Discovering Our Mission, Exploring Your Purpose

Steven Zlatic
Director of University Ministry
Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

-Mary Oliver
Saint John Baptist de La Salle
Founder of the De La Salle Christian Brothers (1680)
Catholic Church’s Patron Saint of Educators (1950)
Who was St. John Baptist de La Salle?

• Born April 30, 1651 in Reims, France into a wealthy family
• Became a priest and said Mass regularly in the Cathedral of Reims
• Destined for a position of authority in the Catholic Church – probably a Bishop or Cardinal
• And then ...
Growing merchant class with class conflict
Wars & violence

Most populous nation
Agriculturally dependent
Who was St. John Baptist de La Salle?

• As a young man, he was strongly influenced by the needs around him – poor young people without access to education
• Found himself being drawn into a world with which he was unfamiliar
• Became committed to creating free schools for the poor
• Founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools
• Today, the 336-year old Lasallian educational network is one of the largest in the world
Mission Value of Association

• Foundational element of the Lasallian tradition
• “We’re in this together for the benefit of the schools and for our students”
• 2016: An institutional commitment to student success by all faculty and staff at Lewis University
• Our focus in YOU, our students
Lewis’ Mission

1. Liberal & Professional education
2. Student ownership of education
3. Relational education – We work for student success
4. Learning about the needs of poor and marginalized groups & working for justice
5. Welcoming All
6. Invitations into the presence of God