

World Youth Days – Madrid 2011

The World Youth Days, convened by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, were held on August 16th - 21st in Madrid, the capital of Spain. The theme of the gathering was taken from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians, 2. 7: *“Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith”*. It was an occasion when almost two million young people responded to the Pope’s invitation. The city of Madrid, its streets, squares, shops and churches, were inundated with the contagious joy and songs of young people from all corners of the world.

In this issue of INTERCOM we are marking this important event in the life of the Church by offering a very short summary of the ceremonies, meetings with Young Lasallians, and messages addressed to us by the Holy Father.

There are many messages that can be found in the Pope’s speeches to the young people from which, no doubt, everyone could benefit. Again and again, we are reminded of the need to make the most of these days to get to know Christ better, to experience a personal encounter with him, so as to build our own faith on solid foundations. During his journey from Rome to Madrid, Benedict XVI spoke of some of the aims of these Days: *“The Youth Days should be seen as a sign, as a stage in a long journey, which creates friendship, opens frontiers, and reveals the beauty of our being with God and of God being with us. Here, the young people see that they are not alone, that there exists a great network of faith, a great community of believers all over the world, and*

that it is beautiful to experience this worldwide friendship”.

In his first speech the Pope said to the young people *“Let nothing and no one take away your peace, nor make you ashamed of Our Lord”*.

On August 19th, the Pope met more than 1,600 Sisters and a thousand university lecturers. Some of the things he said can be of help also to us Brothers and Lasallian lay-people. Benedict XVI asked the Sisters *“to go to the root of love, to Jesus Christ, with an undivided heart, without putting any obstacles in the way of this love”*. This is a life-choice which can be very well *“expressed in the contemplative life and in various mission fields, such as education, caring for the sick, the defence of life, promoting peace, working on the missions...”* In his message to the lecturers, His Holiness criticised, among other things, *“the utilitarian view of education”* which gives the impression that the role of a lecturer is exclusively to train professionals. He asked them to be capable of showing young people the path to truth, a path involving intelligence, love, reason and faith. *“Rooted in Christ, you will be good guides for our young people”*.

The Days ended with the carrying of the wooden cross and the icon of the Blessed Virgin to the Brazilian church. This cross was given to the young people by Pope John Paul II at the end of the last Holy Year, with the words *“Carry it all over the world as a sign of the love of the Lord Jesus”*.

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We invite everyone, Brothers and Lasallian lay-people, who had the good fortune to come to Madrid, and all those who shared the experience from afar, to make the central message of these Days a part of their lives, basing radically all their faith on Jesus Christ. See you in Brazil in 2013!

Lasallians at the 2011 Youth Days

More than a thousand young Lasallians from the 5 Regions of the Institute took part in these 2011 World Youth Days. Accommodation was provided by educational establishments: *the Sagrado Corazón, La Salle, Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas* and the *Centro Naturescorial*. In addition these enabled the young people to participate in some interesting formation sessions, moments of prayer and exchange of experiences.

– Meeting for the RELEM Young Lasallians

Worthy of special mention is the meeting attended by 85 young people between the ages of 18 and 35, involved in the Lasallian Mission, and representing 10 Districts of the RELEM Region. This meeting took place from the 13th to the 23rd of August. Everything was very well organised by the Regional Pastoral Commission, headed by Br. Esteban de Vega, and by a group of young Brothers. One of the aims of this meeting was to provide an experience promoting mutual knowledge and friendship, inspired by the theme of the World Youth Days - “*planted in Christ*”; to reflect on individual experiences of the Lasallian mission; to hear about local social conditions which challenged these young Lasallians; and to open the doors to future new developments.

When they arrived, they were welcomed by Br. Alvaro, Superior General, Br. Jesus Miguel Zamora, Visitor of the ARLEP District, and Br Jacques d’Huiteau, General Councillor.

The programme included a series of visits to establishments in Madrid devoted to the education and care of young people and adults with problems. For example, the *ALUCINOS* Centre is run by Brothers and lay-people, and responds to the need for vocational training for young immigrants “without papers”, victims of drug abuse, without work, and young men in the process of social reinsertion on leaving prison. *BASIDA* is a care centre for those suffering from AIDS, but it is also the name of a Christian Base Community set up by lay-people who live with these sick persons, offering to them the witness of community life, prayer and radical commitment to the mission. The *Ciudad de los Muchachos* takes in abandoned

adolescents who are taught to be responsible and to run the whole centre.

After visiting each of these centres, the pilgrims shared their impressions, stressing the great value of a community which commits itself unconditionally to a mission.

The programme provided an opportunity for various persons to speak of their experiences : Joseph Gilson, International Coordinator of Young Lasallians; Brothers Josemi and Joel; a representative of *Shema*, a lay Lasallian community; Javier Sanchez, head of *PROYDE*, the Lasallian NGO; Frederic Raul, head of the network of Young Lasallians in France; Hossam Nassim, head of the pastoral ministry in Sudan; Jorge Garcia, an associate and headmaster; and finally Michel and Margot, a married couple from the Jerez *Centro La Salle*, who live with their two children as a family with young Muslim immigrants.

In his closing address, Br. Jacques d’Huiteau invited participants to keep alive the memory of what they had experienced at the gathering and to act upon it. The event was a major step forward in getting to know one another better, in developing interdependence, and in crossing frontiers in a Region as diverse as RELEM. The creation of a new team of coordinators would help to make further progress in the future.

– Groups lodged in Lasallian establishments

Young people from every continent were lodged at two Lasallian establishments. The pilgrimage included times for exchange of views and catechesis in various languages, organised in various parishes in Madrid. All this was complemented by visits around Madrid, the cathedral, squares, museums and yes, and why not? a chance to sample Spanish cuisine !

Those who were lodged at the *Colegio Sagrado Corazón* were able to visit the great printing press the school has. Br. George Van Grieken congratulated the school community on the warm welcome it extended to the pilgrim Brothers and on the fine meals it provided.

– International Lasallian Gathering

The 1,077 Lasallians in Madrid attended an unforgettable day at the *Institución La Salle College*, graced by the presence of Br. Alvaro Rodriguez, Br. Jesus Miguel Zamora, Visitor of the ARLEP District, and of other General Councillors. The young people were given a very warm welcome. They came from a great many different countries - probably the largest single group was that of North Americans of Vietnamese origin - and they all felt very much at home.

In his message, Br Alvaro called for *“the consolidation of the international Lasallian movement which brings together young people from more than 80 countries, who subscribe to the values of faith, community and service”*. Speaking to the young people, he said *“You represent a great diversity of cultures and geographical and social situations, but there is something which unites you -the Lasallian spirit, which is no doubt something you have experienced in the course of these days”*. *“You, young people, are carrying the torch now, and the future of De La Salle in the world is to a great extent in your hands”*.

It was an unforgettable experience to see so many young Lasallians from all over the world speaking to one another with a smile on their lips, and a great desire to create bonds of friendship.

After the festive presentation the pilgrims of each country and their accompanying lay teachers and Brothers, work began in a series of workshops on a number of themes. The day came to a close with a concert, given by a Spanish religious-music group called *“Brotos de Olivo”*, which was a perfect ending. All day long, there was this wholesome feeling of belonging to an international Lasallian family.

And now, what ?

This is what Mark W. Tan, a young Lasallian from Malaysia, wrote about his participation in the 2011 WYD: *“Saying goodbye is difficult, but it will be even more difficult when we return home and see that nothing has changed - the local Church is the same as before, and the people we know are behaving in the same way as always. What has changed? The change is in ourselves. We have changed. We have borne witness to our faith in a faraway country, together with people we had never met before, and with thousands of young people who profess the same faith as we do. The question I ask myself is ‘What am I going to do when I get back and see that I have changed but that everything where I live is still the same? Will I be capable of helping my companions discover how to love Christ?’ That is the challenge facing me”*.

Mark heard this same challenge in the Pope’s address after the Angelus: *“You are about to return to your homes. Your friends will want to know how you have changed after being in this marvellous city with the Pope. What are you going to say to them?”* Mark believed that the key lies in being able to build one’s own life on the foundation which is Christ, who is the source of happiness, and by helping others to be happy. *“Can life be something great and beautiful? YES. The fruits of this pilgrimage are evident. Rooted and planted in Christ, during these days in Spain, I am sure the fruits of this tree will be abundant”*.

Brothers Alberto Gomez and Lorenzo Tebar



Brothers and young Lasallians give their reactions also:

- Together we shared some very enriching and powerful moments. A strong wind, a time of prayer with a million other people. (Helene Bigache)
- It was an experience I shall never forget. A unique opportunity to grow as a young Lasallian. Thanks. (Paco Peña)
- I am going home very happy, full of ideas and things I want to do, wanting to continue to live according to the spirit we shared here. I realise that there is still much to do and much work to be done for union and communion in the Church. All united around Jesus. (Br. Fabrice)
- A magnificent and unforgettable meeting with Brothers and teachers of the Lasallian network. (Damien)
- I think that opening our doors to cooperation between the Districts of RELEM is something very interesting. (Javier Lopez)
- Let’s hope that this meeting will be the beginning of something that can bring together all Lasallian establishments in more than in name. (J.A. Espejo)

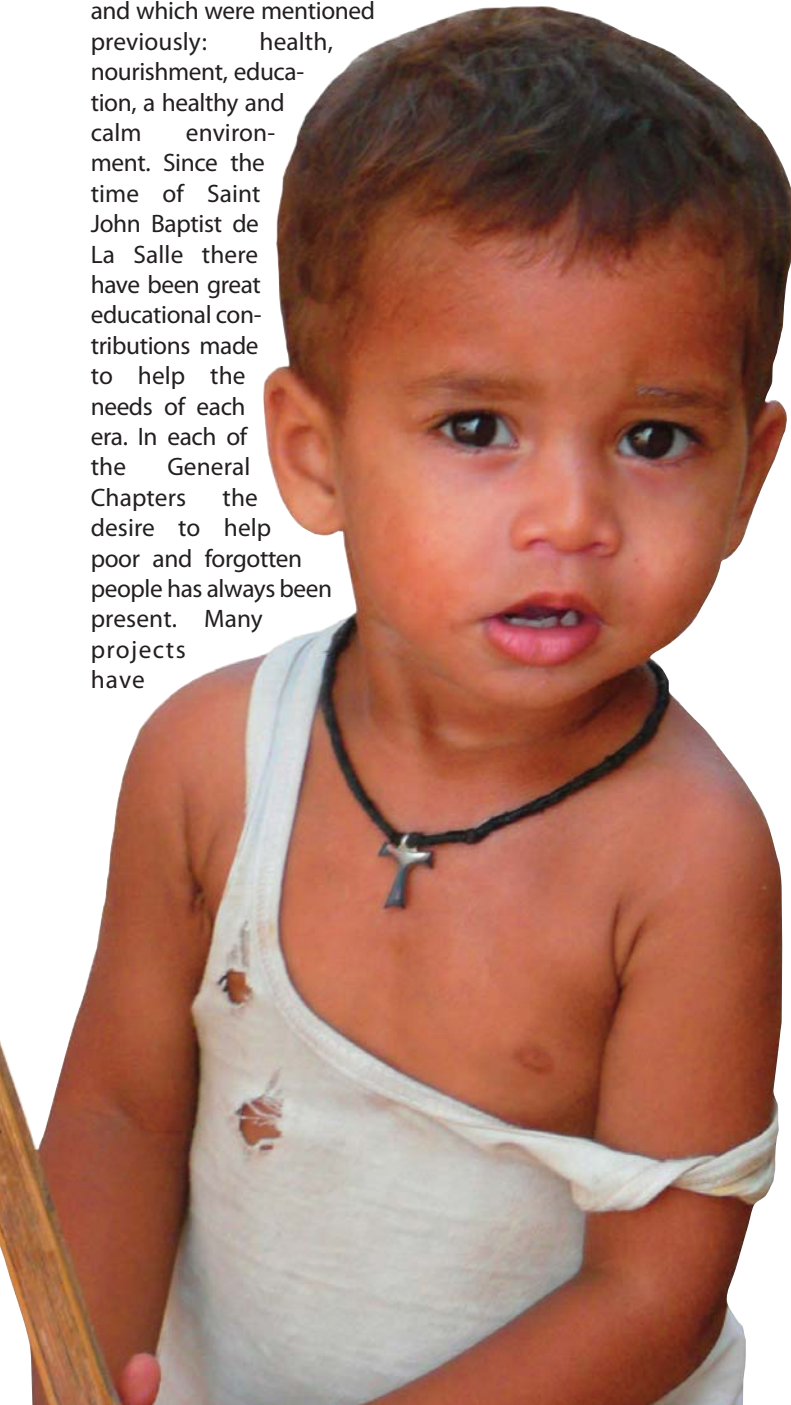
The Lasallian Educational Mission Facing World Reality

World educational urgencies: Lasallian educational responses.

From the origins, Saint John Baptist de La Salle was always attentive to reality in order to help solve problems with effective and appropriate responses. The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, at each of its General Chapters, made clear reflections and actions that the Institute was undertaking to contribute, based on education, to the urgencies that the world is facing. Let us take a look at what has happened in the history of the Lasallian educational mission.

Thinking about the forgotten: Educational service of the poor

Lasallian responses cannot be far from the different types of poverty in which millions of people live, some of whom do not even have the minimum elements to live humanly and which were mentioned previously: health, nourishment, education, a healthy and calm environment. Since the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle there have been great educational contributions made to help the needs of each era. In each of the General Chapters the desire to help poor and forgotten people has always been present. Many projects have



been undertaken throughout the life of the Institute, especially in recent years. The 42nd General Chapter invited new educational works to be created in more needy areas, and it urged educational projects to respond to situations of poverty, and to be integrated in the local culture and reality (FSC, 1993). Some years later, the 43rd General Chapter was motivated to include the theme of social justice into educational projects and to continue creating new educational works in underprivileged areas, both in cities and in rural areas. The Chapter also promoted collaboration in literacy programs (FSC, 2000). The last General Chapter continued inviting the strengthening of the educational mission, through the renewal of existing works and the creation of others in needy areas. This Chapter encouraged work in programs of accompaniment for people who are at-risk and it made a call to Lasallian universities to encourage policies that would allow higher education to reach the poor (FSC, 2007).

All these efforts that the Institute makes in mission, with the participation of Brothers and lay partners, is a commitment of the Church in view of educational needs. Each Lasallian school in the world offers assistance so that fewer children and young people are deprived of the fundamental right to education by offering a space in the school to more than one million children, young people and adults, no matter their culture or religion. It can be clearly observed that the responses of the mission are always attentive to educational realities. Of course the efforts are little when compared with the great needs, which motivates us to continue working to broaden the field of activity of our mission.

Working together in the same commitment: Associated for the educational service of the poor

From the origins of the Institute the Founder was always surrounded by persons who, in one form or another, helped him to undertake the project of the Gratuitous and Christian Schools. Some offered him financial support to open new schools and of course the Founder had to invite persons to become Brothers and work as teachers in the schools that had just been founded. Without this support the project would not have been possible. The life and the work of the Institute, we can say, has always been led by a community or associative effort. Reality today tells us that we have to continue strengthening that bond of fraternity and service that unites Brothers and lay partners so that the mission continues to be present, especially among the poor and forgotten.

Each one of the recent General Chapters has emphasized the need to continue the educational mission, emphasizing "together and by association" and in this sense the 41st General Chapter made an invitation to share the mission with the entire Lasallian Family (FSC, 1986).

Even with a quick glance at the 42nd General Chapter we can see the importance that the idea of shared mission had. The discussion on the mission between Brothers and lay partners focused principally on the following themes: association for the educational service of the poor, shared mission and the Lasallian Family. To move from discussion to action let us look at some of the recommendations and propositions that the General Chapter made: to encourage the participation of the entire educational community in constructing educational programs, the personal program of the Brothers and the community program should spell out the means to live the shared mission and to seek strategies to integrate the Lasallian Family in the shared mission (FSC, 1993).

The 43rd General Chapter continued the discussion of association for the educational service of the poor and it proposed a meeting of

Statistics from the 2009 Lasallian Educational Mission

* Data taken from 2011 edition of Memento

	RELAF	RELAL	PARC	USA/CANADA	RELEM	TOTAL
Schools	79	274	75	83	406	917
Students	43.848	325.640	158.494	70.339	259.498	857.819
Teachers	2.791	30.494	12.043	11.001	22.775	79.104

Brothers and lay partners as a concrete action to promote association in mission. It also promoted, on the District level, the leadership, support and assessment of all new forms of collaboration that were taking place in the development of the mission (FSC, 2000).

The International Assembly and the 44th General Chapter in a priority statement encouraged all parties to continue working to discern the different forms of association that are under development and to strengthen the educational mission (International Assembly, 2006; FSC, 2007).

Organizational and administrative structures: ways to strengthen the Lasallian Educational Mission

But the discussion of shared mission or of association for the educational mission cannot stay at the level of identifying its forms, but it has to continue moving forward to consolidate more and more the joint work between Brothers and lay partners in the Lasallian Educational Mission. This discussion has encouraged the creation of structures that will guarantee the continuity and the strengthening of association for the educational mission. The 43rd and 44th General Chapters were spaces for important discussion to go forward in the theme of association for the educational mission of the poor.

The 43rd General Chapter laid down themes in its guidelines and propositions – themes that are important elements to continue the work of the Lasallian Educational Mission. This Chapter encouraged Regions and Districts to work in seeking structures that would have as their purpose the leadership of the Lasallian Educational Mission in its different circumstances. On the international level the Chapter presented two propositions: the first one made reference to the creation of an International Council for the Lasallian Educational Mission, which has now been functioning for several years, and the second proposition was to hold an International Assembly on Association for the Lasallian Educational Mission (FSC, 2000) which held its first session in 2006 and at the present time preparations are underway for the second session of this kind which will take place in 2013. The contributions from the 2006 International Assembly and from the 43rd General Chapter have been important in the development of MEL (Lasallian Educational Mission) structures.

Discussion continued and the 44th General Chapter continued to encourage Regions and Districts to continue working in strengthening MEL structures (FSC, 2007). In this sense, we observed that a great number of Districts have already held at least one Mission Assembly and they are in accord with the MEL Council. Also on the Regional level the first assemblies of this kind have already been held and they constituted the MEL Regional Councils. As we can see, there have been many advances made in the strengthening of the educational mission.

The formation of Brothers and partners: a privileged process in MEL

Ongoing formation and training for those in leadership positions of MEL has been a continual concern of the Institute, Regions, Districts and each of the works in the MEL network.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle always had a privileged place in the Gratuitous and Christian Schools for the formation of all collaborators so that the school would run well. He trained and guided the Brothers and lay partners so that they would exercise their office well and so that the students could believe in them. The former he trained in the novitiate and the latter he trained in the school for rural teachers.

You can see in each General Chapter discussions and actions on the theme of the formation of Brothers and partners in MEL, taking as a point of reference the realities and needs for the development of MEL.

The 42nd General Chapter, in one of its recommendations, invited us to make the formation of Brothers and lay partners a priority, stressing the themes that have to do with social communication and the educational methods proper to the needs of the young (FSC, 1993). The 43rd General Chapter promoted the formation of Brothers and partners from the idea of association for mission (FSC, 2000). The 44th General Chapter and the 2006 International Assembly proposed that there be drawn up a guide for formation that would articulate all the essential elements of formation and accompaniment, for the purpose of guiding joint formation programs for all members of the Lasallian Family (FSC, 2007).

Conclusion

We cannot be unaware of the educational problems of the current time and especially the relevance that this has as we face the challenges of the new millennium. The problem is being dealt with from many perspectives and solutions are being sought, but unfortunately they are not sufficient nor are they rapid. This is the reason why each one of us (parent, teacher, administrative professional, service personnel or student) should be committed to the changes the school requires today, to respond to social needs, from the places we find ourselves and with the responsibility that we may have.

The Institute, from its origins, has been attentive to social realities and today it continues to make great efforts so that the Lasallian mission that gives life to many children, young people and adults, continues to make significant contributions to aid in building a world we all want.

Br. Jorge Enrique Fonseca Sánchez

The International Association of Lasallian Universities has focused its energies for the last few years on consolidating communication between the various institutions which make up the Association, and on promoting the exchange of good practices in the Lasallian University network.

The next General Assembly - "Encuentro X" - of the International Association of Lasallian Universities will be held on February 27th - 29th 2012 in Manila, Philippines. The central theme of "Encuentro X" will be "Lasallian Universities in a society based on knowledge: challenges and opportunities in the context of sustainable and comprehensive development". Further information can be found on the website www.ialu.net.

The Guadeloupe de La Salle Sisters' Delegation of Madagascar

Since the time when the schools of the Brothers of the District of Madagascar became coeducational the girls among their students have been aspiring to become Brothers like them. Eventually the District Chapter of 1986 decided to take up the matter of the vocation of these girls who in 1989 exceeded 40 in number.

Keeping in touch throughout with the centre of the FSC Institute in Rome they sought the will of God and the orientation to be given to this new group. They thus decided to affiliate the group to the Institute of the Guadeloupe de La Salle Sisters, a well-established Congregation living according to de La Salle's spirituality and charism. The Sisters, after their own General Chapter and an exploratory visit, decided to send two Mexican Sisters to commence the Postulancy at Soavimbahoaka, Antananarivo. This was October 7th 1991. The candidates came from French-speaking African countries such as Madagascar and Rwanda.

In 1995 the first five Sisters pronounced their first religious vows. Each subsequent year there have been two young Sisters who have undertaken commitment in the Institute. At the present time we number 43 working in 7 dioceses:

At **Antananarivo**-Soavimbahoaka we have our central house where the Sister Delegate resides. There also are to be found the Juniorate, the Postulancy and the Scholasticate. The Sisters and the young women in formation study undertake catechetical activities in the surrounding parishes.

At **Antsirabe** is the Novitiate.

In **Reunion** we run the Brother Scubilion Centre.

In the other 4 dioceses we run schools which are all parochial.

At **Tamatave** is to be found Our Lady of Lourdes School, a primary school with over 900 pupils which the Sisters have run since 1996.

At **Miarinarivo** is the Our Lady of Good Counsel School, a primary and secondary school run by the Sisters since 2003 with some 700 pupils. Then there is the KIRAMA College of Mahavelona a primary and secondary school run by the Sisters since 2003 with some 300 pupils. There is also the Saint John of ANKAZOBE High School run by the Sisters since 2003 also, an establishment that is primary, secondary and High School (since last year) with around 500 pupils.

At **Fianarantsoa** there is the Saint Ignatius of Loyola School, a primary school, conducted by the Sisters since 2000 with 230 pupils. The Sisters have also started a women's promotion centre for country girls who are unable to access teaching.

At **Tsiroanomandidy** there is the Saint Paul College conducted by the Sisters as of this year, 2010-2011, with 400 pupils ranging from pre-school to lower secondary.

In these mission locations we administer the school administration, we teach and we undertake catechetical activities in the parish. In addition we take on responsibility for Catholic Action movements for children, youth and adults. We make periodic rounds on our own, or with priests working in the area, especially during the major times in the life of the Church (preparation for Christmas and for Easter). In places where there is no priest our Sisters take charge of Sunday liturgical celebrations for the Christian community.

Most of the works in which we serve are situated in areas that are remote, shut away in the mountains and very deprived economically. The pupils in our schools come from the surrounding areas. They undertake one, two and even three hours' walk each day in order to get to school. The majority of them rent a little cottage near the school in groups of 2, 3 and 4, returning home to their parents each week-end or each month so as to stock up on supplies.

In periods of hardships (between the months of December and March) many children come into class without having eaten and having walked quite a distance. They are weak, they faint or they fall asleep in class.

In some places such as Vohiposa few children make it to the beginning of secondary school. One of the main reasons is the poverty of the area which forces parents to take their children out of school very early so as to put them to work in the fields or with the animals. Our Sisters get involved and encourage parents to send their children to school. Already there are encouraging signs. They are supporting this budding conviction by training via schooling for parents.

Those who wish to continue their studies up to matriculation have to go much longer distances from their families. As such what with the distance and the costs of studies, rare are the parents who get to contribute to the needs of their children. These latter are faced with getting married very young and survive with difficulty in doing what their ancestors did. As a consequence of little education and through ignorance the place remains in a state of lethargy and endemic poverty. For some time we have noted that agricultural schools appear indispensable for the improvement of farming methods and consequently the economic situation but the means for achieving this change are lacking.

The educational needs of the children of the agricultural community here in Madagascar are vast. We are presenting our modest little contribution convinced that only a solid human and Christian education will prepare them to be future leaders of this society. Such an education will help resolve the problem of poverty, of management of resources, ways of thinking and acting for the better future of our beloved island.

Sr Razanavoary Tsiatengy Victoire
Guadeloupe de La Salle Sisters.

About a year ago, the Preparatory Commission began organising the next International MEL Assembly to be held in 2013. We have now reached the point of selecting/electing delegates from each of the Lasallian Regions. It is important to stress that the Regional Council, in conjunction with the Visitors of the Region, is now carrying out this process which will be concluded on April 30th, 2012.

The French-speaking inter-African novitiate of Bobo-Dioulasso

Bobo-Dioulasso is the second most important city of Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta. The first is Ouagadougou, the nation's capital. Here since 1997 is located our French-speaking Inter-African novitiate.

Collaboration in French-speaking Africa for the improvement of formation of novices, using common structures, began in 1982 when the District of Congo-Kinshasa and the Delegation of Rwanda brought together their novices - 3 Rwandans, 2 Angolans and 3 Congolese. In 1983 the then Sub-district of Gulf of Benin, now a District, sent its novices also. The District of West Africa joined the initiative in 1984, Douala in 1985, the Equatorial Guinea Sector in 1988 and the District of Antananarivo in 2000. As of this year the Sector of Mozambique will likewise participate in this common initiative.

For some years – from 1986 to 1989 – the Sector of Nigeria also sent its novices. Since 2001 five novices from the District of the Middle East have undertaken their formation here. In 1997 likewise there was a Belgian novice.

At the beginning the novitiate was located in Kinshasa, capital of the then Republic of Zaire. In the middle of the 1990s the climate of political instability led the Institute to seek a less conflictual place in order to set up the inter-district novitiate there. The decision was for Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso. Fourteen novices, called for the occasion "The Exodus Promotion", left Kinshasa April 20th 1997. They crossed the River Congo, travelled to Brazzaville, remained for four months in Lome (Togo) and arrived at Bobo August 15th.

The novitiate is situated on the property of the former Scholasticate of the District of West Africa. Arrangements for receiving the novices were prepared by the construction of new buildings with the help of various contributions and donations. Today the buildings of the novitiate are functional, austere, spacious and - set amidst leafy spaces - offer an atmosphere of recollection, silence and peace.

The city of Bobo-Dioulasso welcomes moreover a large number of initial formation communities of various religious congregations. Six female congregations and three male ones have their novitiates located here. There are also three one-week sessions of formation in common ("internovitiate") each year. The number of male and female novices taking part varies between 50 and 60 each year. Furthermore "Mater Christi" is a formation centre for formators located



on the outskirts of the city and is supported by a consortium of more than 50 religious congregations.

The novitiate lasts for two years and assures the integral formation of the novices. The formation courses presented by the Brother Formators, other Religious and some laypeople provide an intellectual and religious formation of good quality. The rhythms of daily and weekly prayers facilitate withdrawal and initiation into the spiritual life: meditation, vocal prayer, "lectio divina", gospel sharing, Wednesday afternoon recollection period or "interior journeying", etc.

Frequent and systematic personal accompaniment on the part of the Director of Novices permits the novice to get to know himself better, to accept himself and to confront the interior conflicts that he encounters in his endeavour to form himself and grow. Moreover community accompaniment provides strong affective support, helps the novices to interiorise the dynamics of community life and to adopt planning that fosters participation and personal responsibility.

Apostolic commitment is undertaken during the year through weekly catechetical sessions of sacramental preparation. In an experience lasting one month at the end of the first year the novices organise themselves without the presence of formators in a project assisting people from small and poor villages at some distance from Bobo. In the second year, in addition to catechetics, the novices undertake teaching duties in a primary school of the Sisters of the Annunciation. Some of them visit youngsters from 9 to 18 in Bobo's jail. Others offer support courses in a city help-centre to children and youngsters unable to pay individual tuition.

The experience of this novitiate turns out to be particularly enriching because of the diversity of African cultures which are encountered in it. This leads to mutual appreciation and dialogue leading to points of common understanding.

The formators are African. Their capabilities and work plus the mutual relations among themselves and with the novices are fundamental for producing the atmosphere that fosters the growth of each one of the novices. The formators incarnate the Lasallian charism in African contexts and they are mediators through whom the novices commence and continue this lifelong work.

The enormous educational and spiritual needs that Africa is encountering demand men who can measure up to these challenges. The spiritual strength that is born of the personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and the authentic option for gospel values while assimilating the Lasallian charism, are the competencies that the novitiate seeks to develop.



Formation of Formators in PARC



The Sector Heads of PARC decided to conduct a formation session for the Formators in PARC. This is the second such initiative during the last two years. The ten days' session (August 21st to 30th 2011) was held at the Brothers' residence in Bangkok, Thailand. Eight Formators from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines participated. The main focus of the session was 'Accompaniment in Religious Formation.' Spiritual, professional and pastoral aspects of religious accompaniment were presented as inputs, followed by quality discussions among the participants. The last two days were spent processing all the inputs received earlier. The

quiet and green ambiance of the Brothers' residence enabled the participants to listen, read and reflect on the important aspects of formational accompaniment. The formators also had the opportunity to visit the Pre-Postulancy programme at Sampron, and spent time with the candidates who are preparing themselves for their religious commitment. The participatory evaluation, conducted at the end of the session, indicated a high level of appreciation for the whole program.



RELEM Novitiate – Building a Brother’s identity from a basis of diversity

A novitiate with six “diverse” novices: Antonio, Christophe, Ernest, Fabrice, Javier and Martin - diverse in age, culture, language, previous religious and spiritual experiences, character and personality. The youngest was 23, the oldest 41 and the other four were in their “thirties”. One was Italian, two were from the Valencia - sector of ARLEP - another from Catalonia and there were two Frenchmen. Two were former students of the Brothers, three others had known the Brothers since coming to work with them and another simply arrived by hearing from other people. Some had already had significant religious and spiritual experiences while for others prayer and theological knowledge were something completely new. What was most wonderful however was that their personalities and characters were quite diverse, with the sort of diversity that sets up many relational conflicts and that requires a process of personal and spiritual maturation in order to be able to live and work together.

The challenge had been huge. For a little less than a year these young men had made the option to be available for formation in the novitiate of RELEM in Madrid. Moreover if the challenge was big for the novices, it was no less so for the formators: Esteban, Joel and Ottavio – Spanish, French and Italian respectively.

One Brother in the novitiate planning team had commented before the beginning of the experiment that this group would be so diverse and so special that it would be impossible in practice to make an evaluation of the novitiate programme in itself. There was perceived at that time a mood of a certain scepticism with regard to the results of the experiment with such a diverse group.

What might have appeared complex and wearisome at the beginning in fact turned out to be such. The first months were a time for dialoguing and setting up the framework of the novitiate with all its activities. Nothing was easy with previous personal experiences being so varied. It was a time for listening, for facing up to diverse outlooks, worries, personal styles and expectations. It was a time for attempting to encounter what could assist in creating unity and community.

The formation team consistently put forward a series of things to be insisted on. These were: The intention of achieving a strong spirit of community, mental prayer to be the centre of community living, frequent and regular personal accompaniment through



dialogue with the formators, being a welcoming and open community to those around them, that educational service be lived out in awareness of various real-life situations of poverty, finally, that persons and actual situations were always to take precedence over plans.

Constant, respectful and fraternal dialogue among the team of formators was the key to having the novices encounter a message that was always pointing in the same direction.

The time of solid living together led the group to come to know one another, to accept one another, to cope with differences, to seek points of agreement, to express what was most intimate, to live the risk of one’s own conflicts, to give mutual support, to experience desperation about the difficulty of changing and making progress, to be respectful of self and to trust in the interior resources of each so as to respond authentically to the call of God.

At the end of the experiment, with the ceremony of First Vows last 6th August and with the meeting with the young Lasallians of RELEM ahead of the World Youth Day, the feelings that remain are those of joy, satisfaction, love of being Brother and of belonging to a great family, while retaining a clear understanding that the challenges ahead will be greater still.

Such a diverse group has shown that the interior processes through which the identity of the Brother of the Christian Schools is built are particular to each person. The vocation of the Brother has many “points of entry” and its accompaniment demands responding to the concrete situation of each individual. What is envisaged is the integration of all the constitutive dimensions of the Brother, a total life’s labour.



Areas of research for 2011 - 2012

What is the present situation regarding the areas of research set out by the Commission for Research and Lasallian Resources for the period 2009 - 2014 ?

a) Association and Lasallian identity

In 2010, working in conjunction with the Secretariat for the Lasallian Family and Association, we asked Districts to help us to collect information from Brothers and Lasallian lay-people.

We received 167 personal responses which we studied in detail, and the contents, by Region, were published in the Digital Journal of Lasallian Research.

At the next Lasallian Family and Association international Council meeting in November 2011, we shall present a summary of this research, in the hope that the conclusions we can draw from it will serve as a basis for a publication intended for all those who identify with Lasallian association, which will be brought out in the near future.

We hope that this kind of research will encourage Lasallians to make their voices heard, and encourage people to listen to them, as part of an all-embracing Institute concert.

b) Lasallian pedagogy

We published information in INTERCOM No. 136, dated June 2011, regarding the launching of a project to reflect on and understand the pedagogical way forward for the Institute in the face of the challenges of the 21st century.

The plan is to re-examine Institute pedagogical practice since the days when the Conduct of Schools was published, and analyse the thinking behind the pedagogical practice put in place by John Baptist de La Salle and the first Brothers, in response to the needs of the sons of the working class and the poor of that period.

c) Lasallian memory-bank

One of the most important challenges this year is the organisation of the new location of the library, the storage of the archives and museum exhibits, and a working area for the Research and Lasallian Resources Commission. For this purpose, work has begun on structural alterations in the semi-basement of the west wing of the Generalate.

In concrete terms, when all the work has been completed, we want to offer a Lasallian library specialising in the life and thinking of St John Baptist de

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carefully, especially thinking faculties and schools of education inside and outside the Lasallian world.

Later we will introduce other initiatives: a repository of books and a supplementary archive, an additional museum and a complementary digitizing documents room.

This is not an easy task, and it is not simply a technical matter : the preservation, protection and enrichment of the Lasallian memory-bank has to be a means of strengthening the mission of the Institute. This is the ultimate purpose of the Service. Well then, how can this same aim be achieved at District level ? We shall try to suggest some criteria and examples of what can be done as our own work progresses.

d) Lasallian education

It is already becoming clear that the second International MEL Assembly in 2013 will be a great occasion for the Institute.

Our hope is that on the basis of this research we shall be able to put a document into the hands of those responsible for education in Districts and Regions to stimulate their thinking about the present situation and the future of Lasallian education. A very important role in this process will be played by the Education faculties and Lasallian higher education colleges which accept the challenge of working with us on the Net. Who would be in a position to take part in this project ?

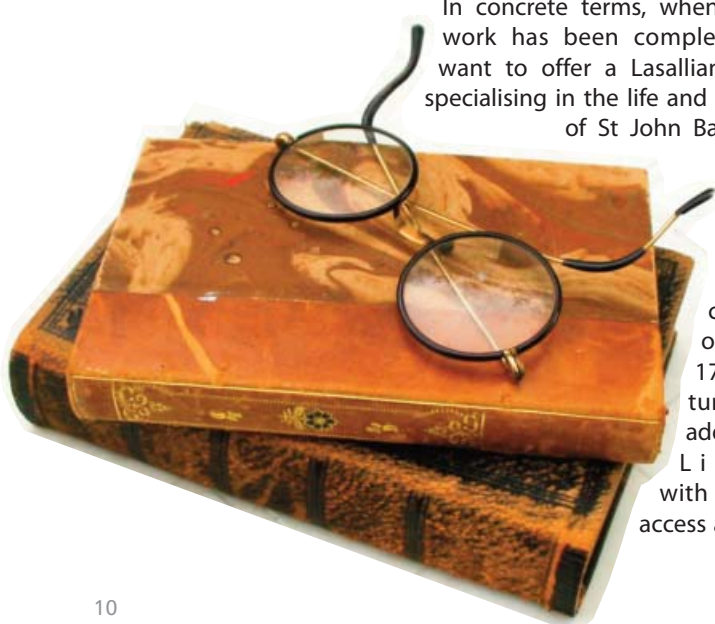
e) Formation and accompaniment

The 44th General Chapter asked those in charge of formation and Lasallian Studies to produce resources on Lasallian spirituality for Brothers of all ages (cf. Circular 455 on Interior Life).

On the basis of discussions which took place with the members of the Being Brothers Today Commission, we are waiting to begin research into the two main aspects of the life of the Brothers at the beginning of the Institute, in order to understand the discernment of the Brothers at that time about association for the educational service of the poor, and about the role of accompaniment in the Lasallian formation of Brothers and lay persons. So far, we have not taken this matter forward.

f) Conclusion : What are the convictions which drive us forward as a Commission ?

- We are trying to be a bridge between the model inherited - "Lasallian Studies", based on the work of our great Brother researchers over the last 50 years; and the new model - "Lasallian Research and Resources Service", intended to be the product of a network of researchers working on common projects.
- We are conscious we have in our keeping a rich historical, pedagogical and spiritual legacy of a community with its own specific identity and common mission. As a consequence, to preserve, make known and enrich our cultural patrimony is a laudable aim which will help to strengthen our educational mission.
- We are aware that these lines of action do not exhaust the whole spectrum of Lasallian research nor are they intended to be the only point of reference. We offer them as strategies to set up a dialogue between the inheritance we have received and the present-day concerns of the Lasallian mission. The challenges are immense.



Jose Maria Valladolid, a great La Salle researcher and expert

On September 2nd following a brief illness Br Jose Maria Valladolid rendered his soul to the Lord. He died in Madrid at 76 years of age.

All those who knew him appreciate his untiring efforts to render visible the beautiful vocation of the Brother and the unfathomable riches of the Lasallian charism.

With patient, constant and silent dedication to “Lasallian matters” he made us love and delve further into our roots that are fundamentally our particular way of being Church in the world. He leaves us an important legacy that has made it possible for our Institute, its origins and treasures, to be more appreciated by Brothers and Lasallians, and above all to bring so much closer to us the features of John Baptist de La Salle, his close family members and the first Brothers of the Institute.

A prolific writer, we can number more than 20 works on Saint John Baptist de La Salle in his labours of research and popularisation. Amongst them we could note: the Lasallian chronology, school texts for making known to children and youth the Holy Founder’s life and the biographies of a number of Brothers.

We are indebted to his painstaking work for the publication of the *Complete Works of Saint John Baptist de La Salle* in Spanish (2001). Among his most appreciated works (in Spanish) we should mention: *La Salle: a saint and his work* (1987), *Br. Arnold, God’s cart-driver* (1987) and the four first biographers of SJBDS (2010).

Founder of the “Lasalliana” notes at the communications office of the Generalate, he promoted, in noteworthy fashion, the knowledge of the Lasallian charism with the participation of many Brothers and Lasallians world-wide. His pages overflow with pedagogical intuitions, notes on Lasallian spirituality, and resources for celebrations and prayers - all through the Lasallian prism.



Let us give thanks to the Lord for his person, for the gifts that we have received through him, for all that he has taught us, for all that we have learned through him. We know that he is already rejoicing in the glory of the Father, there where the stars accompany him, and he will be for us like a light enlightening our journey.

Three hundred years since the first edition of the Collection of Short Treatises (1711-2011)

This book whose original title is *Collection of various short treatises for the use of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* has attained three hundred years since being published in Avignon by direct order of John Baptist de La Salle as he was visiting communities in the south of France.

In the various presentations of the book that have taken place – on the appearance of the Complete Works of De La Salle in French, Spanish and English, and of the history of the Institute – let us gather together some items of interest:

- In 1705 this book already formed part of the books used by the Brothers for spiritual reading (Br. Valladolid, *Complete works of J.B. de La Salle*, 2001).
- John Baptist de La Salle presented them and had them approved by the Inquisitor General in Avignon as an important sign of ecclesiastical recognition so as to affirm the Brothers in their faith (Br. Bedel, *Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*, 1998).
- From 1711 two versions have come down to us: a small Collection (*Smaller Collection*) and a large one (*Large Collection*). The first was used by postulants as an initial introduction, the second, more voluminous, served as reading for the continuing formation of the Brothers (Br. Maurice Auguste, *Cahiers lasalliens* 15).
- In 1783 Br. Agathon reedited the text and gave it a more complete structure, in response to the concerns of his time. He presented it bearing a new name: *Treatise on the obligations of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* (Br. Houry, *General Introduction to the writings of John Baptist de La Salle*, 2006).
- At the present time we can read the *Collection of short treatises* in French, Spanish and English from the original version of 1711 thanks to the work carried out by Brs Alain Houry, Jose Maria Valladolid and William J. Battersby respectively.

What impact can the Collection of various treatises have on the Brothers of the 21st century?

Br. Henri Bedel in his *Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* (EL 5, p. 175) affirms: *Overall it is much more a question of precise references or statements rather than of a corpus of doctrine. Basing ourselves solely on the Collection we would not be able to obtain an exact idea of what would come to be called Lasallian spirituality. Basing ourselves on these texts we would in effect have only a partial vision of what it is to be a Brother of the Christian Schools.*

On the other hand if we take the work as what it is, that is to say a complement to the Rule (the various texts published in 1711 form a sort of supplement to the Rule of 1705) and a practical means of recalling certain principles of the spiritual life, this allows us to understand how the Founder of the Brothers was focussing on a series of aspects of their life.

What is the challenge today?

We invite the Brothers to reread this book as the key to the founding force so as to understand the reasons which form the basis of our life as Brothers of the Christian Schools. Today, in a period where we are going about revising the Rule, we need to return to sources so as to discern our identity and mission based on the understanding of being associated for the educational service of the poor.

Sacred Heart Teachers' College (SHTC)

Principal: Br Bernie Cooper



Sacred Heart Teachers College (SHTC) was established in 2009 as a Catholic Teachers' College to help improve Papua New Guinea's ability to achieve Millennium Development Goal 2: Universal Primary Education for all. SHTC is focused on training teachers for remote areas.

SHTC is unique as it only enrolls students who graduated 12th grade at least 2 years ago. SHTC targets students who are from remote parts of the country, in particular those from the southern region. All must pledge to work in remote areas for a minimum of two years after graduating the course. Many of these students are also too poor to attend other primary teacher courses. The initial intake in 2009 was 100 students, equally divided between men and women. The oldest student is in her 40's.

There are 100 students in Year 2, due to graduate at the end of 2011. There are currently 70 students enrolled in Year 1. The limitation on enrolment numbers is based on the availability of onsite or local accommodation for students. A new male dormitory is currently being constructed.

Several SHTC students have very young children who remain in the village cared for by grandparents and extended family while their mother/father is studying. They may only see their children once every six months.

Brother Bernie Cooper (Director of SHTC) said that currently the key priorities for SHTC are:

1. Teacher housing
2. Female dormitories (for an additional 70 students, 35 in each dorm)
3. New classrooms- to be constructed as a first floor on top of existing buildings.

Some of the SHTC students - Matilda Abel, John Borari, Carmel Kinawi, Mary Josephine Laua - shared their stories of how they came to be at SHTC - each one has a story of determination, dedication and aspiration. We share with you **Matilda Abel's story**.

"I would like to share with you my story of being a secondary school graduate who had no hope of tertiary education because I could not afford tertiary fees. Matilda is my name and I am from a village called Komako. It is situated a long way from the border of Morobe and Gulf. It is far from



the main road and far from the provincial capital. I was just like any of the other villagers in my village. We sold our produce at the village local market each day.

Who would ever make my dream of being educated come true? I spent every quiet moment thinking on how and when I could ever return to any form of education. For me, education was closed in the last chapter of my life five years ago.

February 6th, 2010 was a confusing and unbelievable day. Guess what? I was informed verbally that I was selected to continue my studies at the newly-established Sacred Heart Teachers' College. Confused I saddled up my enthusiasm and mounted up my courage to meet any turbulence that this journey of hope would afford.

I knew that I had to walk through rugged mountainous terrain, wade a treacherous fast-flowing river, cross cliffs and swamps without a trusted companion, but I couldn't afford to lose this rare and precious treasure. My journey of hope was very tough, but it could not be a hindrance. I pressed on. In my journey of hope education was all I needed and wanted. This gift of being educated is like a fragile egg that is given once in a lifetime. Upon arrival at the College, more gifts were presented to me; one was special: I was the recipient of a European Union scholarship. This scholarship is a life saver and I cannot find any better way to express my appreciation other than to say "thank you!"

Sacred Heart Teachers' College has given me hope through a chance to be educated. I have been educated in many ways. Apart from gaining teaching skills I have learned computing, banking, positive attitudes and Lasallian approaches to education. I will go home to bring many ideas to my people such as team work and especially Lasallian educational ideas. My world will be different. I will stay in contact with Lasallian ideas by being part of the Lasallian network. I have come from a remote part of the country and I still want to climb the highest mountains and ridges to reach the ones to whom no one else reaches out, to touch their hearts, educate their minds and transform their lives through the ideals of Lasallian education in remote schools."

Italian Volunteers in Eritrea

The De La Salle schools of Keren and Hagaz (Eritrea) have been the site of the summer camp of *Volontariato Stella Lasalliana Onlus* - Monserrato (Italy). The group was composed of 9 people led by Br. Sante Brizi, a former missionary in Eritrea in the late sixties and early seventies.

The activities of the summer camp have been part of two projects organized and sponsored by the *De la Salle Solidarietà Internazionale Foundation Onlus*, of the Generalate, CEI and *Volontariato Stella Lasalliana Onlus*.

The group not only contributed financially to the project, but were involved in selecting equipment and building materials, as well as preparing and shipping the four containers.

They were in Eritrea from August 13th to 27th 2011, but due to bureaucratic difficulties, they were stuck in Asmara for more than a week. Finally, once they got travelling permits, they were able to reach Keren and Hagaz. In Keren they contributed in preparing the trusses for the new roof of St. Joseph School and repainted some of the classrooms. In Hagaz they were busy in making an inventory of the technical needs of different machines and tractors of the agricultural school. In the group there was also an experienced mechanic who helped to repair and put in motion the back-loader that was idle for nearly two years.

Despite the time lost in Asmara, the experience has been extremely positive and instructive. For the Brothers and the lay partners as well it has been an encouraging and heartening opportunity to share and feel that they are not forgotten and they are always in our hearts and thoughts.



The Haiti project

The execution of the project the Brothers started in response to the dramatic consequences of the January 12th, 2010 Haiti earthquake is progressing. Thanks to donations collected by Lasallians around the world, the population of Cazeau, a marginal area of Port Au Prince, will benefit from a new educational complex.

Being a seismic area the building materials and the concrete had to be tested and approved by the competent National Laboratory. This was successfully accomplished and construction work on the Community House and the Primary School have started. In the middle of July, 2011 the fence and the foundations were completed. Brother Antonio Lopez who is in charge of the project is tirelessly following the work and says he is satisfied about how the contracted Company is working.

The constructors' opinion is that the 2 buildings will be completed in December, 2011.

From January, 2012 the Brothers will settle down in the new community and will start their mission among the people of the neighbourhood. The Primary School will officially open its doors in September, 2012 with the first four grades. Until then the Brothers will undertake extra-school activities with the disadvantaged children and young boys and girls of Cazeau, in particular those living in the "temporary" camp adjacent to the project site.

Due to many health problems, which mostly affect women and children, mainly related to the lack of basic health care and hygienic-elementary education, the Brothers have decided to include a health care component in the project with the cooperation of a Sister's Congregation. The Sœurs de Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception de Castres will contribute with their long experience in Children's Pastoral care and their expertise in maternal health education. They will be implementing alternative friendly measures to address malnutrition. The Sisters will financially sponsor this aspect of the programme.

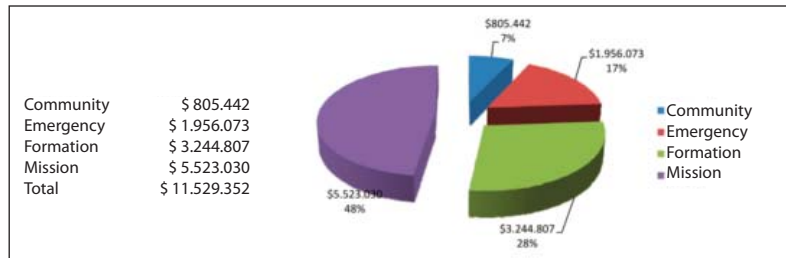


The construction of the Health Centre and of the Secondary School constitutes the second phase of the project.

This represents one of the few projects which actually respond to the people's needs in rebuilding Port Au Prince. It constitutes an oasis of hope in an abandoned city where the needs are huge but where the only actions which have been taken seem to be temporary, ephemeral and visibility-led.

SECOLI Projects

Over the past 10 years SECOLI's donors have contributed \$11,529,352 supporting 1,224 projects.



In the fiscal year ending August 31st, \$1,808,388 funded 70 projects. Some of these Projects were:



Place	US \$		Donor
Ethiopia, Dire Dawa	\$3,183	Scholarship Assistance	México S./ULSA N
Kenya, Child Discovery	\$6,000	Scholarship for Street Children 20	México S./ULSA N
Madagascar, Tsironomamdidy	\$2,492	Roof Repair of School	México N.
Myanmar, Kalaw	\$5,000	Come and See Playground	Japan Alumni
Nigeria, Naka	\$3,000	Livestock Farm	Kagoshima, Japan
Perú, Trujillo	\$21,450	Kindergarden Classrooms and Toilets	Malta
Ruanda, Byumba	\$8,436	Equipment for an Academic Library	Mexico / ULSA N
Sri Lanka, Mannar	\$34,367	Relief for Civil War Children	8 Donors
Thailand, Kanchanaburi	\$11,180	Bamboo School	Italia



BoysTown's Welfare Ministry to the Most Marginalised: Together and by Association

Brother Brian Cunningham, FSC

Without doubt, the Australian District of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is the most distant from the Central Administration of the Brothers in Rome - Italy. However, being so far away does not in any way diminish the quality and quantity of the Lasallian services to the Poor.

Surprisingly, within our District there are very viable Lasallian works the distance of some European countries apart. BoysTown, with its staff of more than 560 persons, is by far the largest of our Lasallian Welfare works with its branches more than a thousand kilometres towards the south of Brisbane in the Sydney Suburbs of Blacktown, Campbelltown and New South Wales' largest Centre for Homeless families at North Richmond, called San Miguel; more than two thousand kilometres to the south-west in South Australia; and amazingly 4,273 kilometres to our indigenous mission of Balgo Hills in the Kimberleys of Western Australia.

Throughout this vast network of caring, Lasallian Partners are closely associated with the Brothers in actively promoting and living daily the dominant Lasallian Values of Faith and Zeal; Brother and Sister to all; Professionalism; Perseverance in Service; Innovation and Resourcefulness.

For the Brothers, Faith and Zeal constitute the Spirit of their Institute. Together and by Association we are constantly reminded that such a Spirit is a strong dimension that will always be critical to the quality of our service and it is the energizing force that motivates our actions. We remember daily the words of the Founder, "Let us remember, [Faith,] that we are in the Presence of the God who loves us." Confirming, "We will continue to do all our actions, [Zeal,] for the love of God."

When John Baptist and the teachers felt "obliged to look upon themselves as the older

brothers of those who come to their classes," they could never have envisaged that in the remotest places of the globe, Brothers and Associates would look upon themselves as Brothers and Sisters to each other, and to the young people they so ably support, care for and love.

A glance at the Conduct of the Christian Schools reveals a very high level of professionalism. If we were to choose a single phrase from the Founder that summed up our whole approach it would be 'Are your schools going well?' This year, BoysTown's Kids Help Line received 436, 977 calls and online contacts and responded to 251,102; 14,281 calls to Parentline, 9,704 responded to; 7,615 young people registered with BoysTown Job Services; Life skills workshops attracted 2,938 participants; 26 homeless families were housed; 63 women and 148 children were accommodated in our family violence refuge; 46 young moms and dads and their children were assisted in our young parents program.

The Lasallian story for each Associate begins very much like it did for the men whom Adrien Nyel employed as teachers in the first school in Rheims - gently, imperceptibly as John Baptist was led to improve their knowledge, quality of pedagogy, their sensitivity to the poor and their desire to follow a ministry of salvation. New staff are encouraged to espouse the story by attending a full day program that gently leads them into the beginnings of our Lasallian journey - a journey they are encouraged to enjoy; a journey that leads them progressively through several Lasallian programs to ultimately total involvement with the on-line Lasallian Studies Course; a journey that will have an end only when the poor are no longer amongst us; a journey that will last as long as the hungry need to be fed, the blind can't see and the homeless still need to be housed in peace and safety.

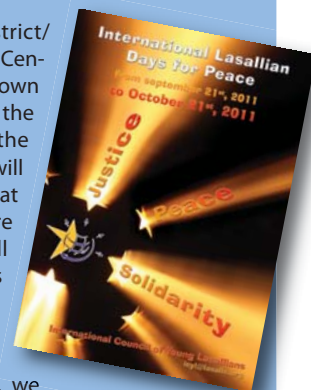
Together and by Association we are daily encouraged to realise that, "There is an intimate connection between the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the presence of Jesus in the deprived young person. The deprived person sends us back to Jesus in the Eucharist. [And in doing so they have the ability to be our educators, if only we are truly Lasallian.] To receive the Body of Jesus is to have his eyes and his heart to see him in the poor." (Jean Vanier 'I Walk with Jesus.')



International Lasallian Days for Peace - 5th edition

As it has been customary in the last few years, this year we are calling on Lasallian Institutions and Lasallian Groups to spread the word that starting on September 21st, 2011- the United Nations' sanctioned International Day of Peace - and ending on October 21st, 2011 we as Lasallians will be fostering peace in our world through prayer, study and action.

Each Region/District/Local Educational Center will provide its own personal touch to the four weeks of the program. Some will have programs that span the entire month; others will select certain days to plan their activities. No matter what your local response may be, we are asking that, where possible, you organize some activity (either a culminating finale or a single experience) on **Friday, October 21st 2011** so that all Lasallians around the world will be united in prayer/study/action for peace.



Many Stars... One La Salle: The 2013 Challenge.

First and foremost, we would like once more to thank all those who have submitted photos for the *Many Stars... One La Salle* project. This project was inspired by Circular 461, which among other things, encourages all Lasallians to celebrate their "unity in diversity".



The 2013 Challenge: To receive a group photo, ideally in a star formation, from all our schools, educational centres, agencies and communities in time for the International Assembly for Mission.

This Assembly will take place in Rome, May 5th - 19th, 2013 with the theme "One Family, One Mission: Lasallians Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor." If you have not yet sent in your photo, we encourage you to do so, on icyl@lasalle.org. More details about this initiative



will be presented in future issues of *Intercom*. These are some of the photos we have received recently.

With eyes wide open and with determination and commitment

Social responsibility of a former lasalle student

Previous Congresses: Jerez de la Frontera 1994, Rome 1999, México City 2003, Panama 2007, This year: MANILA 2011.

The International Celebration of the Former Students is about to take place. Years of preparation will ensure that our meeting from the October 26th-30th of the present year will go well. The Worldwide union of former Lasalle students will take place to celebrate the first centenary of the arrival of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the Philippines. The Meeting will take place at De La Salle University, Manila. At the same time and in the same place there will take place the International Congress of Former students.

This will be an enjoyable event and an occasion for reflection. We meet every four years to meet old friends and to get to know many others. We shall exchange ideas and experiences which will help us to see new

ways of being Lasallian. We shall have the chance to be witnesses to what one hundred years of Lasallianism has meant for children and young people of the Philippines, especially the disadvantaged. The theme of this fifth Congress will lead us to note carefully the experiences of Social Responsibility in all the International Associations and Federations, and in this way we shall learn things that we can imitate.

Brother Thomas Johnson, Vicar General of the Institute and representative of Brother Álvaro Rodríguez; General Concillors Brs. Claude Reinhardt and David Hawke; and our brother Assessor and Secretary-Coordinator

of the Secretariat for the Lasallian Family and its Associates, Br. Charles Kitson will be with us. Also present will be Delegates of Former Stu-

dents from, among other places: Madagascar, México, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, United States France, Spain, Italy, Austria, and especially the following countries associated with the Philippines and PARC: Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan. Of course Australia will be represented and the Philippines themselves. We are also expecting to have with us representa-

tives of the Lasallian Family connected with Signum Fidei and Young Lasallians. Many of us will also be present with our wives and children.

On Sunday, the closure of the congress is planned and we shall end our gathering with the ordinary General Assembly, when we shall elect the Councillors and the President who together will form the Executive Council which will be responsible for the running of UMAEL for the period 2011-2015. One of their tasks will be to decide on where the sixth World Council will take place together with the General gathering in the year 2015.

If you want to be part of a really unforgettable experience, we invite you to join us in MANILA 2011, when you will realise how Lasallianism unites us all and you will feel that throughout the world, we are all ONE in Lasalle.

Sergio Augusto Casas Martínez, President UMAEL 2007-2011



Reflection on the Young Lasallian Leaders Camp

By Bro. Sebastian (Novice from Thailand)

"Once a Lasallian, always a Lasallian."

It is very good for me to begin this reflection with these words. I believe that all of us who participated in this camp agree with me. I saw our Lasallian spirit being shared during these 3-4 days.

The Lasallian spirit is not reserved only for those who are De La Salle Brothers but it is offered to everyone who participates in and shares our Lasallian mission. This is the challenge that we are facing today as Brothers, together with everyone who comes and shares this Lasallian charism.

"The challenges to which we must respond today come not only from those for whom our mission is intended, poor children and youth, but also from those who share in this mission with us. Through them the Holy Spirit moves us to live the call of "Being Brothers today." (cf. The Documents of the 44th General Chapter "Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes, Burning Hearts" p. 24)



I saw everyone participating in all the activities together until the very last day. It was not only the de La Salle Brothers, but also our Lasallian teachers and students who shared the Lasallian spirit and charism that we have received from St. La Salle, our Founder. The joy and happiness that shone on everyone's face during these 3-4 days were signs that the call to be Lasallians and to live our fraternity was really 'touching hearts'. This identity will always be with us, as the saying at the beginning of this reflection goes, *"Once a Lasallian, always a Lasallian."* We were moved by the Holy Spirit to spend time together, to share life and faith, where we come to know and appreciate one another's joyful presence, overcome individualism, continue our Lasallian formation and experience the merciful love of God (cf. Rule).

Therefore, through these 3-4 days of camp we experienced the essence of our Lasallian spirit by sharing it with one another: Lasallian Brothers, teachers and students. We now need to live the

values of our Founder and at the same time share them with others in our own schools and families. This is the meaning of "together and by association" that was our first Lasallian charism.

Live Jesus in our hearts... forever!



Towards a Corporate Image for the Lasallian Mission

In recent years the desire has been expressed both at Institute General Chapters and at Mission Assemblies held at the international and local levels that we should have a "Corporate Image" which includes, unifies and gives the feeling of a network to all where the **Lasallian Educational Mission** is being carried out and participated in all over the world. It is obvious that the diversity which exists at present in the Districts and Regions does not make it easy for us to identify or visualize ourselves as an "International Educational Institute".

After the 44th General Chapter, the Communication Service at the Centre of the Institute was asked to take the steps necessary to put this initiative into action (Circ. 456). The said service, after studying the theme for three years, opted to carry out an analysis of the diverse corporate images which already exist in the Lasallian world and, in the month of November (2010), made a proposal which could be evaluated and reflected upon by the Regions, Districts, Visitors' Conferences and other educational bodies. This work was entrusted to the members of the International Communication Council. They requested the presentation of new ideas and alternative proposals. Although the responses were diverse, the initial proposal was enriched by incorporating those ideas which were most in line with what we were trying to achieve.

In the month of February (2011), the Communication Service at the Centre

of the Institute finally offered a concrete proposal of the corporate image to the General Council.

The General Council, after studying the project, evaluated it favourably and expressed the wish that the proposal be presented at the Inter-Capitular Assembly in April (2011) along with other variations for the purpose of getting new reactions and contributions.

With the study process finished, the General Council, during its June 17th session, made the decision to **propose to the Regions the use of the Corporate Image from the Manual which had been presented to the Brothers Visitors during the Inter-Capitular Assembly.**

The manual which is being drawn up explains that *the relationship between the new Image and others already existing needs to be harmonized according to the criteria of the so-called "architecture of trade marks"*. Initially, it is not a question of substituting but of re-structuring.

In what concerns the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as such, the coat of arms 'Signum Fidei', which always appears in publications from the Centre of the Institute, will continue to be the logo for basic reference. The said coat of arms was accepted by the 7th General Chapter on August 5th, 1751 and continues to be the only official one. So, the new Corporate Image finds its fundamental application in the **Lasallian Educational Mission** spheres of activity and it is with this aim that we offer it now to all.

*Br. Superior General and
the General Council*

Changes at the Generalate



1. **Brother Jean François Morlier** has completed his mandate as a member of the CIL staff and he has begun a new phase in his life in the District of Peru.



Brother Pierre Ouattara from the District of Burkina Faso (RELAF) is the new CIL staff member.



2. **Brother Craig Franz**, from the DENA District (USA-Toronto) is now a member of the Central Community and he is the Coordinator of the Inter-Congregational project in South Sudan. He also works in the commission that was created to study the use and management of the Generalate.



3. **Angela Matulli** is the secretary for the Lasallian ONLUS "De La Salle - International Solidarity." She also works as the technical secretary for the management and follow-up of the projects of the Solidarity and Development Secretariat.



4. **Ever Saúl Martínez** has completed his volunteer year at the Generalate and has returned to his native country of Mexico, after one year of very good service.



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Brothers of the Christian Schools
Via Aurelia 476
00165 Rome, Italy

Postal Address: C.P. 9099 (Aurelio)
00100 Rome, Italy

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Articles for publication can be sent to the address mentioned above or by e-mail to: intercom@lasalle.org

Web: www.lasalle.org