disease, and our political and spiritual will to do so.

We are also living at an incredible moral moment in history. Few human beings are blessed to anticipate or experience the beginning of a new century and millennium. How will we say thanks for the life, earth, nations, and children God has entrusted to our care? What legacies, principles, values, and deeds will we stand for and send to the future through our children to their children and to a spiritually confused, balkanized, and violent world desperately hungering for moral leadership and community?

The answers lie in the values we stand for and in the actions we take today. What an opportunity for good or evil we personally and collectively hold in our hands as parents; citizens; religious, community, and political leaders; and-for those Americans among us-as titular world leader in this post-Cold War and post-industrial era at the beginning of the third millennium.

Can our children become the healing agents of our national and world transformation and future spiritual and economic salvation?

Protecting today's children-tomorrow's Mandelas and Mother Teresas-is the moral and commonsense litmus test of our humanity in a world where millions of child lives are ravaged by the wars, neglect, abuse, and racial, ethnic, religious, and class divisions of adults.

The prophet Zechariah's message from God summons us to be positioned as powerful prisoners of prophetic hope. We pray for the courage to bend the arc of the moral universe towards enacting justice and the common good for all people.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, **Pray for us.**

May we live with faith and zeal, **Forever!**