



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle

The art of letter writing has long represented a caring act of building and deepening relationship, connecting people around the world under a variety of circumstances. *The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle*, translated into English by Brother Colman Malloy, FSC, and first published in 1988, contains the firsthand letters of the Founder to a variety of Brothers and contemporaries. Though not the complete collection of the Founder, the letters retained by the Institute provide a glimpse into the day-to-day life of the early communities and the interpersonal workings of the early Brothers.

In *The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle*, we find the deep spiritual wisdom imparted by De La Salle, offering encouragement, challenge and hope. His letters to the Brothers take on a personal tone, with De La Salle embodying both spiritual guide and practical founder. The letters to others, though more formal, still maintain a sense of connection with and fondness for the recipient.

[Read *The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle*](#)

The reflection questions below cater to the personal, introspective journey, providing direction for interior prayer and meditation. The dialogue prompts below offer questions, inspired by portions of *The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle*, designed for small and large group discussions.

Reflection Questions

- What resonates with me from this resource?
- What challenges me from this resource?
- What questions do I have from reading this resource?
- How am I being called to respond?

Dialogue Prompts

- What letter stands out most? Why?
- What do De La Salle's letters communicate about his relationship with those around him?
- How do the spiritual practices shared in De La Salle's letters transfer to contemporary contexts?
- How has the practice of letter writing (giving or receiving) impacted my life?

For more on Lasallian Spirituality, visit

www.lasallian.info/spirituality

This resource is provided by Christian Brothers Conference, the office for the Lasallian Region of North America.