

Lasallian Professional Development

Monthly PD for the New Zealand Lasallian Family of schools - WE ARE ONE LASALLE!
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this issue

21st Century Strategies to help you grasp the idea of PIETY and how this applies today in your own classes.

The origins of the 12 Virtues...

In 1785, just before the French Revolution, Brother Agathon, who was the fifth Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, wrote a document called 'The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher'. The list of virtues is like sage advice that a teacher might receive from an experienced Year Level Dean or similar.

The 12 Virtues combines two important pieces of work of St. John Baptist De La Salle's. The spiritual vision of his Meditations and the practical pedagogy of his Conduct of Christian Schools.

The 12 Virtues help answer the fundamental question for teachers in Lasallian schools: *"If I am to touch the hearts of my students and teach them in the best possible way, what practices should I follow and what vision should I have for them?"*

Br Agathon reminds the teacher - if you have a problem in your class, look to your own behaviour first.

12 Virtues and 12 months of 2013. Each month, I aim to provide you with useful, modern strategies, that will allow you to bring De La Salle's ideas right into your own classrooms. I kindly acknowledge Br. Jeffery Calligan for his work on this material and real insight. Enjoy learning about piety!

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The 12 Virtues of a Good Teacher - PIETY

Piety

The teacher, knowing each pupil is a child of God, will confide them to God's protection while doing everything possible to prepare them for life.

Do you have the PIETY that Michael shows below?

Piety



Michael is a teacher who is not ego-driven. He believes that his gifts have been given to him by God to be used for others. He does his best and leaves the results to God. If he gets a class he doesn't particularly want, he accepts it knowing that this is where God thinks he is most needed. Michael is willing to learn from his students.

PIETY

A virtue that makes us fulfill worthily our duties toward God.



Strategy 0-2: Prayer in the Christian School.

Purpose: Prayer is the “wrap” which surrounds and animates all the activities and proceedings of the Christian School.

Description: The Christian School as envisaged by De La Salle is first and foremost the “work of God”. Its purpose is the well-being of its students. This is the conviction of the Lasallian Teachers. In time it becomes the conviction of the student.

The presence of God: Lasallian prayer begins with a recalling that we are always and everywhere in the presence of our omni-present, all-provident God. The formula used is: “Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.” After the formula is recited by a prayer leader, there is always a time of silence for about a minute. It is in this moment of silence that the class and its teacher exercise a moment of interiority. Several things may occur during this time of silence.

- One may focus on breath and simply on “being here”.
- One may recall that God is present here by power and love.
- One may recall that God is here because the school is God’s privileged place of presence.
- One may recall that God is present because we are a people gathered in the name of Jesus who has promised to be present where two or more gather in his name.

After recalling the presence of God, one joins in communal vocal prayer.

Closing prayer: Lasallian prayer closes with a series of short prayers. Usual among these is the prayer to St. John Baptist de La Salle. The Leader says “St. John Baptist de La Salle” and the group says “pray for us.” The final prayer is always the “community signal” *Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever!* The Leader says “Live, Jesus, in our hearts.” The community responds “Forever!”

The prayer that surrounds our activities helps us keep things in a faith perspective that is animating and enlivening. Through it we see all things with eyes of faith, we do all with God in view and we attribute all to God. This is the spirit of faith upon which our Lasallian perspective is founded.

