



Magazine of the Lasallian Family

intercom

Young Lasallians in RELAF: Building Hope Together

Greetings to all Lasallians on behalf of your African brothers and sisters!

For many years now, Brothers and Lay Partners have worked together to build a future for many African children and young people, particularly the poor, through our Lasallian Educational Mission. We should be proud of the fact that some of these young people have become agents for a better world because of their commitment to the Founder's charism. This is true of Young Lasallian Movements and Volunteer groups in Africa (RELAF). It is also the reason why I wholeheartedly support this initiative of the International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL) and the Office of Communications in Rome, for highlighting some of our Young Lasallian realities in RELAF.



For the Institute, a Young Lasallian is an adolescent or young adult who is moved by the spirit of St. John Baptist De La Salle to be a catalyst for change against poverty and injustice as they affect the lives of the young, especially the poor. Whilst definitions are important, we ought to celebrate the gift of commitment, energy and passion, which young people bring to the Mission. Focusing on this energy, the Lasallian Family needs to keep providing Young Lasallians with the right vehicles through which they can express their lived commitment.

Therefore, I have an invitation to make to all Lasallian Leaders of RELAF, and to all other Regions as well. Brother Visitors, school directors, teachers and students leaders on a District, Sector or Delegation level, please continue to encourage and

support initiatives of Young Lasallians, and more importantly, to open doors to them within District structures, so that they may actively take part in and realize the Lasallian Mission at a deeper level. Yes, let us open the doors of our Lasallian world to young people who are passionate about their vocation as a Young Lasallian.

Finally, we would like to say that the coverage we are receiving in this issue of INTERCOM is already in itself a big step ... and yet we still have a long journey ahead of us. As Young Lasallians of RELAF we need to be more aware of networking and staying in touch with other Young Lasallians around the world. We are very grateful to our friends from Benin, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea and the Lasallian Volunteers of Cameroon, who freely shared their dreams, thoughts and challenges for the future as we all continue to build hope together.

In Peace,

Br. Michel Zo Tolojanahary

RELAF Representative on the International Council of Young Lasallians & Secretary for the RELAF Region



The Lasallian Volunteers of Cameroon (VLC)

There are about 45 members in this group which is composed mainly of past-pupils of Collège De La Salle in Douala. The VLC administer the Centre Mutien-Marie of Mbalmayo, while at the same time teaching there. In addition, they offer their services to the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Kelo, Chad. They have a small fraternity of five or six persons living together. Their life of faith is centered around Prayer and Service. They follow Lasallian Formation courses and take part in Retreats and sessions run by the District.

Their greatest challenge is to be able to lead a large number of young people to adhere to the Associative movement.

Their greatest hope, in having a group of Leaders formed in the great schools of America and Europe, is to set up in Africa, and more precisely in Cameroon, a Lasallian University, so as to facilitate access to quality formation.

Mr. Davy Tenefogne.

Equatorial Guinea

In Equatorial Guinea, a group of Young Lasallians is based at La Salle Lea (Bata) center. This is also the place where most of these young people receive their secondary education.

The group of 13-20 year olds has created a program with a various levels, each with its own objectives and experiences, according to the developmental stages of the participants.

The entire group gathers together weekly for meetings and prayer, and the older members offer their services to the community by working in soup kitchens or visiting the sick and elderly. Some commitments that deal directly with catechesis or scripture sharing are done in public during Church feasts. A number of retreats are organized during the year, and the group is also regularly involved in other Church activities in the Diocese.

Young Lasallians from Bata (nearly 100 in number) are led by a group of Brothers and volunteers all of whom, faithful to Lasallian tradition, wish to commit themselves to the proclamation of the Gospel in an experiential way through the principles of FAITH, SERVICE, and FRATERNITY.

Br. Juan Pablo Martín.

Young Lasallians in Kenya

Young Lasallian Club at St. Mary's, Nyeri

At St. Mary's in Nyeri, there is a Lasallian youth movement with more than 80 members. Some of the participants run the internal affairs of the group in coordination with its moderator, Br. Jastin Kebira, FSC.

The group carries out various activities including community service. Some members, for example, visit the elderly as a way of helping out. The club also animates and leads liturgy during the school masses.

The biggest challenge of the group is lack of sufficient time to meet and run projects. This is due to the workload each member carries at school. At the same time, the group's biggest hope lies in the Lasallian Educational Mission as it helps young people develop their skills and abilities while at the same time being of assistance to others in need.

Nairobi Young Lasallian Movement (CTIE)

In its early days, membership to this group was entirely reserved to students of the Lasallian Teacher Training Institute, CTIE. This changed recently, under the leadership of Br. Collins Wafula, FSC. Now the group consists of young people from various Institutes of Tangaza College (which also hosts CTIE), the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Karen Campus in Nairobi and some youth who are employed at Tangaza College.

The group is committed to Lasallian ideals. Its foundation is based on mutual encouragement and team work in service to the larger community. The biggest challenge the group faces is fostering a sense of cooperation with other Lasallian realities and providing members with quality leadership and formation programs. With local and international support they will be able to overcome these challenges.

Br. Collins Wafula.

Young Lasallians of the Lycée Privé Stella Maris in Tamatave - Madagascar.

The Young Lasallians of the Lycée Privé Stella Maris in Tamatave (Madagascar) are 40 in number, made up of ten university students and thirty secondary school students.

The group has existed in the Lycée since 1998. Each school year we have three work camps lasting 4 to 15 days, in the countryside or in town.

Our aim is to come to the aid of the poor, to give them a better environment, to preach the Gospel wherever we go (restoration and painting of buildings, gifts of school and pedagogical materials, medicine, water-pumps, seeds, etc.)

Our biggest challenge is to continue to exist as a Lasallian group facing up to the present conditions in our poor country, where egoism and materialism reign.

Our cause for hope is that there still exist young people who are living the Charism of the Holy Founder.

Mr. Rabenandrasana Marie Raphaël Armand.

The Young Lasallian Movement in the De La Salle College and Saint Athanase College of Dapaong, North Togo.

Convinced of the treasures which flow from the Catholic Church and from the style of life of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, we members of the Lasallian Youth Movement wish to inspire ourselves from the school of life of the Church in general and that of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in particular.

Since most of us have spent several years in the Brothers' schools, we have become aware of the ideal of life offered to us by St. John Baptist De La Salle and the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

In order to better live this challenge of faith, essential fraternity and mutual help in work, we have given ourselves a life project. We follow a certain line of conduct, of a 'salt and light' nature, for our society which is in search of a reference point. This is why the Lasallian Youth group of La Salle and St. Athanase Colleges, made up of 30 members, is looking more into certain present-day themes such as : fraternal life, abortion, justice and reconciliation, AIDS...

The Young Lasallian Movement of De La Salle College and St. Athanase College, Dapaong.

Young Lasallians in South Africa

Our Lasallian Youth group at De La Salle Holy Cross College, consists of 100-120 pupils who meet weekly to learn more about ourselves, praise and worship, and to deepen our relationship with Christ. We have two faith-building camps each year where we have various talks and personal sharings based on daily life issues and practical ways on how to live a meaningful Christian life. Service-related activities include Christmas and Easter parties for underprivileged children, knitting blankets for the elderly and a mission camp where we revamp a school/centre for children. Because of the deep personal affect the youth group has on life and its meaning, some challenges we face include being good role models; finding the right leaders for the group; convincing people with pre-conceived ideas about our mission. We strive to live as Lasallians outside of school and to collaborate with others to give back to the community.

Mrs. Leanne te Brake.

Session for New Visitors

The Brother Visitor is the guarantor of the unity and vitality of the District. He is the one primarily responsible for the District and is its principal animator... he is at the service of his Brothers, he is ready to listen to them... he is careful to help each Brother to develop his vocation... he promotes close cooperation between the Brothers ...the Brother Visitor assigns the Brothers to their communities and provides for the different posts of responsibility according to the norms established by the District Chapter... he assesses the quality of communities... he organizes gatherings of Brothers... the Brother Visitor encourages programs designed to foster vocations... (Rule 132 - 135).



According to our Rule, all of these roles and many others are the responsibility of the person in whom we place our trust as our Brother Visitor. It is not an easy task.

The Center of the Institute is aware of the importance of offering its support to these Brothers and, in order for that to happen, every two years a formation session is held in our Generalate in Rome. Even though participation in the program adds yet another task to the day to day running of the District, the Brothers who participate in it are grateful for it and they appreciate this formation opportunity.

The most recent session was held from May 9th to 15th. The objectives for the session were, among others, to get a better understanding of the mission of the Brother Visitor and Brother Auxiliary Visitor, to share one's own challenges and expectations and to experience fraternity with the General Council, with the Brothers of the central Secretariats and Services and with other Brother Visitors in the Lasallian world.

The participants for this session were: Brothers James Joost (San Francisco), Joseph Le Van Phuong (Vietnam), Christopher Soosai (India), Achille Buccella (Italy), Mark Snodgrass (Midwest), Martín Rocha Pedrajo and Pedro Orbezúa (South Mexico - Antilles), Gustavo Loo Oporto (Ecuador), Juan González (ARLEP-Andalusia), Marco Salazar (Peru), Israel Nery (Brazil-Chile), Humberto Murillo (Medellin), Cecilio Herrera (Central America-Panama), Lino Martias Jung (Brazil-Mozambique), and Antonio María Marquiegui Candina (Venezuela).

On the first morning of the session there was a talk by Brother Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers. His presentation focused on the challenges facing religious life in the world today. In the afternoon, Brother Thomas Johnson spoke about the priorities of the Institute in line with the thinking of the General Council which will be presented in the next Circular.

Brother Álvaro, Superior General, had two talks. His first talk, at the beginning of the session, dealt with "The Brother Visitor: Brother and Servant" and his final talk at the end of the session had to do with some items that define the Brother today as a person

consecrated by and for God in community for the educational and evangelizing service of youth who are poor and, starting from them, all young people who wish to make the Lasallian charism their own. Brother Álvaro was available for personal interviews during the entire session.

All Brother General Councillors presented some aspect of formation during the session. Some topics presented were: the District leadership team, the specific role of the Auxiliary Visitor, mutual support, different management models and organization in service of District leadership, the accompaniment of the one who accompanies, the canonical visit and the personal interview.

Through case studies, topics dealt with included the use and abuse of means of communication, social networks, the accompaniment of processes of Association for lay Lasallians, managing difficult situations, accompaniment during a Brother's leave of absence, conflictive situations in affective relationships as well as other topics requested by the Visitors themselves or those proposed by the Brother Councillors. Finally, there was also time spent on the topic of the Revision of the Rule and on juridical and canonical issues that every Brother Visitor needs to know.

Our session concluded on May 15 with the celebration of the Feast of the Founder. The Eucharistic liturgy was presided by Cardinal João Bráz, the prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

In his closing remarks, the Superior General told the new Visitors that, starting from our roots, we are called now to open ourselves to the future, responding to the educational and evangelical urgencies of the 21st century, that we have to live in active hope, creative faith and impassioned love this new adventure of recreating our Institute and rejuvenating our charism for God's greater glory and the life of the world. We are together in this same adventure and in the same boat. We have to make our own the Founder's invitation to abandon ourselves to God's Providence *like the man who put himself out on the high seas without sails or oars* (Meditation 134.1).

Br. Alberto Gómez Barruso - General Councilor



The hospitality and value in the Middle East

This year began for Br. Alvaro with the visit to the RELEM Region. In the course of 2012 and 2013 he will visit all the RELEM Districts. The visit to the Districts is for the Superior General an obligation from the Rule.

The objectives are diverse.

In the first place it is a question of the Superior having direct contact with the local situations and the persons involved. Studying the dossiers is not enough. He needs to meet the Brothers and the other actors in the Lasallian Mission, listen to them, question them and see the works. Obviously, in a couple of days you cannot get a precise idea of the situation of a District or of a work but the Internet will never replace human contact.

It is also a question for the Superior General of ensuring his "symbolic" mission, that is to say marking the link between the Districts and the entire Institute. It is striking to see to what extent the people you meet say how much their feeling of belonging to the Lasallian Mission is strengthened by the arrival of the "Roman" superiors of the Institute. It is for them both a recognition of their work and an occasion for remembering that the horizon of the Lasallian Mission is not reduced to its local dimension. The "together" should be accompanied by an awareness of "by association".

It is the District of the Middle East which has opened the RELEM visits. During the months of April and May, in two stages, Br. Alvaro and myself visited Lebanon, Jordan, the Holy Land, Turkey, Sudan and Egypt. My aim is not to give you an account of the visits made or the persons met. All you need to do is to go to the Middle East website where you will find a day by day account of how the visits went.

Sharing some impressions with you.

The first is that oriental hospitality is not just a legend. Everywhere the welcome was warm, even at certain moments 'Pharaonic'. It is unusual for a French person to see in Cairo and Alexandria 2,500 pupils lined up on the school grounds with flags in the wind and a fanfare. In Jerusalem we had the surprise of being welcomed by a band of bagpipes in the purest "British" or Breton style.

The second is that in this part of the world, subject to the political upheavals that you know about, I never heard defeatism anywhere. The concern, sometimes palpable, before an uncertain future is not leading pupils, Lay Lasallians or Brothers to give in to discouragement. Some would attribute this reaction to fatalism. For my part I see in it courage and an awareness that the Lasallian Mission is necessary and that it merits being involved in it. The pride in working in or having studied in one or other Lasallian school was often expressed by teachers, educational staff, pupils and past-pupils.

The third is the attachment to the Brothers, whether they be old or few. The label "Brothers' College" is displayed on buildings, school busses, prizes, even when the physical presence of the Brothers has been gone for some time. For the population, it stands for: seriousness in studies, care for pupils, religious tolerance, learning to live together in spite of all the social, religious and ethnic differences.

In the Middle East the future of the world is partly being played out. The Lasallian presence is important there to offer a model other than intolerance and confrontation. In this region of the world where the Gospel was born and began to be announced, it is by this fraternal presence, close to the young, concerned with making grow in them the best of their humanity so that its credibility and fruitfulness can be known and experienced.

This is why the Lasallian presence, including that of the Brothers, in the Middle East, constitutes one of the priorities of the Institute. That is why other Regions were appealed to and asked to send Brothers. Already the two Districts of Columbia have each sent two Brothers. But it is obvious that only local vocations will ensure that the necessary succession continue. Let us pray to the Lord of the Harvest who knows this land well from having lived there as Jesus.

Br. Jacques d'Huitema - *General Councilor*

The International Council for the Lasallian Educational Mission

In this edition of Intercom we present the work done by the International MEL Council over the course of the past two years.

The International Council established three priorities to guide its reflection on the Lasallian educational mission, keeping in mind the lines of action from the 43rd General Chapter and the guidelines from the 2006 International Assembly. The priorities are as follows: 1) 21st century Lasallian education for the educational service of the poor. 2) Draw up a guide that fleshes out essential elements for systematic and differentiated formation and accompaniment of the Lasallian Family. 3) Structures for the Lasallian mission of the 21st century.

Below are the results of the work done on the last priority.

Strengthening of structures for the mission in Lasallian Regions and Districts

Ten years from the 43rd General Chapter and mid way through the implementation of the 2006 International Assembly recommendations, and the 2007 44th General Chapter provisions, the MEL International Council in one of its meetings posed these questions: Have our schools actually developed from being Brothers schools to becoming Lasallian schools? Do current local and regional governance and organizational structures meet current needs?

If they do, to what extent is co-responsibility of Brothers and Partners being implemented? What factors help in facilitating this change? If they have not, why not? What factors impede the schools movement from being a Brothers' school to a Lasallian school? To answer these questions an initial survey was conducted among the six General Councillors assigned to the regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, French-Speaking Canada, Europe-Middle East, Latin America, and United States-Toronto. A survey questionnaire was developed and used in collecting relevant information for this study. Two General Councillors were interviewed while the four others responded to the questionnaire via email. Some consulted those in charge in their respective Regions and Districts before answering the questionnaire. Others responded together with leaders in their different Districts. The survey was conducted from November, 2010 to January 15th, 2011. Part II of this study will be conducted separately and will focus on issues, concerns, and best practices in selected Districts of Lasallian Regions relative to the development of appropriate structures and governance for the shared Lasallian mission.

Synthesis and Concluding Statements

The International Assembly of 2006 noted that "new models and new structures are being established for our mission". Information and data gathered for this study show that progress has certainly been made





though at different stages of development from one Region to another, as well as from one District to the next. Though the last International Assembly further observed that “questions concerning the management of finances and control often complicate efforts towards the achievement of true association”, the variation in culture and levels of national development among Regions and Districts, likewise affect the efficiency and harmony of transition towards co-responsibility and the schools’ becoming a Lasallian educational mission that is genuinely shared. Circular 461 on “Association for the Lasallian Mission: An Act of Hope” asked a most basic and very important question – “considering the declining number of Brothers, do we phase out ministries or do we join with lay Partners dedicated to the mission and continue the ministry? “... then wisely counsels that we avoid extremes – an all Brother leadership team when there are many Brothers, or phasing out ministries when there are very few of them. This definitely bodes well for Lasallian Association though Br. Robert Comte was being realistic when he said – “In the coming years, both groups will have to learn to live this new concept. The Brothers will have to accept those newcomers into the family without feeling that they have been dispossessed of what they consider themselves as the only heir. The lay people will have to find their full stature alongside the Brothers without being only a pale copy of them”. After all as Br. Antonio Botana stressed “the central axis is being a brother ... living as a brother is the first sign of the charism ... as Jesus said you are all brothers ... lay belonging to the people of God ... brother is building a fraternity for the mission”.



Journeying towards the

2013 INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION: Lasallians associated for the educational service of the poor



Certainly all Lasallians are aware that the preparation for the second International Assembly began last year and that it will be held in May of next year. For this purpose the Preparatory Commission has drawn up a timetable of activities for Regions where all Districts, Delegations, Sectors and each member of the Lasallian Family will be able to participate in the reflection leading up to the Assembly.

The timetable of activities from the Preparatory Commission is:

- **From February 2012 to April 2012:** Selection/election of delegates. The *General Councillors for the Regions* will coordinate this along with the Visitors. The selection or election will be done following the criteria established previously, with special attention being paid to the last criterion, given the fact that the Thematic Groups will be formed on this basis (delegates will be placed in a Thematic Group after their selection or election).
- **May 2012:** Using the list of delegates, the *General Councillors for the Regions* will form the three Thematic Groups and appoint a "Leader" for each of the groups. They will inform the Preparatory Commission of this by sending the list of delegates to them along with the name of the Leader of each Thematic Group.
- **From May 2012 to November 2012:** This is the period when Districts, Delegations and Sectors are to work on this project. The Preparatory Commission will give instructions to the leaders of the Thematic Groups and, when possible, the leader will be in contact with other groups (using online communication, etc.)
- **From November 2012 to December 2012:** Thematic Group Leaders will prepare a synthesis of their group work.
- **January 2013:** Thematic Group Leaders will send the synthesis, to the Preparatory Commission in Rome. *The General Councillors for the Region* and the Visitors will send reports on the impact of the 2005 International Assembly (according to a format that will be provided later).

We hope that all Lasallians will be able to participate in some way in the discussion as a kind of contribution to the 2013 International Assembly and to the strengthening of the Lasallian mission.

The formation of the Brothers in Haiti

Haiti is one of the places that today offers a lot of hope and a good number of challenges for the Institute, especially as regards Brother formation.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas and in the northern hemisphere, that is to say, Haiti is the country with the lowest GDP per capita and it is one of the most uneven countries in the world in terms of finances. In addition, the earthquake of January 12, 2010, was one of the most serious human catastrophes in history. As a result of this earthquake some 316,000 people died, another 350,000 were injured and more than 1.5 million were left homeless.

The first Canadian Brothers, many of them now retired, arrived in Haiti in the 1970s to work on Tortoise Island in the northern part of the country. Then they founded an educational center from elementary school to high school in Port-de-Paix, also in the northern part of the country as well as a formation center for Brother candidates. Recently a novitiate community was opened in Port-au-Prince, the capital. As part of a Lasallian response to the 2010 earthquake, an educational center is under construction that will also include a health center.

With the diminution of the presence of Canadian Brothers, Brothers from Columbia, France, Spain, Mexico and even Africa and other countries have contributed to the Lasallian mission along with the Haitian Brothers themselves. Starting in 2008, Haiti is one of the new sectors of the District of the Antilles-South Mexico.

Currently, there are 18 Brothers in Haiti, of whom eleven are Haitians with the remaining seven being of six different nationalities. In addition, there are five Haitian Brothers who are in various stages of ongoing and initial formation in Mexico, four in Argentina, two in the Ivory Coast and there is one in the Dominican Republic. For the 2011-2012 academic year there were five novices and for 2012-2013 there will be two. Of the more than 20 Haitian Brothers only six have perpetual vows; all the rest have temporary vows. This situation brings with it great hope and also great challenges for Brother formation.

Reasons for Hope:

- A great number of young people are interested in religious life. Haitians are very religious and the Church, through parishes, plays a very important social role in Haiti.
- The pastoral ministry of vocations on the part of the Brothers is systematic and offers an opportunity to the Brothers to get to know young people in a group and apostolic service atmosphere.



- The Haitian Brothers have a leading role in the area as well as in vocation ministry and in formation. They continue to make efforts in incarnating the Lasallian charism and expressing it in a comprehensible and significant way for young Haitians.
- The Brothers have sought and continue to seek new and creative ways to respond to the very sad situation of poverty that exists in Haiti. Lasallian presence in Haiti is a message that cannot leave us indifferent.
- Attempts at responding better to the needs of formation in Haiti have encouraged collaboration with other sectors of the new District of the Antilles-South Mexico and the Region of Latin American, especially in Central America and Argentina.

Challenges:

- The first challenge is to have quality initial formation that at the same time will help candidates to move forward, follow Christ, interiorize the Lasallian charism and respond to the deep causes of poverty in Haiti without becoming “disembodied” about the reality of the country.
- Vocational discernment is another great challenge. How to help them to discern the call of the Brother's vocation in a context in which there are few alternatives on the human, financial and professional level?
- Throughout Latin America the perseverance of the Brothers is a challenge and this is also true in Haiti. This is not just about perseverance in the Institute but also it has to do with being faithful, given their limitations and frailty, to the charism and the commitments they have made.
- Another challenge is the accompaniment of young Brothers in communities where there are few Brothers who are middle-aged or older, Haitians and foreigners. Life in the communities is complex today and the conditions for accompaniment are not always the best.

Perhaps the future of Haiti depends on their ability to become integrated into the young Antilles-South Mexico District, a very complex District: five culturally diverse countries, two languages, long distances. If all of us Lasallians can support them in overcoming these challenges there will be more hope for all parties involved.



Formation for the Lasallian Mission



What are today the essential elements of forming and accompanying for all Lasallians? How can these essential elements be articulated into a formation itinerary which will be valid and useful for all Lasallians?

These are the questions which derive from the proposition of the International Assembly for the Mission in 2006 which asked for a guide which “articulates the essential elements [...] of forming and accompanying, with a view to orienting/positioning joint formation programs for all the members of the Lasallian Family”.

The Coordinating Secretaries of the Secretariats for the Lasallian Educational Mission, the Lasallian Family and Association and Being Brothers Today (Brothers Jorge Fonseca, Charles Kitson and Jesus Rubio) have formed a team to follow up the development of this proposition. Various groups are involved in the reflection; in a direct manner, the International Councilors of each of these Secretariats.

Each one of these councils contributes its reflection: the International Council for the Lasallian Education Mission, a vision which is clearly oriented towards formation for the Mission; the International Council of the Secretariat for the Lasallian Family and Association, a vision including the different Lasallian groups and communities; and the International Council of the Secretariat for Being Brothers Today, a vision more oriented to the process of formation itself and the development of the Lasallian as a person. The Service of Lasallian Research and Resources has also started to get involved.

The project has been called “Formation for the Lasallian Mission” and tries to join two complementary perspectives: an ‘inspirational’ perspective in which all Lasallian can see themselves reflected and included and a second ‘practical’ perspective which offers some resources and sequences which could be useful at the time of planning Lasallian formation programs. This project is also being offered to the other Lasallian Congregations as a way of sharing the charism and the mission.

This project faces various challenges. The first of these is the inclusion of all Lasallians, each from their own circumstances, evaluating their options and respecting their rhythm or pace. The second is the discerning of “the essential”, that in which we find our unity and identity as Lasallians. How do we be open to all while at the same time keeping clear the proposal of mission and identity which we share? How to ensure a spirit of openness while at the same time remaining faithful to our own options and convictions? How to open ourselves to the global reality of the Lasallian Mission throughout the world while at the same time finding elements which can be inspirations in the local reality in which we are working?

Dialogue and listening are the basis of this discernment. This project is not just for the Brothers or about the Brothers. It is a reflection of all Lasallians about the formative process which we all require.

The process of reflection and the writing of this document has four stages; two for the sections of an inspirational type and two for the practical section. In the first and third stages, different groups of Lasallians will work on the reflection and writing. In the second and fourth stages, a process of consultation will be carried out taking into particular account those responsible for Lasallian formation programs all over the Institute. Further stages will be foreseen for its dissemination, study and use.

Furthermore, we believe that this reflection will be an important contribution at a time when the Brothers are planning the revision of their own process of formation in the light of the new writing of the Rule, brought up to date for present day conditions in the world and in the Institute.

If you would like more information about this project please send an e-mail to: jrubio@lasalle.org

Br. Jesús Rubio - *Coordinating Secretary of Being Brothers Today*



Seminar on Lasallian Pedagogy for the 21st Century

As had been announced previously, a Seminar on Lasallian Pedagogy for the 21st Century was held from May 28 to 30, 2012, in the Aula Magna (Great Hall) of the Generalate. Fifteen Brothers from the majority of the Regions of the Institute were in attendance. A new issue of Lasallian Studies will be published as a result of this activity and it will be available for the next Lasallian Educational Mission Assembly to be held in May 2013. This publication will be available in the three official languages of the Institute.

Is there really such a thing as Lasallian Pedagogy?

That is not a trivial question. We do affirm in many forums and formation courses that we do have a Lasallian Pedagogy; but, when we are asked for a systematic argument about what we claim, we have to say that we still have a long journey ahead of us to reach a satisfactory explanation.

With the development of national educational systems since the 19th century and the inrush of pedagogical thought within the framework of human science of the 20th century, we know that the words “education” and “pedagogy” are challenging and controversial. Anglo-Saxon, Francophone and Latin American traditions, among many others, are not uniform when you seek a precise definition of each term. This challenged us, particularly during our Seminar, to think about what we understand by “Lasallian Pedagogy” since the origins of the Institute, using precise universal criteria but, above all, criteria that are faithful to the thinking of John Baptist de La Salle and the first Brothers, as a kind of connecting thread that continues to enrich our original way of being and working in education.

So then, De La Salle's educational thinking is original?

Yes, it is. We are trying to state explicitly what Lasallian originality consists in. In our discussions an important criterion emerged: we cannot continue to state that John Baptist de La Salle was a simple eclectic of the education of his time. It's not about De La Salle as someone who put together the pieces of a puzzle to design a viable educational model; that would detract from his ability and, of course, that of his Brothers, in sensing reality and providing original responses for the needs of his students.

Certainly John Baptist de La Salle was a man who was able to discern and to help his Brothers to discern; educated and prepared as he was, he knew how to guide his own in reflection, experimentation and deciding about the best techniques to train students who were poor, who generally came from illiterate families. Without proper financial resources, they sought original ways to promote lifelong learning: reading, writing, arithmetic, religion. All of this was an integrated system that trained children so that they were able to be incorporated immediately in the manual work of their fathers. All of this took place in a community of faith that felt called to take on a mission for their entire lives without looking back. These are important keys for understanding the complexity of Lasallian educational thinking.

What can we expect from this publication?

We hope to offer a point of encounter, something that will generate new interest and prospects for discussion on Lasallian education and pedagogy. We hope that our publication will be studied, discussed and debated in Lasallian forums in all the Universities and Districts of the Institute. In this way, we will achieve the objective that we have proposed for ourselves: to strengthen the Lasallian educational mission by making known the richness of our origins and the currentness of its impetus today.

Br. Diego Muñoz - *Coordinator of Lasallian Research & Resources*

They traced a path...

The life of a Brother in the 19th Century

Brother Pastoris (Jules Deville)

He was born near Lyon in 1819. When he was 23, in 1842, he entered the novitiate of this same city. The following year he was already teaching in the junior classes in Vienne on the banks of the Rhone, in France; it was his second year of the novitiate.

From 1844 to 1848 he was teaching in Lyon. Then he was sent to America, first of all to New York and then the following year to Montreal (Canada) to take over as Director of Novices. He was 30 years of age.

After nine years in this position, in 1858 he was recalled to France to become Director of the novitiate of the District of Besançon. A year later, new needs called him to faraway places: in 1859 we find him in Bangalore (India) and then, two years later, for just one year, as Director at Tellitcheery (India). In 1862 he goes to Mangalore to be Director of the Novitiate. In the following year he receives his obedience as Visitor to add to that of Director. From 1863 his residence is wherever there are needs: in India (Mahé in 1873, Tellitcheery in 1864, Mangalore in 1865) and in Ceylon (Colombo 1868).

Colombo is just a transition for him; in that same year 1868 he is called to London to direct the novitiate. We do not know why he returned to France at the end of a year: 1869 finds him at the boarding schools of Le Puy and then Orléans teaching English. Then it is again the life of the novitiate: Avignon (France) from 1871 to 1873.

1873 would be his last departure: America calls him again but this time it is the West. From his arrival in San Francisco he is entrusted with the novitiate in Oakland. But he is at the end of the road: he planted where others would come to irrigate. He died in San Francisco on October 1st 1874: he was 55.

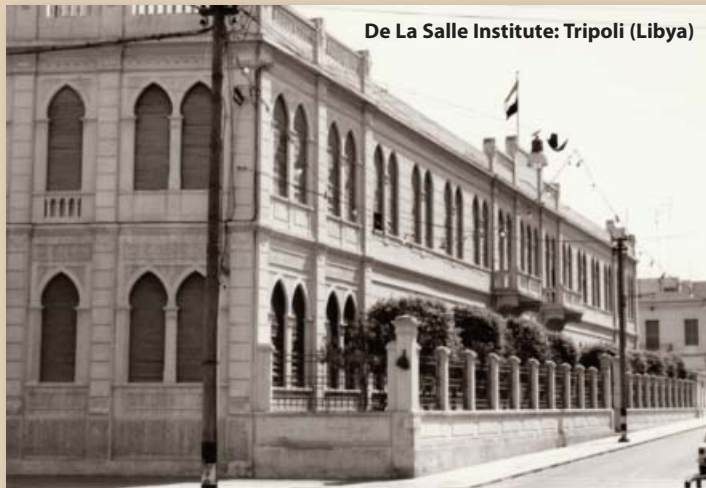
A page of Lasallian history...

1912: Three countries...Three appeals...Three foundations

- By the District of Austria: at Birnbaum, in Yugoslavia.
- By the District of Madrid: at Melilla, on the south coast of the Mediterranean.
- By the District of Turin: in Libya, in the two main cities, Tripoli and Benghazi.

Some reminders

In 1912, the District of Austria opened a juniorate at Birnbaum, which war would soon cause to pass from the Austria-Hungarian Empire to the new Republic of Yugoslavia. Four years later, in 1916, a Lasallian school would open in Sarajevo and would quickly be characterized by its inter-confessional recruitment. Sadly neither of the two establishments would survive the war period. It was in 1938 that the Brothers were again called upon, this time to establish themselves in Zagreb, the country's second city. The boarding school which they opened would not have time to prosper. Political developments would oblige the Brothers to return to Austria in 1947.



De La Salle Institute: Tripoli (Libya)



First Community - Melilla

It was in September 1912 that a first group of Brothers, called by the Apostolic Vicar, arrived in Tripoli, Libya, from Turin. Many pupils from very different origins flocked rapidly to the school: Arabs, Maltese, Turks, Italians, Jews, Greeks. The following year a second group of Brothers arrived in the country's second city, Benghazi. The administrative authorities facilitated the construction of new buildings: La Salle College in Benghazi and a boarding school in Tripoli. The nationalization imposed from the first years of Colonel Ghadafi's taking power, obliged the Brothers to abandon their pupils and their establishments and return to Italy. An association of their past-pupils remains very much alive in Italy.

Melilla, a Spanish town on the southern coast of the Mediterranean, the seat of the General Harbor Master's Office and of several regiments, saw the Brothers arrive in September 1912. Many Brothers had a choice in fulfilling their military service which had been compulsory for them since 1910: in addition to light service obligations, they could put to profit their free time by ensuring some teaching hours in the new College of Nuestra Señora del Carmen. After six years in temporary buildings the Brothers and their pupils were able to move into a new building. Since then, it has never ceased to prosper and can proudly celebrate its centenary.



Melilla

Promoting formation



From the fruitful RELAF Conference meeting held in Addis Ababa last November 2011, where two members of the Secretariat: the General Councilor for Solidarity, Br. Jorge Gallardo, and the person responsible for the Development Office, Br. Amilcare Boccuccia participated, a few proposals for action emerged.

According to the Regional Strategic Plan that RELAF is developing, formation for Brothers and for Lay People who work within the Brothers' institutions is one of the main needs that the Visitors indicated. The Conference asked the Secretariat to collaborate and act in this matter.

The RELAF and RELEM regions already had started a collaboration and developed a complete 80 hour training program focused on Development. The module's content has been elaborated together by Br Anatole Diretenadji and Mr. Javier Sanchez, respectively the representatives of RELAF and RELEM within the Secretariat. At the moment, teaching material is under preparation to this end. The Secretariat is working jointly with Proyde on this project.



The Secretariat has developed one week training programs on Child Protection. This training is part of a pilot project of formation which will be held in Addis Ababa next July 2012 (9th – 14th) which focuses on three fields: Child Protection, Development and Office Administration. About 80 participants will take part in the training (each person attends only one type of course). They will come from Ethiopian Catholic Schools. A few Brothers will also come from Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The official local partner for the project is the Ethiopian Catholic University of St. Thomas Aquinas (ECUSTA) which will also bestow an official certificate to participants at the end of the course.



Within the same global aim of promoting

formation on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the CELAF Institute in Abidjan, thanks to the precious collaboration of Br. Emmanuel Mboua (Director of CELAF), two types of short seminars have been organized for the students. The topics were: protection of the rights of children and the pedagogy promoted by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his first followers.

This initiative was an interesting experience which launched the idea - which is now being concretized by developing the contents - of inserting within the academic program (both of CELAF for French-speaking Africa and of Christ the Teacher Institute for Education for English-speaking Africa), a specific curriculum on Human and Children's Rights. It is foreseen that the new module will be taught beginning in September 2012.

SECOLI: Projects and Sharing Fund

September 2003 - May 2012 (9 years)

Projects	933
Secoli Projects	\$ 11.012.892
Sharing Fund	\$ 4.037.860
Total US\$	\$ 15.050.752

LICF (Lasallian International Children's Fund), Disbursements to SECOLI Projects (in US\$)										
Country	Place	#	Description	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bolivia	Santa Cruz	2954	Orphanage Laundry		1.252					
Bolivia	Santa Cruz	2952	Orphanage Kitchen						5.000	
BraZil	Canoas	3187	Classes for 30 Students with Learning Difficulties					6.884		
Burkina Faso	Nouna	2815	Audio Visual Materials	4.426						
Burkina Faso	Badenya	3173	Classroom equipment				2.081			
Cameroun	Diang	2846	Computer room		3.926					
Cameroun	Diang	3210	Workshop Equipment CETI							1.980
Rep. Dem. Congo	Mbandaka	3226	Computer for the College				4.800			
Chile	Esperanza	2824	Orphanage	3.272						
Ethiopia	Dire Dawa	2853	Scholarship	3.500						
Häiti	La Tortue	3050	Enclosure of School Property (3 th part)			4.876				
India	Boys Village	2804	Scholarship	3.476						
Kenya	Child Discovery	2982	Food, Clothing, Bedding		4.824					
Kenya	Nyeri	3091	Street Children Program			3.834				
Lwanga	Addis Abeba	3414	Child Protection Training							7.787
Madagascar	Port Bergé	3020	Painting and Reinforcing the School's roof		3.070					
Malaysia	PARC	3155	Youth Coordinator's Workshop			800				
Myanmar	Kalaw	3357	Deep Well Come and See Residence						4.000	
Pakistan	Multan	3293	St. Vincent's Hostel					2.864		
Rwanda	Byumba	3046	Computers for De La Salle Academy					3.820		
Rwanda	Intiganda	3347	Street Children Kitchen						6.600	
South Africa	Phokeng	3151	Clothes for Nkaneng Squatter Camp Children			2.737				
Sri Lanka	Mannar	2951	Boarders from War Area		2.160					
Sri Lanka	Boys' Town	3234	Vocational Training for the youth affected by Civil War				6.429			
Sri Lanka	LCES	3418	3 month Vocational Training Program							6.040
Total		25		100.420	14.674	15.232	12.247	13.310	13.550	15.600

LICF June 2000 - May 2012	
Total Donations	\$ 346.981,00
Total Earnings	\$ 178.862,60
Total Donations + Earnings	\$ 525.843,60
Disbursements	\$ 100.420,00
Earnings less Disbursement	\$ 78.442,60



Haiti Earthquake

	Income US\$
Direct to District of Antillas-Mexico South	\$ 365.655,41
Direct from Proyde	\$ 532.668,80
Direct to Haiti	\$ 16.053,31
Sent by Secoli	\$ 974.146,47
Total Sent	\$ 1.888.523,99
To be sent by Proyde	\$ 132.988,72
To Be sent by SECOLI	\$ 20.248,00
Total	\$ 2.041.760,71

From the Secretary's Desk...

Our Lasallian Family gives living testimony to “unity in diversity.” The richness of cultures, creeds and nationalities we possess, all in support of the Lasallian Educational Mission, speaks loudly of our commitment to peace and justice among all peoples. In this edition we read of a “best practice” (Five Loaves and Two Fish) realized with our Brothers and Associates in Spain; simple yet a sign that our communities are places of welcome. We read also about the First Lasallian Women’s Symposium recently held in PARC and glimpse the passion of two dedicated Lasallian women. Finally we begin the first in a series of “profiles” of members of your International Council for the Lasallian Family and Association. Brother John Fernando shares his journey of association with us. Enjoy the entries and please send one of your “best practices” to us (ckitson@lasalle.org) so we can someday highlight your program and encourage others at the same time.

Br. Charles Kitson

Meet the PARC Representative on the International Council of the Lasallian Family & Association

St. La Salle Hr., Sec., School is located in Tuticorin, a port city in South India. It is run by the La Salle Brothers. In the 70's the people of Tuticorin would never have dreamed of a school for the education of their children. The school caters to the needs of drop outs and to the sons of fishermen. It was because of this orientation that my mother did not send me to the Brothers' School. I was educated in and resided at a Jesuit Secondary School. One evening, one of my friends told me that a Brother named “Yesudasán” was very good at teaching English and Math. Somehow, I was attracted by the thought of meeting him. The next day, I went to the school to see for myself. The Brother was giving extra help to a few of the boys who were all seated around the same table. I decided to sit with him.



He attended to all our doubts and queries in mathematics and sent us away with his special blessings. It happened that the following day everything he taught us appeared on the exam paper. I did well. After two days I went to him to express my thanks along with my friends. His reply was in a form of invitation... “Why don't you join us to serve such boys who are in need?”

This invitation was the beginning of my journey as a La Salle Brother. This encounter took place in 1975. A voice within me invited me to be a simple “Brother” and enter into the lives of my students as Bro. Yesudasán entered into my life.

The investiture ceremony of my first vows took place in 1979. The Brother who sponsored me in the Institute wisely told me on that day, “**Know yourself and move from one commitment to the other.**” Since then this statement has become a guiding principle in my Lasallian journey.

I have lived out my Brother's vocation as teacher, school administrator, President of the Indian Delegation and as formator. I have enjoyed every moment of my life as a Brother and I carry the image of Bro. Yesudasán who I saw for the first time in that classroom. All these experiences have helped me to develop a five year formation programme for our lay Lasallians in the Delegation of India, which is entitled - “CALL” – Course on Apprenticeship for the Lasallian Legacy.

Besides my responsibility in the Delegation, I also serve the PARC Region as a member of the Lasallian Service Commission and the Institute as PARC's representative on the International Council for Lasallian Family and Association

At the moment, I myself am reliving that initial encounter I had with a Brother in Suranam, a tiny village in Tamilnadu, where good drinking water is scarce. We have 823 children, coming from 35 nearby villages. I enjoy my ministry and life with these disadvantaged and underprivileged young people. I minister alongside of five other De La Salle Brothers and 35 dedicated lay partners.

Br. John Fernando

Thailand – Lasallian Women's Symposium: An Historic Event

PARC

The PARC (Pacific-Asia region) International Women's Symposium held in Pattaya, Thailand is a first in the history of the



Lasallian Mission of Education. Today, lay women are the majority of those engaged in the Lasallian mission. This Symposium provided an opportunity to hear their voices, as well as to learn about the issues affecting young women in their various countries.

The three-day symposium (April 29 – May 2, 2012) comprised 44 women and five Brothers from 15 countries. Br. Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, the Superior General of the Institute, headed the Brothers' delegation who participated in all the activities of the Symposium. Attending the Symposium were married women, mothers, single women, religious Sisters and Lasallian Sisters-women of varied ages and serving in a diversity of ministries.

Together, the group learned more about the influence of the women in the life of the Founder; shared with new friends the stories of their own spiritual journeys; marvelled at the diversity of ways those present were serving the Mission; laughed together during the energizing activities; joined together for times of prayer and discernment; and seriously discerned the priorities that should be addressed in the wake of 21st century realities and challenges. In the end, all the delegates committed to future action in the key areas of a) formation b) advocacy and c) health and well-being.

Trish Carroll, Lasallian Educational Services, Australia & Symposium Coordinator

The PARC Lasallian women's Symposium 2012

In a serene oasis, set amidst the bustle of the busy streets of Pattaya, we became part of Lasallian history as the inaugural PARC Lasallian Women's Symposium unfolded.

We were united in our Lasallian spirit with a diverse assembly of women representing many countries from around the world. The cooperation, understanding and strong sense of unity generated by this vibrant group of women was in evidence throughout the entire gathering. The opportunity to engage with women from many points of the globe enabled us to understand and appreciate that our issues and concerns were not so different from those of others. The obvious synergy generated by this industrious group of women allowed us to achieve an outcome that will send ever increasing ripples across a range of Lasallian works.

We shared many things that were not specifically outlined on the agenda, and which could not be measured empirically. We brought many gifts and talents to the group. We were mothers, sisters, educators, leaders and carers, and we recognized and embraced our Lasallian qualities of strength, gentleness and zeal. Despite the diversity amongst us, or perhaps, even because of the diversity of cultures, there was a palpable unity among us. In the spirit of association we were united for a common reason; to respond to the current and future needs of the mission.

To be recognised as an important and vital part of the Lasallian community was not overlooked by us; if there is no one brave enough to propose a new initiative, then the opportunity may be forever lost. The Brothers who supported this symposium were courageous. Undoubtedly, those Brothers who worked alongside us during the three days will take away a perspective that they may not have considered previously, and we acknowledge their courage.

Over the three days, we talked, laughed, prayed, sang, played and listened. We left the symposium with the greatest of gifts – that of a collective sense of Lasallian identity and belonging.

This will enable us to continue undertaking the mission by association that is the essence of our Lasallian vocation. Our newly formed friendships and network of like-minded women is a very happy consequence of this exhilarating experience. We take with us very fond memories of three days in Pattaya where PARC Lasallian women gathered together in a significant moment of history, made even more significant with the presence of the Superior General Br. Alvaro, Br. David Hawke, Br. Charles Kitson, Br. John Pil and Br. Thomas Lavin. Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!

Bron Kemp - St Michael's College, Henley Beach, South Australia.

Natalie Calleja - La Salle College, Middle Swan, Western Australia.



Five loaves and two fish



This short entry tells the story of a wonderful experience we are living in our Community of Brothers and Associates in Benicarló (District of ARLEP). Our community is made up of four Brothers and two Lay Associates for the Lasallian Mission.

About three years ago, while we were preparing together our "Community Plan", we thought that it would be interesting to try to open up the community to other Lasallians in our area. We wanted to invite those people who showed a deepening

commitment to the Mission. So we decided that for each community meeting we would invite a different local Lasallian to share with us prayer, the meeting and a community dinner.

During all this time, very committed Lasallians (teachers, past-pupils, parents, volunteers) were dropping in. Through this experience, the invited person felt "called by the community" and at the same time, the community too was enriched by the experience of welcoming visitors from diverse backgrounds: social justice, management, teaching, family.

All the Lasallians who have been participating in this "experience of Community" have been invited to form part of a group which we call "five loaves and two fish". This group is invited by the Director of the community to celebrate together important liturgical occasions (Advent, Lent, Pentecost, the Feast of the Founder, Trinity Sunday...). What a pleasure to see this group growing little by little as it meets to share faith and prayer with the community, creating links of fraternity and communion.

José Ramón Batiste, Lasallian Associate

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