

Raising the next generation of ANTHONIANS

Spotlight on St Anthony's Primary School.



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Saint John Baptist De La Salle once said, "God has called you to your ministry in order to procure his glory and to give children the spirit of wisdom, the insight to know him clearly, and light for the eyes of their hearts."

As the founder of St Anthony's Primary School, St John Baptist De La Salle was born into a wealthy family but was moved by the plight of the poor. With the belief that education gave people hope and the opportunity to lead better lives of dignity and freedom, he put his own talents at the service of the children.

At St Anthony's Primary, we follow our founder's teachings. Our vision is to nurture learners who are passionate and joyful with caring hearts, and to raise Lasallians in service of God, family and nation. Educating our Anthonians in the faith is done through the provision of opportunities to know, love and serve God.

It is about learning to live the faith each day, to care for everyone, regardless of race, language or religion.

As a faith-based Christ-centred community, Anthonians in the Catholic Education Programme learn more about the faith through the Archdiocesan "Walking with Jesus" curriculum. Every aspect of a Catholic school has to be an

expression in practice of Catholic belief and tradition.

Thus, Anthonians are not only "taught" their faith, but also encouraged to put their faith into practice in their own lives. In addition to the lessons taught in class, they are given opportunities to participate in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, Lenten and Easter liturgical programmes and activities, morning prayer as well as values and faith-based activities during their recesses.

Some Anthonians further grow their faith when they take up roles to serve as lectors, choir members and altar servers during monthly Masses celebrated by our Chaplain, Friar Esmond Chua from the Church of St Mary of the Angels.

Some yearly highlights of the school include:

■ **Project G.O.O.D. (Gift Of One Dollar)**
In this charity drive first introduced in 2006, Anthonians are encouraged to be a blessing to the community by setting aside at least a dollar over the four weeks of Lent. The money is then donated for a charitable cause.

■ **Founder's Day – Tercentenary Mass**
2019 was the Tercentenary (300th anniversary) of the death of St John Baptist de La Salle. Our school as well as the other Lasallian schools in Singapore

commemorated this significant anniversary through different events.

For our Anthonians, excerpts from an animated video about the life of our founder were shown as a lead-up to our Founder's Day celebrations on April 5.

These video excerpts revealed how he exemplified his passion and service to the Last, the Lost and the Least; his commitment to providing them with an opportunity for education and his establishment of the Christian Brothers who are continuing his mission throughout the world till this day.

The Tercentenary Mass was held on April 6 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. The Mass was a blessed time of sanctification as the congregation remembered the saint and his commitment to God's mission for his life.

■ **Launch of Heritage Gallery**
The Heritage Gallery provides Anthonians with more information about the history of the school, our Patron Saint (St Anthony of Padua) and St John Baptist De La Salle. In the pipeline are lesson packages that will be designed for Anthonians as part of our outdoor education and faith formation efforts.

■ **Outreach to the Community**
Anthonians are given the opportunity to reach out to the community through

various school programmes. For instance, to safeguard creation by protecting the environment, Anthonians venture out to the neighbourhood for outreach programmes on recycling, and to ensure that the neighbourhood around the school is litter-free.

They design billboards and leaflets, and go on neighbourhood visits where they speak to the residents about the need to protect the environment. They also have the opportunity to serve in love by reaching out to the seniors at the centres for the aged near the school.

However great the opportunities and structures created, they will have little lasting value without the support and encouragement of our teachers, parents and parish. Anthonians are taught catechism lessons by Catholic teachers and school leaders. Their faith formation is strongly supported by the parent volunteers who conduct meaningful activities for the children during recess.

Through our work and partnerships, we hope Anthonians aspire towards a higher purpose in their lives, one exemplified by our Catholic Education vision: Anthonians rooted in Faith, and in Service of God; To Know, Love and Serve God. □

Photos: St Anthony's Primary School



Exploring the heritage board of St John Baptist De La Salle.



Students using the "Walking with Jesus" curriculum to learn about the faith.