

« Overcome by illness, stretched on a bed of pain, Jean-Baptiste de La Salle wished to die erect. Vested with the stole and surplice, kneeling before God who came to visit him, he pronounced these words, the summary of his life, the secret of his holiness :

« Yes I adore in all things God's will as regards me. » Such virtues are entitled to the glory of heaven and the honors of the altars (1).

Such were the life and the precious death of the founder of the Christian Schools, Jean-Baptiste de la Salle.

Among the founders of religious orders, not one has so truly as he applied to himself these words of the divine Master : *Sinite parvulos venire ad me. Suffer little children to come unto me.* The whole of his life was devoted to evangelizing the poor, to teaching little ones the doctrine of the Gospel. When God summoned this good and faithful servant to glory, he left behind him an immortal work which was to make Jesus Christ known to children of all languages, of all nations.

At present the sons of St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, to the number of 16,000 scattered all over the world, have more than fifteen hundred schools and teach over 420,000 pupils.

Their hidden and disinterested devotedness deserves reward from God, the gratitude of the people and the admiration of all.

IV. The canonization of St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle is the triumph of Christian education. This signal benefactor of childhood and youth had felt that, after the priest, nothing is more necessary in a parish than a Catholic teacher, and he did not consider that he was doing too much in devoting his whole life to the foundation of a work whose object would be to secure for the children of the people the inestimable blessing of Christian education.

May the Catholics of our day understand what the founder of the Christian Schools had so well understood! May they be convinced of the necessity of a « teaching which will be thoroughly

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(1) Mgr Turinaz, Parag. of B. J.-B. de La Salle.