

John Baptist de la Salle



Caring Teacher and Mentor

1651–1719

Born in Reims, France

Feast Day: April 7

Community Role: Teacher

Text by Barbara Yoffie
Illustrated by Jeff Albrecht



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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set, *Saints of North America*, honors holy men and women who blessed and served the land we call home. The second set, *Saints of Christmas*, includes heavenly heroes who inspire us through Advent and Christmas and teach us to love the Infant Jesus. The third set, *Saints for Families*, introduces saints who modeled God's love within and for the domestic Church.

Saints for Communities explores six individuals from different times and places who served Jesus through their various roles and professions. Saint John Baptist de la Salle taught children and founded a familiar educational system. Saint Joan of Arc helped to bring peace to the country of France. The Apostle Matthew was a tax collector before deciding to follow Jesus. The Apostle Thomas preached and built churches. Saint Cecilia sang hymns to Jesus in her heart. And Michael the Archangel is well-known for his protection.

Which saint doubted Jesus' resurrection? Which one fought a heavenly battle? Which saint heard heavenly voices? Who sold everything he owned? Which saint was first named Levi? Which saint was married against her will? Find out in the *Saints for Communities* set—part of the *Saints and Me!* series—and help your child connect to the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate them to their lives.

John Baptist de la Salle was born in France more than 300 years ago. He was the oldest son in the de la Salle family. His parents taught him to love God. As John grew, so did his faith.

In those days, there were many poor people living in the country and in city slums. There were wars, and people were sick. Many families did not have enough food to eat. Poor children could not go to school.

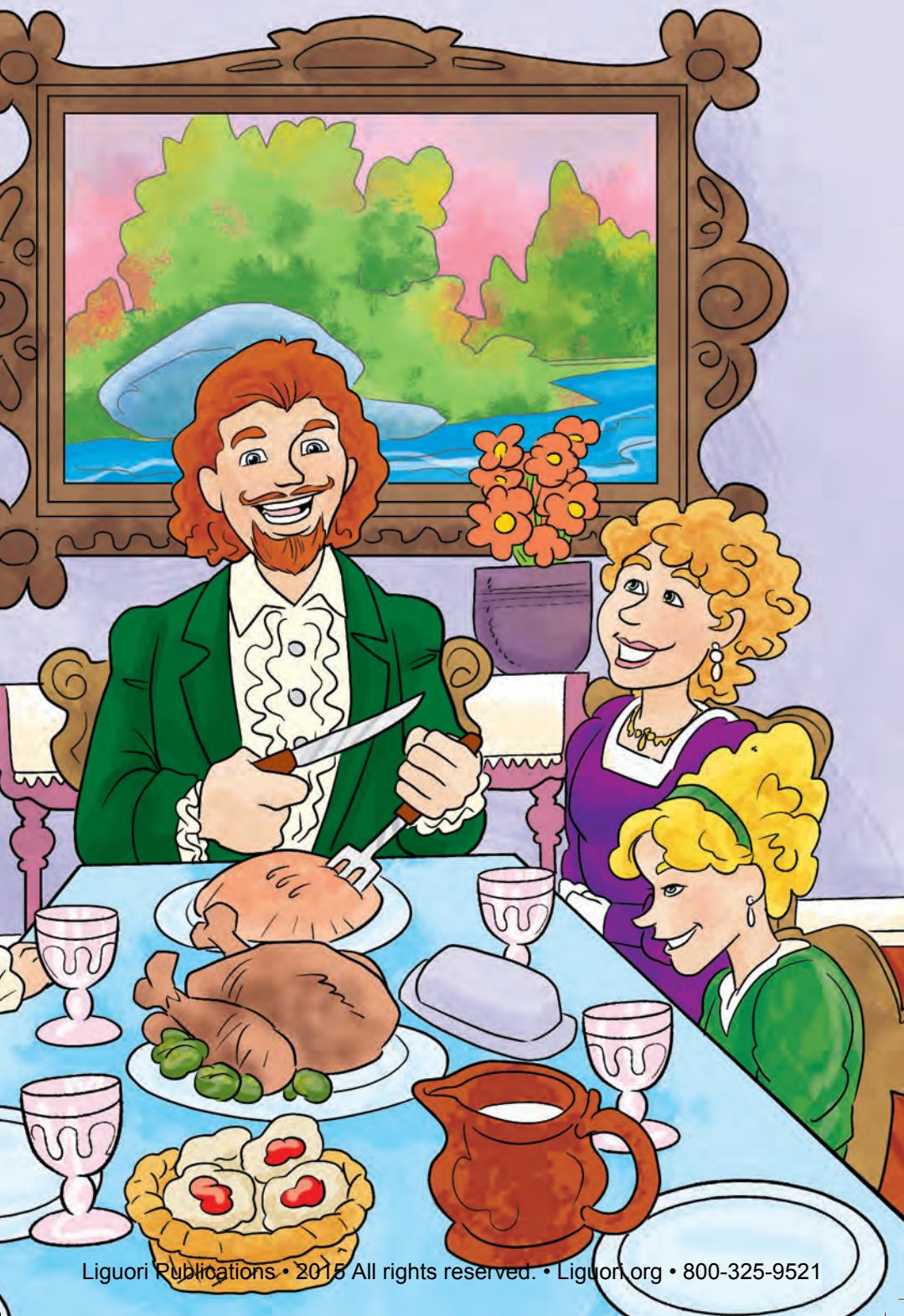






John was very lucky. His family was not poor.
They had plenty of food and lived in a big house.
They had everything they needed. John was a
happy child with lots of friends.





When John was eleven, he told his parents, “God is calling me to be a priest.” His mother smiled at him and said, “You will have to study very hard, John. I know you will be a very good priest.” She gave him a big hug.

