References to “mind” (highlighted in yellow) in the Meditations of Saint John Baptist de La Salle are usually in the context of elementary school boys.

132.3
Saint Norbert escaped this danger, then fought a heretic who denied the reality of the Body of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and destroyed his error. Is not this the function of a Bishop, to oppose vice and to maintain the faith in its vigor and strength?
This is also what you cannot dispense yourself from doing, if you wish to fulfill well your ministry, to prevent your students from abandoning themselves to vice and to dissolve conduct, and impress firmly and solidly on their minds the truths of our faith, which are the foundations of our religion.

145.3
You have been appointed by God to succeed the holy apostles in teaching the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and in confirming his holy law in the minds and hearts of those whom you instruct when you teach catechism, which is your principal function.

177.1
This example teaches us how advantageous it is to inspire children with piety and to procure it for them, especially by making them read good books capable of making good impressions on their minds. As God has called you to give children a Christian education, make use for this purpose of the means that God used for Saint Theresa to prepare her early with his graces.

193.1
God is so good that, having created us, he wills that all of us come to the knowledge of the truth. This truth is God himself and what he has desired to reveal to us through Jesus Christ, through the holy apostles, and through his Church. This is why God wills all people to be instructed, so that their minds may be enlightened by the light of faith.

193.3
Teach them these truths not with learned words, lest the cross of Christ, source of our sanctification, become void of meaning and all you say to them would produce no fruit in their minds or hearts. For these children are simple and for the most part poorly brought up. Those who help them to save themselves must do this in so simple a manner that every word will be clear and easy for them to understand.

195.3
Jesus Christ wants you to understand from this comparison that the more your work for the good of your disciples is given life by him and draws its power from him, the more it will produce good in them. This is why you must ask him
earnestly that all your instructions be given life by his Spirit and draw all their power from him. Just as he is the one who enlightens everyone coming into the world, he also is the one who enlightens the minds of your students and leads them to love and to practice the good that you teach them.

197.1

It can be said that children at birth are like a mass of flesh. Their minds do not emerge from the matter in them except with time, and become refined only little by little. As an unavoidable consequence, those who are ordinarily instructed in the schools are not yet able by themselves to understand easily the Christian truths and maxims. They need good guides and visible angels to help them learn these things.

Angels have this advantage over us, that they are not bound to a body and to all the functions of the senses, without which ordinarily our minds rarely operate. Angels, therefore, have intelligence far superior to ours, and can contribute much to our understanding, no matter how very unsullied the level of our minds might be. The angels who guide us share with us the understanding and the knowledge they have of the true good. By this sharing of the enlightenment of the Guardian Angels we can have a more penetrating knowledge of God, of his perfections, of all that is related to God, and the means of going to him.

If that is true of all of us, it is incomparably more true of children, whose minds are more dull because they are less free of their senses and of matter. They need someone to develop the Christian truths for them in a more concrete fashion and harmonious with the limitations of their minds, for these truths are hidden from the human mind. If this help is not given, they often remain all their lives insensitive and opposed to thoughts of God and incapable of knowing and appreciating them.1

For this purpose the goodness of God has provided children with teachers who will instruct them in all these things. Admire this goodness of God, providing for all the needs of his creatures, taking the means to procure for us the knowledge of the true good, that is, the salvation of our souls. Offer yourselves to him for this purpose, to assist the children entrusted to you as far as he will require of you.

197.2

It is, then, not enough to procure for children the Christian spirit and teach them the mysteries and doctrines of our religion. You must also teach them the practical maxims that are found throughout the holy Gospel. But since their minds are not yet sufficiently able to understand and practice these maxims by themselves, you must serve as visible angels for them in two things.

1. You must help them understand the maxims as they are set forth in the holy Gospel.

2. You must guide their steps along the way that leads them to put these maxims into practice.

For this they need visible angels who by their instructions and by their good example will encourage them to appreciate and practice these maxims. By
these two means, then, these holy maxims will make a strong impression on their minds and hearts.

202.3 Example makes a much greater impression on the mind and heart than words, especially for children, since they do not yet have minds sufficiently able to reflect, and they ordinarily model themselves on the example of their teachers. They are led more readily to do what they see done for them than what they hear told to them, above all when the teachers’ words are not in harmony with their actions.

*The Duties of a Christian to God*, by Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Treatise 1
Part 2
The First Duty of a Christian, Which Is to Know God

Chapter 1
Faith, Which Enables Us to Know God in This World

Jesus Christ says in the holy Gospel that eternal life consists in knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ, his Son, whom he sent into the world. Thus, the main duty Christians must apply themselves to fulfill in this life is to know God in himself and all that he has made and to know the Son of God made human and what he has done for our salvation. This statement sums up all the truths we ought to know.

Section 1—What faith is

Because the human mind is too limited to comprehend by itself the mysteries of God’s being and God does not wish us in this life to know these mysteries as they are in themselves, we must be satisfied with believing all these truths with entire submission of mind. To do so requires that God enlighten us. We must receive from him a supernatural illumination, which is precisely what we call faith.