



4 October 2019

Dear Lasallian Alumni/ae,

I join the planning committee to **encourage your participation in 7th World Congress** of the World Association of Lasallian Former Students ([UMAEL](#)), **to be held November 21-23, 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.** This international association has three main objectives: 1) to defend and promote the freedom of education, 2) to collaborate with, and support Catholic institutions to carry out their mission and purpose without hindrance and according to Gospel values, and 3) to work towards making education available to as many young people as possible. ([UMAEL website](#))

UMAEL is one of four international Lasallian networks - the Brothers' Institute, the International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU) and the Signum Fidei Movement being the others - that have the potential to accomplish great things not only for the children, young people and adults entrusted to our care, but to the larger society as well. Today, UMAEL is made up of over 50 alumni association and federations. Collectively and united, *together and by association*, these networks contribute to building more just and fraternal societies, so much needed in our time.

During this special Jubilee Year celebrating the Life of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and the 25th anniversary of UMAEL, the Congress planning committee has chosen the theme **“Beyond the Borders: One Heart. One Commitment. One Life.”** Please join alumni/ae from around the globe at the World Congress, an opportunity to expand the organizational vision and priorities of UMAEL in order to strengthen the support of the Lasallian mission. The keynote speakers include: Brother William Mann, FSC, Dr. Mary Catherine Fox, and myself. ([more Congress details and registration information here](#))

It is important to note that **the World Congress is open to all alumni/ae of Lasallian institutions, but only those who belong to a federation or association that is a member of UMAEL may vote in the General Assembly**, held at the end of the World Congress. ([UMAEL membership information here](#))

I encourage you to take the time to consider how connecting with Lasallian alumni/ae internationally might enhance what your institution is offering to your alumni network locally. If you have any further questions about the 2019 UMAEL World Congress, or need assistance navigating the UMAEL membership process, please contact the coordinator of the World Congress, **Karin McClelland**, at umael.secretary@lasalle.org.

Sincerely,

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC
Brother Superior