

1725 YEAR OF
1950 Lasallian
2025 SPIRITUALITY



La  Salle

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In today's Gospel Jesus Christ compares those who have charge of souls to a good shepherd who has great care for the sheep.¹

One quality he must possess, according to our Saviour, is to know each one of them² individually.

This ought also to be one of the main concerns of those who instruct others: to be able to understand their students and to discern the right way to guide them.

They must show more mildness toward some, more firmness toward others.

There are those who call for much patience, those who need to be stimulated and spurred on, some who need to be reprovved and punished to correct them of their faults, others who must be constantly watched over to prevent them from being lost or going astray.

MD 33.1

DeSales

Reflection by Kevin Ahern - United States of America

The model of Christ as the Good Shepherd points to a distinguishing element of the Lasallian educational project. Each and every student in our schools and universities should feel seen, understood, and loved.

This is more important in the post-COVID era, as many young people report experiences of loneliness and disconnection from caring adults. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis challenged church leaders to bridge the distances between themselves and the people they serve, to embrace “human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others” (24). As Lasallian educators, we too are called to “take on the smell of the sheep”.

This, as we know, is not always easy. Differences of age, power, and status can create uncomfortable gaps and many of us lack the time and support needed to get to know our students as persons. Thankfully, Christ offers a radical counter-cultural model of humble service that can inspire us as individuals and institutions to rethink our priorities and pedagogies.