



## CIL 2010

For the first three weeks of CIL 2010, 77 Lasallian Partners and Brothers gathered from 26 sectors of the Institute: Andalucía, Australia / New Zealand / Papua New Guinea, Bilbao, Bolivia, French-speaking Canada, Catalunya, DENA (USA), Douala, Equatorial Guinea, India, Italy, Madrid, Midwest (USA), Myanmar, NOSF (USA), Penang, Philippines, Porto Alegre, Proche Orient, San Francisco, São Paulo, Thailand, Valencia-Palma, Valladolid, Venezuela, and Vietnam. We very happy to be joined by Sr. Odette, a Lasallian Guadalupana Sister from Rwanda, who is resident in the Casa Generalizia.

The theme of the whole five-week CIL program was “Understanding and Living Lasallian Association Today”. During the final two weeks, the Brothers remained in Rome with the objective of deepening their appreciation of the Vow of Association for the Educational Service of the Poor.

Beginning with a sharing of their own experience of Lasallian association for mission, this vibrant community of Lasallians reflected on the theme from a number of points of view. The global picture of Lasallian association was presented by Br. Charles Kitson and Ms. Montse Nieto, respectively secretary and co-secretary of *Lasallian Family and Association*. Later in the program they also ran a valuable session on Circular 461, *Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an act of HOPE*.

The needs of the mission, in terms of the millennial goals in respect of young people, were clarified by Br. Jorge Fonseca, secretary of *Lasallian Educational Mission*. Br. Louis de Thomas, former President of St Mary’s University of Winona, and currently Rome Director of Christian Brothers Investment Services, conducted some stimulating sessions on “What should be the future of Lasallian education?” The historical dimension of Lasallian association for mission was developed in a well-prepared video presentation by Br. Miguel Campos, whom illness prevented from travelling to Rome. The subsequent history of the Brothers’ experience was presented by Br. Diego Muñoz, secretary of *Lasallian Research and Resources*.

The next phase of our reflection was theological and spiritual, encouraged by presentations from two speakers: Fr Felix Körner, SJ, lecturer in theology at the Gregorian University and Dean of its Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Religions and Cultures, and Dr Donna Orsuto, a lecturer in Spirituality at the Gregorian, and co-founder of Rome’s Lay Centre. Fr Körner spoke from both experience and principle on the theme of interreligious witness, while Dr Orsuto provided a sound and beautifully illustrated basis for a spirituality of association.

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Having arrived only the day before from his official visit to the PARC region, in the company of members of the General Council, Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, our Superior General, delivered the keynote address, entitled "The Prophetic Stance of Association for Mission". Its impact was evident in frequent references to that theme in subsequent conversations, and in the participants' projects.

The remaining part of the final week in which Brothers and Lasallian Partners were together was devoted largely to work on projects concerning Association for Mission which groups and individuals intended implementing on their return to their Districts. The task was to develop a helpful project in response to participants' experience of CIL 2010, and to their reflections on what was happening in their own Regions / Districts / Schools / Communities, etc. The purpose of the projects was to further the growth and health of Lasallian Association for Mission in their own parts of the Lasallian world.

As well as the sessions of input and discussion in both small and larger groups, the experience of working and living together was graced by daily prayer together, by several social events, and by celebrations of the Eucharist. As well as prayer prepared by small groups, we were blessed by the "icon prayers" prepared each week by Ms. Montse Nieto and Br. Charles Kitson. Introduced during morning prayer, these very creative evening services were a highlight of the program.

We were all very grateful to a number of participants who each accepted the responsibility of looking after a small group. In such a large gathering, it was important that everyone experienced a sense of belonging to an identifiable group of six to eight people, as well as being part of the whole CIL community. We were also most grateful to our team of simultaneous translators, both from the CIL staff and from the Casa Generalizia. Br. Alfonso, Director of CIL, and Brs. Mawel and Jean-François of the CIL team not only spent many hours in the translation booths, and were engaged in the organization of the program, but also attended with great consideration to the various organizational and personal needs of participants.

A feature of the conclusion of our joint session was a wonderful exchange of "farewell messages" from each of the language-groups of Brothers and Lasallian Partners to each other. These spoke movingly of the experience of our living, working and praying together over three weeks, and of the insights and development that had taken place in our thinking, as well as our hopes and plans for the future.

After the departure of our Lasallian Partners, the Brothers concentrated on their own Vow of Association for the Educational Service of the Poor, the previous three weeks being an essential background to their appreciation of the Vow, and of its connection with the vows of stability, chastity, poverty and obedience. We considered an extensive array of possible "perspectives" on the Vow, designated in brief by terms such as "historical", "prophetic", "cultural", "theological", "anthropological", "biblical", etc. In groups, or individually, Brothers chose to focus on one or more of these or other perspectives. Encouraged by input from, among others, General Councillors (on the Vow in Circular 461), Br. Diego Muñoz (an historical perspective), Br. Leonardo Tejeiro (Procurator General) with Br. Diego (the Vow in the revised Rule), and Brs Mark Snodgrass, David Poos and John McGoldrick (implications for community living), Brothers developed projects and reflections, again with a view to helping communities in their Districts to reflect on the restored centrality of the Vow of Association for the Educational Service of the Poor.

The final sessions of the Brothers' two weeks together were devoted to a brief message from each Brother to the rest of the community, conveying something of what the experience had meant to him, and frequently expressing a characteristically strong sense of hope for the future of the Lasallian Family and for the Brothers within it. Br. Alfonso, Director of CIL, provided a most thoughtful synthesis of what the Brothers had experienced over the five weeks, and thanked them – as well as the various presenters – for their own indispensable contribution to the program. Br. Thomas, Vicar General, who had opened the CIL session on behalf of the Brother Superior, also closed it with some very affirming remarks. The final Eucharist was a fitting conclusion to an enjoyable, and – as many would testify – a transformative experience.

## Institute Circular #461

## Associated for the Lasallian Mission... AN ACT OF HOPE

All around the Lasallian world in staff rooms, teachers' lounges and community common rooms a new publication has been attracting a lot of attention. It is the long-awaited Institute Circular 461, *Associated for the Lasallian Mission ... an act of Hope*. Since an Institute Circular is a document written by the Superior General and his General Council, it is an official statement directed to the Brothers during the seven years between General Chapters, and in this case, it is written to all those associated for the Lasallian Mission. This particular circular was written in conjunction with the Lasallian Family and Association Secretariat over the course of the past two years.

Brother Antonio Botana, Secretary for Association from 2000-2007 wrote extensively on the topic and provided the Institute with a broad base of scholarship from which this current General Council drew heavily in its preparation of the current document. Another significant contribution to the overall discussion was the survey of 2008 created by the current Secretariat of the Lasallian Family and Association: Brother Charles Kitson, Coordinating Secretary and Ms. Montse Nieto Álvarez, Co-Secretary. Along with the International Council, they analyzed, systematized and then synthesized the material sent from 40 of the Institute's 53 Districts/Delegations/Sectors. The scope was broad and the responses were detailed and varied.

The survey first solicited information regarding the concept of association as it is lived locally. Secondly the survey surfaced information on how the term Lasallian Family is interpreted across the Institute. The information led the General Council to conclude that one of the major themes of the circular must be that of "unity in diversity."

**"Have you caught anything to eat?" (John 21)**

The Circular begins with this text taken from John's gospel. The disciples have been fishing all night and caught nothing. Jesus tells them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." It seems like the passage might be directed to "left-sided fishermen" accustomed to doing things in a certain tried and true manner that always worked for them in the past. Their encounter with the resurrected Christ invites them to see their world differently; to embrace a new reality. Circular 461 is much the same invitation to our 21<sup>st</sup> century Lasallian Family. The document does not pretend to be normative or to be a research document on the Vow of Association. It is pastoral in nature and inspirational in tone. It views the Lasallian world through a variety of spiritual, cultural, sociological, and ecclesial lenses. What may be seen by

some as a crisis moment in our Lasallian history is interpreted today as a crossroads of hope and a journey towards a new frontier.

Circular 461 is divided into 7 chapters each of which encourages the reader to not only "read on" but to reflect on his or her own vocational journey. Since September, many individuals, association groups, formation personnel, Brothers' communities and entire Districts have taken on the task of reflecting on its contents by creating their own study guides, days of reflection, retreats and formation programs. The circular seems to be a good tool for Brothers and Partners alike to deepen their experience of Lasallian Association. During the CIL program that ended on December 10th, the document was used either directly or indirectly as the basis for many presentations, discussions, liturgies and informal interchanges. Mr. Greg Kopra (USA/T – San Francisco) member of the International Council of the Lasallian Family and Association and a CIL participant, put it nicely: "Every Lasallian can find him or herself in the Circular." This does seem to be the case!

Is it controversial? Some would say 'yes.' Did it go far enough in defining clearly the parameters for association in the Institute today? Others might react with disappointment that it was not prescriptive enough or that it left some questions unresolved. The document was never intended to dictate norms that would promote uniformity of practice. Once the theme of "unity in diversity" was adopted, the direction of the circular was clear. The General Council wished to reflect the reality of our multi-cultural and pluri-religious international family of faith. As one reads the Circular it becomes clear that each individual, group, community, District and Region has to take its message and make it its own.

The guidelines for deepening one's association and for understanding the nuances of the Lasallian vocation to be Brother, to be an associate and/or to be called a member of the Lasallian Family are clearly posed without trying to exclude anyone from the "family table." The Circular summons each Lasallian to deepen his or her commitment; never to stop on the journey. It calls every Lasallian to invite... invite... and to keep inviting others to embrace the Mission at whatever point on the road they happen to be. God calls each one to be in relationship and that relationship is the basis of the Lasallian vocation. Only through the eyes of faith can the Circular be read deeply; only through the eyes of

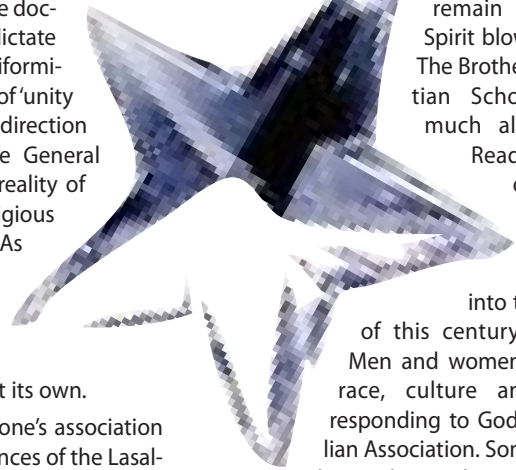
faith will it make any sense. As is stated plainly in the document, association can never be seen as an acquired status to be attained. It is always and everywhere a response to a call.

Circular 461 speaks boldly about the role of women in our Lasallian Family. It acknowledges their unique contribution as people of faith and zeal who endow the group with their skills and creative intuition used not only in problem solving but also in imagining a collective Lasallian future. Another example is on the topic of being Lasallian in a pluri-religious context. "Let it be stated clearly and unambiguously that calling oneself Lasallian is not relegated only to those of the Christian faith." (3.13) The Lasallian model of Church is one of "communion... community of communities... people of God," and is solidly based on our Catholic-Christian tradition. However one must never lose sight of the "kingdom of God" which knows no borders.

Yes... Circular 461 contains many topics for further discussion. Let the doors remain open and the Spirit blow where it will! The Brothers of the Christian Schools are very much alive and well. Reading the signs of the times is what will carry the Institute into the second half of this century and beyond. Men and women of every age, race, culture and creed are responding to God's call to Lasallian Association. Some are called to be Brothers, others are called to be associates and still others are called to join the Family and begin their walk in faith. No one is better. No one is less. All are welcome!

Over 12,000 copies have been distributed world-wide. The message is going out loud and clear... there is every reason to HOPE and no reason to fear.

Circular 461 will never win a Nobel Prize for Literature but it may just inspire you to deepen and to continue on your Lasallian journey. Pick one up and read it. Pass it on to a friend. Or better yet...read it "together and by association!"





# La Salle University supports the development of Colombian agriculture

La Salle University in Bogota is offering a new innovative academic proposal in the formation of professionals in agriculture, with its program in Agronomic Engineering, whose strategy for learning is practical experience...“learning by doing” and “teaching while demonstrating”. It is taken on from the investigative processes that contribute to the management of knowledge for the solution of problems related to the sustainability and efficiency of agricultural production.

### The Program's Mission

The mission of the program of Agronomic Engineering is the scientific, technical and human formation of professionals with critical and analytical thinking. This will allow them to generate, interpret and apply the knowledge of the agronomic sciences and their social, political and economic aspects, with a view to proposing alternatives for agricultural production in Colombia, in the context of human, integral and sustainable development.

### A social program

The program has the following characteristics:

1. Aimed mainly at students with few resources, coming from rural areas which have been hit by violence and poverty, who have an agricultural vocation and a capacity for leadership.
2. The students live in a boarding situation which facilitates “learning by doing”, with a human formation based on living together, mutual respect, solidarity, tolerance and love for the land.
3. The program is being developed in the Amazorinoquia, a region of Colombia which presents opportunities for integral, human and sustainable development.



4. Strategies of rotation in different climate areas, making use of the infrastructure of the University.
5. The formation of professional promoters of rural development in the areas from which they come.

### Its contribution to national agriculture

This program is seeking the social and productive transformation of the country through the development of educational and scientific projects, the improvement of the quality and competitiveness of the agrarian sector, the enhancing of the value of rural knowledge, of the collective value of agriculture and fishing production, of the associative relations of the producers and the creation of firms in the countryside.

### Program of scholarships

The project is backed up by a program of study scholarships for young people coming from different municipalities of the country who will be leading the development of their respective regions. The University is at present knocking on the doors of different sectors of the economy in order to receive help and is seeking through a plan for patron donors who will support the scholarship recipients, in such a way that for every two students financed externally, the University will support another in an integral way, looking for the sustainability of the project.

## Educators Conference Focuses on Science and Technology Courses

The Christian Brothers Conference hosted the USA-Toronto Region's 37<sup>th</sup> Huether Lasallian Conference, November 18-20, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The annual event focused on practical and long-term educational initiatives in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, to prepare students for successful careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Highlights included a pre-conference session showcasing digital tools for math and science

education, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, and a panel of alumni with successful careers in science and technology. Keynote presenters included Rev. George Coyne, SJ, president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation; Alex Cirillo, retired vice president at 3M; and Story Musgrave, retired NASA astronaut.

At the conclusion of the conference, seven Distinguished Lasallian Educators in the USAT Region were honored: Diana Aguilar from San Miguel School in Washington, DC; Br. Jack Henderson from La Salle High School in Yakima, WA; Judith McMasters from Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, OK; Michael McNamara from La Salle Academy in Providence, RI; Dan Rhoton from St. Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, PA; Kurt Schackmuth from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL; and Patricia Vega from Cathedral High School in El Paso, TX.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium Development Goal: To Achieve Universal Primary Education 2010 Report

The most recent report delivered by the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, the one that deals with universal primary education, highlighted the following:

1. Registration for primary education has increased 89% in developing countries.
2. Registration in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, in spite of its reaching 76%, continues to be the lowest of all regions.
3. Great advances have been made, especially in the poorest countries.
4. The report stressed the importance of increasing the number of teachers and classrooms in order to achieve the objective.
5. The pace of progress is insufficient to ensure that, by 2015, all girls and boys complete a full course of primary schooling.

*Information taken from the Report on the Millennium Development Objectives, 2010, United Nations.*

## The Lasallian Education Mission facing World Reality



Inclusiveness and educational quality are the challenges which the world is facing in the new millennium and as strategies for helping to solve the problems there are three themes for reflection which have been worked on for a number of years and which the Lasallian Education Mission should not leave to one side:

### A space for all in the school: Education For All.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 26 says that every person has a right to education, but the reality is totally different. We see from statistics that there are millions of children, young people and adults who remain deprived of this fundamental right, for a variety of reasons. Faced with this reality, the World Conference on Education for All (EPT), which took place in Jomtien, Thailand in March 1990, established some key objectives for making universal a basic education for all the children, young people and adults of the planet. In its reflections, the Conference observed that the educational conditions of the period made the objective of basic education for all attainable. This making universal of basic education is carried out by guaranteeing access to it by all children, young people and adults and by improving the processes of learning. Primary school is the basis of all learning and the school is the privileged place where all children can develop their learning processes for life. For young people and adults different literacy programs can be generated which can guarantee the development of basic formation skills. Science and technology today facilitate different means of communication which can allow more marginalized populations to have access to educational programs. But it is necessary that there be added to the learning processes other aspects which affect educational results, such as nourishment, health and a healthy and peaceful environment.

In spite of all the efforts made during the nineties, in the year 2000 the advances in the objective of Education for All continued to show discouraging statistics. These statistics showed that 113 million children do not have access to primary education and that there are 880 million illiterate adults. Positive aspects which can be seen are an increase in inclusiveness and a decrease in dropping out and having to repeat exams (UNESCO, 2000). The countries participating in the Education for All project met again in the year 2000 (World Education Forum, Dakar) and committed themselves to working on the following objectives: paying attention to primary education and especially to the most vulnerable and marginalized; achieving by 2015 access for all children to primary education, to reduce by 50% the number of illiterate people and to improve the quality of the learning processes (UNESCO, 2000). As a concrete action to help resolve the problem of illiteracy, the General Assembly of the United Nations in the year 2001, declared 2003-2013 to be the decade of Literacy (UNO, 2001).

### Thinking of the Present and the Future: Education for sustainable development.

Facing the reality of the world at the beginning of the new millennium, the theme of sustainable development in education holds a relevant position as a means of overcoming world problems. As Federico Mayor says in

the preface to one of Morin's books (1999): "education is the 'force of the future' because it constitutes one of the most powerful instruments for bringing about change". For this reason, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening sustainable development (UN, 2002) and in December 2002, the UN declared 2005-2014 to be the Decade of the United Nations for Education with the aim of Sustainable Development. "This decade is based on the vision of a world in which all have the opportunity to receive an education and to learn the values, behaviors and modes of life necessary for the advent of a sustainable future and a positive transformation of society" (UNESCO, 2006,6). It is also worth pointing out that at the World Conference in Bonn, the importance of education for sustainable development was reaffirmed (UNESCO, 2009). It is necessary to work on many fronts in order to reach the hoped for goals and thus overcome the problems confronting humanity.

### A school open to all: Inclusive Education

Faced with the difficulties which are presented by education systems, we are reflecting and taking actions to help change the panorama of education, making reference especially to coverage and quality. Our work of reflection never stops looking for solutions to avoid having - in the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - persons excluded from the education systems. Many efforts are being made at every level, to make the fundamental right to education become a reality. During the two last decades work has been going on to integrate the different education systems. UNESCO, from its position of responsibility, orientates and promotes actions for getting rid of the exclusion of persons from the education system and parallel to this there are efforts to improve its quality and to see that this responds to the needs of persons and society. From this perspective there is reflection being promoted on the process of "inclusive education: the path of education for the future". This theme emerges as a strategy for achieving the objective of making education universal (UNESCO,1990) and is considered as a solution of quality and of integration in the same education system for all children, young people and adults and above all for those with special needs. Inclusion is a "governing general principle for reinforcing education for sustainable development" (UNESCO,2008,3). As reflection advances there jump into sight the changes which need to take place in the school which agrees to work with the exigencies which inclusion demands.

Br. JORGE ENRIQUE FONSECA SANCHEZ  
Coordinating Secretary Lasallian Educational Mission

### MEL International Assembly 2013

Preparation for the 2013 MEL International Assembly, to be held in 2013, got underway with much joy and hope in association for the educational mission for the poor. Brother Superior General has appointed a Preparatory Commission which is made up of a group of Brothers and lay persons.

The Preparatory Commission held its first meeting from October 25 to 27, 2010. During this meeting the Commission began drawing up a work plan for the Assembly, to be presented to Brother Superior and the General Council.

The members of the Preparatory Commission are:

<b>Ms. Carmelita Quebengco</b>	<i>Co-Secretary MEL</i>
<b>Ms. Montserrat Nieto A.</b>	<i>Co-Secretary LF &amp; A</i>
<b>Mr. Vitalis Ndikum</b>	<i>RELAF</i>
<b>Mr. Greg Kopra</b>	<i>USA - TORONTO</i>
<b>Mr. Steve Byrne</b>	<i>PARC</i>
<b>Br. Gustavo Ramirez</b>	<i>RELAL</i>
<b>Br. Manuel Jesús Cevallos</b>	<i>RELEM</i>
<b>Br. Claude Reinhardt</b>	<i>General Councillor</i>
<b>Br. Charles Kitson</b>	<i>Coordinating Secretary FLYA</i>
<b>Br. Jorge E. Fonseca</b>	<i>Coordinating Secretary MEL</i>



### Formation Itineraries and the Social Doctrine of the Church

The group of men and women religious – Promoters of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) – has published a document entitled "Guide us in your Justice; a formative life journey for a prophetic religious life." This is a document that tries to encourage and offer guidelines for the formation of men and women religious who are successful in integrating the Social Doctrine of the Church in all processes and at all levels.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) is a network of men and women religious who are activists in their mutual support in working towards justice. The JPIC Commission of the Union of Superiors General and the International Union of Superiors General (USG/UISG) works in coordination with the Group of men and women Promoters of the JPIC. This latter group, however, has greater flexibility since it does not depend directly on the USG/UISG.

The drawing up of this document is in line with various Church events. First, there is the publication of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (CDSI), published in 2005 by the "Justice and Peace" Pontifical Council. A seminar promoted jointly by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Institutes of Apostolic Life, the "Justice and Peace" Pontifical Council and men and women religious promoters on the international level of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) was held in Rome in 2006. More recently, there was the publication of the Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" in 2009 by His Holiness Benedict XVI.

We men and women religious are, by vocation, consecration and founding history, committed to promote justice, peace and the integrity of

creation in order to collaborate actively in the building up of a civilization of love. To accomplish this, we need to rely on the experience, tools and knowledge that will enable us to discern reality in light of the Gospel and to point out unjust systems and structures. Formation for this task cannot be merely spontaneous nor can it be only intellectual. The guidelines offered by this document can enrich us and guide us as we seek to give greater centrality to our consecration and mission in terms of the vow of association for the educational service of the poor and the prophetic character of our identity as Lasallians and Brothers.

This document, which is being distributed by means of the Institute Secretaries for Formation can also enlighten us in drawing up or revising the formative journeys of lay Lasallians who participate in the educational mission.

Some links of interest:

To consult the text of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, go to:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/index.htm)

For the encyclical "Caritas in Veritate," go to:

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/encyclicals/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/index_en.htm)

For the JPIC Commission of the USG/UISG, go to:

<http://www.jplic.it>

Brother Jesús Rubio



### A Meeting of Brothers, not just Young Brothers

In 1999, after some years of inactivity, the Formation Commission of the District of Peru relaunched the "Meetings of Young Brothers." For these meetings young Brothers were invited to share their concerns for and interests in the life of the District in addition to enjoying some time away from their daily duties. This group of

Young Brothers included Brothers in temporary vows and those who had made their perpetual profession up to five years before. Some older Brothers who, due to their particular energy, were invited as well and these could be thought of as "young."

Up until 2003 one meeting per year was held. Then, in 2004, motivated by the reactions of Brothers after each meeting, the Formation Commission decided to have two meetings per year, and these would be called "Meeting of Brothers," for the purpose of offering an opportunity for sharing on additional topics for discussion. In recent years we have been able to take an in-depth look at topics such as affectivity, accompaniment, the District Program, the Lasallian Mission Statement for Peruvian Education, etc. It was at these meetings that the "Take My Hand" project was conceived. This project deals with children and young people who are at risk.

In more recent years, the topics of the meetings have focused on conclusions of the General and District Chapters. These meetings have helped us to:

- Strengthen the task of accompaniment for each of the stages of formation, both initial and ongoing.

- Promote activities and provide resources for the interior life of Brothers and for their community experience.
- Foster discussion on the interior life of the Brother.

Last year, with the help of Brother Jesús Rubio, at our first meeting we reflected on "Reading the New Testament Prayerfully"; our second meeting had to do with the Vow of Stability.

The dynamics for the meetings include personal sharing but there are also some fun times. We Brother participants have managed to communicate clearly and with trust in the groups that have been formed. There is also much spontaneity and energy during sports and recreation times. The deep level of sharing, especially between those Brothers who are very good friends and who have known one another for many years, serves to support them as they face serious concerns and at times of crisis – during which they are accompanied and welcomed.

Currently, the formation meetings appear to be indispensable in the District's annual plan and, of course, in the annual program of many Brothers. Convictions, faith and vocational motivation are enriched with greater clarity at each meeting. It should be noted that our level of communication has improved as well as the awareness about important aspects of our consecrated life.

We on the Formation Commission are certain that the most important thing about this time is the meeting itself, the strengthening of relationships and the continuing recreation of our awareness as religious.

Brother Luis Antonio Cárdenas Medina



### Workshop on Accompaniment among Equals

Over the course of three weeks, from July 26 to August 14, 2010, fourteen young Brothers from the Asia-Pacific Region participated in a workshop aimed at promoting mutual accompaniment. The setting for this formation program was at the Lasallian Community Educational Services Center (LCES) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The objective of this workshop was to support participants in coming to a healthy self-awareness, and in developing this encouraging and challenging relationship with their peers, as Brothers of the Christian Schools, consecrated to the Triune God, living together in community, being Brothers to one another, to their colleagues, and to the young people in their care, within their Lasallian educational ministry.

The workshop was organized around three areas: spiritual accompaniment aimed at interior life and prayer; inter-personal accompaniment as regards relationships and community life; professional accompaniment focused on educational ministry for the mission. One Brother facilitated the work in each area. The areas were interconnected and ideas went back and forth between them.

The workshop dynamic allowed for a diversity of activities: there were full-group presentations, dialogue in small groups, one-on-one interviews, times for reflection, reading and

personal prayer, and dialogue on the Lasallian mission in Sri Lanka, among other activities. The calm work rhythm for these three weeks allowed participants to share their lives, their life stories, questions, joys and difficulties. Eucharistic celebrations and times for prayer in common were very much appreciated.

The setting in Sri Lanka offered the opportunity to bear witness to the many forms of the Brothers' educational ministry, especially those that deal with the poor: boarding schools, schools, pre-schools, trade schools, etc. The creativity of the Brothers in facing situations of poverty and the suffering of children and young people strongly impressed the participants in the workshop.

A very special sign was the great unity within the cultural diversity proper to this Region. Brothers from different cultures, continents and languages experienced the unity of the Lasallian charism that united them and gave them an identity over and above their differences.

When a journey is taken together, one does not travel alone. Accompaniment is an important dimension of our association for the educational service of the poor. Although for some Brothers it is difficult to accept or offer accompaniment, we believe that it is possible to form a generation of Brothers with skills for mutual



accompaniment, for the accompaniment of children, young people and lay partners and, also, with the disposition to allow themselves to be accompanied.



Upcoming Young Lasallian activities – 2011

## Many Stars... One La Salle. (7<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May)



### **The rationale of the activity in one sentence:**

Celebrating the “unity in diversity” of our worldwide Lasallian Family by getting as many groups of Lasallians to pose for pictures in star formations in remembrance of two important dates in the legacy of our Founder.

### **Details of the activity:**

The International Council of Young Lasallians in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Lasallian Educational Mission would like to bring as many Lasallians together to celebrate two important days in our Lasallian Calendar as one big Lasallian Family.

These are:

7<sup>th</sup> April (Ecclesiastical Feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle) and 15<sup>th</sup> May (Institute's Official Feast of the Founder). These two dates (or at least one of the two) are already celebrated in most Lasallian Institutions.

School communities and Lasallian groups are encouraged to take group photos sometime before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. These group photos should ideally feature a star. The star symbolizes the star of the Institute ...the star of Faith. These photos will be uploaded on a special section of the Institute's website.

**More details will be published soon on the Institute's website.**



## MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG LASALLIANS.

The International Council of Young Lasallians held its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Brothers' Generalate from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September, 2010. The meeting focused upon 6 main themes/projects:

1. Regional Updates from YL Councilors
2. International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDLP) 2010
3. Development of a 3 year Plan for the International Coordination of Young Lasallian- related activities
4. Development of a Communication Strategy
5. International Lasallian Event at the World Youth Days Aug'11 – Brainstorming for suggestions to present to the organizers of the Lasallian Meeting during the WYD'11 in Madrid
6. Evaluation of the 'Profile of Young Lasallians'.
  - If you would like to keep in touch with us through our Facebook profile, visit <http://www.facebook.com/young.lasallians>

## The World Youth Day

World Youth Day (WYD) is an event of searching and encounter for thousands of young people. This event is held every three years in a world city that welcomes thousands of pilgrims over the course of several days in order to provide an opportunity for sharing faith and fraternity. In 2008 World Youth Day was held in Sydney, Australia and in the summer of 2011 Madrid, Spain will be the venue for the eleventh WYD.

Just as with great sporting events or music concerts where thousands of young people get together around their idols, World Youth Day is the meeting place for young people who seek or who have already encountered Jesus of Nazareth. It is truly an event of large groups but at the same time it is a place of encounter with others and with God. It is also a dialogue between the universal and the particular, as believers and as Lasallians and within our faith group. It is an opportunity and a challenge so that Jesus Christ may be the truth, the way and the life for young people. The World Youth Day event begins on August 16 and concludes on August 23. There are events involving play, culture, socializing and religion planned for these days. On August 17<sup>th</sup> young Lasallians are invited to a meeting with Brother Álvaro Rodríguez at a Lasallian school in Madrid. The World Youth Day event will conclude with a prayer vigil and Eucharist presided

by Pope Benedict XVI at the Cuatro Vientos airfield.

“Planted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith” is the slogan for the 2011 edition of World Youth Day. The image is that of the tree that is growing taller and taller and in need of deeper and deeper roots. For that reason the World Youth Day event is an invitation to young people to find in Jesus the reason and meaning for their lives, to do it in communion with other believers in the Church. This image of the root, the trunk and the branches also reminds us that not only are there trees that generate shade and fruit but also there are trees that give their lives, trees that are made of another kind of “wood” that is the beam that houses those with no roof over their heads, the boat that crosses the sea, the bench that provides rest, the school that provides growth, the cross on which Jesus is displayed...It is, therefore, a call to meet one's true personal vocation in following Christ.

For all these reasons, Lasallians will also be present at the World Youth Day event in Madrid in 2011. The recently established District of ARLEP will host Lasallians from around the world. For more information, please visit the web site:

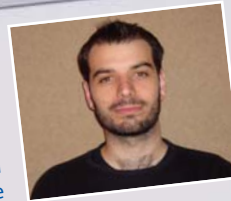
<http://www.lasallepastoral.es/jmj2011>. We are waiting for you!





# Joseph Gilson, International Coordinator for Young Lasallians

Joseph Gilson, a Young Lasallian from Malta, is at the moment working at the Brothers' Generalate in Rome as the International Coordinator for Young Lasallians. We have caught up with Joseph to ask him some questions regarding Young Lasallians in the Lasallian world



## Who are you? And what is your connection with the De La Salle Brothers?

My name is Joseph Gilson. I'm 27 years old and I am from Malta. Around twenty-one years ago, I stepped into a Lasallian school for the first time and remained there as a student for twelve years. Once my student days were over, I joined the college's Former Students' Association and have been helping out with its administration ever since. More recently, I have worked as a teacher in the Senior School of De La Salle College in Malta. Internationally, I participated in the International Symposium of Young Lasallians held in Rome in 2006 and at the International Lasallian Youth Gathering in Melbourne in 2008. I have also been serving as a representative for my District (GB-Malta) and Region (RELEM) on the International Council of Young Lasallians since 2006.

## What are you doing here at the FSC Generalate?

I am currently working as a Lasallian Volunteer at the Brothers' Generalate in Rome. My role at the Brothers' Headquarters is to assist the Secretary for Lasallian Family and Association with all that relates to the role and work of Young Lasallians in the Institute today. The work here is varied. The tasks I do can be grouped into three main categories. These are administrative tasks, research projects and the facilitation of communication among the various groups of Young Lasallians. I also have the great fortune to work with wonderful people from all over the world. Most of my colleagues are Brothers, some of whom come from places as far away as Alaska and New Zealand. The mixture of cultures, languages, ages and customs adds a unique flavour to this already marvelous experience.

## In simple terms, who are the Young Lasallians? Can you give us some examples?

Young Lasallians are adolescents and young adults who are moved by the spirit of St. John Baptist De La Salle to be agents of change, working against poverty and injustice as they affect the lives of the young, especially the poor. Young Lasallians include young teachers and other staff working in Lasallian institutions or agencies. Also included in this group are those young people who participate in experiences of Lasallian institutions or agencies. Also included in this group are those former students of Lasallian institutions, young members of Signum Fidei groups, as well as young Brothers can all be identified as Young Lasallians.

## Do we have Young Lasallians in every District of the Institute?

We most certainly do! Some young people, familiar with the expression 'Young Lasallian', know exactly what it means and immediately identify with the term. Many others who fit the description of a Young Lasallian might not be even aware that they are one. I believe that helping more young people connected to the Lasallian Mission associate themselves to the term Young Lasallians is our biggest challenge at the moment. But the crux of the matter about Young Lasallians needs to move way beyond names, titles and definitions. To try and answer your question, we would have to consider real people and their lived experiences. When we look at the current and former students of our Lasallian schools and Universities; at the number of young teachers involved in pastoral activities with students in our schools; the communities of volunteers who are of service and support to other young people in many Districts; the number of young Brothers in others... I am sure you will conclude that the Young Lasallian mission is very much alive in most Districts. Do all these groups of people necessarily know they are Young Lasallians? Maybe not yet! But we cannot deny the fact that the Institute is blessed with capable young people who are committed to the Lasallian Mission in different ways.

## Why is it important to support and promote Young Lasallian Movements?

Allow me to share some reflections on my own Lasallian journey to answer this question. I was introduced to the term 'Young Lasallian' in 2006. That is, only after I had completed my undergraduate studies in education and participated in a number of voluntary work experiences. The term 'Young Lasallian' had little effect on how I interacted with people or on the way I saw life. However, it provided me with a more concrete way to describe who I am and why I do what I do. Being part of this global network of young people keeps nourishing my hopes for a world which is more caring and responsive to the needs of the young, especially the poor. All this empowers and sustains me, especially in moments when the going gets tough. And that is exactly what we hope Young Lasallian Movements are all about.

We are not calling for structures or groups of young people just for the sake of having them. The aim of bringing young people together is to help them nourish their own personal projects and to invite them to build collective ones. As Br. Álvaro, Superior General, reminded participants during VEGA, -the Formation Programme for Young Lasallian Leaders- "each dream is a personal one, but the Lasallian dream should also be a collective one ...when one dreams alone, it remains only a dream, but when many people dream, their dream becomes reality." Young Lasallians who dream today will be the very ones capable of securing the Lasallian Mission for tomorrow.

If you would like to get in touch with Joseph, please do not hesitate to contact him at [jgilson@lasalle.org](mailto:jgilson@lasalle.org)

## Digital Journal of Lasallian Research

From the beginning, all this activity of reflection and search has demanded that we think of a strategy for sharing the knowledge that will gradually accumulate in the Institute.



With technical support from La Salle Bajío University in the city of Leon, Mexico, we have initiated the adventure of a new digital format publication in the Institute's three official languages, i.e., The Digital Journal of Lasallian Research. One can access it without restriction on the Institute's website.

This biannual publication is intended as another option in the format of indexed international journals. The intention is to position Lasallian thinking in its own right within the context of current academic discussion. We have planned eight publications before the next General Chapter; for each issue we invite some Brothers and Laypersons to discuss key issues. From this very

moment we extend an invitation to all to send articles so that they can be reviewed by the Editorial Board. On the website of the Digital Journal you will find complete information about requirements for participation.

On the Institute's web page you will also find a Forum to promote discussion of the articles that appear in each issue. By these means we hope to build a culture of participation and dialogue on issues that affect us all. Remember that our greatest asset is the diversity of views and perspectives within an Institute that has spread across five continents. May the Digital Journal of Lasallian Research and the Forum be new means that help us continue to become aware of our journey.

## International Network of Lasallian Research

Looked at in this way, research transcends our limited view where few have access to primary information. We are not speaking of an exercise of specialists who individually write works for others to read. We are proposing a process of collective research on the issues that arise from our reality: What does it mean to be Lasallians today in a 21st century context? What kind of school do we consider to be effectively Lasallian? What are the foundations of a pedagogy that bears the qualifying term "Lasallian?" In what way do we commit ourselves to the fight against poverty in the current context? Can we truly say that there is a Lasallian pedagogy and a Lasallian educational practice or way of teaching? What are the formation processes needed in order to nurture the development of our journey as Lasallians?

The questions are endless. The answers require reflection, searching, dialogue... and reliable sources. As a result, the concern of our Office is to move towards the digitization of the Institute's General Archives and to create a site available to all researchers who ask for our support. Brother Francis Ricousse, currently responsible for Lasallian Resources, is in the forefront of this project. As such, it is ambitious because it tries to think of preserving more than one thousand linear meters of files and about ten thousand boxes of documentation that

has led us to seek professional support. Since September 2010 we have been working with La Salle University, Barcelona in this process and seeking, from the very beginning, the identification of hardware, especially of suitable scanners to advance the project; another critical point is the conversion of handwritten documents into Word format with the help of programs capable of reading older calligraphy styles.

For now, there are many tasks that have occupied our time in the area of Lasallian Resources. Specifically, a large room in the Generalate is being prepared that will serve as the repository for all collections, books and additional files taking into account contemporary conservation requirements. Brother Francis, together with Sister Odette Mukayigire, has devoted many long hours in this work. This project is complemented by the organization of a Lasallian Library for researchers and a space to make available museum pieces that have been properly classified by Brother Pierre Petitjean.

But beyond these practicalities, our main concern is focused on building a realistic network of Lasallians interested in participating in the search process. We appreciate the interest of Brothers and Lasallian Laypersons who have contacted us for information regarding their research projects in undergraduate, master's level and doctoral studies. We believe your concerns also help us to advance our work

## Historical Heritage and Cultural Memory of the Institute

One of the most cherished goals of our Office is to ensure the preservation, restoration and enrichment of the historical heritage of our Institute (cf. Circular 456). In the same vein, the relationship with some of our institutions of Higher Education has led us to understand that it is not possible to achieve this goal if we do not work together to recover and preserve our collective historical memory as an international community with more than a three hundred year history, and this especially, at the present time in process of change and transformation. The dynamic of association is, framed in this same process of reflection and in the same way, a collective effort of searching.

The participation of Brothers Edgard Hengemüle and Diego Muñoz, Office of Lasallian Research and Resources, in the Seminar on Lasallian Historical and Cultural Heritage offered by the Post-Graduate Program in Social Memory and Cultural Enrichment of Unilasalle Canoas (Brazil) in October, 2010, helped to open our perspectives and to begin a fruitful dialogue with research groups interested in the recovery and enrichment of the Lasallian memory.

In particular, we were challenged to ask about the possibility of understanding and re-reading our cultural memory, to approach from other perspectives the processes of identity which have formed us and to place us in a thinking process that in and of itself takes into account a particular way of seeing the paradigm. To ask these questions is to rediscover our founding story – and we think that of each District – and to reconsider some essential texts and thereby open a reflection for discussion with the contemporary academic world.





## SECOLI Projects

For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2010 SECOLI raised and distributed **\$1,297,170** funding 76 projects in 23 Countries.



<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>\$56.202</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>\$541.671</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>FORMATION</b>	<b>\$152.050</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>MISSION</b>	<b>\$547.247</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.297.170</b>	<b>100%</b>



### SHARING FUND

Sharing Fund is financed with District contributions supplemented with \$200,000 grant from The Brother Gilberto Martinez Fund.

- In 2009-10 the Sharing Fund provided \$485,129 to cover 50% of the Initial formation costs of 14 Districts.
- In 2010-11 the Sharing Fund is providing \$497,432 to 15 Districts.



### EMERGENCY APPEALS

#### Chile Earthquake

Nine donors contributed \$43,503 to help repair earthquake damaged schools in the Delegation of Chile.

#### Haiti Earthquake

\$1,518,216 has been raised from 107 donors.

- \$92,532 was for emergency relief to 10 local Religious Congregations.
- \$16,053 was for the orphanage of the Servant Sisters of De LaSalle.
- The balance of the money is helping to construct a permanent school and medical dispensary.



#### Pakistan Flood

Lasallian Relief for the flooding in Pakistan totalling \$180,573 has come from several sources:

- \$84,334 from the District of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Superiors Fund for emergency relief and repairs in Faisalabad, Khushpur and Multan.
- \$44,239 from the Districts of Midwest, Ireland, Europa Central and Noord België through SECOLI to restore small farm plots around Faisalabad.
- \$52,000 from the Archdiocese of Dublin through the Brothers in Ireland to repair damaged homes in Faisalabad.

Secoli is still accepting contributions to repair homes in Khushpur.

#### Sri Lanka Assistance for Children displaced at the end of the civil war.

SECOLI has raised \$102,097 from 22 donors, including \$21,960 from the government of Malta through Signum Fidei Malta. The money is supporting two projects in Mannar, one at LCES in Colombo and one at Diyagala Boys' Town in Ragama.







# **Solidarity with South Sudan**

**A commitment from more than 150 Religious Congregations**





## Brothers Helping In Southern Sudan

The story of the De La Salle Brothers' involvement in *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* began with the compassionate and visionary leadership of Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria. In 2004, while he was chairing the Union of Superiors General, the world's consciousness shifted to central Africa and the atrocities which were being committed in Darfur and Southern Sudan galvanized global humanitarian action. A letter from the then Southern Sudanese Bishops' Conference requested the assistance of international religious congregations. After a "solidarity visit" in March 2006 by a small group of USG and UISG representatives – including De La Salle Brothers – it was decided that a combined inter-congregational response would focus on the critical educational, health and pastoral needs extant after 21 brutal years of civil war.

This collaborative union of religious congregations working synergistically together was called *Solidarity with Southern Sudan (SSS)*. Mixed communities servicing the various apostolates would be comprised of individuals from different religious orders. This visionary decision provided an opportunity to birth a new paradigm of both apostolic action and community life in imaginatively responding to the needs of the world's poorest of the poor.

In 2005, Southern Sudan's illiteracy rate was 92.5%, making it one of the most illiterate countries in the world. Less than 2.5% of the population had graduated from primary school, so there was an acute critical need for primary school teachers. Brother Álvaro volunteered the De La Salle Brothers to be the lead congregation in helping to put together a series of teacher training programs which would enhance the pedagogical effectiveness of current teachers and train prospective teachers for the classroom. During the four years since that decision, the Brothers have been involved at



various levels (as administrators, teachers, fund-raisers, Board members, and committee members) in helping to orchestrate an educational tour de force.

Early into the Southern Sudan program, some Brothers served as teaching pioneers who would establish the groundwork for the project. Among them were Brothers Agustin Ranchal Sanchez, Anton de Roeper, and Marco Antonio Moreno Siqueiros. Through subsequent years, other Brothers have followed to provide teaching support including Brothers Bill Firman, Heldon Fernando, and Dennis Loft. Still other Brothers have provided essential auxiliary services and fund raising (Brothers Pedro Arrambide, Amilcare Boccuccia, Craig Franz), committee support (Brother Stephen Tuohy) and administrative leadership (Brothers Álvaro Echeverria and Jorge Gallardo). Additionally, many Brothers' communities have contributed financially to the success of SSS educational projects in Southern Sudan.

Today, over 171 religious congregations support the many activities sponsored by *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* through financial contributions or human resources. The SSS staff on the ground in Southern Sudan currently consists of 23 sisters, brothers, and priests hailing from 13 different congregations and 14 nationalities.

Teacher training should soon commence in two educational campuses (Malakal and Yambio) which have been especially built for pre-service instruction. In-service teacher training is already occurring at 11 different loci throughout Southern Sudan. As such over 750 individuals have been trained in English and/or professional pedagogic training since the program started. This number of trainees represents around 48,000 children from all over Southern Sudan who have benefited from their teachers' training. Helping to build professional human capacity in a country which still needs many teachers, *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* has grown to be the largest provider of teacher training in the country.



## Solidarity with Haiti

On January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 4.53 in the afternoon, entire districts of Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, were reduced to rubble. From the first moments, the Institute got in contact with the Brothers in Haiti and with those in charge of the District of Antilles-Mexico South. Although material damage to the Novitiate, the only community in the earthquake zone, was minimal, the Institute decided to launch an emergency campaign.

In close dialogue with those in charge of the District and the Sector, our actions dealing with the tragedy were being outlined: immediate help which was channelled through the CHR (Haitian Conference of Religious) and by means of some local Religious Congregations. At the same time, taking advantage of the existence of a small property, the District, in case it managed to raise sufficient funds, decided to build an education centre and a clinic, as well as a place for distributing food.

In carrying out these objectives, the following steps were taken:

- Approval of the project as a work of the District of Antilles-Mexico South. The District is responsible for the execution and functioning of the work.
- The creation of a commission in the Haiti sector to plan and execute the project.
- The drawing up of the preliminary plans by Universidad La Salle in Cancun.
- The planning of the different phases of the execution: Primary School; Residence for Teachers and Volunteers; Secondary School (1<sup>st</sup> Block); Administration; Secondary School (2<sup>nd</sup> Block); basketball and volleyball courts and finally the health centre, in collaboration with the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Chartres.
- First steps for the purchase of a piece of land adjacent to the present site with a view to accommodating all these activities.

Thanks to the generosity of all, the sum of \$1,338,986 has been collected. Up to now, from different sources, the sum of \$108,460.33 has been sent as emergency aid. We have received a report on its use.

Last July, Br. Amilcare Boccuccia, of the Secretariat for Solidarity and Development and Br. Craig J. Franz, President of "La Salle International Foundation Inc." visited Haiti and held various meetings with the commission responsible for the drawing up and execution of the project.

News agencies are continually keeping us informed and showing explicit details of the dramas... until they find another more "interesting" situation which will promote the sale of their news. When this happens, not only will the drama be forgotten, but so will the persons who are still suffering from it. In our Secretariat we do not want Haiti to be a tragic memory, but rather a project of action in solidarity and that the Lasallians of Haiti and of the entire world will continue committing themselves to the most needy, wherever they are to be found.

### THE RTVE (Spanish TV) PROGRAM “PUEBLO DE DIOS” IN AFRICA WITH PROYDE AND LA SALLE

In June 2010, a team from the program “Pueblo de Dios” (People of God), from the Second Channel of Spanish TV, set out for West Africa with a view to making four programs about Lasallian projects financed with the help of NGO “Proyde”. This team composed of an editor, a director, a video technician and a sound technician was accompanied by Mr. Javier Sanchez, Director of Proyde and Br. Antxon Andueza. The aim was to reflect the work which the De La Salle Brothers are carrying out in the Rural Formation Centre of Tami and in the schools of Dapaong, in Togo, and in the Foyer Akwaba and the Lasallian African Centre (CELAF) in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

The idea of making these TV programs arose at the end of 2009 on the initiative of Mr. Julian del Olmo, Director of “Pueblo de Dios”, who had already made various programs with the De La Salle Brothers and with the Marists of Romania and had the experience of being welcome. For this reason he contacted Proyde to see if it would be interested in the possibility of a transmission on Lasallian work in Africa.

It was easy to reach agreement on the making of a block of four programs. The NGO proposed that the programs should concentrate on West Africa (Togo and the Ivory Coast) which make up its main zone of activity, but left the door open for new programs. Perhaps in 2011 there will be a new group of programs, this time from Asia and centred on the Rights of the Child.

Three of these programs made in Africa have already been broadcast in October (Tami), November (Akwaba) and December (CELAF). The fourth and last will probably be shown in January 2011.

Links:

Tami, un milagro hecho realidad (21-10-2010): <http://www.rtve.es/mediateca/videos/20101003/tami-milagro-hecho-realidad-pueblo-dios-03-10-10/892703.shtml>

Akwaba, bienvenidos a la vida (21-11-2010): <http://www.rtve.es/mediateca/videos/20101121/akwaba-bienvenidos-a-vida-pueblo-dios-21-11-10/936856.shtml>

CELAF, de África para África (19-12-2010): <http://www.rtve.es/television/20101213/385917.shtml>

### PARC

The De La Salle Brothers arrived in the Philippines in 1911, to start their first community and school, De La Salle College - Manila, immediately in the heart of the capital of the country. Next year, 2011, the Brothers and the rest of the Lasallian Family in the Philippines will celebrate 100 years of Lasallian presence in the country, together with the Centennial of the first Lasallian school, now called De La Salle University.

While the celebrations officially begin in June 2011, a countdown activity was held simultaneously in the 17 schools nationwide last June 16 2010, a full year ahead of the official start of the jubilee year. Hence, from June 2010 to May 2012, a multitude of joyful and celebratory events will be held. Of special international significance is the planned international meeting of UMAEL and Alumni World Congress in Manila in October 2011, the triennial IALU Encuentro in Manila in 2012, and Lasallian pilgrimages to Europe in 2011 and 2012.

There are 41 De La Salle Brothers in the District of the Philippines, over 7000 lay partners, and 17 educational institutions (12 with Higher Education departments) are recognized in the network known as De La Salle Philippines. About 96,000 children and youth are in these institutions at any given time.

On May 15, 2011, the Lasallian Family in the Philippines will begin to belong to the newly-formed Lasallian East Asian District (LEAD), bringing together seven (7) countries of Asia: Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong kong, the Philippines, and Japan.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of RELEM Heads of Schools

**Generalate, Rome, October 18-22, 2010.**

The RELEM MEL Service Team programmed the first formation meeting for a group of 40 Heads of Schools of RELEM educational establishments: 5 Brothers, 33 Heads of Schools (11 women and 22 men), represented the 10 Districts that make up the Region. The formative sessions and the sharing of educational experiences were held over the course of five days during the second half of the month of October.

The meetings took place in CIL facilities. The program aimed to make this first experience of meeting and mutual knowledge to help raise awareness of belonging to a new Lasallian Region. The warm welcome by Brothers of the General Council, House Services and other residents of the Generalate allowed us to experience these days in an genuine atmosphere of brotherhood. We had the valuable contribution of the Brothers who served as translators and all the other means made available by CIL to have an enjoyable and pleasant stay.

The Lasallian educational, pastoral, missionary and institutional content allowed us to tune into the most engaging topics of the educational and animating mission that interested all of the Heads of Schools. The final evaluation was most positive and enriching. Mutual understanding and the sharing of experiences were an enrichment that opened up a world of new relationships and mutual assistance. Particularly appreciated was the update on aspects such as the Lasallian charism and spirituality, to see oneself as part of the Institute, Lasallians together with others, sharing the same mission, all this was a powerful experience for many of the future. The Heads of Schools wanted, above all, to share in groups, in order to be able to more deeply be one with and profit from the wealth of positive experiences, as well as to continue the process after exchanging good teaching practices and to continue deepening mutual understanding and collaboration with other RELEM Schools. The District of Italy pre-



sented some significant educational experiences which ended with a tour and dinner at the Colegio Villa Flaminia. The night visit of ancient Rome was the culmination.

In short: a positive experience that deserves to be continued in various ways that allows for motivational experiences and facilitates a sense of belonging to the great Lasallian Family.



## LATIN AMERICAN LASALLIAN EDUCATION CONGRESS 2010

### A fraternity which stimulates us:

We have lived an intense day of Latin American fraternity with a view to sharing our identity as a Lasallian education community. With this proposal we have generated spaces for sharing experiences, research and educational projects. We have taken steps towards a better academic interchange among ourselves and with the education world of our Region.

### A Founder who questions us:

As Lasallians, we recognize that our Founder has invited us to make our teaching a true vocation in the service of the poor. The demands from reality are greater every day: being coherent and consistent with the social and ecclesial responsibilities which we have taken on, leads us to take seriously the invitation from St. John Baptist De La Salle to make education a science and to get from it research processes. Therefore, we need the strength of the Spirit in order to be faithful to the call which we have received from God. As ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ, we confide in the presence of God who, as a kind Father, wishes that all our pupils and teachers reach the plenitude of their human vocation.

### An ongoing effort at updating:

We feel invited to bring up to date - along with and for the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean - the educational intuitions which La Salle developed in his time. Furthermore we feel challenged to create Lasallian thinking for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century which drives our educational imagery and our evangelizing action as an educational and ecclesial community. We are invited to respond with creativity to this essential question: What is meant by being Lasallian today in the Latin America and Caribbean of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

### A quality education based on evangelizing criteria:

From its origins the Lasallian school has been one of quality, not only for motives of faith but also as a response to the needs of society, especially of the poor. Of course, nowadays, the concept of educational quality is being imposed socially from paradigms alien to ours, and does not always respond to the evangelizing vision of our educational proposal. We feel challenged to continue promoting in our educational institutions an education of quality, recognized socially for its academic and evangelizing competence,

attentive to the poor and to the new poverties as challenges to our being as Lasallians.

### A Lasallian Higher Education which opens up paths in the Region:

University education, from its complexity, creates new possibilities and new problems for the Lasallian educational world. In order to be faithful to its functions of teaching, research and outreach, higher education needs to invest heavily in the formation of teachers and directors, in developing projects with a social impact and in promoting research leading to combating the roots of poverty in our Region. We feel invited to deepen the articulation of a Latin American network of Lasallian Universities which can help in promoting an academic interchange of teachers and students, in strengthening projects for research and outreach and in developing together actions which can collaborate and fit in with its educational offers.

For further information:

<http://www.relal.org.co/documentos/recursos-Documentos/CELL/Declaracion%20final%20CEL L%202010%20-%20Espa.pdf>

## Bethlehem University Receives Solidarity Award

Bethlehem University (BU) in the Holy Land was honored with the 2010 Living Stones Solidarity Award by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc. (HCEF). The University received the award November 5 in Bethesda, Maryland, which honors BU for its commitment to improving the lives of Christians in the Holy Land through education, advocacy and solidarity, particularly its emphasis on excellence in academic programs and the development of students. The award also commends BU for its commitment to preparing students to assume leadership positions in society.

The award also highlights BU's leadership in speaking out for the rights of others. HCEF cited the case involving Berlanty Azzam, a student who was detained, handcuffed, and blindfolded by the Israeli military in 2009. It

## Solidarity

happened as she tried to return to Bethlehem from Ramallah because the address on her ID was listed in Gaza. Although she was not permitted to return to BU for her final two months of studies needed to graduate, Bethlehem University helped her complete her degree from Gaza.

BU Vice Chancellor Br. Peter Bray called the award recognition of how the University has loved, supported, and stood in solidarity with Christians in Palestine for 37 years. "I think if you take a look at the present situation in a country where less than two percent are Christian, Bethlehem University has 30 percent of its student population as Christian," he said.

## College Students Discern Teaching Vocation

Six young men in the Midwest are participating in the Fourth Cohort of the Lasallian Teacher Immersion Program (LTIP) which began on August 28, 2010. The program is designed to help college students discern their vocation as Lasallian educators. The participants include four students from St. Mary's University in Minnesota-- Johnny Borck, Kyle Garesche, Tom Iven and Sam Olsem; and two students from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL--Dan Hettinger and Victor Scimeca.

## Vocation

Participants spent their first weeks at La Salle Institute in Glencoe, MO in preparation for the program. This was followed by three weeks at Holy Family Catholic Worker in Kansas City, MO where they worked among the poor. The program also includes working at De La Salle at Blessed Sacrament in Memphis, TN, and Ocean Tides School in Narragansett, RI. The final phase of the program is a month-long experience of living with Brothers in Glencoe and serving at Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, MO. LTIP also includes a second portion which consists of a trip to Guatemala that includes studies and service.

The LTIP is sponsored by the Midwest District, Christian Brothers University, Lewis University, and St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

## The Communications Service gets a face-lift

Brother Jesús Martín took over the Institute's Communications Service in September 2010. Along with him, Fabio Parente, Luigi Cerchi, Leda Simeoni and volunteers Juan Camilo Bejerano (until December 2010) and Ever Saúl Martínez (until August 2011) make up the team that faces many challenges but with great enthusiasm.

The most important challenge is to respond to all the lines of action from Circular 456 regarding the issue of Communication. The creation of and care for networks, web tools, various publications, internal training, the providing of guidelines, creating a corporate trademark...make up the framework that seeks to provide better development of the educational and evangelizing mission of the Institute in order to communicate more effectively as regards the different areas of our Institute.

Besides continuing the wonderful work that was accomplished by Brother José Antonio Warletta in the area of publications, we have opened internal discussions on how to improve the Institute web site. Along with putting new energy into and possibly restructuring the Institute web site (by using Wordpress or Drupal, for example) we have been thinking about a platform for training that will use transfer, interactive and collaborative technologies (Moodle) within an Institute database or in a digital repository for the library and the archives.

In order to accomplish this, some of the strategies that have been put into place have to do with the work team itself. Along these lines:

- The creation of subgroups for interdisciplinary work. This would include



internal training so that the work could be fully developed by at least two persons.

- To be more effective in our work by using the kanban method supplemented by a project management web application (Redmine).
- To document everything generated in a Twiki corporate intranet application.

Other strategies have to do with new ways of working in and from the Generalate because, how can we ask the rest of the Institute to do something that we are not able to do ourselves? Basically this has to do with improving the way we work within a network. Some significant steps that we have already taken include:

- The migration of e-mail to Google Apps, with all the functionality of communication and collaboration that this service provides. Currently this service is available to all members of the Generalate, all International Councils, all Visitors, Auxiliary Visitors and secretaries.

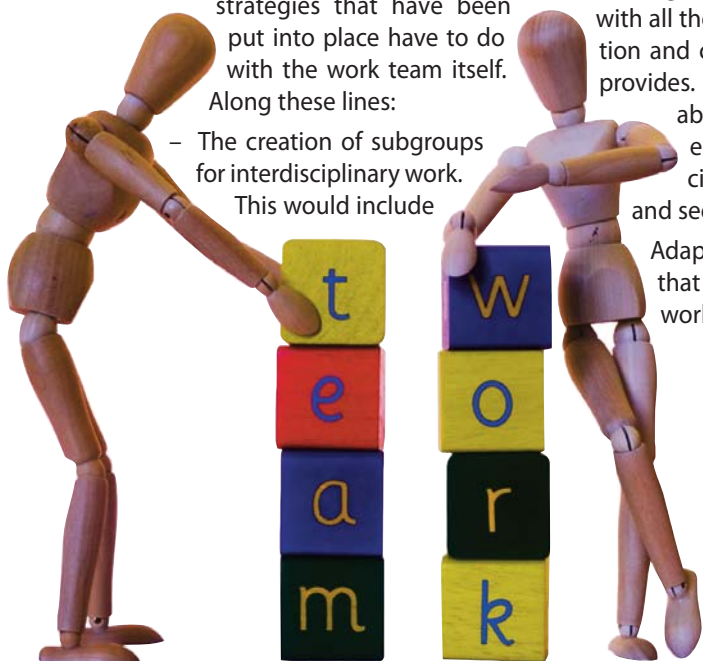
Adaptation of an intranet service that provides private and public work spaces.

Still other strategies have to do with our "fundamental philosophy":

- Preferential option for free software. Why? Technological independence, high quality, cost savings, adaptability to specific needs, widespread knowledge, the use of standard formats. All the applications named above are of this type of software.
- Free-flowing relations between the communications work teams and District marketing, especially that of universities.

We also have the substantial help of an International Council. A Communications Plan is taking shape thanks to the members of the Council, and the emphasis is on making available to all Districts tools for evaluation and improvement.

Special mention should be made of the corporate trademark. We need to construct jointly a strong, dynamic and flexible identity that will be of benefit to all those who have need of our institutions, especially students, rather than having a scattered image and placing the accent on our differences. In March 2011 we hope to make concrete proposals to the Intercapitular Assembly.



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