

## CHAPTER 10

### THE VITALITY OF THE INSTITUTE

RC ch. 1  
Ch.1  
MTR 9  
MTR 15

**141.** The words of St. John Baptist de La Salle are still true: “The need for this Institute is very great”. The young, the poor, the world and the Church still need the ministry of the Brothers.

Despite the difficulties which they meet, the Brothers know, in faith, that God does not abandon “his work” but that “it pleases him, to make it bear fruit day by day”.

MTR 15,3  
1 Cor.  
3,6-15

**142.** The life and development of the Institute depend primarily on the mystery of and the power of grace. By the gift of freedom, however, the Lord has willed to place the destiny of the Institute into the hands of the Brothers who are committed to work together so that it will prosper and remain faithful to its mission. It is above all to Jesus Christ, to his gospel and to his Spirit that the Brothers are faithful.

Med. 6  
MTR 9  
Can. 662  
Can. 758

**143.** The vitality of the Institute depends on the quality and the fidelity of each of its members. Each Brother develops his talents and places them at the service of the Institute which the Founder saw as the “work of God.”

**144.** In their human frailty the Brothers and the entire Institute live the grace of the mystery of Easter and Pentecost.

As they contemplate the history of salvation unfolding in their own lives, they find in the gospel journey of the Founder a call to conversion, constancy in adversity, and the strength to begin anew.

**145.** Each Brother, regardless of his age, has a role to play in the vitality of the Institute. The fidelity of the Brothers is achieved by their daily response to different situations, by getting to know more fully persons and the milieu in which they live and work, and by their determination to find new strength in frequent prayer.

**146.** The spiritual gifts which the Church has received in St. John Baptist de La Salle go far beyond the confines of the Institute which he founded.

The Institute sees the existence of the various Lasallian movements as a grace from God renewing its own vitality. The Institute can associate with itself lay people who want to lead the life of perfection that the Gospel demands, by living according to the spirit of the Institute and by participating in its mission.

The Institute helps them achieve their proper autonomy. At the same time it creates appropriate ties with them and evaluates the authenticity of their

Lasallian character.

RC ch. 16  
D 6-7  
PC 2  
Can. 662

**147.** The Rule defines the meaning of the Brothers' life. It translates into modern terms and reaffirms what St. John Baptist de La Salle intended in his Rule. By their religious profession the Brothers undertake to observe it joyfully, as a personal response by which they continually renew the gift of themselves.

The Brothers make a serious effort to understand the deeper meaning of their Rule. They study it and meditate on it in order to grasp its richness and its spirit, which they can make practical in their daily lives. They are convinced that when they are faithful to the Rule, they are following Jesus Christ and serving him.

**148.** The Brothers' involvement in the pastoral ministry of vocations is a sign of vitality and a gage of the future of the Institute.

D 5-7  
D 53

**149.** The Brothers bear witness to their love for St. John Baptist de La Salle as their Founder. They imitate him in his abandonment to God, his loyalty to the Church, his creative apostolic spirit, and his definitive commitment to the evangelisation of young people.

The life of an Institute is a continual challenge to be creative while remaining faithful to its origins. It can sometimes call for difficult commitments, as John

*art. 149* - THE VITALITY OF THE INSTITUTE

Baptist de La Salle discovered at various points in his life. Today, as in the past, he challenges the Brothers, not only as the one who established the Institute but as the Founder who continues to inspire and to sustain it.

Filled with the spirit which he left them as their legacy, the Brothers grow in the living tradition of the Institute. In communion with those who have gone before them they continue to respond with ardent zeal to the appeals of the Lord, the Church and the world, in order to procure the glory of God.