

Trinity Sunday

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
prostrate with the most profound respect before your infinite and adorable majesty,
I consecrate myself entirely to you to procure your glory
as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me.*

Dear Brothers,

Trinity Sunday is a significant solemnity for Brothers of the Christian Schools around the world. It was on Trinity Sunday in 1686 at the conclusion of the first assembly of the new community of teachers that De La Salle and 12 Brothers first professed vows and began to establish a more stable religious community. A year later, 8 of the 12 Brothers renewed those vows and the tradition of renewing vows on Trinity Sunday has continued throughout the Institute. It is a day to recall the depth of our vocational commitment to consecrate ourselves entirely to God.

For 338 years the challenge of our formula of vows remains, “to procure your glory as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me.” By our profession of vows, we commit ourselves to a daily pursuit of *procuring the glory of God*. What does that look like in 2024?

I think the words of the Founder can help us discover a sense of renewal in our consecration. In his *Meditation for the Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost*, De La Salle exhorts us:

It is to you especially that Jesus Christ addresses these words of the Gospel: Seek first the kingdom of God. In fact, you should not have come to this house except to seek here the reign of God, first for yourself, and second for those whose instruction God has entrusted to you. Here you should seek only to establish within your soul this reign of God both in this life and in the next. (Med. 67.1)

The “glory of God” is revealed in Jesus Christ and it is procured by working to establish the Reign of God, “on earth as it is in heaven” as Jesus taught in the Gospels. As Pope Francis observes, “The presence of Jesus is everything. This is where the strength of a consecrated vocation is found. A consecrated life in which Jesus is not present with his Word in the Gospel, with his inspiration does not work. Without the enamored passion for Jesus there is no possible future for consecrated life.” (*The Strength of Vocation*)

Each of us, regardless of our ministerial status, continues to work to procure God's glory by seeking the reign of God. God's glory is procured when we engage in ministry with generosity, joy and love for young people. God's glory is procured through acts of kindness in community towards our Brothers. God's glory is procured by accepting physical diminishment with serenity. God's glory is procured when we struggle with questions or doubts about our vocation in the Spirit of Faith, believing that God does not abandon us, even if we must bear a cross. God's glory is procured when personal preferences are put to the side to ensure the vitality and future of the District and Institute.

Brother, may this Trinity Sunday be an opportunity for us to quietly reflect on the awesome commitment we have made to God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through our profession of vows as Brothers of the Christian Schools. This profession of vows reminds us that God is not done with us yet. There is much to be done for the Reign of God. Let's get to it as far as we are able and as God will require of us!

Live Jesus in our hearts!

