Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

**OPENING SONG (optional):** All Creatures of Our God and King

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit you led Saint John Baptist de La Salle to follow Jesus, our brother, by committing him to an evangelizing educational mission.

As we celebrate the tricentenary of our Founder’s passing to eternal life, we celebrate and give thanks for our common heritage and our vitality through our association for the transformative human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor.

We celebrate and give thanks for the commitment of Brothers and Lay Partners.
We celebrate and give thanks for the young people who are at the center of our mission.
We celebrate and give thanks for the inspiration we continue to find in our Holy Founder.

By often recalling Your presence, may you continue to guide us in our living of the Gospel so that in a spirit of faith and zeal we may continue to carry out the Lasallian educational mission.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**SACRED SCRIPTURE:** Romans 10:1, 10-15

Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God on their behalf is for salvation. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!”
CONTEMPORARY VOICE: Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, June 2014

The legacy John Baptist de La Salle and the first Brothers bequeath to us today began on Easter 1680. Michel Sauvage, FSC, one of the foremost interpreters of the Founder, sets the context for us: “This date marks the beginning for the upheaval of the entire internal universe of De La Salle. It marks the perceptible taking hold of a process of interior and social liberation which [brought] him to a point where he had neither the intention, the desire, nor the courage to go by himself.”

In other words, together and by association, a fundamental characteristic of Lasallian charism and identity, emerges for De La Salle in Easter. Together and by association—at least the term—was born in the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. This explains why the Brothers’ vow of association—our first vow—is indispensable to our identity.

Brother Michel points out “the unifying principle of all the spiritual teaching of De La Salle is found in his teaching on the Holy Spirit. For De La Salle, it is the Spirit who leads him to an ever more profound knowledge of ... the living God who saves. It is the Spirit that gives him his special charism.... It is the Spirit who leads the Brothers as it had led him to see the most urgent needs of [children and] young people. It is the Spirit who sends the Brothers to [them] with the enthusiasm, the hope, and the power to enter into combat against the injustice of the world.”

In faith and hope, we trust the Spirit leads and sends us today, Brothers and Lasallian Partners, together and by association, into the mission field of Christian education and evangelization.

PERSONAL MEDITATION

Take a few minutes to sit in silence with the word from Paul’s Letter to the Romans and Brother Ernest’s remarks, letting what speaks to you in their words rise to the surface.

COMMUNAL SHARING (optional)

If you are praying with others, take a few minutes to share together what is on your mind and heart. As you consider your own Lasallian journey, what do you celebrate? For what do you give thanks?
INTERCESSIONS: Responses from the writings of the Founder

Good and Gracious God, as we celebrate and give thanks, bless us with wisdom and trust.
“Live by the spirit of faith. You are in God’s presence; that is more than enough for you.”

Good and Gracious God, as we celebrate and give thanks, give us the patience and perseverance to respond to the needs before us.
“Be convinced of what St. Paul says, that you plan and water the seed, but it is God who makes it grow.”

Good and Gracious God, as we celebrate and give thanks, may we generously offer our gifts and talents.
“Be satisfied with what you can do, since God is satisfied with it. You can do more with the grace of God than you think.”

Good and gracious God, as we celebrate and give thanks, guide us in serving the young people entrusted to our care.
To touch the hearts of your pupils and to inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform, and one which God expects of you.

Good and gracious God, as we celebrate and give thanks, we ask that our commitment may be deepened.
“God, who conducts all things with wisdom and gentleness, has done so in a quite imperceptibly way so that one commitment led me into another.”

Time for Personal Intercessions

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.
CLOSING PRAYER: Prayer for the Tricentenary of the Founder’s passing to Eternal Life (adapted)

God, our Father and Mother,
You love us with endless mercy.
You call us to be your sons and daughters.

Give us a generous heart.
A heart of flesh that “burns within us.”
A heart always willing to love.
A compassionate heart for those who suffer.
A heart where there is a place
for all Lasallians around the world.

Lord Jesus,
You call us to follow you.
Give us the courage to live our commitment.
Teach us to go beyond our borders.
Teach us to discover you in the lowliest.
Teach us to look with the eyes of faith.
Teach us to share our mission
with all Lasallians of the whole world.

Holy Spirit,
You call us to live with joy.
Fill us with your grace to live the values of the Gospel.
Fill us with your grace to be active members in your Church.
Fill us with your grace so that we may be credible witnesses,
together with the entire Lasallian Family, in the midst of our world.

Together and by association,
we wish to renew our Lasallian commitment,
and, in an attitude of thanksgiving, celebrate
these 300 years of life.

We ask this through Mary’s intercession,
Queen and Mother of the Christian Schools.
And through the intercession of Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
Universal Patron of Christian Educators.
Amen.