

## An Assessment of John Baptist de La Salle by the Seminary of Saint Sulpice

Translated from the French by Brother Jeffrey L. Calligan, FSC (NOSF District)

When Brother Bernard was writing the first biography of John Baptist de La Salle, he addressed an inquiry to the Seminary of St. Sulpice concerning John Baptist's behavior during his eighteen months there.

*How long did De La Salle live at the seminary?*

*How old was he when he entered and in what year?*

*How was he? What virtues did he practice?*

*Was there anything special that he did and that people noticed when he began the schools in Paris?*

Father Lechassier was the one who responded.

*John Baptist de La Salle was admitted the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1670. He left the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1672.*

*First of all, he was faithful in observing the regulations, exact in the exercises of the community.*

*He quickly detached himself from the world, more so than when he had entered.*

*He was always gentle and polite.*

*He never seemed to me to have annoyed anyone or to have attracted any sort of reproach.*

*When he came to Paris to begin the schools, I recognized in him a marvelous progress in all the virtues.*

*Everyone who knew him saw proof of this, especially in the patience with which he suffered contempt for his person and his conflicts.*

See CL 41/2. Document 51