

Quý Frères, Quý Soeurs và Quý Anh Chị Em La San thân mến,  
Năm 2026, chúng ta còn mừng một sự kiện quan trọng nữa, đó là kỷ niệm 375 năm sinh nhật của Thánh Gioan La San (30/04/1651-30/04/2026).

Trong các cuộc vi hành để đi hành hương hoặc thăm viếng, Cha Thánh thường đi bộ, đứng chắt là người hành hương, nhưng cũng có đôi lúc ngài dùng ngựa để đi cho mau.

Xin đơn cử một vài ví dụ trong tài liệu “LASALLIAN CHRONOLOGY” (lasalliana N° 31) do Br. José María Valladolid, FSC soạn, trong đó có một biến cố mà cả 3 người viết tiểu sử đầu tiên: Frère Bernard, Maillefer và Blain đều thuật lại tai nạn Cha La San bị ngã ngựa rơi xuống hố sâu trong một cơn bão tuyết vào mùa đông 1680-1681, riêng Maillefer còn có thêm chi tiết về con ngựa, và chi tiết này đã được Cha Michel Hồng vẽ lại trong truyện tranh “Un Petit Gamin de Paris” mà ta thường thấy dịch là truyện “Đứa Bé Phiêu Lưu”.

### **1.1. Thứ Bảy 23/04/1672**

#### **John Baptist arrives in Reims Saturday evening.**

Recorded in the Trustee account, De La Salle arrives in Reims to take charge as guardian of his younger brothers and sisters. He left Paris on the 19th, the Tuesday after Easter, apparently travelling on foot.

CL 28, XLVII; CL 29, 60; CL 40.2, 118, 187; CL 42 48, 181; CL 51, 5; SG 1, 85.

### **1.2. Thứ Hai 10/06/1686**

#### **Tradition says that John Baptist and the Brothers went on a pilgrimage to Notre-Dame de Liesse, near Laon.**

That was an eight-hour walk, overnight. They arrived at dawn. John Baptist celebrated Mass and distributed Communion to the twelve Brothers. They renew the vow of obedience made the day before. Afterwards, each one returned to his community. In the second chapel of the sanctuary, a stained-glass window and a plaque commemorate this event.



B 2, 489; SG 1, 186.

### **1.3. Thứ Hai 09/09/1686?**

**Laon: after the funeral of Brother Nicolas, John Baptist began his return trip from Laon to Reims, on foot, in the company of Brother Henri l'Heureux.**

Brother Gabriel Drolin had recuperated sufficiently. Before leaving, John Baptist announced to the students that the classes would resume in November. They arrived in Reims at dawn on Tuesday, September 10 (probable date; SG 1, 195). He sent Brother Henri to get some rest, but he himself waited for the Brothers in order to celebrate their Mass and to organize the September meetings.

B 1, 260; SG 1, 194-195.

### **1.4. Thứ Bảy 21/02/1688**

**Reims: John Baptist and two Brothers leave for Paris, passing through Soissons.**

It was Saturday. They arrived on the vigil of Saint Matthias (February 24, in this Leap Year). This is a deduction based on the time it takes to go on foot to Paris.

B 1, 287; SG 1, 210.

### **1.5. Tháng 07/1690?**

**Paris: John Baptist and the Brothers of the city make a pilgrimage to Notre Dame des Vertus; CL42 75 says February/March. It seems more logical that it be before the judgment, announced for July 22.**

To ask for the protection of Our Lady for the judgment of the 22nd. It was a Thursday and therefore either July 13 or 20. When he was in the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, he had already made this traditional journey on Pentecost Tuesday. The Brothers made the trip on foot and fasting. They ate only a piece of bread before returning. John Baptist ate only late in the evening.

MR, 79; B 1, 298-299; CL 42, 75, 255; SG 1, 230.

### **1.6. Tháng 11/1690**

**John Baptist goes to Reims at the beginning of the month.**

On foot, but because of his physical condition, he should have taken a coach.

MC, 58; MR, 87; B 1, 304; CL 41.1, 34; SG 1, 233.

### **1.7. Tháng 01/1691**

**Reims: John Baptist travels on foot to Paris. This is a three-day trip.**

He arrives at midnight, early in January, Brother Henri has already been buried for two days, John Baptist is moved and even weeps. Lucard places the death in 1690, but offers no proof. In the Annals, this date is no longer considered.

MC, 59; B 1, 272, 308; MR, 88; CL 41.1, 35; SG 1, 234.

### **1.8. Thứ Ba 14/04/1705**

**Easter Tuesday. De La Salle leaves Rouen for Paris.**

He travels on foot (SG1 391). MR says by stagecoach. He is already in Paris on April 18th, Easter Saturday. (CL42 309 considers him as in Rouen on April 18).

MR, 165; CL 42, 299, 309; SG 1, 391.

### **1.9. Thứ Sáu 15/05/1705**

**Paris: De La Salle and three Brothers leave on foot from Paris bound for Rouen.**

To take charge of the schools. The trip also becomes an extraordinary retreat... They arrive in Rouen on May 19. The distance covered is about 54 miles (120 km by road).

MC, 104; MR, 167; B 2, 21; SG 1, 392.

### **2.1. Thứ Hai 05/09/1672**

**John Baptist pays 3£4s to rent a horse.**

For a trip to Beaurieux (Aisne) to settle affairs concerning the inheritance of his father. In the Trustee account, an entry of the entire amount of 3£-4s.

CL 29 65v-66; CL 42 53, 197.

### **2.2. Thứ Hai 06/02/1673**

**John Baptist goes to Beaurieux (Aisne), Guyencourt (Aisne), La Neuville (Marne) and Gueux (Marne).**

Sometime between Jan. 2 and Feb. 6. He pays 3£ for the horse and 50s for other expenses. Entry in the Trustee account for the total, 110s.

CL 29, 72; CL 41.1, 30; SG 1, 94.

### **2.3. Thứ Sáu 24/05/1675**

**By request of the Family Council, John Baptist goes to Vilette near Fismes (Marne), taking along two carpenters.**

In order to make repairs on the mill which belonged to him. He paid 6£-10s for a horse and other expenses. He paid 16£ to the two carpenters. The trip took two days. Total expenses amounted to 22£-10s. Entry in the Trustee account for 5/6, or 18£-15s.

CL 29, 90-91; CL 41.1, 30; CL 42, 63; CL 52, 374.

### **2.4. Thứ Năm 18/06/1676**

**John Baptist goes to Saint-Quentin (Aisne). He spends 12£ for food and rent on a horse.**

To obtain from the Sisters of Origny an installment on their indebtedness. With the 3£ paid to notaries, a total of 15£ entered as 5/6, or 12£-10s in the Trustee account.

CL 29, 95v; CL 42, 67, 186; CL 52, 152.

### **2.5. Mùa Đông 1680-1681**

**John Baptist de La Salle falls into a hole while on horseback. (Probable date, not documented.)**

While returning from the countryside in a blinding snowstorm, De La Salle loses his way and falls into a ditch. Perhaps from Champigny, Tinquieux or on the road to Château-Thierry.

BD, 14; MC, 16; MR, 24-25; B 1, 167-168; CL 41.1 32; CL 41.2 130.

BD, p. 14.

Un jour, notre jeune chanoine fut à la campagne, et comme il se fut remis en chemin pour retourner à Reims, et n'ayant plus que fort peu de chemin à faire, on ne sait si la neige qui tombait alors en abondance lui empêchait de voir son chemin, on sait seulement qu'il tomba dans un fossé que le vent avait rempli de neige, et dans lequel il pensa périr, y étant resté presque toute la nuit, n'en ayant pu sortir qu'après de grands efforts qui lui causèrent une rupture, dont il fut incommodé le reste de sa vie.

C'est ainsi que la divine Providence le disposait, dès sa tendre jeunesse, aux afflictions et aux traverses qui ne lui manqueront point le reste de sa vie, ainsi qu'on le verra dans la troisième partie de ce livre. (*Frère Bernard, FSC*)

This he began to learn when one day our young canon was returning from the country to Reims. With only a short way to go, he fell into a deep snow drift, possibly because a heavy snowfall prevented him from seeing the road. He remained there most of the night. Fearful for his life, he succeeded in climbing out but only after strenuous effort that resulted in a rupture which was to bother him for the rest of his life. Thus it was that Providence accustomed him from his earliest days to the trials and afflictions which would never be lacking throughout his life, as we shall see in the third part of this book. (*Br. William J. Quinn, FSC dịch*)

MR, pp. 24-25.

#### **Accident qui le met en péril de la vie.**

Celle-ci fut remarquable pour lui par un accident qui pensa lui coûter la vie. En revenant de campagne en hiver, il fut surpris de la nuit, et comme il avait tombé ce jour-là, une grande quantité de neige, il s'égara, et tomba avec son cheval (\*) dans un fossé profond, dont il ne put sortir que par de longs et pénibles efforts, qui lui causèrent une rupture. Revenu de l'émotion que cet accident lui avait causé, il fit une infinité de réflexions sur la protection de Dieu qu'il venait d'éprouver dans ce danger, et qui par sa miséricorde, lui avait sauvé la vie. Il en était si pénétré qu'il n'en parlait jamais dans la suite qu'avec des sentiments les plus vifs de reconnaissance et d'actions de grâces (*Dom François-Elie Maillefer, OSB*).

#### **A nearly fatal accident.**

This year was also memorable for De La Salle because of an accident which nearly cost him his life. Returning from the country in the winter, he was caught by nightfall. As there had been a heavy snow, he lost the path and fell with his horse (\*) into a deep trench. He was able to save himself only by great effort, and this caused him a rupture. After recovering from the shock of this accident, he reflected often on the protection God had afforded him in danger and on God's mercy in having preserved his life. He was so imbued with this thought that he could never speak of this event except with intense feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving. (*Br. William J. Quinn, FSC dịch*)

(\*) Chi tiết này đã được Cha Michel Phạm Quang Hồng vẽ lại trong truyện tranh "Le Petit Gamin de Paris". [webmaster mời Anh Chị Em xem toàn bộ ruyện bằng tranh :

[www.lasan.org/jbs/gamin-de-paris/gamin-de-paris.htm](http://www.lasan.org/jbs/gamin-de-paris/gamin-de-paris.htm)

M. DE LA SALLE SE CONTENTA DE NOUS DIRE QUE LE BON DIEU L'AVAIT PRÉSERVÉ D'UNE MORT TERRIBLE. PLUS TARD, JE PUS COMPRENDRE QU'IL AVAIT PERDU SON CHEMIN À CAUSE DE L'ABONDANTE CHUTE DE NEIGE ET ÉTAIT TOMBÉ DANS UN RAVIN PROFOND.



B 1, pp. 167-168.

Vers ce temps il lui arriva un accident qui pensa lui coûter la vie.<sup>1</sup> Revenant de campagne dans un temps fort mauvais, une neige abondante qui couvrit la terre, déroba à ses yeux toutes les traces du chemin, et un vent impétueux en remplit les fossés. Il s'égara et tombant dans un trou qui était très profond, il eut tout le temps d'implorer le secours de Dieu, car il n'en avait point à espérer des hommes. En vain les aurait-il appelés à son aide, le temps ne leur permettait pas de paraître. Tout était désert, hommes et bêtes, tout cherchait l'abri. Après avoir longtemps lutté contre sa mauvaise fortune et fait en vain de grands efforts pour sortir du fossé, il n'avait plus, ce semble, d'autre parti à prendre que de recommander à Dieu son âme et consentir à sa mort. Elle était en effet prochaine et elle paraissait inévitable, car plus il faisait d'efforts, plus ses forces s'épuisaient, et leur épuisement l'allait ensevelir dans un tombeau de neige. Pour sûr, le lever du soleil ne l'y aurait pas trouvé en vie, s'il y avait passé la nuit. Fut-il secouru de Dieu d'une manière sensible? C'est ce qu'on n'a point su et ce que son humilité ne lui permit jamais de dire. Au moins la divine Providence qui veillait à la conservation de sa vie sut-elle, sans faire de miracle visible, le tirer de cette espèce d'abîme, en favorisant les nouveaux efforts qu'il fit pour en sortir. Il s'en retira donc enfin, mais à ses dépens, car une rupture<sup>2</sup> causée par les violents efforts qui lui avaient sauvé la vie, servit à l'avertir le reste de ses jours de se ressouvenir du péril extrême dont Dieu l'avait tiré et des actions de grâces qu'il lui en devait. En effet, cet accident lui fournit matière à de profondes méditations sur la protection de Dieu à son égard, et de nouveaux motifs pour le servir avec une nouvelle ferveur. Il en fut si touché qu'il n'en parlait jamais qu'avec de grands sentiments de reconnaissance. (*Chanoine Jean-Baptiste Blain*)

It was about this time that an accident happened to him which could have cost him his life. He was returning from the country on foot in extremely wretched weather. A heavy snow covered

<sup>1</sup> Voir en fin de ce chapitre, l'étude du Frère Alain Houry sur cet incident.

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionnaire de Trévoux*, rupture: souvent il se fait des 'ruptures' de veines par un grand effort, des 'ruptures' ou descentes de boyau. On le dit simplement de cette dernière incommodité: il a une 'rupture'. La rupture dont il est question ici paraît être une hernie.

everything, obliterating every trace of the road, and a strong wind had swept the snow into the ditches. He lost his way and stumbled into a deep ravine. He had ample time to beg for God's help, because none was available from men. He would have called out in vain, because the weather prevented anyone from being abroad. Man and beast had sought shelter; the countryside was deserted.

After he struggled for a long time and vainly made a supreme effort to get out of the ditch, it seemed he could only recommend his soul to God and thus prepare to die. Death was indeed very near and seemed inevitable, for the more he struggled, the weaker he became. If he had become totally exhausted, he would have been buried under a blanket of snow. If he had spent the entire night there, sunrise would have found him dead. Was he helped by God in some sensible manner? No one can say; his humility never allowed him to say so. At least Divine Providence, which was watching over his life, succeeded in drawing him out of this abyss, without a visible miracle, by favoring the new efforts he made to get out.

He finally managed to escape, but the accident left him with a rupture caused by the violent efforts he had made to save his life. Later on, this injury helped him to remember the extreme danger from which God had delivered him and the thanks he owed to God. The event gave him matter for profound meditation on the protection of God which he had enjoyed and new motives for serving God with greater fervor. He was so touched by this consideration that he never spoke of the incident except with great expressions of gratitude. (*Br. Richard Arandez, FSC dịch*)

## **2.6. Tháng 09/1686**

**John Baptist leaves immediately from Rouen for Laon. Since the trip could be made in three days, he probably left on September 4.**

By coach or on horseback, passing through Darnetal, Beauvais, Compiègne and Soissons. Brother Nicolas had already died by the time he arrived (September 6).

SG 1, 194.

## **2.7. Tháng 07/1687**

**Guise, Aisne: the Brother Director becomes gravely ill. John Baptist and another Brother leave Reims for Guise on “the hottest day of the summer”, according to Blain. As John Baptist embraced the sick Brother, he was instantly cured. A few days later he is back in class.**

A letter brings the news from Guise to Laon. It arrived at 4:00 p.m. The Brother who relates this leaves for Reims immediately and arrives at Rue Neuve at noon. De La Salle and he are on their way by 1:00 p.m. It is very hot. John Baptist has a nose-bleed. After about seven leagues they rest for a couple of hours. They pray much of the time. At 3 a.m. they resume their trip. De La Salle celebrates Mass in Laon for the community. Then he goes on horseback from Laon to Guise. The cure of the Brother Director is clearly attested.

B 1, 276-277; CL 41.1, 33; SG 1, 203.

## **2.8. Tháng 07/1714**

**John Baptist leaves Mende for Lyons, passing through Les Vans.**

Mme Lescure de Saint Denis gave him a horse as a gift, which would be more suitable for such a long trip.

B 2, 99; SG 1, 520.