



Priorities of the Superior and General Council for the Next Three Years

The Inter-Capitular meeting (March 21 to April 2, 2011) marked the half-way point between the last General Chapter and the next General Chapter. This event has given the Superior General and the General Council a chance to evaluate the past three and a half years and to establish some priorities for the next three and a half years.

At the Inter-Capitular Meeting, Brother Thomas Johnson, Vicar General, presented the four special priorities for attention over the next three years. These priorities are:

1. **Fostering an integrated Lasallian Spirituality including Mission, Community and Interior Life.**
2. **Emphasizing the Evangelical Mission of the Brother.**
3. **A renewed effort on the Pastoral Ministry of Vocations.**
4. **Giving special attention to Sectors where the Institute might disappear in five to ten years.**

These priorities came about not only as a result of the General Council's self evaluation but also from the surveys sent to the Visitors regarding the work of the Council and the needs of the Institute in the next few years.

Many other important matters mentioned in Circular 456 (*Toward the Year 2014*) are already being dealt with in the on-going work and efforts of the Secretariats, in the circulars on *Self-Sufficiency* and



Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an Act of Hope, the visits and pastoral letters of the Superior General and by recent work of the Resident Councilors.

(go to page 2)





The four special priorities are in addition to this on-going work. Each of four areas is about carrying out our mission. The first three are closely related to each other and the fourth one deals with the future of the Institute in certain Sectors. In deciding to name these concerns as priorities, the Council asked the following questions about each area:

What has been said already about these topics?

What are we saying now?

What strategies should we develop?

In the first priority, based on the last General Chapter, **fostering an integrated Lasallian Spirituality including Mission, Community and Interior Life**, the Council considered that we need to emphasize the principal elements of our life as integrated, not as separate components. The idea is to amplify the idea of a fully integrated Lasallian life as Brothers.

We would stress relationship between interior life and community life in that one cannot exist without the other and that the religious life of the Brother and professional life of the Brother are integrated fully. We are not religious who happen to educate or educators that happen to be religious, but Brothers in association for the mission of educational service for the poor. This is lived out by being conscious of our personal and surrounding reality, by illuminating that reality with the Word of God and, by applying those insights in daily life. Therefore, our professional life is seen from the evangelical perspective. Brothers, then, are called to be aware of seeing and being the Presence of God in the educational environment. For the Brother, Religious life is not as a "life apart from" but a "life within" the concrete social reality.

The second priority is to emphasize **the Evangelical or Gospel based role of the Brother in the educational environment**.

Of course we know that the Lasallian Mission is carried out by thousands of lay people without whom we would have no Mission. Much has been said about this in the last International Assembly, in the last three Chapters and in Circular 461 on Lasallian Association. Much also has been said about the enormous cultural shifts today as well as newer forms of poverty. Related to this is not only the importance of providing a human education for the poor but also a Christian or evangelical education, appropriate to the cultural and religious realities.

In this context, one of the challenges is the evangelical role of the Brother in the Lasallian Mission. The question is how do we stress and articulate the role we play specifically as Brothers in the Mission. This priority is to deepen our understanding of the Brothers' role through three questions:

What does it mean today "to preach the Gospel"?

How do we Brothers proclaim the Gospel in multi-religious or secularized contexts?

How does Lasallian charism and life style of the Brothers proclaim of the Gospel today?

The third priority is the **Pastoral Ministry of Vocations**. This priority is closely related to the first two, in that, we cannot be authentic without a strong spiritual life, a strong community life and without being "ambassadors of Jesus Christ" and the presence of God to others. If we are not authentic then we cannot attract others to our life.

Making vocation ministry a priority is a challenge given the reality of society today. Yet, in some parts of the world where there were few or no vocations, some congregations are finding an interest in vocations. Conversely in some parts of the world where there have been many vocations recently, we are experiencing a decrease in vocations. As cultural shifts take place everywhere in the world, so must our vocation ministry. The reality is that vocation ministry is something that we owe to young people. We owe it to them to raise the question of religious vocation in their lives. We cannot assume there will be no more vocations in certain parts of the world. Nor can we assume certain parts of the world will always be a natural font of vocations. The questions are:

How can we ignite the culture of vocations in areas where it is weak? How can we strengthen it where it is strong? How might we engage Young Lasallians today in discussions of vocation?

In developing this priority, The General Council will survey the Visitors and other congregations in order to find some best practices that we can share worldwide. Brother Thomas asked for suggestions from the Visitors on what kind of strategies and means are needed to promote these priorities.

The fourth area is related to the diminishment of the Institute in some areas. It does not take much analysis to realize that in perhaps five to ten years, the Brothers will have disappeared from some parts of the world. The Council asked itself two questions:

Are there some places that are a priority in that we need to make an effort to have Brothers present and engaged in the local mission?

Is the Lasallian Family strong enough in some areas to credibly continue the Lasallian Mission?

We answered “yes” to both questions in terms of two areas for special attention: The Holy Land and Belgium. Both are areas that had a serious diminishment of Brothers but also a growing Lasallian Network.



The presence of the Brothers in the Holy Land is an effective symbol of the presence of the Church. The Christian population that is diminishing needs anchors such as Catholic schools, colleges, universities and other institutions. Our educational works offer the increasingly rare opportunity for a quality human and Christian education for the Palestinian people. In the case of Bethlehem University, it is the only Christian higher education institution for the Palestinian People. In the spirit of *Brothers without Borders*, we will ask Brothers from other Districts to send Brothers for service in the Holy Land as was done with the Lwanga District and Japan. Already the

Districts of Bogota and Medellin have agreed to assist in this project. In Belgium, in both Districts, we believe there is the possibility to maintain a Lasallian presence in the area that will not have many Brothers. There have been strong efforts in Belgium over the years to build a Lasallian network and to form Lasallians in order to preserve the Lasallian character of the schools. With collaboration of local leaders, the Council will elaborate a model for very aged Districts to allow for educational institutions to continue with a Lasallian spirit of shared Mission and Lasallian pedagogy. The questions to be dealt with involve the kind of legal and canonical structures that will be needed, formation accompaniment of lay people when there are no local Brothers for the task, the willingness of the ministries to continue in a Lasallian perspective and the financing of appropriate structures established by the Brothers. The Council will continue to stress these four priorities in the coming years.

2011 Intercapitular Meeting Educational Mission and Evangelization

Throughout the Intercapitular meeting and especially on the day devoted to discussing the Educational Mission and Evangelization, discussion focused on four fundamental points:

1. The 2013 International MEL (Lasallian Educational Mission) Assembly.
2. The role of the Brother Visitor in the governance and animation of the mission.
3. New educational and evangelization projects.
4. Regions and new organizational structures.

The development of each one of these themes reflected advances in the educational mission after the 44th General Chapter and in each of its lines of action.

Second International Assembly (MEL 2013)

Making the most of the presence of all Brother Visitors, the work plan that the Preparatory Commission for the 2013 International MEL Assembly had prepared was presented. The Preparatory Commission's work centered around the following funda-

mental axes:

- The theme for the Assembly
- The process to be followed in the discussion
- Delegates to the Assembly.


Necessary information is being sent to Districts progressively in order to take further steps in the preparation of the Assembly.

Role of the Brother Visitor in the governance and animation of the mission.

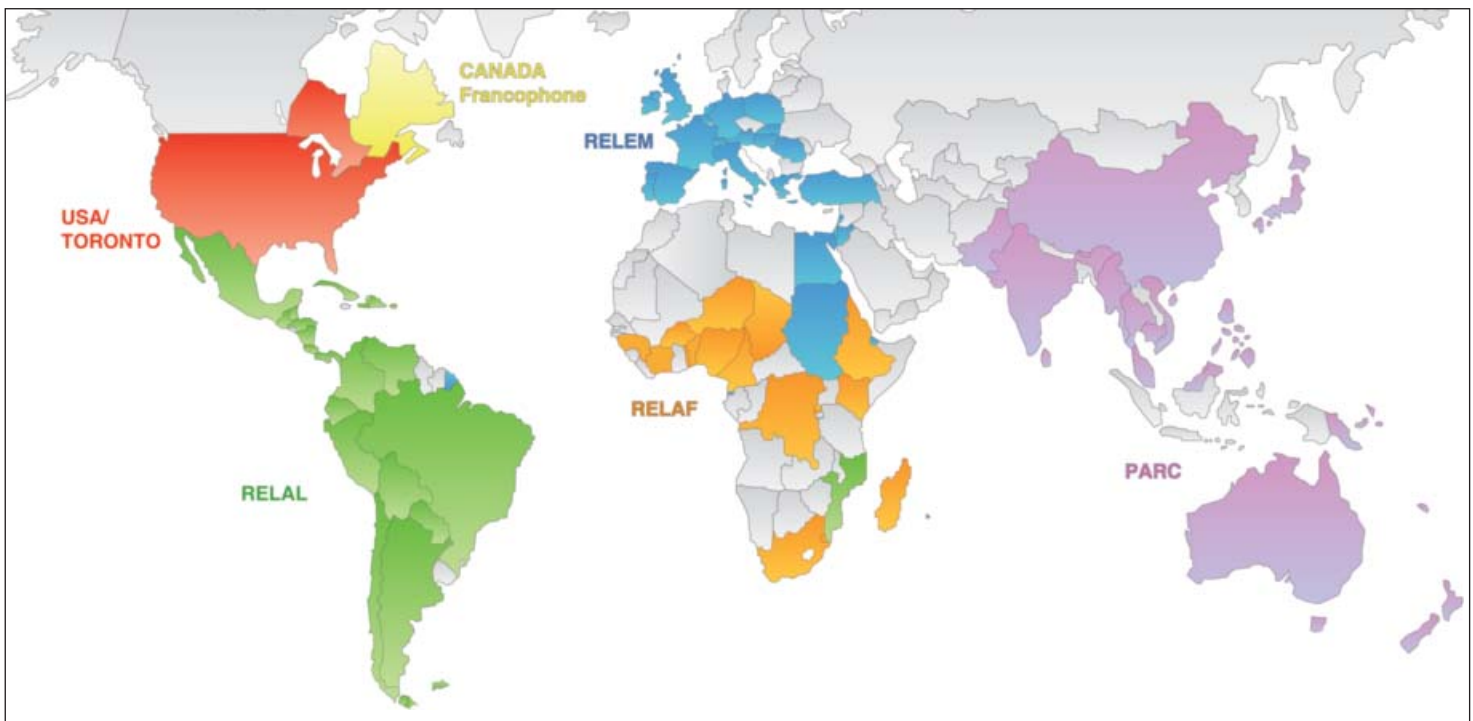
Brothers David Sintiere (NO-SF District), Jean-Paul Aleth (District of France) and Gerardo Castillo (District of Venezuela) each shared their vision on the governance and animation of

the mission. Here are some of their ideas:

- The animation of a Lasallian work can vary depending upon many factors, such as the reality of the place, the country's educational legislation and the options that the District has chosen in terms of the mission.
- The strengthening of leadership teams in Districts is an important element in the development of works within the mission.
- Leadership communities made up of Brothers and lay persons assure the continuity of and fidelity to the mission and the search for new responses to new needs.



New educational and evangelization projects in the mission



New educational and evangelization projects in the mission.

With the idea of getting to know some of the responses given to the lines of action from the 44th General Chapter in the Districts, three works that reflected the driving force of the mission were presented, as well as how they respond to the educational needs of today's world:

Project Utopia

- Region: RELAL
- District: Bogota
- Country: Colombia
- Institution: De La Salle University

This is an educational project that integrates educational and productive opportunities for young people in rural areas with few financial resources and who have been affected by violence. The idea is to train them to become leaders who are able to achieve social, political, and productive transformation within the country, reinvent agriculture in Colombia, and succeed in restructuring sustainable agricultural and livestock production through participatory research and the use of new technologies.

The Bamboo School

- Region: PARC
- District: LEAD
- Country: Thailand

The school is located some 2 kilometers from the border with Myanmar (Burma). The area is known as "Three Angels' Pass," in eastern Thailand, in the province of Kanchanaburi, in the Sangklaburi district. It is about 300 kilometers from Bangkok. Some students live in the Thai zone on the border while some others cross the border and come from the Burmese section of Karen or Mom. Students come to study in this school since there are no schools in their own areas.

La Salle in Guyana

- Region: RELEM
- Country: Guyana
- District: France
- Institution: École Saint Jean Baptiste de La Salle

The District of France took the decision to open a school in Guyana as a response to the call of the Bishop of Guyana Emmanuel Lafont. This small country in South America has a population of approximately 230,000 inhabitants, including 40 nationalities with a 23% rate of unemployment. The educational program is in Saint Laurent du Maroni, a town in the eastern part of the country, with 37,000 inhabitants including some 17,000 children and young people. The school is directed by a community of 5 Brothers and 3 lay persons. There have been many difficulties in carrying out this project but the work continues to grow with God's help to offer education to very poor children and young people.

Lasallian Regions and new structures of animation and governance

In the discussion on new animation and governance structures, Brothers Edgar Nicodem, Gabriel Somé and Robert Schieler, respective Regional General Councillors for RELAL, RELAF and USA-TORONTO, gave a presentation about what is happening in each of the Regions, in accord with the lines of action from the 44th General Chapter. In general terms, these are some of the challenges that require attention in the Regions:

- To motivate the processes of association between Brothers and lay persons for the strengthening of the educational mission for the poor.
- To energize the processes of restructuring and the leadership structures of the Regions.
- To develop continuing formation programs and the accompaniment of Brothers and lay persons for the mission.

It is important to underscore that each of the Regions has a particular reality and that determines the way it is organized and led. Nevertheless there were great differences sensed between the Regions.

International Assembly for the Mission 2013

Brief Note: To see complete information: www.lasalle.org

Date and Place:	May 5th to 19th 2013 - The Mother House in Rome
Theme:	One Family, one Mission: Lasallians associated for the Educational Service of the Poor
Process:	An assembly process in three movements
First Movement:	Setting the context (the first few days: reports, testimonies, panels...)
Second Movement:	Organizing themes (the Thematic Groups will be formed accordingly) 1. Lasallian Pedagogy for Service of the Poor 2. Evangelization and Pastoral for Service of the Poor 3. Educational Community for Service of the Poor.
Third Movement:	Articulating Proposals (the final days)

Delegates to the International Assembly 2013.

Number of Delegates per Lasallian Region

Region	Number of students (nb)	$\frac{nb \times 90}{T}$	Total number of Delegates per Region	Members of MEL Council	Members of LFA Council	Number of Delegates by Region
RELAF	43.848	4.60	15	1	1	13
RELAL	325.640	34.16	44	2	1	41
PARC	158.494	16.62	27	2	2	23
USA-CANADA	70.339	7.37	17	2	2	13
RELEM	259.498	27.22	37	1	4	32
TOTAL	T = 857.819	90	140	8	10	122

Calendar & Contribution of the General Councilors for the Regions and the Visitors.

- **February 2012 – April 2012:** Selection/election of the Delegates.
The **General Councilors for the Regions** will coordinate this with the **Visitors** of their Region. Selection/election will be done according to the Criteria/guidelines given above, with special attention given to the last one, as the Thematic Groups will be formed on this basis (delegates will join a Thematic Group as soon as they are selected).
- **May 2012:** Having the list of Delegates, the **General Councilors for the Regions** form the three Thematic Groups and select a Leader for each Thematic group. They inform the Preparatory Commission by sending the list of Delegates and the name of each Thematic group Leader.
- **May 2012 to November 2012:** Working time in Districts, Delegations and Sectors. Thematic Group Leaders will be given instructions by the Prep. Com. and, where possible, will be connected with other groups / on-line communication, etc...
- **November to December 2012:** The Thematic Group Leaders prepare a synthesis of their group work.
- **January 2013:** The Thematic Group Leaders send their Regional synthesis of group work to Rome (Prep. Com.).
General Councilors for the Regions and Visitors send reports on the impact of IA 2006 (format to be specified later).

Co-Chairs of the International Assembly 2013

Elected by the Preparatory Commission as co-Chairs of the IA2013 were Mr. Steven BYRNE, District of Australia NZ PNG Pakistan and Dr. Carmelita QUEBENGCO, afsc, District of LEAD.

Members of the Preparatory Commission

In February 2010, Brother Superior appointed a **Preparatory Commission** to the Assembly. It is made up of members of our two international Councils of the *Lasallian Educational Mission* and of *Lasallian Family and Association*.

Br. Jorge Fonseca, Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, Mr. Steve Byrne, Br. Manuel-Jesus Ceballos, Br. Gustavo Ramirez, Br. Charles Kitson, Mrs. Montserrat Nieto Alvarez, Mr. Vitalis Ndikum, Mr. Greg Kopra, Br. Claude Reinhardt, Br. José Antolinez.

Any post or email regarding the I.A. 2013 should be sent to Brother José Antolinez, Secretary General, jantolinez@lasalle.org who will either reply or forward the message.

The Intercapitular Assembly, an opportunity to evaluate and to look forward.

The Intercapitular Assembly was a time for reflection for the "Being Brothers Today" Secretariat. We asked ourselves: "What have we done these past years? What are our priorities? What are the challenges? What will we do in the next three years?" We are delighted to share this reflection with the readers of Intercom.

What has been done.

In recent years, four CIL programs have been held: Being Brothers Today (2007-2008); The Word: Ministers and the Mission (2008-2009); International Lasallian Studies Session in collaboration with the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources (2009-2010); Understanding and Living Lasallian Association Today (2010). It should also be noted that the CIL staff supported other institutional programs organized by the General Council: Two formation sessions for new Visitors (May 2008 and 2010), the "Vega" Program for young Europeans, offered by the Council for Young Lasallians (July 2009) and three programs for IALU held at the Generalate (June 2008, 2009 and 2010).

There was also a formation program held in the PARC Region on "New Formators: and on "Accompaniment among equals for young Brothers" in July and August 2010.

The Secretaries for Initial Formation have made various visits of accompaniment to the houses of initial formation. They have supported meetings for young Brothers and retreats in preparation for perpetual profession and they have followed up on District plans for vocation ministry.

On the Institute level, for the occasion of the Synod on the Word of God, the secretariat published materials on "Lectio Divina for Lasallians" (2009) that were available on the internet.

What we consider important.

We are aware of the need to continue taking an in-depth look at the vow of association for the educational service of the poor and at the understanding of the Brother's identity throughout all of formation.

We underscore the importance of living a spirituality that is integrated, authentically Lasallian that makes no difference between the duties of our mission and those of our sanctification and that are made manifest in concrete forms of praying, living together, working and in being formed.

There is a need to continue attending to community life and accompaniment: Promote good community practices that favor the mutual accompaniment of the Brothers with others, that will aid in human and spiritual growth and that will be supportive in particularly difficult situations.

We should not forget the importance that the 44th General Chapter gave to vocation ministry. We have to continue making known who we are; awakening and accompanying the Lasallian Christian vocation; opting for evangelical communities; opening communities to "come and see" events from the Gospel, making explicit calls for the Brothers' vocation and being a community presence and a witness among young people.

The challenges we face.

We would like, as has already been expressed, to promote the vision and the living out of an integrated spirituality. The 44th General Chapter spoke of the need to organize workshops on interior life (3.6). The CIL program for 2011 - 2012 will concentrate on this theme.

We have to revise and create formative practices that foster an integrated spirituality.

We should update the Lasallian formation process based on the centrality of association for the educational service of the poor, beginning with a joint reflection on the general journey of Lasallian formation. We need to revise the formation practices that foster this centrality.

The theme of Vocation Ministry continues to be a priority. We are thinking about a possible CIL session on this theme, as well as promoting formation in accompaniment: Formation on the District level of community Directors and a CIL session for leaders of intentional groups and Lasallian communities.

What we are doing as a Secretariat.

These are the programs that at this time are in our calendar in accord with what was planned in Circular 456:

- CIL 2011 - 2012: "Lasallian Spiritual Renewal". For Brothers from October 24 until March 2. General module for Brothers and lay Lasallians: January 9 until February 3.
- September 2012: Program for inter-congregational formation on "The Identity and the Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church and in the World Today." Intended audience: Brothers from eight congregations devoted to education
- CIL 2012 - 2013: Program of "Accompaniment for formation personnel and community leaders and Lasallian intentional groups." Intended audience: Lasallians committed to accompaniment and formation.
- July 22 to 31, 2013: International meeting for young Brothers.
- CIL 2013 - 2014: "Lasallian Vocation Ministry." Intended audience: Brothers and lay partners in charge of vocation ministry.
- Reflection network on Lasallian formation. Intended audience: The first group will be composed of Directors of novitiates and members of the Secretariat's International Council. Later on this session will include formation personnel and other Lasallians.
- Lasallian formation: A New Common Journey, in collaboration with the other Secretariats and Services.



Some echos from the Intercapitular Assembly

During the presentation of the topics dealt with by this Secretariat, "Being Brothers Today," several Brothers expressed their own views and opinions of how in recent years the challenges brought up by the General Chapter have been lived out. We put together some ideas from the texts of their presentations and we offer them for everyone's reflection.

Our vow of association should produce a profound effect of belonging to a "Society," to an Institute overall, with its richness and its weaknesses, with a social plan for the Mission through the Mission, for all of us who live in community.

The vow of association, like the other vows, is not an end in itself, but a means to make manifest our style of religious consecration, our way of living in community and our personal options. Its profound significance should revitalize life in community in its totality and, at the same time, the community should revitalize the vow of association

Br. Aquilino Bravo, ARLEP sector of Madrid.

The San Caetano Home, in Portugal, and the community often become places of welcome for young university students in that they are offered different opportunities for study, socializing and prayer. The community shares faith with the young while having prayer sessions. It offers many groups a "Mount Horeb" experience which is aimed at vocational discernment for young university students and professors. Some professors are offered an experience called "A Step Up": Brothers share the mission with them and community life for a period of between two to four weeks. The professors tend to be from Lasallian Christian communities. During the present academic year this community is also a formative community for postulants.

Br. Andrés Corcuera, ARLEP sector of Valladolid

Consecrated life each day appears weaker, more fragile. The human response would be pessimism. The response of a consecrated person who believes is gladness. Gladness is a sign of hope, it is the Good News, for all those who do see a future in front of them. I have been impressed by the testimony of an Anglican religious with an incurable illness, Dag Hammarskjöld. He was saying: "For everything that has happened... thanks, for everything that will happen... yes". This is the testimony of each consecrated person: to say thanks and to say yes with gladness, what precedes from knowing that God loves us, come what may. It is the gladness that no one will be able to dispel [...] The formation we give and which we receive I have the impression that it is little demanding and, as a consequence, rather superficial. Our young people are not afraid of what we demand of them. Many are the vocations that are lost exactly by the opposite. What our young people uniquely want to see is a certain coherence between what we say and what we do and demand. Nothing more. They want to see in us companions on the way. Is this too much to ask us? I do not think so. They are on their path and for us it is an obligation: To be witnesses of the beauty found in the following of Christ in consecrated life.

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, Minister General, OFM

The desire of the Brother Visitors, as recorded by a leadership team of two Brothers and Jo Akepsimas (composer and singer of liturgical songs) was that each community send at least two Brothers for a fraternal meeting entitled "Living and Praying in Community: A Way of Life." The purpose was to study ways to improve the quality of leading the Liturgy of the Hours in communities. The desire was to renew and to take an in-depth look at the way of reciting the Office, the way of celebrating, the "style" given to our chapels and prayer spaces and caring for their atmosphere, etc.

Br. Jean-Luc Lambert, France

We want our communities to be free to be born again in the commitment to association. We want to travel on paths of conversion that will get us closer and closer to a lifestyle that will have Jesus Christ and the Kingdom at its center. We want to do this by being open to the winds of the Word of God, always living and effective (Hebrews 4: 12), with the method of prayerful reading.

Br. Santiago Rodríguez-Mancini, Argentina-Paraguay

We have to take up in our lives again the message that this Gospel text offers us: "Go out to the roads." It is a call to do the mission, and it becomes our style of living, of Being Brothers Today. I would propose to you three STEPS that we should take:

1. Feel, live, and spread the Passion of our life as Brothers...It is our treasure, that one day we find and that today we "give," we "offer," we "share." It is the time to revitalize our vocation stories, and to be/make clear proposals... Is our life vocation ministry? Is there passion for the Kingdom?
2. Go to encounters with young people, where they meet, where they are searching, where they are...where they are waiting for us... "And tell what we have seen." This is the call of life to which Jesus invites us, this is our mission and our presence.
3. Create spaces... in our communities: spaces of encounter, of welcome, of listening, of "the meaning of life," of belonging, discernment, in order to fly... and to dream that another world is possible...

Br. Juan González, ARLEP Sector Andalusia

A new technique has been adopted beginning in 2009: on the local level, each active community designates among the members one Brother who is in charge of vocation ministry in the work for which he is responsible. By means of this "decentralization," the national recruiter is freed from his tasks to a large extent, and he is able to broaden his field of action to include other school environments, including universities, thanks to close collaboration with the chaplains...This new strategy seems to have produced some results already...

Br. Désiré Rasamison, Antananarivo

This Plan of Interiority, "Hara," is a significant call to all teachers to work on a personal and group level on plans that will aid us in our path towards interiority.

We would like this education plan on interiority to help students, teachers, and families to develop competence in leaning how to be more and more reflective, to use ethical criteria, to read reality from something more than just the anecdotal level, to learn about symbols, to be able to integrate silence in our lives so that we can open ourselves to alternatives and to the transcendent, and to cultivate interiority that will move us to commitment.

Br. José Román Pérez Conde,
ARLEP sector of Valladolid

Accompaniment in religious life is a process which enables deeper relationship with the Divine, and the other members who are committed to the same mission. This spiritual companionship is an atmosphere of trust, in which a person becomes aware of the presence and movement of God in his everyday life. As those accompanied share their dreams, struggles, triumphs and fears, they remain open to their deepest and wisest source of freedom and joy. The companion is a listening and supportive person who creates an environment where the other person can look honestly at his or her relationship with the Sacred. The spiritual journey is about the movement towards unity of self in God, the movement towards wholeness or holiness.

One need not subscribe to a set belief system or practices in order to benefit from spiritual accompaniment. As a process of support, enquiry and reflection, it serves to assist in finding one's own answers to the questions emerging within a person. Whilst some of these questions may be the same for many people, the answers can vary according to the individual, as each individual navigates his own personal path of spiritual development.

Br. Joseph Fernando, Secretary for Formation

We've found that an important consideration in vocation ministry today is that men begin the process of vocation discernment at various points in their lives. Our Regional novitiate of five men, for example, has one in his twenties, two in their thirties and two in their forties. The reality of vocation discernment through perhaps four decades of a young man's life calls for diverse programs in vocation promotion, accompaniment and discernment.

Br. Thomas Jones, USA/Toronto Region

Restoring the primacy of our vow of association for service to the poor in the revised vow formula is something that we are very proud of. Its charismatic energy has always been embedded deeply in our Lasalian DNA.

Br. Dennis Malloy, DENA

I have this theory: the best CAP is the CAP that requires the community to do the dishes. It forces a choice: either you live by a schedule and get up at the same time; someone who doesn't want to hang around gets up when he feels like it and starts the dishes -and ends up doing more than his share; or the community puts off doing the dishes and fills the time with stories, songs, jokes, observations, debates- and then when the time is right, the community puts a wrap on the conversation and does the dishes, cleans up the kitchen and takes out the garbage.

Br. Timothy Coldwell, NO-SF

Lasallian pedagogy project for the 21st century

John Baptist de La Salle and the first Brothers, over the course of nearly forty years, developed a particular way of understanding and living day-to-day life in schools. Aware of their commitment to promote education in service of children who came from illiterate families, they worked tirelessly to train men capable of advancing culturally, spiritually and professionally. The results were immediate, as noted by the early biographers.

More than three-hundred years after this foundational event, many of us Lasallians have asked ourselves about the initial driving forces that motivated our Founder and the first Brothers with an ardent zeal to procure the salvation of all those who were entrusted to them. We believe that these driving forces form the basis for an innovative and challenging pedagogical discourse even for us today:

- innovative, because it gave rise to the organization of a school that responded, both educationally and pastorally, to the demands of a reality that was culturally and spiritually poor;
- challenging, because said responses had an immediate effect on the life of children, their families, and the social and Church milieu in which they were involved.

Today we ask ourselves about the Lasallian pedagogical discourse, its initial driving force, its realization in the educational history of the Institute and its future in our century.

For this reason, the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources has invited Brother Pedro Gil, from the District of ARLEP, to work in coordinating a reflection group called "Lasallian Pedagogy for the 21st Century." There are seventeen Brothers from all the Regions of the Institute in this group and we have already begun our work using the Conduct of Schools and the Meditations for the Time of Retreat to guide our reflection for the purpose of:

- First, to identify the essential elements of foundational Lasallian pedagogy: a look at the intended targets, the program, the method, the community and the person of the teacher
- Second, to re-read the educational responses of the Institute at the key moments of its educational history: the work of Brother Agathon, the pedagogical renewal of 1834 in France, the Latin Question in the United States at the end of the nineteenth century, the periodic updating of the *Conduct of Schools* during the 18th and 19th centuries, the Declaration of the Brother in the World Today in 1966 and the new Lasallian community of the 21st century.
- Finally, to look at some driving forces as we face the future: the demands of educational administration, new social limits, the broadening of the curriculum, the new situation of the Brothers' community within Lasallian educational projects and the challenge of the new evangelization.

The work group will have a Lasallian Pedagogical Seminar in May 2012 in Rome and will prepare a book that will be presented at the 2013 International MEL Assembly.

The training of lasallian researchers, SIEL 2012 - 2013

The Institute, throughout its history, has had excellent men who have devoted their time, experience and above all, their deep conviction in the production of a rich, cultural, charismatic, historic and spiritual legacy which no doubt continues to be an inexhaustible source of interest. Hence the need for continuing to train new generations of Brothers and Lasallians who will continue providing fundamental and applied research that will enable us to be open to the challenges of the educational mission in the complexity of the here and now of the Church and of society.

New strategies of metacognition, the development of online technologies, new perspectives in social sciences, new challenges that include multiculturalism, the challenges of the educational mission...there are so many aspects that drive us to leave the plans of traditional training in order to be open to our own strategies of teaching-learning. Overall, these challenges have led us to re-think a new SIEL (International Session of Lasallian Studies) for 2012 - 2013 which, furthermore, will take into account the financial difficulties of the poorer sections of the Institute.

Concretely, we have proposed the Intercapitular Assembly a SIEL session that will include three parts:

- First, a residential session in Rome from October 22 until November 16, 2010, in which the Coordinating Team will accompany participants in drawing up their own Lasallian research projects. To do this, they will be provided with the essential tools of Lasallian thought today. First and foremost, a community of life will be formed that will serve as a reference point for this formative journey.
- Second, each participant in their community of origin will devote seven months to develop their research, with challenging online accompaniment, carried out by a team of Brothers from all the Regions of the Institute, who will ensure the quality of the process to be followed by each one. It should be understood that the participant will need to have adequate time for personal study as well as for participation in online forums and video conferences.
- Third, each participant will present their final research at an academic event prepared in their District of origin. The participant who passes all their credits will receive accreditation on the part of La Salle Andorran Open University (UOLS).

Some basic requirements: an internet connection and an adequate computer; being able to manage French – in addition to another official Institute language – and, above all, having received on the part of their District a work project that will take into account their profile as a Lasallian researcher beginning in 2013.

At the next session of the International Council of Lasallian Research and Resources in May 2011, the proposal will take on its definitive shape so that it can be presented to the Brother Visitors as soon as possible.

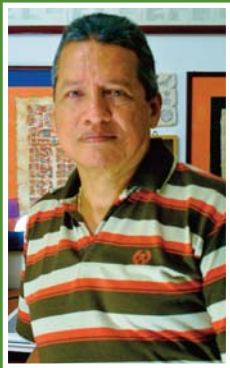
Digital magazine of lasallian research, 2011-2012

Our Digital Magazine continues as a semestral publication, appearing in November and in May. For 2012 - 2013 the central theme will be Lasallian Pedagogy.

We invite all to participate with themes that have to do with pedagogy from the Lasallian perspective: concepts, criteria, fundamentals, options, proposals...all that will help us to go forward towards a greater comprehension of what we understand by education from a Lasallian prism.

On the Magazine's web site you will be able to see instructions for authors of articles. Thank you in advance for your collaboration.

The Educational Dialogue Exposition: the synergy between researcher and artist.



For the purpose of promoting Lasallian thought based on new communication strategies, the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources invited Brother José David Berbesí, from the District of Venezuela, to develop a pictorial exposition that would express, in an original way, the content of Brother Leon Lauraire's most recent book, entitled *The Conduct of Schools. A Cultural Approach*. This was *Cahiers Lasalliens* number 63.

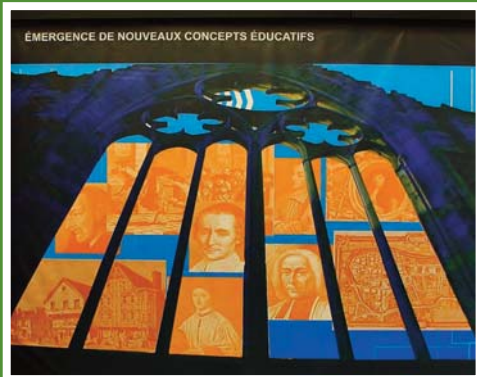
Brother José David, is a Professor of Art. He has experience with various artistic techniques, especially drawing, oil painting, airbrush mural painting, sculpture and, most recently, the development of graphic projects with multimedia programs. Many of his CIL companions will remember him for his caricatures.

Brother Leon Lauraire is well-known by all for his long career in Lasallian pedagogical research. We especially remember him with great esteem for his efforts in promoting the *Lasalliana* monographs and for his work on *The Conduct of Schools*. We eagerly await the final book in the series which will be *Cahiers Lasalliens* number 64 on the evolution of the *Conduct* throughout the history of the Institute.

Establishing a synergy between the researcher and the artist, Brothers Leon and José David met in Rome to share together their original vision on a study of the French context wherein *The Conduct of Schools* came into existence. This document continues to be for us a witness in reference to the foundational journey and it is still filled with questions as we face the current challenges of education in the world today.

The Brother Visitors who participated in the 2011 Intercapitular Assembly:

- participated in a conference given by Brother Leon Lauraire on the driving force of educational dialogue from a Lasallian perspective.
- received *Cahiers Lasalliens 63*, originally in French and translated into Spanish, English and Italian as a gift on the part of Brother Superior General and

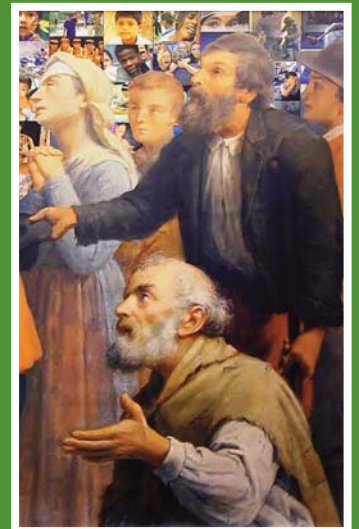


of Brother Superior General and

- Attended the inauguration of the *Educational Dialogues* exhibit and received in digital format the entire contents of the exposition in the official languages of the Institute.

The Service of Lasallian Research and Resources invites all Districts to reproduce this Exposition in their places of origin, in the hopes that this will nourish the desire of Lasallians and other educators and those involved in pastoral ministry to delve into the heritage of Lasallian pedagogy.

We are deeply grateful to Brothers Leon Lauraire and José David Berbesí for their research and artistic creativity in favor of the updating of Lasallian thought.



De La Salle Solidarity Foundation – ONLUS

Last January the De La Salle Solidarity Foundation was legally established according to Italian law by the General Administration of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Why create an ONLUS? Where does this peculiar idea come from?

It seemed to be the natural evolution of the response of the Secretariat to the challenges raised in Circular 456 "Towards 2014".

In relation to the General Lines of Action of the Circular, focusing on Lines 1, 2 and 3: the Foundation constitutes a help in securing funds and a great opportunity for enhancing an inter-regional network for animation and coordination of isolated initiatives of solidarity around the Lasallian world. While, focusing on Lines 7, 8 and 10, the establishment of the Foundation is a means to provide a concrete platform to raise the efficiency and efficacy of the already well structured work of the Secretariat.

The overall aim pursued by the Institute since the last Chapter: the achievement of Self-Sufficiency at all levels from the Central Administration of the Institute to the single District, has been adopted by the Foundation. The Foundation is legally and financially an independent body from the Generalate. (Its immediate goal is to reach Self-Sufficiency in one year's time.)

Finally the constitution of the Foundation as a civil entity allows it to legalize the movement of funds the Secretariat manages and transfers to Districts and to Projects all over the World. In regard to this aspect it needs to be noted that not only the financial transfers concerning Development Office projects but also those referring to the Sharing Fund and to Secoli projects are already passing through the Foundation.



Goals:

- To cooperate in the development of people in need throughout the world and to protect their civil rights through education, human well-being, justice and peace.
- To encourage and develop voluntary service for the development and sensitization of people both in developed and developing countries, as a means to foster a greater consciousness of international solidarity for the development of humanity.

Activities:

- Promotion and funding of various programs and projects of formation, education and development in favor of the needy in the world.
- Collaboration with other solidarity organizations in the process of creating a greater awareness in education and development.
- Fundraising in international organizations and governments especially for projects related to education and the promotion of justice and peace.

Structure:

The membership of the Foundation is open both to individual persons and to legally recognized entities, either private or public, who in accordance with the goals of the Foundation, contribute financially towards the realization of the projects of the Foundation.

The Founding Members of the De La Salle Solidarity Foundation are:

- **The Generalate**
- **La Salle International Foundation, Inc. (Washington, DC)**
- **Education et Développement (France)**
- **Distrito ARLEP**
- **Región Latinoamericana Lasallista – RELAL**
- **District du Canada Francophone**
- **District of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea**
- **Provincia Italia**
- **Région Lasallienne Africano-Malgache – RELAF**

The Founding members, as **Management Council**, establish the policy and guidelines of action of the Foundation. In their first meeting, March 30th, they have appointed the Administrative Council that is formed by the following members:

SOLIDARITY & DEVELOPMENT

The **Administrative Council** is called to implement the guidelines set by the Management Council and to act in order to fulfill the Foundation goals. A strategic plan of action will be established, in collaboration with the International Council of the Secretariat, during the upcoming meeting in May.

The **President** of the Foundation is elected by the Management Council. It is foreseen by the Foundation Statute that for the first year the Superior General is called to perform the duties of President.

Projects:

Presently the Foundation is involved in the following projects:

In Eritrea:

1. Maintenance and upgrading the educational service of St. Joseph secondary school in Keren.
2. Re-launching the Hagaz Agro-Technical School.

In Ethiopia:

1. Meki Agricultural Project – Start off fund.

2. Multipurpose Hall of Meki Catholic School.
3. Out-reach program with farmers in Meki in collaboration with GMA (Italian NGO).
4. Integrated environmental intervention in Meki's rural area: providing Biogas, Compost, Soil and Water Conservation.
5. Improvement of agricultural practices for promoting food security in the Dugda Bora District in collaboration with AVSI (Italian NGO).
6. Construction of an Educational Centre in Addis Ababa.

In Southern Sudan:

1. Solidarity with Southern Sudan (Capacity building in Education and Health sectors).

In Burkina Faso:

1. C.L.I.M.A. (the Foundation has given a contribution of 3000 € to cooperate with Proyde drawing up a Concept Paper which satisfies the UE criteria for conceding grants).

A visit to Papua New Guinea is planned in a few months.

Contact us:

Fundación De La Salle para la Solidaridad-ONLUS
Via Aurelia 476
00165 Roma – Italy
solidarietainternazionale@lasalle.org
Phone: 0039. 06 662. 231
Fax: 0039. 06. 663.8821

Head Office: Via Aurelia, 476 – 00165 Roma
Fiscal Code & IVA: 11267011002

Banca Popolare di Sondrio:

- IBAN: IT52 R056 9603 2070 00007241X70 - €
- IBAN: IT10 M056 9603 207V ARUS 0007241 - \$
- SWIFT: POSOIT22



Haiti

In the midst of many political and bureaucratic difficulties, the Project "Solidarity with Haiti" is moving on. The De La Salle University of Cancun has already drawn up the plans of the different buildings. Last month a contract was signed with an enterprise to build a wall around the property.

If everything goes according to plans, the primary school and the Brothers community would be completed. So far the "Haiti earthquake appeal" has collected the amount of \$ 1,822.352.16.

Thank you for your generosity.

2010 Solidarity within the Lasallian Family

Last year 12,083,269 US\$ moved between Lasallian Countries. How well do you know the Lasallian World?

Which Lasallian Country has the: **1.** Youngest median age? **2.** Oldest median age? **3.** Longest life expectancy? **4.** Shortest life expectancy? **5.** Highest Fertility rate? **6.** Lowest Fertility rate? **7.** Lowest literacy rate? **8.** Highest number of years in school? **9.** Lowest number of years in school? **10.** Highest GNP per capita? **11.** Lowest GNP per capita?

Country	Median Age	Life Expectancy	Fertility Children/Women	Literacy %	School Life Expectancy	GNP per Capita US \$
Argentina	30,5	76,95	2,30	97,2	16	14.700
Australia	37,7	81,81	1,78	99,0	21	41.300
Austria	43,0	79,78	1,40	98,0	15	40.300
Bélgica	42,3	79,51	1,65	99,0	16	37.900
Bénin	17,4	59,84	5,31	34,7	9	1.600
Bolivia	22,5	67,57	3,00	86,7	14	4.800
Brasil	29,3	72,53	2,18	88,6	14	10.900
Burkina Faso	16,9	53,70	6,14	21,8	6	1.200
Camboya	22,9	62,67	2,84	73,6	10	2.000
Camerún	19,4	54,39	4,17	67,9	10	2.300
Canadá	41,0	81,38	1,58	99,0	17	39.600
Chile	32,1	77,70	1,88	95,7	15	15.500
China	35,5	74,68	1,54	91,6	12	7.400
Colombia	28,0	74,55	2,15	90,4	14	9.800
Costa Rica	28,8	77,72	1,93	94,9	12	11.400
Costa de Marfil	19,6	56,78	3,92	48,7	6	1.800
Cuba	38,4	77,70	1,44	99,8	18	9.900
Alemania	44,9	80,07	1,41	99,0	16	35.900
Djibuti	21,8	61,14	2,71	67,9	5	2.800
Ecuador	25,7	75,73	2,42	91,0	14	8.000
Egipto	24,3	72,66	2,97	71,4	11	6.200
Eritrea	18,7	62,52	4,48	58,6	5	700
España	40,5	81,17	1,47	97,9	16	29.500
Etiopia	16,8	56,19	6,02	42,7	8	1.000
Francia	39,9	81,19	1,96	99,0	16	33.300
Gran Bretaña	40,0	80,05	1,91	99,0	16	35.100
Grecia	42,5	79,92	1,38	96,0	17	30.200
Guatemala	20,0	70,88	3,27	69,1	11	5.200
Guinea	18,6	58,11	5,10	29,5	9	1.000
Guinea Ecuatorial	19,1	62,37	4,91	87,0	8	37.200
Haiti	21,4	62,17	3,07	52,9	?	1.200
Honduras	21,0	70,61	3,09	80,0	11	4.200
India	26,2	66,80	2,62	61,0	10	3.400
Irlanda	34,8	80,19	2,02	99,0	18	37.600
Israel	29,4	80,96	2,70	97,1	15	29.500
Italia	43,5	81,77	1,39	98,4	16	30.700
Japón	44,8	82,25	1,21	99,0	15	34.200
Jordania	22,1	80,05	3,39	89,9	13	5.300
Kenia	18,9	59,48	4,19	85,1	11	1.600
La Reunión	France					

Country	Median Age	Life Expectancy	Fertility Children/Women	Literacy %	School Life Expectancy	GNP per Capita US \$
Libano	29,8	75,01	1,77	87,4	14	14.200
Madagascar	18,2	63,63	5,02	68,9	11	1.000
Malasia	26,8	73,79	2,67	88,7	13	14.700
Malta	40,0	79,72	1,52	92,8	14	25.100
México	27,1	76,47	2,29	86,1	14	13.800
Mozambique	16,8	51,78	5,46	47,8	9	1.000
Myanmar (Burma)	26,9	64,88	2,26	89,9	9	1.100
Holanda	41,1	79,68	1,66	99,0	17	40.500
Nueva Zelanda	37,0	80,59	2,08	99,0	19	28.000
Nicaragua	22,9	71,90	2,12	67,5	11	2.900
Niger	15,2	53,40	7,60	28,7	5	700
Nigeria	19,2	47,56	4,73	68,0	9	2.400
Pakistán	21,6	65,99	3,17	49,9	7	2.400
Palestina (Franja Oeste)	21,3	75,01	3,05	92,4	14	2.900
Panamá	27,5	77,79	2,45	91,9	13	12.700
Papúa-Nueva Guinea	21,8	66,24	3,46	57,3	?	2.500
Paraguay	25,4	76,19	2,11	94,0	12	4.900
Perú	26,2	72,47	2,32	92,9	14	9.200
Filipinas	22,9	71,66	3,19	92,6	12	3.500
Polonia	38,5	76,05	1,30	99,8	15	18.800
Portugal	40,0	78,54	1,50	93,3	16	23.000
Puerto Rico	USA					
Rep. Dominicana	26,1	77,31	2,44	87,0	12	8.600
Rép. Dém. Congo	17,4	53,90	5,24	67,2	8	300
Rumania	38,7	73,98	1,29	97,3	15	11.500
Rwanda	18,7	58,02	4,90	70,4	11	1.100
Singapur	40,1	82,14	1,11	92,5	?	57.200
Eslovaquia	37,6	75,83	1,37	99,6	15	22.200
Sudáfrica	25,0	49,33	2,30	86,4	13	10.700
Sri Lanka	30,8	75,73	2,20	90,7	13	4.900
Sudán	18,5	55,42	4,84	61,1	4	2.200
Suiza	41,7	81,07	1,46	99,0	16	42.900
Tchad	16,8	48,33	5,05	25,7	7	1.800
Tailandia	34,2	73,60	1,66	92,6	12	8.700
Togo	19,3	62,71	4,69	60,9	10	900
Turquía	28,5	72,50	2,15	87,4	12	12.300
USA	36,9	78,37	2,06	99,0	16	47.400
Venezuela	26,1	73,93	2,42	93,0	14	12.600
Viêtnam	27,8	72,18	1,91	90,3	10	3.100

Answers: 1. Niger, 2. Deutschland, 3. Japan, 4. Nigeria, 5. Niger, 6. Singapore, 7. Burkina Faso, 8. Australia, 9. Sudan, 10. Singapore, 11. Rep. Dem. Congo.



Bulletin 253 and Bice's World Congress.

Bulletin 253: Children and Youth at Risk, A Lasallian Response showcases 295 Lasallian Projects in every Region of the Institute. 177/295 projects answered a survey indicating that 4,581 Lasallians are working with 411,654 at risk children in 37 countries with a combined annual budget of 132,921,920 US\$.

Bulletins are available through your District. PDF version is available online www.lasalle.org

Bice's 2011 International Congress on the Right to Education of Children Estranged from their Families and Socially Excluded will be in Paris 23-25 May 2011. Lasallians from all regions of the Institute will be presenting at the Congress.

Brother Lorenzo Tebar, (RELAL) will speak at the opening session of the Congress at UNESCO on *Helping Teachers to Better Support Vulnerable Pupils*.

Six other Lasallians will showcase their programs addressing the needs of children in three situations focused on by the Congress:

- Street Children
 - **St Mary's Child Rescue Program** -Nyeri, Kenya- Br. Dominic Jordan (RELAF)
- Migrant Children
 - **Bamboo School** -Thailand- Br. Victor Gil (PARC).
 - **Centro Educativo San Juan Bautista De La Salle** -Homestead, Florida- Mr. Jose M. Dorado (RELAL).
 - **Teaching Traveller Children** -Toulouse, France- Mr. Joseph Poirier (RELEM).
- Children with Family Difficulties
 - **Martin De Porres School** -NYC, USA- Mr. Edward Dana (USA/Canada)
 - **Scampia** -Naples, Italy- Br. Enrico Muller (RELEM)

Lasallian International Children's Fund (LICF)

Towards the end of the 43rd General Chapter, the Regions of the Institute announced their decision to create the Brother John Johnston Fund for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Subsequently, Brother John modified the name to Lasallian International Children's Fund.

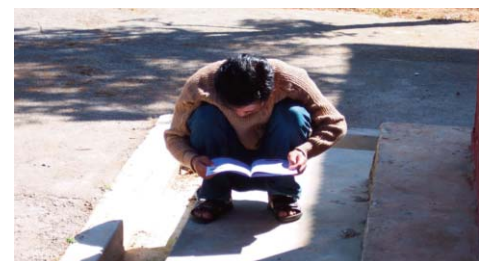
Since June 2000 there have been 122 contributions to LICF totaling 345,231 US\$. All contributions to LICF are invested in an endowment, the earnings of which annually fund projects. Since May 2006 84,613 US\$ have funded 23 projects in: Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Congo, Chile, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The 2011 grants will fund:

- Kitchen renovation of orphanage in **Santa Cruz, Bolivia**.
- Deep water well for Come and See Program in **Kalaw, Myanmar**.
- Kitchen renovation of Intiganda Street Children Program in **Butare, Rwanda**.

Contributions to LICF build the endowment base (March 2011 **413,918 US\$**) and fund projects in perpetuity. Contributions in memory of Brother John Johnston can be sent to:

SECOLI-LICF
Via Aurelia 476
00165 Roma, Italia



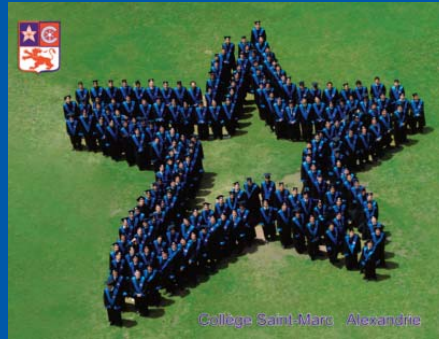
"Many Stars ... One La Salle"

We would like to thank those who supported and participated in the "Many Stars ... One La Salle" project. This activity has been inspired by Circular 461, which among other things insists on the growing need to celebrate our "unity in diversity" in being Lasallian today. This was another project coordinated by the International Council of Young Lasallians, in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Lasallian Educational Mission.

The rest of the photos can be accessed from the Institute's website.



Canada Francophone - Groupe Lasallien au Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, dans le district du Canada Francophone



RELEM - Les élèves du terminale au Collège Saint-Marc d'Alexandrie, Egypte.



USA_Toronto - DENA Association Day



RELAF - Jeunes Lasalliens et Enfants Lasalliens Missionnaires, Madagascar



RELAL - 3000 Alumnos y profesores. Colegio Francisco Febres Cordero, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México.



PARC - Benildus Star, Oakhill College (Castle Hill), Sydney Australia

The 5th edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace September 21st 2011 to October 21st 2011



You can visit some of our resources at:
<http://ildp.sallep.net/view/view.php?id=18>



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