



This distinguished saint's conversion was admirable, he who served the Church in a great way, both through his sublime writings and through preaching the Gospel. Even if St Paul had only converted St Dionysius, he would undoubtedly have brought immense good to the Church.

This is how God uses natural and acquired knowledge through the human sciences to bring people to Him, as he did with St Dionysius and others.

MF 175,1,2. Feast of Saint Denis

De La Salle

Reflection by Br. Jean Louis Schneider – France

As was customary in his day, the Founder's reflections combine three figures of "Denis": Denis the Areopagite, who met Saint Paul in Athens; Denis, "the first bishop of Paris, martyred at Montmartre; and the "Pseudo Denys-Areopagite", a theologian monk from the 5th century. John Baptist de La Salle based his Meditation for the Feast of Saint Denis on these three figures.

He emphasises the relationship between Denis and Paul, a relationship that invites us to return to the teachings of Saint Paul: "If Saint Paul had converted only Saint Denis, he would no doubt have done the Church a great deal of good".

The Founder also recalls the role of Saint Denis in evangelisation, which turns us towards the Mission: "this great saint, who served the Church greatly ... by preaching the Gospel!".

Finally, the "intelligence of the faith" dimension is strongly emphasised: "this great saint, who served the Church so much through his sublime writings", with an appeal to '(the) natural lights and those acquired through the human sciences", a dimension not often found in the writings of John Baptist de La Salle.

Reading and meditating on Saint Paul, being totally missionary, combining knowledge of God, evangelisation, natural light and the human sciences: quite a programme for Lasallians!