



FEBRUARY

N. 8/2025

Experience founded on the unvarying teachings of the saints and the examples which they have set us affords sufficient proof that to perfect those who are committed to our care, we must act toward them in a manner at the same time both gentle and firm.

Many, however, are obliged to admit – or they show by their behavior toward those confided to their care – that they do not see how these two things can easily be joined in practice. If, for example, absolute authority and an overbearing attitude are assumed in dealing with children, it is likely that a teacher will find it difficult to keep this way of acting from becoming harsh and unbearable.

Although this course may begin as great zeal, it is not wise, as Saint Paul says, because it overlooks human weakness.

CE 15,0,3

De La Salle

Reflection by Br. David Frédéric OUEDRAOGO, FSC – Scolasticat Saint Miguel d'Abidjan

This text illustrates a fundamental principle of Lasallian Spirituality: the balance between gentleness and firmness in the guidance of souls and the education of the young.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle insisted on a pedagogy that combined benevolent authority and empathetic understanding. Gentleness expresses the evangelical love that respects the dignity and rhythm of each individual, while firmness guarantees the justice, order and rigour necessary for personal growth.

This approach of the holy founder embodies the presence of God in the educational relationship between the educator and the learner. In this way, the Lasallian mission goes beyond mere instruction to aim for the integral formation of the student, in a spirit of faith, fraternity and service.

Long live Lasallian Spirituality!