

“I, John Baptist de La Salle” Directed Reading Guide

The following questions are good questions to keep in mind or fill-in on this sheet as you read. They will be very similar to the questions on the test during the first week of school.

Introduction

1. Why is the year 1980 significant to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools?
2. How does the author, Br. Leo, describe or envision the life of De La Salle?
3. Why does the author, Br. Leo, claim that De La Salle is a “radical and a revolutionary”?

Roots and Wings

4. When was De La Salle born?
5. Where and in what country did De LaSalle live?
6. What was the city of Rheims known for?
7. From what socio-economic status did De La Salle come? Describe his family’s background.
8. What are the reasons De La Salle decided to enter the seminary?
9. What is a “tonsure”? Why was it done?
10. Describe De La Salle’s education.
11. What does it mean to be a “sacristy priest”? Was De La Salle one of those?
12. Who was Adrian Nyel? Explain his significance in De La Salle’s life.

The Seed Years

13. What did De La Salle start in 1680?
14. What were some things De La Salle started doing to distinguish his group of teachers?

DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

15. In De La Salle's day, what qualifications were needed to become a teacher?

The Growing Years

16. What happened in 1686?

17. What troubles started on the horizon for De La Salle and the Brothers?

18. What was it about the Brothers as teachers that the students really loved?

19. What benefits for De La Salle came from having the Brothers work in schools in large cities?

20. Pages 29-32, Br. Leo lists a variety of innovations the Brothers began in education. List as many as you can find.

21. What was the password for the Christian Brothers' communities?

22. What spiritually happened to De La Salle in when he was 60?

23. What did De La Salle convince the Brothers to do in 1717?

24. What news did De La Salle receive approximately 2 days before his death?

25. What is the fundamental spirit of the Brothers? Explain why.

The Harvest

26. How does De La Salle live on today?

27. What honor did Pope Pius XII bestow in 1950 on De La Salle?

28. What were De La Salle's dying words? How were they an appropriate reflection on his life?

Conclusion

29. How are we called to face the world today, according to Br. Leo Kirby? Why?

30. How, or in what ways, has your journey to become a student at Saint John Paul II Academy been reflected in the life of John Baptist De La Salle?