



All Brothers: Inter-Congregational Program

More than three years ago a team of Brothers from various Institutes proposed holding an ongoing formation session centered on the theme of the identity and mission of the Religious Brother. The promise of Cardinal Franc Rodè, then Prefect of the Congregation of Institutes of Religious Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, of producing a Vatican document on Religious Brothers, awakened in us the desire to reflect on and interiorize said document jointly.

Some short meetings were held around this topic, among which we would highlight the one in Madrid (Spain) and Manaus (Brazil). All Congregations that admitted Brothers participated in these meetings. The document promised still has not been published but this was no reason for cancelling this meeting. If some day the document is published it will serve our reflection very well.

As we were meeting together, we shared the idea that being Lay Institutes involved in the ministry of education, we were thinking of opening this session primarily to those Institutes of Brothers that were involved in education. That is how we formed the coordinating team of eight Institutes: Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, De La Salle Brothers of the Christian Schools, Brothers of Saint Gabriel, Brothers of Christian Instruction, Marist Brothers, Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy, Brothers of the Sacred Heart and Brothers of the Holy Family.

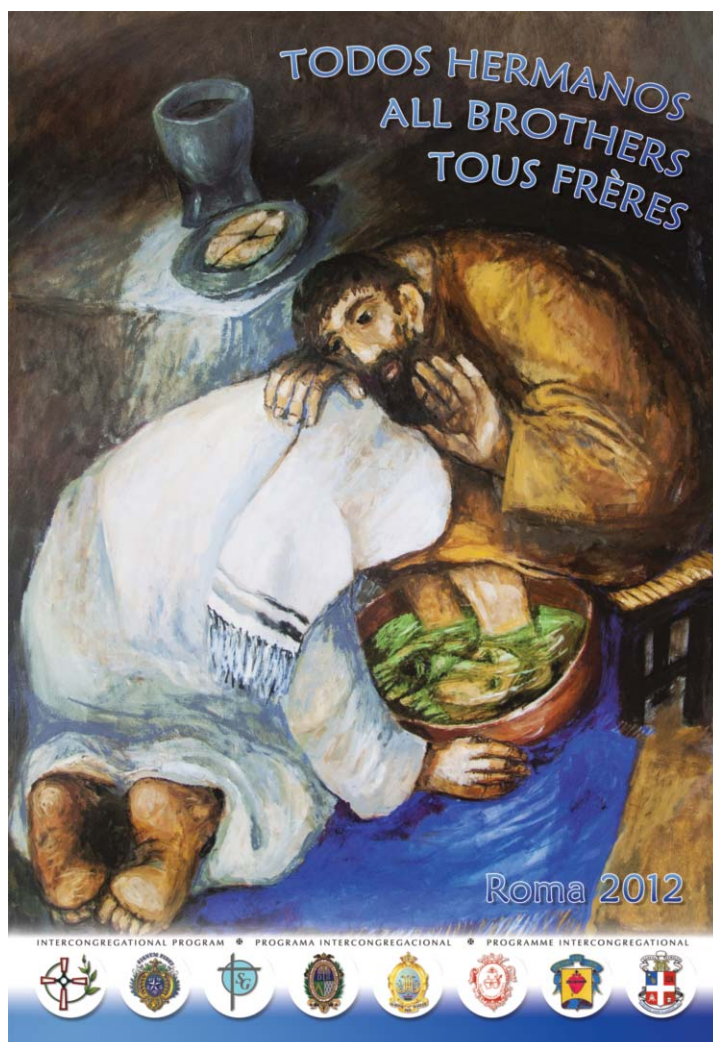
Regarding our Institute, the program was planned by the "Being Brothers Today" Secretariat and in terms of the running of the program, it must be said that the CIL staff did an excellent job on the logistics.

Collaboration between many of these religious families has a long history. In addition to sharing important chapters of our institutional histories in the past and of being jointly in charge in various places throughout the world of many projects having to do with education and initial formation, as is the case with joint novitiates, we are aware that we face practically the same challenges and we need to help one another, more than ever, in understanding the time of transition and transformation that we are going through in our own Institutes, in religious life and in the Church.

With the approval of Superiors General, we proceeded to organize a formation program of one month's duration. This is how this first inter-congregational formation program came to be held in our Generalate in September which saw the participation of 48 Brothers from all over the world.

The objectives of this program were:

- To take an in-depth look at the theme of our common identity and mission as Religious Brothers in the Church and in the world today.
- To encourage knowledge and relations between our Institutes of Brothers.



- To have an inter-congregational formation experience that will help us to reflect, pray and live together at this important time in our history.
- To share a joint formation experience that may provide direction for other formation activities in the future.
- To encourage Brothers from our Institutes to meet with one another in order to have this discussion on the local level in our Provinces/Districts.
- To draft materials that may help in continuing prayer and reflection on this topic.

From our Institute the following Brothers participated: Francisco Chiva (ARLEP), Nicholas Seet (PARC), Valere Adonsou (RELAF), Robert Hazard (RELAN), and Brothers Camilo Alarcón and Roberto Medina (RELAL).

The program was divided into three modules. The first module's objective was to contextualize the identity of the "Brother" from the anthropological, cultural and religious point of view. Participants presented some myths on the creation of different continents in order to study how these myths influenced the concept of person that we have and the interpersonal relationships we establish. Professor Kipoy Pombo helped us to better understand the complexity and the necessity of the inculturation of fraternity in a globalized world. Bible scholar Nuria Calduch went through the Bible starting from Cain and Able and going all the way to fraternity in the first communities. Finally, Brother Sean Sammon, former Superior General of the Marist Brothers, presented a way to look at the theology of religious life and the ecclesiology of communion.

This first module culminated with a pilgrimage to Assisi under the slogan: "Praised are you, my Lord, for the gift of fraternity." The figures of Francis and Clare continue to enlighten the paths of a universal call to fraternity for all of us.

The second module was entitled "Living

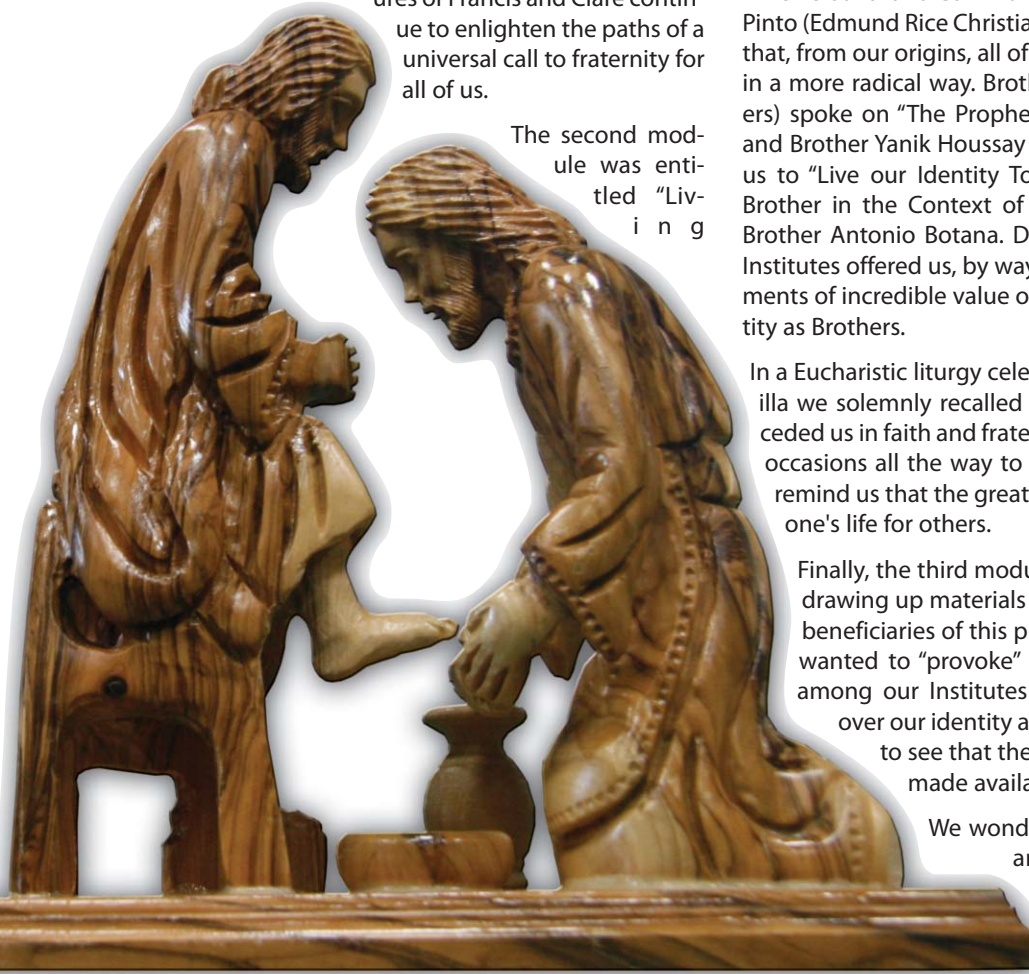


and Celebrating our Identity and Mission." This module featured Superiors General from various Institutes. Brother Emili Turú (Marists) spoke on "The Spirituality of the Religious Brother," Brother José Ignacio Carmona (Sacred Heart Brothers) spoke on the topic of "The Personal and Community Dimensions of our Life." Brother Philip Pinto (Edmund Rice Christian Brothers) reminded us of the invitation that, from our origins, all of our Founders made to live our fraternity in a more radical way. Brother Álvaro Rodríguez (De La Salle Brothers) spoke on "The Prophetic Dimension of the Religious Brother" and Brother Yanik Houssay (Brothers of Christian Instruction) urged us to "Live our Identity Today with Creativity." The theme "Being Brother in the Context of the Shared Mission" was presented by Brother Antonio Botana. Different lay persons associated with our Institutes offered us, by way of video conference or in writing, statements of incredible value on how they see and appreciate our identity as Brothers.

In a Eucharistic liturgy celebrated in the Catacombs of Saint Domitilla we solemnly recalled the memory of all those who have preceded us in faith and fraternity in their following of Christ, on many occasions all the way to martyrdom. Their example continues to remind us that the great proof of life is and always will be to give one's life for others.

Finally, the third module was a very practical one. It dealt with drawing up materials that could be used by others so that the beneficiaries of this program are not only the participants. We wanted to "provoke" meetings on the regional or local level among our Institutes to continue reflecting on and praying over our identity and mission. We will do whatever possible to see that the best materials from this meeting can be made available to everyone.

We wonder if it would be possible to think about annual recollection days or retreats





between two more of our Institutes? Could there be more frequent meetings between provincial teams or administrations from two or more schools of our Institutes? Can we share formation programs of the Association of lay persons among various Institutes? Can we discern together on the best way to use our resources and experience in response to the needs of the young?

Each unit was energized by presentations and time for language group dialogue and this always ended with a summary session. In a notebook, each participant had to respond to questions, such as: From what I heard, what ideas seem essential to me? What questions do I still need to answer? What is God saying to me and what can I see to my Brothers on this topic?

We grew in our mutual knowledge. Each Institute presented to the

other Institutes facts about their history and the challenges they face today. Once again we recognized that there is more that unites us than divides us. The long word "inter-congregational" has taken on for everyone new meaning with new richness.

In our prayers we appealed to our Founders for their intercession. Their words and example continue to be sources of inspiration. Their desire to create communities of lay Brothers continues to live in us.

We are convinced that the lay form of consecrated life is not only the oldest form but that it still has much to contribute to the re-creation of the future of consecrated life. We felt very deeply that we were Church even though the Church does not always know or value our vocational option. We are grateful for the presence of Archbishop Joseph Tobin, the Secretary for the Congregation of Institutes of

Consecrated Life, who encouraged us to live our charism and mission for the good of the Church and the world.

We hoped that this program would be a true experience of fraternity in which we Brothers from different Institutes could share, in addition to cultural and geographical diversity, the great richness of our identity as Brothers.

The program was entitled "ALL BROTHERS" (Matthew 23: 8). We believe that we have grown as "Brothers" during these days, in the person of Jesus, our only Master and Lord. Thanks to the many who have made this experience of fraternity possible. We hope that the ties that unite us do not weaken and they will make possible new meetings and formation programs.

Brother Camilo Alarcón
Brother Alberto Gómez

"We felt really that we were all Brothers, followers of Jesus Christ, with our values and our frailness."

Brother Antonio Quintiliano da Silva
(Marist Brothers - Brazil)

"For me this was a new milestone in the search for God, which is the same as saying: of the meaning of my life."

Brother Fernando León
(Holy Family - Argentina)

"It broadened my view. I felt that I was a companion on the journey with other Brothers who shared the same lay identity, the same mission, the same experience and the same dreams."

Brother Paco Chiva
(De La Salle Brothers - Spain)

"I believe that this meeting will stay in my heart as an intense time of fraternity in which I tried to discover in myself the deep roots of a Brother in a huge mirror that invited me to go further."

Brother Hugo Cáceres
(Edmund Rice Christian Brothers - Peru)

Previewing formation programs for the Lasallian Educational Mission in Districts and Regions

As we continue to distribute the tasks that the International MEL Council has been doing in recent years, we present to you in this issue of *Intercom* a summary of the approaches to formation for mission programs that there are in the different Districts and Regions of the Institute.

This responds to one of the lines of action of the 44th General Chapter and to one of the guidelines from the 2006 International Assembly. These have to do with the need to draw up a guide that articulates the essential, Biblical, theological, Lasallian and pedagogical elements of formation and accompaniment involving the Lasallian educational mission. To respond to this, the International MEL Council drew up a project that will allow for a preview of formation for mission programs as a kind of study prior to drawing up the guide. In the development of this project, 49 formation for mission programs were collected from various Regions and Districts; 203 persons from different areas responded to our survey. Here are the results of the study:

1. Regarding objectives and content from the different formation for mission programs, the information was classified into three areas. We will highlight the following:
 - a. Lasallian formation is one of the areas that appeared most in the formation programs. In this area the following topics were dealt with: spirituality, pedagogy, charism, identity, values, mission, characteristics of the school, educational service of the poor, association for mission, the reality of the mission, commitment to the mission, educational and mission trends, among others.
 - b. Professional formation also occupied an important place in formation programs, understood as an area of professionalization of teachers and administrators for carrying out the Lasallian educational mission. The topics included in this area of formation were: social-political founding, worldwide educational reality, current educational initiatives, pedagogy, quality education, educational innovation, educational

administration, among others.

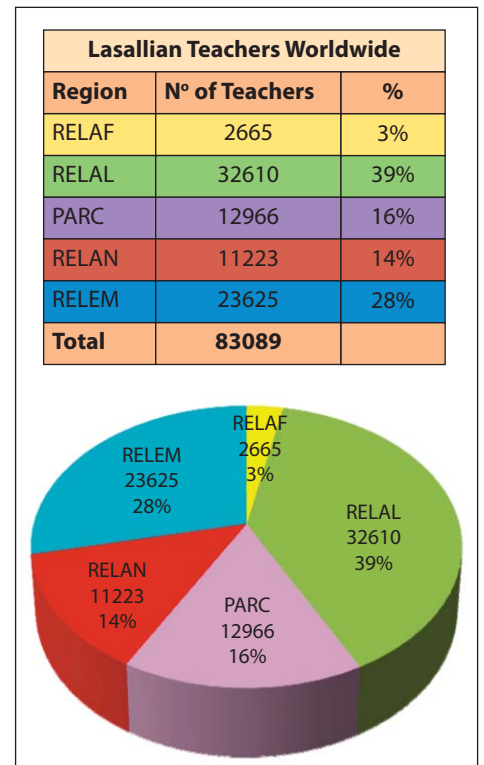
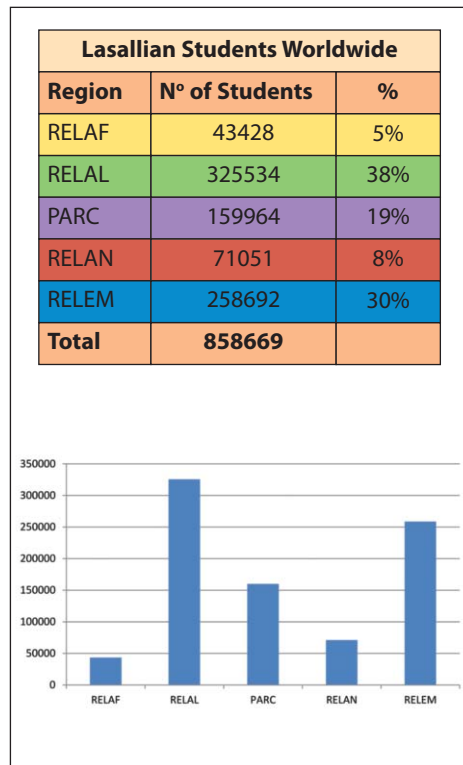
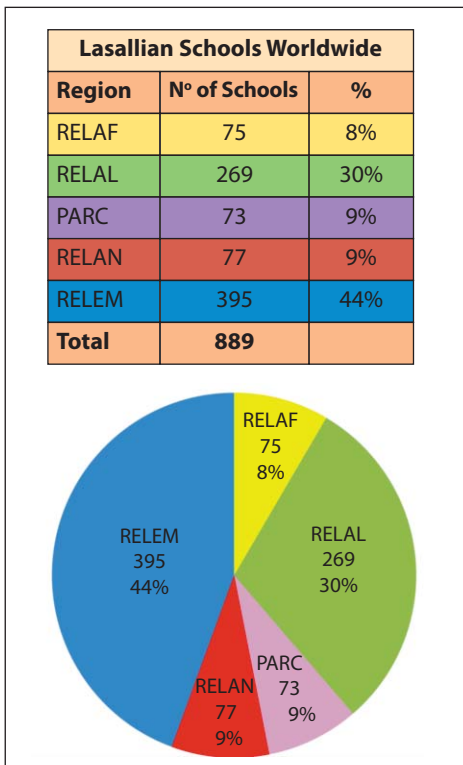
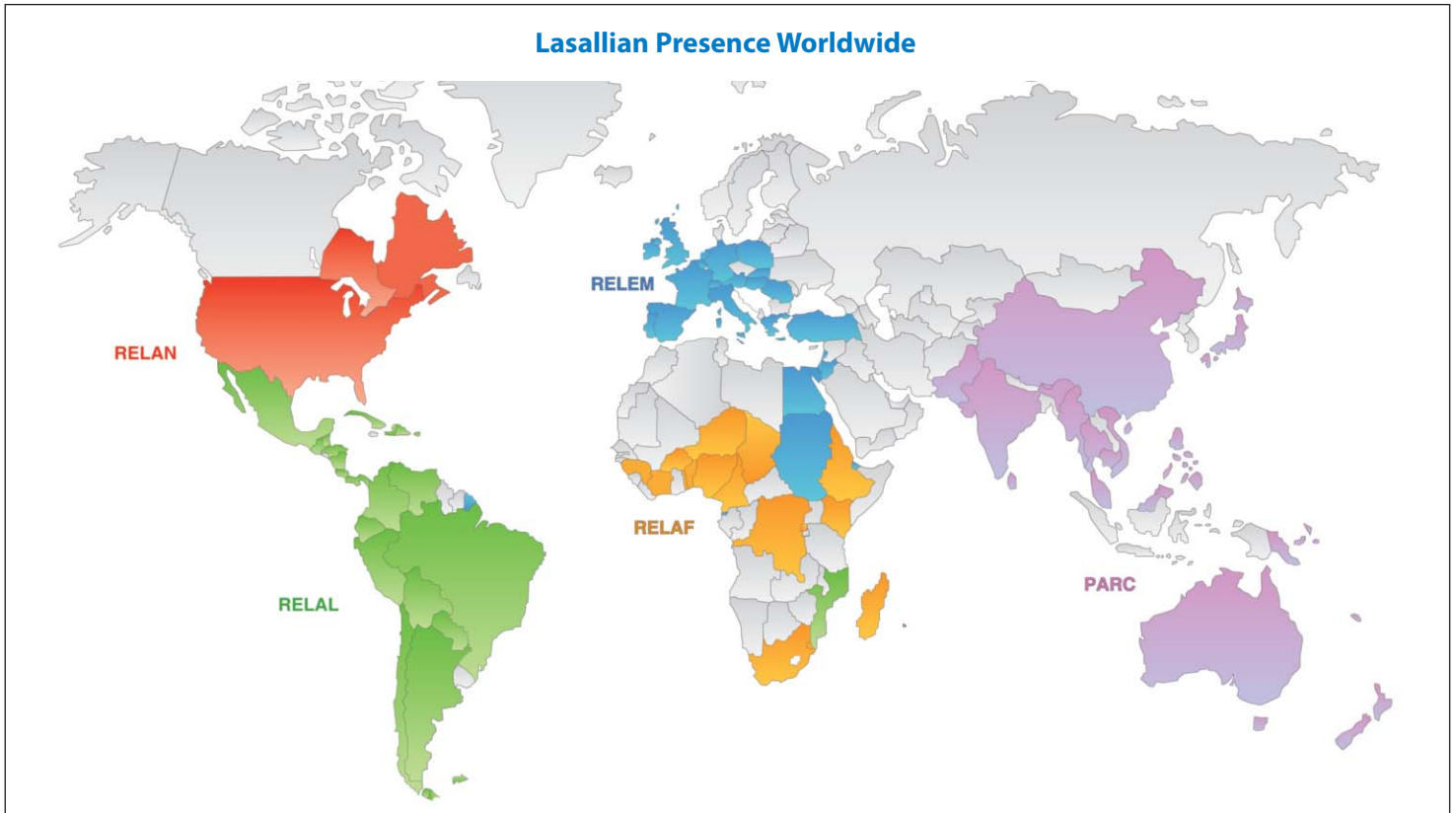
- c. Christian formation also occupied a significant place in formation programs and in this area the following topics surfaced: spirituality, Christian foundation, Christian identity, religious and lay vocations and the pastoral ministry of vocations, the vocation of the teacher and life programs, among others.
2. It is also important to mention that 97% of those surveyed highlighted the importance that formation programs have for personal and professional growth and for the exercise of their profession.
3. In terms of the targets of the formation for mission programs, we found two aspects that took note of the relevance that formation had in Districts and Regions: the first was that 99% of people who collaborate in the Lasallian educational mission have participated in at least one formation program; the second aspect pointed out that formation was aimed at all the players in the mission: Brothers, teachers, administrators, parents and youth.
4. It is important to underscore that the development of different formation for mission programs have significantly contributed to improve aspects that are fundamental for the mission. Among these are the following: interpersonal relationships, processes of accompaniment, commitment to the mission, processes of association, processes of communication, integration of the educational community, consolidation of the network of Lasallian works, and sharing of best teaching practices.
5. The resources used in formation programs vary greatly and each program uses the most appropriate ones for subject matter development. Some programs have their own materials for consultation and others have recourse to common bibliographies. Digital resources are the most widely used.
6. Educational service of the poor is a fundamental area in the processes of formation for mission.

At the present time three Secretariats from the Center of the Institute, with collaboration from those in charge of formation for mission in different Districts, are beginning the process of drafting a Guide for Formation for the Mission.



The Mission in the Institute

In order to have a general idea of the scope of the Lasallian Mission worldwide, below are the statistics from the 2011 - 2012 period. (This data includes only centers for formal education.)



Journeying towards the

2013 INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION: Lasallians Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor



We remind the entire Lasallian Family that, since last year, the entire Institute has been involved in preparing for the 2013 International Assembly. For that purpose, two months ago each Region chose the delegates that will be present at the Assembly in Rome in May 2013. Now each Region is reflecting on the proposed themes: Lasallian teaching for the educational service of the poor, evangelization and pastoral ministry in service of the poor, the educational community in service of the poor.

The following activities indicate the process of preparation for the 2013 International Assembly:

From May 2012 to November 2012: Time for working in Districts, Delegations and Sectors. The Preparatory Commission will give instructions to the leaders of the thematic groups and, when possible, communication with other groups will be online.

From November 2012 to December 2012: The leaders of thematic groups will prepare a summary of their group work.

January 2013: The leaders of the thematic groups will send this summary of their group work to the Preparatory Commission in Rome.

The **General Councillors for the Regions and the Visitors** will send reports on the impact of the 2006 International Assembly (exact format to be decided later).

May 2013: The International Assembly in Rome.

Building the interior man, from Parmenie



A hearty group of young Brothers from Districts in RELEM had the opportunity to enjoy a magnificent meeting in Parmenie, France. We met for one week from August 4 to 12, 2012. The common thread for the meeting was the life journey of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, from the time he left Paris in 1712 until his famous line "Here I am, what do you want of me" was uttered two years later.

There were no talks or masterly conferences and we already had more than enough documents. Instead, we tried to follow in De La Salle's footsteps symbolically by looking deeply into his failures, periods of discernment and the life options he chose. Each day we walked part of the Founder's journey.

We interwove our own personal experiences, our doubts and anxieties as young Brothers in the 21st century in Europe and the Middle East with the "interior night and ascent up the Mountain" of a man of God who felt, sadly, the apparent collapse of the life plan that God saw for him.

New Director of CIL



Br. Alvaro Rodriguez appointed Br. Manuel Pajarillo, best known as “Mawel”, as the new director for the CIL community last September. Mawel belongs to the Philippines sector of the new LEAD district. He had already been part of the CIL staff for two years. We invited him to answer a few questions that might help us get to know him a bit more.

What have been your most significant work experiences in your original District?

I have been a biology, religion, and Theology teacher, campus minister, badminton coach, football team moderator, middle-level administrator in basic and tertiary education, member of Boards of Trustees, and school president. I've also been involved in vocation ministry, initial formation, continuing formation as a Community Director, and as member of the District Council, and various District offices, like the Justice and Peace Commission, the Lasallian Institute on the Environment (LIFE), the Funds for Apostolates to the Poor (FAP). I've enjoyed most of the work – what remains significant to me were the challenges and many opportunities to accompany and form young people and adults, to invite others to deeper reflection and commitment to their Faith, to live a meaningful community life, and foster the Brotherhood, and to dream and implement visions for the former Philippine District.

What connection have you had with the formation of both Brothers and Lasallian lay partners?

I have been sub-director of the Postulancy and Scholasticate, and I've stayed with the Novitiate Staff too. Very often, I handled some of their most meaningful Theology and Education classes, and helped in their personal accompaniment and reflection.

My involvement with lay formation was very much in connection with my being a campus minister and creating retreats having a Lasallian dimension for school personnel in my younger days, and then with my job later on as Chair of the District Justice and Peace Commission, where very often, formation involved conscientization and the synthesis of our being Lasallians and our being Christians committed to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Up until now, how has it been for you being a part of the CIL staff?

My experience with the CIL Team has been one of humble learning, and of encountering very talented, generous, dedicated, humble, and inspiring Brothers. I am genuinely inspired by their love and dedication to ongoing international Lasallian formation, and their sense of duty and zeal at the international level here in Rome amidst the many challenges that we face as a Team.

What is your personal vision for Brothers' formation?

In our constantly changing global reality and particular contexts, a Brother has to have interiority, and a spirituality that deeply nourishes, so that like the Founder, each Brother is able to see the will of God for himself and for the Institute in the midst of people, especially the young and the poor, in today's world. And to respond appropriately. It is this spirituality that is his most precious gift, through which he sees everything around him from a Faith perspective. And it is this gift of spirituality that is his most precious gift to others within the Lasallian Family and beyond. So, in my opinion, the initial and continuing personal formation program of each Brother is very important. They must help the Brother in his personal journey and conversation with God through life, mediated through the people, places and events he finds present in his personal history.

What would you consider are the current challenges for a structured formation program such as CIL?

The ability to recognize emergent continuing formation needs all over the world that only an international center like CIL can address (impact, relevance, necessity); strategic planning for personnel and programs (sustainability); flexibility in the light of continuing structural changes at the Generalate (viability).

Four strong lines formed the framework on which to review and continue building our vocational story: a personal encounter with God, accompaniment, the calls of the community, and the call to mission. That is where we, as Brothers, play out our lives day by day, as the 44th Chapter reminds us.

It may seem that it was a serious event and it certainly was. In addition, being able to re-live this process which was the same time deeply spiritual and deeply human, was a pleasant experience. Greatly helpful to us was the socializing, shared leisure time, sports, walks in the area, the simple lifestyle. When Brothers from Lebanon, Slovakia, Egypt, France, Romania, Italy, Spain and even Colombia cook together, go on walks together and laugh together, we discover that we are all in the same boat. Phrases like “the Brothers find in the Gospel journey of the Founder the call to conversion, constancy in adversity and the strength to begin again” find natural passage from the written work to daily life. This was truly a unique experience.

The meeting was possible due to the warm welcome of the Brothers in the community in Parmenie, the Brothers who organized each event and the Brothers on the RELEM team who had the good sense to listen to us and let us organize the event. We returned to our communities more convinced that “building the interior man” in community and by listening to the Word of God is one of the fundamental tasks of our lives.

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A Community of Brothers in PARC: Insights on the PARC Young Brothers' Assembly

The five days (22nd to 28th July, 2012) of reflection, friendship, and brotherhood of the Pacific Asia Regional Conference (PARC) Young Brothers' Assembly at Bangkok, Thailand was an experience that will be a significant milestone in my life. I'd like to share three significant insights that I gained after the assembly, which I continue to reflect on, nourishes my prayer, and continually inspires me to be Brother.

We are Brothers without Borders

We came from different countries with different cultures and languages and yet the assembly was reminiscent of an old boys/alumni gathering of an international school; the name of this school is the Novitiate. It was a joyous reunion indeed for those of us who have not seen each other for a number of years. For those of us who met for the first time, our shared Brotherhood was more than enough to foster rich and lasting friendships that will last a lifetime. In the days that we were together we understood and experienced what it means to go beyond our comfort zones and national boundaries and become truly Brothers without borders.

Hospitality and organization make a big difference

We were all awed at the seemingly limitless hospitality provided by the Brothers of Thailand, headed by Br. Stephen Kan, the Sector Leader, and Br. Eugene Prapas, the Director of La Salle, Bangkok. Our generous hosts made sure that we experienced Thai culture by providing us with sumptuous Thai food, and cultural shows superbly presented by the members of the local Lasallian family.

The preparatory committee composed of our fellow young Brothers, Brs. Richie Yap, Kennedy Joseph, Francis Suriya Toeisroi and Dominic Chamlong Chaiputhorn organized the flow and process of the assembly superbly. Our main facilitator, Br. Mike Valenzuela led us on a guided reflection on the revised Rule. This was enriched by discussions by various speakers on their lived experience of the different sections of the rule. We had ample time to reflect on what we heard and enough time to share in small groups.

Hearing the personal stories of my fellow young Brothers who live and work in a different context from my own was certainly an eye-opener for me. Because of efficient scheduling and comfortable accommodations we were able focus, reflect, and share with one another on the things that mattered: Who are we as Young Brothers? What can we do to make a difference in our sector, region, and ultimately the Institute?



“No First Draft Survives Intact”

I was fortunate to be part of the listening and writing committee together with Br. Zohaib (Pakistan) and Br. Jeevahar (India). Our task was to listen and take notes during the sessions and towards the end of the assembly we were to present a draft of a document that embodies the voice of the assembly. When the first draft was presented, there were a lot of revisions. Comforted by the advice of Br. David Hawke, General Councilor, that “No first draft survives intact” and boosted by a number of volunteer “rescuers” from the assembly, we spent more than an hour to revise the document.

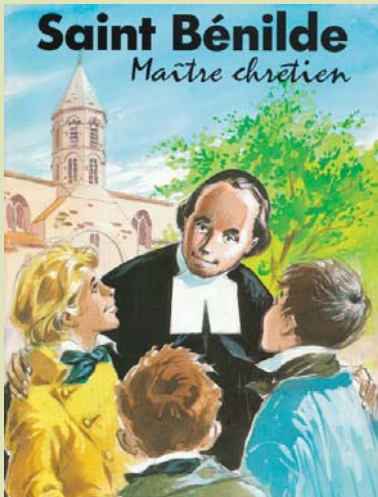
The result of the reflection, discussion, and sharing of the assembly is a document entitled: STATEMENT OF YOUNG BROTHERS to the INSTITUTE. The document is a reflection of the PARC Young Brothers' lived experience of Educational Service for the Poor, Shared Mission, Consecration, Identity, Spiritual Life, Community Life, Formation, and Vocation. It states our dreams and hopes for the future. And, ultimately it is an affirmation that we have a “crucial role of creating the future we desire for the young people in our countries, the Institute and the Church.”

We said our goodbyes and went on our separate ways at the end of the assembly. But we went home to our own Sectors knowing that we were truly Brothers without Borders who “respond to God’s call to serve Him in the young, transcending the borders of age and culture.”

Brother Sockie de la Rosa (Philippines, LEAD)
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Saint BÉNILDE (Pierre Romançon) 1805-1862

150 years after his death... a Saint among the People



The Lesson of a Humble Life

The first Canonisation of a Lay, Religious Educator

In the person of Brother BENILDE, a teaching Brother has for the first time been elevated to the altar by the Church. This outstanding honour was conferred on him not for being a Founder or a martyr or a spiritual writer, but simply for being a teaching Brother who lived out his vocation and his apostolate to a high degree of perfection. In canonizing this new Saint, the Church is declaring that the vocation of the teaching Brother is both a way of reaching sanctity and the means for a fruitful apostolate with young people. At the same time the Church gives him to us as a model whose life and elevation teach us that sainthood and the authentic service of humanity do not necessarily call for dramatic actions or exceptional fame, but that it suffices to fulfill the daily duties of one's state of life faithfully and with generosity. The life of Brother BÉNILDE gives witness to the fact that perfection is not the result of uncommon achievements and successes, but of ordinary actions carried out with extraordinary generosity and fidelity.

Brother Charles Henry

The day of the whistles

Brother Benilde was really fond of the boys and they were fond of him. When they saw him in the street, they would run up to him, sometimes going so far as to take hold of his cloak in the hope of getting a small holy picture or just a smile or other token of affection.

He made his lessons attractive by his use of comparisons and stories, and the boys listened very attentively. One spring, he took a class of small boys into the garden for the catechism lesson. He broke off a small green twig from one of the trees, took off the bark and showed how plentiful and juicy the sap was. "Who is it" he asked, "who makes the sap flow in the trees?"

"God" - « Very good ». Then he added confidently: "When I was a boy like you, I used to wait anxiously for the arrival of the sap in the branches of the ash trees. I wonder if you can tell me why?" - I know: it was to make a whistle!

-«You're right, said Brother Benildus, «I used to make whistles, but when the sap dried up, they were useless. Now the sap of our souls is God's grace; when we lose it, nothing will work properly ».

The youngsters remembered the lesson; but what they remembered most was that when he was a boy of their own age, Brother Director used to like to make whistles. "He would be delighted," they said, "if we made some too".

So they told some of the bigger boys what they had heard and what they proposed to do. Everyone accepted the proposed, which would at least provide a bit of fun.

So next morning, when the time came to go into school, a deafening sound of whistles filled the whole playground, and was echoed throughout the town. The whistles were of every shape and size, and the notes they gave out covered the whole scale. The Brothers on duty wondered what it all meant, especially when the concert developed into a mad competition; even the neighbours began to get worried, thinking that the school might be the scene of a minor revolution.

Then Brother Benildus appeared on the playground. At once he realised what had happened, especially when some of the boys who had been listening to him the day before came up and showed him their wonderful whistles. With a smile, he put the Brothers at their ease, and after a minute or two in which the boys were able to blow to their hearts' content, he made a sign to stop the serenade. Then he collected some of the best ones and gave the boys some « good points » in exchange – but only on condition that the concert would not be repeated.

Afterwards, whenever the Brothers spoke about that day, they called it the Day of the Whistles.

A Director at Work...

The Art of Equilibrium

A letter (undated) from Brother Bénilde to the Mayor of Saugues dealing with complaints by some parents about the methods used by certain Brothers:

Monsieur le Maire,

Our Brothers have been told that anyone who gives cause for a serious and well-founded complaint will be immediately moved from this community.

Regarding the two recent complaints, they concern two children in the final class. Mr Recrouzet took the liberty to use such offensive language in front of a large number of pupils, that I felt obliged to ask him to leave the room until could speak to me more politely. I accept your opinion willingly, Monsieur le Maire. I know that it is dictated by friendship. However, it can also happen that you may receive complaints that are without true foundation. I would ask you, in such cases, Monsieur le Maire, to oblige those persons to come and talk to me. Most assuredly, they will not go away unsatisfied.

While I should not need to speak sharply to our Brothers in order to make them love their work and the school, neither can I allow it to happen that the parents of our pupils would have with good cause to complain about us.

They have always seemed satisfied with us up until now. With the help of God, I hope they will continue to be even more satisfied. This is my promise to you, Monsieur le Maire, together with sincere assurances of my perfect submission and profound respect, in which sentiments I sign myself, Monsieur le Maire, your very humble and most obedient servant

Brother Benilde

Lasallian Universities, associated in research

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, initially committed to literacy in France of a poor population with no alternatives for social promotion, throughout its history has tried to respond to the demands of the educational reality wherever it has been called to serve. This is how Lasallian Universities came into existence, in a progressive way, over the course of the last one-hundred and fifty years, especially in emerging countries that have no accessible infrastructure for higher education to attend to the demands of a young population seeking to be professionals.

In a new and demanding context, Lasallian Universities of the 21st century are invited to offer experiences of building up new knowledge starting from contact with a "glocal" reality (global + local), in sustainable research and service process for the community, in particular using values that are consistent with our Lasallian educational tradition. This is what gives it a different kind of *savoir faire*, an identity appropriate to overall higher education.

Today, the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources is beginning a dialogue with various Lasallian universities throughout the world for the purpose of developing joint projects of Lasallian reflection, research and formation. In spite of budget limitations, we have faith in Lasallian universities making more and more consistent efforts in developing research at a high level, especially those with social impact, consistent with the option for Christian values.

Therefore, today we are speaking about beginning a process of research for the purpose of recovering Lasallian historical memory and cultural patrimony: with UNILASALLE Canoas and UNILASALLE Niteroi, both institutions located in Brazil and with excellent groups of professionals; with La Salle University in La Paz with its Radio San Gabriel program; with the new La Salle Open University Andorra (UOLS) and its innovative initiative for Lasallian Studies.

What is this movement all about? It is about making a historical research program viable – one that will combine looking at the past with the idea of building the future; of recovering the journey of an Institute that made a consistent educational commitment and that has something to say about global education.

For the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources new challenges are opening up: research using a network and multi disciplines with various groups of professionals throughout the world; building a *Lasallian Institutional Repository* that will be a working tool as a center of digital documentation; accessible publications of research that will open new debates on Lasallian thought, especially in the *Lasallian Digital Research Journal*; and, finally, the renovation of the *Lasallian Museum* in the Generalate as part of a *Cultural Observatory* that will make visible the efforts of the Institute in collaborating in Christian education the world over. All of these processes will be spelled out in future issues of INTERCOM.



The Service of Lasallian Research and Resources

The Service of Lasallian Research and Resources, currently located in a remodeled location adapted to its needs, in the basement of the main building, is fully engaged in carrying out its objective of the year, including:

1. With the help of La Salle University in Bogota, to finish installing the computer program that will enable the greatest number possible of people, thanks to a new web site, to get to know the resources of our LASALLIAN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY: for us this is a far-reaching program that will be based on our various index card files, dossiers, collections...
2. The LASALLIAN LIBRARY replaces, in a new location, the CENTRAL LIBRARY that was set up some fifty years ago for the needs of Brother students, of which there were many in Rome. To go from 80,000 volumes to 20,000 is not an easy task. For us it was a job of selection at the same time as one of storage of entire series to be able to give to others.

An immediate objective is to offer the best welcome possible for the INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF LASALLIAN STUDIES. The program begins this October with a one-month session in Rome.

We are grateful to Brother Paul Aubin, from the Blessed Solomon Community in Quebec, for his help in organizing the Lasallian Library.

Sister Odette Mukayigire, a Guadalupana Sister of De La Salle, and Brother Francis Ricousse, are continuing to organize the new space in the basement of the house.

Brother Pierre Petitjean continues to organize the digital archives which will be added to the Repository soon.

Alfredo Molina Rivera, a former student from La Salle University in Chihuahua, is volunteering his services for one month in the area of developing communications tools for our Service.



HAITI EXISTS!

Unfunded SECOLI Projects

Place	Funds requested (US \$)	Description
Beregadougou	7,500	Mill / Mixer
Bobo Dioulasso	9,123	Vehicle for the vocation promoter
Bobo Dioulasso	26,419	Minibus for the novitiate
Burkina Faso	2,382	House repairs for the aspirants in Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso	19,005	
Talba	33,046	Extension for the Girls' Home
Yaoundé	64,263	Renovations for the Provincial House
Camerún	118,766	
Nazareth	11,500	Vehicle for the community
Ethiopia	11,500	
Ambatondrazaka	49,835	Repairs for corridors and staircases
Ambatondrazaka	18,360	A car for the community
Analabe	5,444	Irrigation system
Toliara	6,500	Computer materials
Madagascar	132,053	
Ambohimiarina	49,393	4 classrooms, library, reception area
Ambohimiarina	86,273	Sisters' residence for the school in a remote town
Antananarivo	116,992	Chapel, reception area and 4 bedrooms
Madagascar S.	252,658	
Miguel House	13,417	Repairs for the house for aspirants
Pakistan	13,417	
Kalaw	3,387	Roof repair for the house of formation
Maymyo	10,258	Repair of community services and bathrooms
Myanmar	13,645	
Manos de Dios	8,664	Building primary school classrooms
Peru	8,664	
N'Djamena	5,062	Pastoral ministry for CTAP apprentices and for youth
Tchad	5,062	

Way back on January 12, 2010, thanks to your generosity, we completed the first phase of the work. This summer that just concluded was a testimony to the many outside of school activities that the Brothers and volunteers have carried out in the neighborhood of Cazeau where the new primary school and the Brother's community are located.

Once the first phase was completed, we were looking for new donors in order to build a new clinic that would be managed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Castres. In the meantime, the Sisters who have learned the language carry out a great many activities in the neighborhood of the refugees.

Attentive to the needs of the poor, the Sisters are dealing with skin diseases, malnutrition affecting most of the children, and anemia on the part of women. They have also launched a health monitoring program for all the families.

They have also organized workshops in embroidering and a program whereby groups of five people can request loans in order to start businesses.

During the summer, a group of fifteen people, professionals from La Salle University in Mexico, offered medical assistance in Cazeau and to people from nearby areas.

Once the clinic is constructed, the Sisters will see to setting up community orchards. An interesting part of this will be the distribution of seeds for the purpose of growing fruit and medicinal herbs.

The Sisters, experts in natural medicine and alternative food sources, will show the population how to prepare syrups, ointment and vitamin products. The goal is to improve the population's quality of life.

The Sisters have also scheduled group training sessions for mothers to act as volunteer agents. Each monitor will be responsible for ten families. Their objective is to see to it that each home is taken care of in terms of their need for food and sanitation.

We Brothers are proud to be able to work with the Sisters. As in the majority of cases worldwide the Sisters are the spearhead for social work among the People of God.

To conclude this short article I would like to recall a conversation that took place around the table when a home was being inaugurated to serve in the rehabilitation of street children in Mumbai, India. The Cardinal who had been invited to preside at the liturgy and who was in awe of the work of the Sisters, asked, "What would the Church be like without Sisters?" He himself replied, "It would limp." I added, "The Church would not even have legs to walk."

Angela Matulli



School Capacity Building Training

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July 9 - 14, 2012



From 9th to 14th of July 2012 De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS (DLSSI) in collaboration with the Ethiopian Catholic University St. Thomas Aquinas (ECUSTA) and the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, ECS, Education Department organized a one week training programme in order to capacitate the High School System run in the country by the Catholic Church.

The trainees, involved in School teaching, administration, National and Diocesan Secretariat Education desks were grouped in three classes according to their line of duties, namely: Child Protection, Project Management and Office Administration. Each training course had 33 sessions.

Out of 13 pastoral administrations in the country, 11 of them have sent participants. The total number of participants who fully attended the whole program was 66. These trainees came from 35 different institutes from all over the country as well as Nairobi and Abidjan. The participant composition included 33 Male, 20 Female lay members of the School system, 1 priest, 4 religious sisters and 8 De La Salle Brothers from Lwanga and Douala Provinces.

A total of 10 experts (8 Ethiopians and 2 foreign, Ms Angela Matulli and Bro. Amilcare Boccuccia) facilitated the different modules which imparted the one week program for the three groups.

At the completion of the training program, a survey was conducted to assess the overall performance of the program. Trainees were requested to express their honest judgment of the various training components. The feedback collected from the trainees was encouraging whereby 92% of the trainees expressed their confidence in the capability of the facilitators and 87% of the overall assessment indicates that the program was a success par excellence; all the objectives of the program are achieved with satisfying degree.

The training program has been an Eye opener of what could be done in collaboration with the different stakeholders of the Church engaged in education.

Out of the three components of the training program emphasis was given to **Child Protection**. Safeguarding the School children,

ensuring that the Child Protection Policy of the Church is implanted in every Catholic institution is of paramount importance. Therefore ECUSTA envisages to create a framework whereby Trainers of Trainers are given more intense formation to the Child Protection Policy and Implantation. Consequently mechanisms will be put in place where proper child protection systems are set initially in selected schools and the result is monitored. Once the pilot project proves to be effective, the same (or revised/adapted) structure will be applied in every institute.

The other two components of the training were also properly administered and each school is encouraged to improve its own management of database administration, financial system and strategic planning based on the input given.

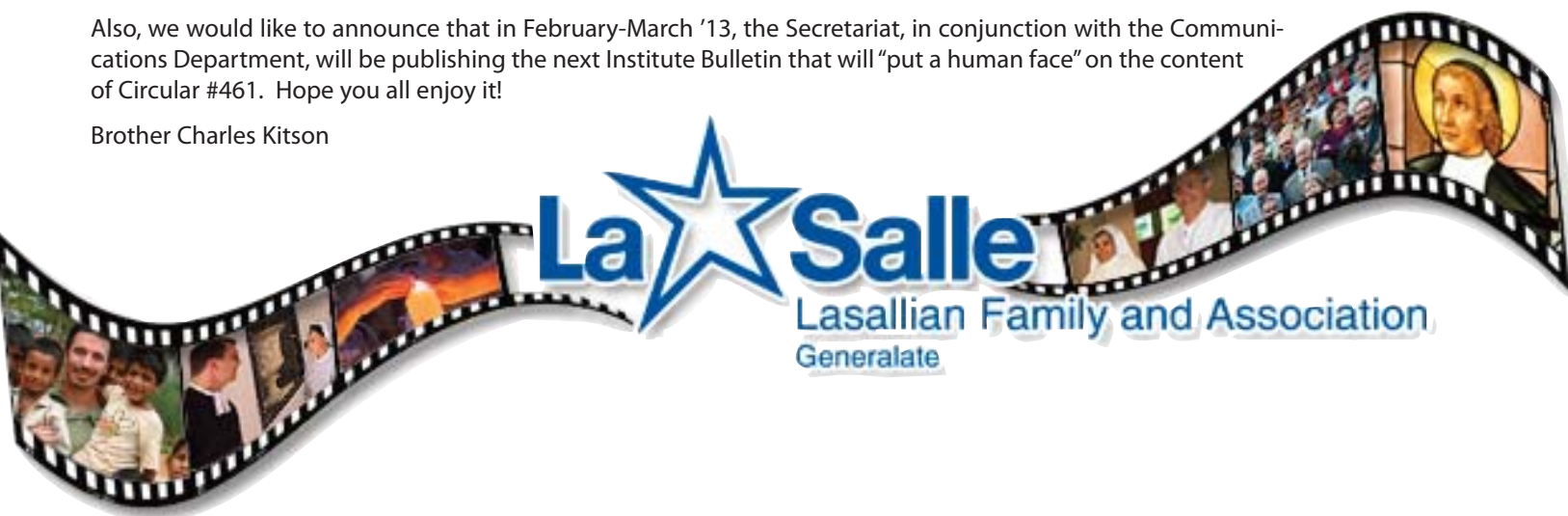


From the Secretary's Desk...

"...when we speak of the Lasallian Family, we do not see its members as interlocking gears that drive the 'Lasallian Machine.' On the contrary...we see the Lasallian Family as a human community – a living dynamic system that experiences life in all of its difficult and wonderful phases." (Circular # 461, Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an act of HOPE, 5.5) It is good for us to remember that being Lasallian brings us not only into the holy presence of our God but also into the holy presence of one another. This mutual respect and support in turn creates the communities that sustain our Mission. In this issue of Intercom we get a snapshot of the "human community" that makes up the Lasallian Family. From Belgium to Australia to Rome and beyond we find women and men who are part of the "living dynamic system" we call Lasallian.

Also, we would like to announce that in February-March '13, the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Communications Department, will be publishing the next Institute Bulletin that will "put a human face" on the content of Circular #461. Hope you all enjoy it!

Brother Charles Kitson



Meet the RELEM representative on the International Council of the *Lasallian Family & Association*



My entry into the Lasallian world was a homecoming. I started my formal education in a Lasallian primary school and completed it at university by studying the Catholic Religion. The next fifteen years I served in West-Africa in social projects and in Belgium teaching Catholic Religion in a secondary school. Four years ago, I rediscovered the Lasallian community. Now I work as a professional advisor in the Flemish Lasallian Perspective (VLP), District of Belgium-North.

Basically my ministry is to afford new teachers the space needed to reflect on their lived experiences. I visit every school to present the Lasallian pedagogical mission and to apply it to the pedagogical goals and spiritual aspirations of those new teachers. My experience is that they are remarkably open to the moral, spiritual and pedagogical guidelines we offer them as it helps them to shape their own professional identity and makes them feel part of an institution with a clear and up to date profile.

Part of this profile is justice, a highlight in the tradition of De La Salle. In my ministry it receives particular attention through the Bureau of Social Justice. Our approach is twofold. First we assist schools in developing an understanding of dysfunctions in modern society in terms of poverty and inequality within the educational system. Secondly we support schools to identify opportunities to (re)act positively by building on new opportunities our society offers us. Our framework to both analyse and to find solutions taps right into the Lasallian tradition.

This call for justice should not only inspire us in our commitment to our own individual schools, but also open our eyes to the needs of children all over the world. I therefore attach high importance to contacts with Lasallians all over the world and to the fact that I have the opportunity to be a member of the Council.

Finally I find it my vocation, to support young people in their search for a 'good' life in serving others.

An de Bremme

...a personal Lasallian testimony from Australia



The role that Lasallian association plays in my personal life is one that is central to my core values as a person, husband, father and grandfather. The connection to the charism of St John Baptist de La Salle is strong and really ever-present. As a principal of a Lasallian school, my personal and professional lives are really strongly intertwined. I can't be Lasallian at school and then ignore or deny the values of what it is to be Lasallian within my personal life and relationships. This connection transcends work and professional practices and imbeds itself, hopefully, within my personal interactions.

A major conviction which sustains me in my Lasallian vocation is that of divine providence. The Founder was a wonderful example of a person who put his faith in God. Sometimes this is really quite challenging. Having that faith that God is really in control is both reassuring and confusing. I also take great comfort in the resilience and perseverance of St John Baptist de La Salle. In spite of setbacks, and there were many, he always seemed to bounce back with renewed faith and zeal. The example of a strong prayer life and reflection on the Gospels are similarly convictions which can provide nourishment as a Lasallian. Lasallians are also challenged to respond to the call to serve the marginalized and poor. I thank God for the gifts and talents that I have, but then I must seek to use those gifts and talents to support others.

My ultimate life plan is to be happy, to be loving towards my family and to make a difference in the lives of the people that I touch. Internalizing the idea of the Kingdom of God within this is very important but at times I struggle with how everything fits together. I try not to be motivated by destructive ambition or frivolousness. My connection to the Lasallian charism is for me a practical way to provide a blueprint or compass bearing for my life's journey.

Wayne Bull

Second International Assembly of *Signum Fidei*: July 2013 - Rome

It has already been six years since the First International *Signum Fidei* Assembly and now we find ourselves at the threshold of the second one. Providentially, that Assembly will take place during the time the Church has set aside for the Year of Faith. It will no doubt be a wonderful opportunity to deepen and mature our own faith and our commitment to association.

The date for this Assembly has been set for 30 June to 12 July 2013.

The number of delegates, 26 in all, has been established with the idea of seeking representation from all the Districts while offering greater representation to the Districts that have more members (such as in the cases of LEAD and Peru) and Districts that are made up of various countries (Middle East, Central America-Panama, Antilles-South Mexico).

The number of Brother advisers that will participate in the Assembly is one per Region of the Institute and they will be appointed by Brother Superior General.

Among the topics to be dealt with will be the revision and definitive approval of the "Signum Fidei Style of Life."

Brothers Alberto Gómez, International Signum Fidei Adviser, and Charles Kitson, Secretary for the Lasallian Family and Association, will participate in this Assembly.

Brother Alberto Gómez



Generalate – 17th Meeting of the International Council of Young Lasallians



The International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL) met at the Generalate, in Rome from September 12th to 18th. During this Council meeting we welcomed to our team two new hard-working members: Jolleen Wagner – Director of the Lasallian Volunteer Program in the US, representing the Region of North America (RELAN); James Camden - Director of Lasallian Youth Ministry for the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, representing the Region of Pacific-Asia (PARC). We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the two outgoing councilors, Elissa Pensa Cerros (RELAN) and Vanessa Abella (PARC) for their dedication and sterling work during their years of service on ICYL.

The agenda for the meeting covered a series of important items. These included three of our ongoing projects: International Lasallian Days for Peace; formation efforts for adolescents and young adults, especially through the VEGA Formation model; an exploration of ways to encourage stronger synergy among Lasallian Volunteer programmes across the Institute. During the second day Councilors reported on the signs of hope, biggest challenges and some highlights for young people connected to the Lasallian Mission from all five Regions of the Institute. These reports informed our discussions and preparations leading to the International Assembly for Mission and the International Assembly of Young Brothers.

The remainder of the meeting dealt mainly with our reflections and planning for the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians to be held in Rome in February 2014. This is an important event for the Institute and the Lasallian Family as it is hoped that it will lead to the formulation of Young Lasallian Mission Objectives – essential elements for a Global Young Lasallian (YL) Movement.

Hence the overarching goals of the Symposium are:

- To launch a common focus for the YL Movement within the Lasallian Family with the purpose of ensuring the vitality of the Mission in the 21st Century.
- To promote the concept of Co-Responsibility for Mission in the lives of Young Lasallians and to invite them to a possible life-long journey.
- To give YLs an international future beyond 2014 by reinforcing and strengthening the Young Lasallian Movement at Local, Dis-



trict, Regional and Institute levels, and with follow-up in all contexts.

- To enhance the voice of Young Lasallians and the youth served within the Institute.

In conclusion, we also had two very positive meetings with key partners in our efforts to animate young people in the Institute. First was a meeting with Br. Diego Munoz with whom we discussed the possibility of more Institute-wide research focusing on current youth-related issues. The dialogue between Faith and Culture was singled out as a possible first theme to be developed. The second meeting was with Br. Paulo Petry, from Brazil, who is the chief organizer of the International Lasallian Youth Gathering in Niteroi, taking place from July 19th to the 22nd, prior to the World Youth Day in Rio, in the summer of 2013. More information about this gathering can be accessed from the event's site

<http://www.lasalle.net.br/dev/eijl/index.php>

intercom n° 140 - October 2012
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Produced by Communications Service

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