

1 Let's pause for a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence...

(pause...)

2 John Baptist De La Salle is the patron saint of teachers, and today is the anniversary of his death. 300 years ago he wrote these words for teachers:

3 *"Take even more care of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king."*

4 His words remind all of us of whatever age to respect one another's dignity as unique individuals.

5 A few years ago, a black South African teacher talked of working with black South African schoolchildren. He had spoken to one lad who looked miserable, and said to him:

*"You are created in the image of God. Don't walk round with your eyes cast down."*

It has been said that the job of a Christian school is **not** to make people into something that they are not, but to convince them of who they already are.

6 "Respect" is about treating others in the same way that we would like to be treated. Let's each of us focus on **one** way today of showing respect for others in school.

For example,

- using the person's name when speaking to them;
- holding the door open for whoever is behind us;
- saying "thanks" whenever someone gives us a book or a piece of paper, and when we get our meal in the dining room.

7 Let's pause for a moment and think of **one** practical way today of showing our respect for others...

(pause...)

8 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus,**

**you invite each of us by name  
and you call us "friends".**

**Lead us to show**

**as much respect and care for others  
as we would like them to show for us.**

**Help us to look for**

**and bring out the best**

**in all who share our lives this day.**

**Amen.**

 *John Baptist De La Salle was born in Rheims, France, 30/4/1651, and died on 7/4/1719. He was declared the Patron Saint of teachers in 1950. Some details about his life and inspiration may be obtained by writing to the author.*

 *See also 15 May.*

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
in Great Britain:

[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)