

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