Further Reflections

The nature of spirituality assumes different characteristics in different vocations. However, Lasallian spirituality is specifically defined in the life and works of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

“When one looks at the Lasallian part of Lasallian spirituality, two things are immediately evident ... 1. Lasallian spirituality is a spirituality that has the school as its setting, the teacher as its focus, and the salvific potential of education as its inspiration. De La Salle’s writings show that the Lasallian educator’s life with his or her students constitutes the very center of his or her religious experience. For the Lasallian educator, the school is the privileged place where God is to be encountered.

“There is no separation between the professional journey and the spiritual journey. Both are aspects of a single vocation and commitment to education. ... 2. The Life of Christ lying at the core of De La Salle’s commitments also lies at the core of Lasallian spirituality. ... Christ is to be found in the teacher ... in the student ... in the work of education ... in the prayer of education.” —From Touching the Hearts of Students: Characteristics of Lasallian Schools, by Brother George Van Grieken, F.S.C.

“God himself calls the teacher and chooses him for the ‘ministry’ of education. His daily work in school is an expression of God’s will. ... So the teacher sees himself, in his relationship with the children, as a ‘minister of God’ and an ‘ambassador of Jesus Christ.’” —From Lasallian Themes 3, by Christian Brothers Generalate, Rome, 1997.

We invite feedback on this issue and welcome ideas for future installments of the series. Please contact Marian Butcher at butcher@lasalle.edu.