



*Recognize Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children whom you have to instruct; adore him in them. Love poverty, and honour the poor, following the example of the Magi, for poverty ought to be dear to you, responsible as you are for the instruction of the poor.*

*May faith lead you to do this with affection and zeal because these children are members of Jesus Christ. In this way this divine Saviour will be pleased with you, and you will find him because he always loved the poor and poverty.*

*Is the punchline of this whole meditation on the Magi almost hidden in the middle of its final sentence: ‘... you will **find** him ...’?*

MF 96.3.2

*De La Salle*

### Reflection by Br. John Cantwell - Australia

The Founder tells us that Jesus is to be found ‘under the *poor* rags’ of poor children, just as the star-led, amazingly faith-filled, ‘pagan’ Magi found him in ‘the poor little village’ of Bethlehem, ‘wrapped in *poor* old bits of cloth’ and were not put off by these ‘poor rags’. The rags are mentioned three times, a detail important enough to have been outsourced from Luke (via St Bernard) into a story otherwise from Matthew’s gospel.

Our *Declaration on the Lasallian Mission* (2020) has much to say about the education of the poor as we know them today. It speaks of ‘a faith that seeks’, ‘a faith that risks ... and finds Jesus on the fringes and in the faces of the excluded and irrelevant’. It also acknowledges the service of ‘Lasallians of other faiths [like the Magi], or those without religious beliefs’ who reach out to the poor.

What are the rags that I’m seeing? Whose are they? Who am I finding?