

# The Vocation of the Brothers

F A I T H



C O M M U N I T Y



S E R V I C E



## What is a Brother?

A Brother is a single man who dedicates his life to a specific ministry or work within a certain religious family. In some orders, there are both Priests - those engaged in sacramental ministry - and Brothers. Other orders have only Priests. The De La Salle Christian Brothers have only Brothers. For the Brother, the primary means of service, holiness, fulfillment and joy is through the specific mission of his religious order.

## What are the qualifications for becoming a Brother?

Candidates for the Brothers are single men who have found themselves drawn to the ministry of teaching, the experience of prayer, and the life of community. They are usually between the ages of 20 - 40 and either have finished or are currently enrolled in a college or university. They have had some "life" experience and are open to exploring the joys and challenges of an active religious community devoted to the education of the young, especially the poor.

## What are the steps in the process of becoming a Brother?

After an initial series of conversation, a qualified candidate becomes a "Contact" - which means that they participate in occasional activities with the Brothers, regularly meet with one of the Brothers, and engage in some educational service during the year. Later, after a year or more, as an "Aspirant" he explores more seriously the life of the Brothers by staying in a community or apostolate for some period of time, taking part in a retreat, and working at one of the Brothers' schools. If approved, the next step would be to live in a community as a "Postulant" where classes, activities and experiences are geared towards preparation for the Novitiate year of training & prayer.

For More Information:

[www.brothersvocation.org](http://www.brothersvocation.org) or  
[www.lasallenetwork.org](http://www.lasallenetwork.org)

Contact:

Br. George Van Grieken, FSC  
Director of Vocation Ministry  
(707) 252 - 3861  
[br.george@dlsi.org](mailto:br.george@dlsi.org)

## Are there Brothers who become priests?

Early on, De La Salle and the Brothers decided that they would best serve their mission by concentrating entirely on the ministry of teaching. The only priest in the order was him. Today, the Brothers remain the largest group of lay religious men in the Church devoted exclusively to education.

Those who are called to priestly ministry, along with teaching, will find very good religious orders that do so. The Brothers bring the Gospel to the educational world with singleness of devotion and purpose, solely through teaching ministry.

## What are some of the "joys and challenges" of a Brothers?

- A world-wide religious family who are dedicated, loving, individual, prayerful, down-to-earth, funny and pretty happy.
- A wide variety of educational opportunities and ministries, from storefront schools to schools for the disadvantaged to large high schools to top colleges and universities.
- There's always a place that needs you, always a community that welcomes you, and always a need that calls out to you.
- Daily life is punctuated by times for prayer, times for study, times for teaching, and times for community activities.
- Personal and professional relationships grow wider and deeper as the years progress - all of them informed and transformed by one's relationship with God.

## If it's so great, why doesn't everyone become a Brother?

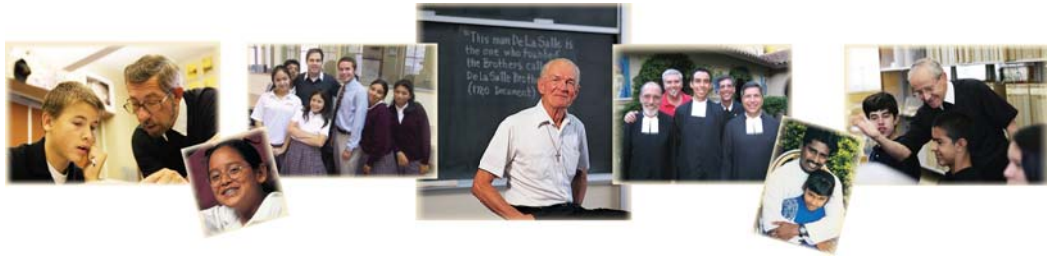
Because finally it is a "vocation" or "call" just like the single life, marriage, or priesthood. If it's a fit for you, you've found what most people would describe as "home." The challenge is to have the courage to find out, since no one else can do that for you. The reward is finding out. There is no down side.

LIVE SIMPLY PRAY DEEPLY TEACH PASSIONATELY



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# The Lasallian Educational Network



**St. John Baptist de La Salle (1651 – 1719)** began an educational heritage of more than 300 years that ranges from store-front schools to great universities in over 80 countries. He is the Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (known as the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the United States) and is the inspiration for some 77,000 educators in Lasallian institutions around the world. His writings continue to shape what teachers teach, how teachers teach, and why teachers teach. He is the Patron Saint of All Teachers of Youth in the Catholic Church. [www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org)

**The Vocation of the Brothers** is a religious commitment to “association for the service of the poor through education.” Brothers are men who dedicate their lives to God in the ministry of education. They are serious about prayer, live a life in common, and are devoted to the lives of young people, especially the poor. The De La Salle Christian Brothers are the largest group of lay religious men in the Catholic Church who are dedicated exclusively to education. [www.brothersvocation.org](http://www.brothersvocation.org)

**Lasallian Education around the world** includes both formal institutions (64 colleges/universities, 900 primary/secondary schools, etc.) and innovative programs that reach out to those in need (30 vans in France to teach Gypsy children, a youth-crisis phone line in Australia that receives 30,000 calls a week, Catalyst Charter schools in Chicago, etc.). In non-Christian countries, Lasallian schools quietly witness to God’s Presence in all our lives and present Christ’s example in action. We are present in 84 countries around the world. [www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org)

**Lasallian educational spirituality** arose from the experience of De La Salle and the early Brothers, developed through 300 years of expansion among many cultures, and forms the core of today’s Lasallian schools and agencies. It is a spirituality that has the school as its setting, the teacher as its focus, and the salvific potential of education as its inspiration. Elements include faith in the presence of God, quality education, concern for the poor and social justice, life through Jesus Christ, and a respect for all persons within an inclusive community. [www.lasallenetwork.org](http://www.lasallenetwork.org)

**Lasallian Volunteers** are dedicated, well-trained men and women who provide one or more years of service to schools and agencies of the Brothers whose mission is to serve the poor. Acting out of faith, rooted in the gospel, and sharing community with the Brothers and other Lasallians, the Volunteers empower the poor by personalized service primary through education. Lasallian Volunteers change the world for the better and discover themselves transformed in the process. [www.lasallianvolunteers.org](http://www.lasallianvolunteers.org)

**Lasallian Institutions in the United States** comprise a wide spectrum of institutions and agencies. These include 7 Colleges / Universities, 54 High Schools, 13 Middle Schools, 17 “San Miguel” Schools, 3 Cristo Rey High Schools, and 5 elementary schools. There are also many programs that address special educational needs, such as court-adjudicated youth, after school care, and residential supervision. New schools and educational outreach efforts continue to be established every year. [www.cbconf.org](http://www.cbconf.org)

“People are hungry, especially the young.  
They are hungry for God and you  
are here to satisfy that hunger.  
Be faithful to the great gift that God made  
you to be teachers, educators, light,  
His light in the world among young people.  
The future of the world depends on what you do.”



Mother Teresa  
(Talk to the De La Salle Christian Brothers)

The Brothers have “demonstrated permanency  
by providing for over three centuries an  
astonishing array of activities from the most basic  
literacy learning to the most complicated  
technological learning for both children and adults . .  
. so that they can be fully integrated  
into community and society.”



United Nations  
(UNESCO Noma Prize)

“Union in a community is a precious gem,  
which is why Our Lord so often  
recommended it to his apostles before he died.  
If we lose this, we lose everything.  
Preserve it with care, therefore, if you want  
your community to survive.”

St. John Baptist de La Salle