

# 100 Short Quotes

Saint John Baptist De La Salle



by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC



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St. Helens, England  
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## INTRODUCTION

In 2003 a collection was printed of quotations of St. John Baptist De La Salle for each day of the year: *Walking with John Baptist De La Salle in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Over a third of the quotes were date-specific, and that text has since been adapted for local use and published in the USA and in the PARC Region (Australasia and the Far East), as well as forming a part of the Lasallian Resources CD-ROM produced in the Philippines.

This new compilation is a selection of shortened quotations from that previous text, and is intended primarily for use by schools. The 100 brief quotable lines from our Saint's writings are gathered thematically. Use of this resource could be a practical means of enabling staff, students and parents gain greater access to the inspiration of John Baptist De La Salle, perhaps helping make more overt certain Lasallian characteristics of the school. Among these accessible phrases can be found:

- ☞ words that can be quoted or incorporated into a school's documentation;
- ☞ appropriate phrases for use in PowerPoint presentations;
- ☞ memorable quotes in preparing for Founder's Day;
- ☞ a selection of phrases which could appear one at a time in regular printed staff bulletins and parental newsletters, possibly as a 'pause for thought';
- ☞ a quote-a-day/week for display on a desk or wall ( a separate file in large type can be emailed to you as an attachment, ready for printing eight quotes per A4-size page);
- ☞ texts that can be superimposed on photographs taken in school that portray encounters and relationships, which are then printed and laminated/framed as A3 posters. This could be a challenging project for students to undertake themselves, and posters can easily be transformed electronically into cards and bookmarks.

Included in this collection are poignant phrases such as "touching hearts" (46,59,96-98), "the children of a king" (95), "know your students individually" (91), "show cheerfulness in your face" (79-80), "inspire and lead others by encouraging them" (81), "being on friendly terms with others" (71-81), "the friendship of Jesus", (29), "God carrying us when the road is rough" (68), "the miracles of God's providence" (53), "seeing things

quite differently” (54), “God has chosen you to make him known” (15-18), “thank God for his many blessings” (34-35), and “take pride in your ministry” (27). The final quote of the collection (100) implies much about a teacher.

Even amidst the brevity of these quotes from 300 years ago, readers will perceive that much is conveyed in John’s occasional use of the term “disciples” (23, 44-47) in addition to “students”, of “guiding” (22, 42) as well as “teaching”, and of “correction” (87) rather than “punishment”. Included is mention of effects of what today we call ‘body language’ (90).

The number of each quote has a suffix: ‘T’ being those passages applicable only to teachers and colleagues, whilst ‘A’ designates those that can refer to all—students and educators alike. With most quotes being only a sentence in length, the context may not be appreciated fully, but precise references are given, enabling the reader to discover more from the sources. When re-printing any of these quotes for the likes of posters, there is unlikely to be a need to incorporate the detailed source reference, but the name of St John Baptist De La Salle should be included, lest people assume that the words come from Scripture or, indeed, from the mouth of the head teacher!

To request an electronic copy of these quotes (as also of the previous collection, *Walking with...*), please e-mail [Nicholas@prayingeachday.org](mailto:Nicholas@prayingeachday.org).

Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC  
St. Helens, England  
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## **Abbreviations**

EMP: *Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer* by John Baptist de La Salle.

MTR: *Meditations for the Time of Retreat* by John Baptist de La Salle.

## IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- 1A. “Wherever I go I will find you, my God.” (Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer: example of an act of faith)
- 2A. “Often remind yourself that God is with you.” (Letter 87—to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)
- 3A. “Often remind yourself that you are in the presence of God.” (Letter 3—to Brother Denis in Rethel, 30 May 1701)
- 4A. “Learn from Jesus by often being in his company.” (Med 78.2— Feast of St Andrew, Apostle)
- 5A. “It is in the company of Jesus that you work for the glory of God.” (Med 78.2—Feast of St Andrew, Apostle)
- 6A. “Remembering that God is with you will help and inspire you in all that you do.” (Letter 2—to a Brother, 15 May 1701. This letter is the earliest extant letter of the Founder written to a Brother, and the original is preserved in the Provinciate, Oxford)

## CALLING

- 7A. “How long has Jesus been knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to enter?” (Med 85.1—Vigil of the Nativity)
- 8A. “Prepare a path for God so that he can enter your heart.” (Med 2.1)
- 9A. “God inspires us to walk in the footsteps of his Son.” (Med 3.3)
- 10A. “Walk along God’s path.” (Med 75.3)
- 11A. “Follow the inspirations that come to you from God.” (Letter 86—to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)
- 12A. “May God continue what he has begun in you.” (Letter 46—to Brother Robert in Darnetal, just outside Rouen, 1709)
- 13A. “You have received talents and graces from God.” (MTR 13.1 [Med 205.1])
- 14A. “God has given you so many graces.” (Med 51.2)
- 15A. “God has chosen you to do his work.” (MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])
- 16A. “God has chosen you to make him known to others.” (Med 146.2—on St. Anne, mother of the Most Blessed Virgin)

- 17A.** “You are called like the apostles to make God known to others.” (Med 78.2—feast of St. Andrew, apostle)
- 18T.** “God has called you to your ministry.” (MTR 14.1 [Med 206.1])
- 19T.** “God entrusts to you his care of the young.” (Med 37.3))
- 20T.** “Young people need good teachers, like visible angels.” (MTR 5.1 [Med 197.1])
- 21T.** “To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God.” (MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])
- 22T.** “Young people need the light of watchful guides to lead them on the path of salvation.” (MTR 5.3 [Med 197.3])
- 23T.** “Have you been helping your disciples practice the good that is appropriate to their age?” (Med 51.2)
- 24T** “Do your part to help build up the kingdom of God in the hearts of your students.” (Med 67.1)
- 25T.** “This work of teaching is one of the most important in the Church.” (MTR 7.1 [Med 199.1])
- 26T.** “Fulfil your ministry with all the affection of your heart.” (MTR 9.1 [Med 201.1])
- 27T.** “Take pride in your ministry.” (MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])
- 28T.** “Take care that your school runs well.” (Letter 42—to Brother Robert in Darnetal [5 kms. from Rouen city centre], 26 February 1709)

## PRAYING

- 29T.** “As teachers, you need to be honoured with the friendship of Jesus.” (Med 88.1—feast of St. John the evangelist)
- 30A.** “Show the great love you have for Jesus by being eager to talk with him in prayer.” (Med 144.3—on St. Mary Magdalen)
- 31A.** “Say to Jesus as the apostles did: ‘Lord, teach us to pray’.” (Letter 111—to a member of a religious community of women, date unknown)
- 32A.** “Each day renew your offering to God.” (Letter 32—to Brother Gabriel Drolin in Rome: From St. Yon [in a suburb of Rouen], 5 December 1716)



- 33T.** “Thank God for the grace he has given you in your work.” (MTR 7.3 [Med 199.3])
- 34A.** “Do not forget to thank God for his many blessings.” (Letter 76—to a Brother Director, date unknown)
- 35A.** “I have received, my God, so many blessings from you.” (EMP—example of an act of thanksgiving)
- 36A.** “I shall pray to God for you, and will have many others pray for you and your needs.” (Letter 23—to Brother Gabriel Drolin in Rome, from Paris, 12 May 1706)
- 37A.** “I will often pray to God for you.” (Letter 58—to Brother Mathias in Mende, from Paris, 13 January 1708)
- 38A.** “I do not fail to pray for you and for the success of your work.” (Letter 28—to Bro Gabriel Drolin in Rome, 12 May 1710)
- 39A.** “Let us pray before starting whatever we need to do.” (Med 107.1—feast of St. Matthias, apostle)
- 40A.** “The more you devote yourself in prayer the more you will do well in your work.” (Med 95.1—Feast of St. Genevieve)
- 41A.** “Prayer draws down God’s graces on others.” (Letter 5—to Brother Denis in Darnetal, 1 August 1708)
- 42T.** “Lift up your hands to heaven to draw down God’s blessings on those you are guiding.” (Med 189.1—feast of St. Martin)
- 43T.** “You must pray not only for yourself but also for those whom you are guiding.” (Med 187.2—feast of St Charles Borromeo)
- 44T.** “Bring to Jesus in prayer the needs of your disciples.” (MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])
- 45T.** “It is important that you teach your disciples to pray.” (MTR 10.2 [Med 202.2])
- 46A.** “Often ask God for the grace to touch hearts.” (Med 81.2—feast of St Ambrose of Milan)
- 47T.** “When you encounter some difficulty in the guidance of your disciples, turn to God with confidence.” (MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

## EXAMPLE

- 48A.** “Example makes a much greater impression than words.” (MTR 10.3 [Med 202.3])
- 49T.** “Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.” (Med 99.2—on the life of St. John Chrysostom)
- 50T.** “The young should be able to see in your wisdom how they should behave.” (Med 132.1—on St. Norbert)
- 51T.** “The way you behave should be a model for those you teach.” (Med 132.1—on St. Norbert)
- 52T.** “Your faith should be a shining light for those whom you teach.” (Med 178.1—feast of St. Luke, evangelist)

## BEING FAITHFUL

- 53A.** “The miracles of God’s Providence take place every day.” (Part of the Founder’s address to the first teachers about Providence, as quoted in Blain)
- 54A.** “In the light of faith you see things quite differently.” (Letter 118—to a laywoman, date unknown)
- 55A.** “Live by the spirit of faith.” (Letter 111—to a member of a religious community of women, date unknown)
- 56-A** “Let your chief study be the Bible, that it may be the guiding rule of your life.” (Med 170.1—feast of St. Jerome)
- 57A.** “Let it be your chief study to put the Gospel into practice.” (Med 171.3—for the feast of St. Remigius, Patron of Rheims)
- 58A.** “Let the way you live be that of the Gospel.” (Med 84.3 - feast of St. Thomas, apostle)
- 59A.** “God’s word is powerful in touching hearts.” (Med 180.2—feast of St. Hilarion)
- 60A.** “Receive Jesus today with respect and thanksgiving.” (Med 114.2—on St. Leo)
- 61A.** “Earnestly ask Jesus that his Spirit may be alive in you.” (MTR 4.1 [Med 196.1])

- 62A.** “Think of what a blessing it is that the Holy Spirit lives in you.” (Med 62.2)
- 63A.** “You can do more with the grace of God than you think.” (“Reflections: The Use of Time” in *Collection of Various Short Treatises*)
- 64A.** “Don’t be discouraged by anxieties and troubles. Life is full of them.” (Letter 102—to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)
- 65A.** “Do not be disheartened by the difficulties you experience.” (Letter 90—to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)
- 66A.** “Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God’s hands for he will take care of you.” (Letter 101—to an unnamed Brother, date unknown)
- 67A.** “God is more ready than ever to welcome you into his arms.” (Letter 108—to a member of a religious community of women, date unknown)
- 68A.** “Throw yourself into God’s arms. He will carry you when the road is rough.” (Palm Sunday)
- 69A.** “God’s compassion for you is greater than the troubles you have.” (Med 38.1)
- 70A.** “Leave the result in God’s hands.” (Letter 11—to Brother Hubert [probably at Chartres], 20 July 1709)

## RELATING

- 71A.** “It is impossible to please God if you do not live on friendly terms with others.” (Letter 47—to Brother Robert in Darnetal, 1709)
- 72A.** “God of love, set me aflame with love for you and for my neighbour.” (EMP—example of considering Jesus Christ in the form of the Blessed Sacrament)
- 73A.** “Put up with the faults of others and be generous towards them.” (Letter 105—to a member of a religious community of men, date unknown)
- 74A.** “Be warm-hearted to everyone, speaking to others in a gentle and respectful way.” (Letter 105—to a member of a religious community of men, date unknown)
- 75A.** “Never speak to anyone except with kindness.” (Med 65.2)

- 76A.** “Always address people by their names and with great respect.” (*Rule*, Chapter 8)
- 77A.** “Have great respect for each person you are with.” (Part 1, Chapter 2 in *The Rules of Christian Decorum and Civility*)
- 78A.** “I always have for you the highest esteem and regard.” (Letter 122—to a layman)
- 79A.** “Your face should be happy, showing gentleness and respect.” (Part 1, Chapter 4 in *The Rules of Christian Decorum and Civility*)
- 80A.** “Always show cheerfulness in your face.” (Virtues: Modesty in *Collection of Various Short Treatises*)
- 81A.** “Inspire and lead others by encouraging them.” (MTR 1:2 [Med 193.2])
- 82T.** “Look upon those whom God has entrusted to you as his own children.” (Med 133.2—on St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland)
- 83T.** “Your students are living images of Jesus.” (Med 80.3—feast of St. Nicholas)
- 84T.** “Are you ready to give your very life, so dear to you are the young people entrusted to you?” (MTR 6.2 [Med 198.2])
- 85T.** “Enkindle the love of Jesus in the hearts of the young.” (Med 102.2—on St. Ignatius, martyr)
- 86T.** “To deal with young people very harshly is to forego all hope of bringing about any good.” (Med 114.2—on St. Leo)
- 87T.** “How to correct others depends on knowledge and discernment of character.” (Med 33.1)
- 88T.** “Some students require great mildness, while others need to be directed with firmness.” (Med 33.1)
- 89T.** “Take care not to let yourself be carried away by impatience in class.” (Letter 60—to Brother Mathias in Mende, from Paris, 23 March 1708)
- 90A.** “[First-time teachers] should enter the classroom with a deliberate and grave air, head held high and looking at all the students in a bold manner, as if they had thirty years’ experience.” (*The Conduct of Schools*)

## TOUCHING HEARTS

- 91T.** “Know your students individually and be able to understand them.”  
(Med 33.1)
- 92T.** “Show much kindness and love for the young people you teach.” (Med 134.2—on St. Barnabas)
- 93T.** “Have much care and affection for the young people entrusted to you.” (Med 110.3—feast of St. Joseph)
- 94T.** “By the care you take of your students show that you have a real love for them.” (Med 80.3—feast of St. Nicholas)
- 95T.** “Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king.” (Med 133.2—on St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland)
- 96T.** “You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.” (Med 180.3—feast of St. Hilarion)
- 97T.** “To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform.” (Med 139.3—feast of St. Peter)
- 98T.** “God expects you to touch hearts.” (Med 139.3—feast of St. Peter)
- 99T.** “The more loving you are to the young, the greater will be the effects of God’s grace.” (Med 134.2—on St. Barnabas)
- 100T.** “Do you build on the affection that the young people have for you to lead them to God?” (Med 101.3—on the life of St. Francis de Sales)





