



Brothers of
the Christian
Schools



Lasallian
International
Centre

Program *FOR* *Formators*

PRIMER

09-26
September
2022

La  **Salle**
Secretariat for Formation



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

***Program for
Formators:
Formation
for Lasallian
Religious***



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LASALLIAN FORMATION FOR MISSION

THE PILGRIM'S HANDBOOK



1

Announcement Letter from the Secretariat for Formation

***“Bring to Jesus in prayer
the needs of your disciples”***

(MTR 4.1; Med 196.1)

With the publication of the Lasallian Formation for Mission: A Pilgrim's Handbook (2019), the Secretariat for Formation is offering a formation program for those responsible for the various stages of the initial formation of Brothers. The program was initially planned last March 2020, but the onset of the pandemic led to the event's postponement. As the countries are slowly lifting restrictions and international travels are back, the current Formation Secretariat has decided to continue the program in a blended format.

The in-person program will take place at the Generalate in Rome from 9 September to 26 September 2022 (Travel Dates: 8 September 2022- Arrival | 27 September 2022- Departure). Three synchronous online meetings will transpire before the actual meeting in Rome.

The impact and implications for Brothers' initial formation in light of the Pilgrim's Handbook will be examined through a concluding three-week in-person program. It will allow formators to deepen their understanding of the formation process developed in the Pilgrim's Handbook. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to creatively develop and organize the various stages of formation to ensure a unified and ongoing experience of the Lasallian pilgrimage.

In consultation with their respective Region, the Districts will identify the appropriate participants for this formation session. The District leadership may wish to consider sending formators who oversee formation for the District or Region. The ideal participants should be:

A. Brother/s who has/have some experience in the initial formation of Brothers (postulancy, novitiate, scholasticate, accompaniment of Brothers in temporary vows).





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FORMATION FOR THE LASALLIAN MISSION

A Common Frame of Reference



B. Brother/s who is/are considered prospective formators in the initial formation of Brothers (postulancy, novitiate, scholasticate, accompaniment of Brothers in temporary vows).

The participants must be willing to adapt programs according to the framework developed in Lasallian Formation for Mission. Together with this announcement is the Program Primer.

To help with planning, the Secretariat for Formation will coordinate with the Visitor of the Districts. The number of participants will be finalized **on or before 30 December 2021**. The Secretariat will then follow up with those Districts that indicate their participation.

In addition, the Secretariat for Formation is planning a formation session for Lay Formators for Mission in June 2023. This program is intended for those people who have responsibility for the formation for mission of all Lasallians. More details of this program will be provided in October 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.

Let us live in the spirit of faith,

Secretariat for Formation

Br. Rey Mejias FSC
Coordinating Secretary

Br. Luis Bolivar FSC

Br. Sylvain Consimbo FSC



2

Introduction



Since the time of the Founder, the critical role of the Formator has been recognized as key to the formation experience of the candidates.

The vitality of the Institute has been linked to the quality of formators, thus acknowledging “the value of the ministry they exercise in our midst. Following the Founder and like him, [formators] are in the front rank of those who build up the Institute.” (Guide for Formation, 148)

Developments in the contemporary reality of religious life, the Church's teaching on Mission, and the developments in Lasallian association require formators who have been adequately prepared to accompany candidates in their vocational and formative pilgrimage. Taking advantage of the global nature of the Institute and the available resources, the central administration of the Institute can provide for a quality formation of Brothers who will serve in the ministry of initial formation.

Consideration should be given to the creation of a seminar or training for future Formators based at the Generalate where Brothers identified as future formators come to Rome for a set time (three weeks) and engage in a program of integration and accompaniment in the Generalate that focuses on the contemporary identity of the Brother of the Christian Schools and the process of formation. This could be a cohort model where two or three groups are established over the period of the next General Chapter mandate (2022 – 2029).

Lasallian Formation for Mission

With the holistic and unified understanding of Lasallian formation developed in the Pilgrim's Handbook, the Secretariat would assist Regions and Districts in their ongoing efforts with various mission-focused formation programs. This accompaniment would be in collaboration with the Secretariat for Association and Mission.

Today, formation in religious life is considered to be a lifelong journey. As Brothers progress through their formative pilgrimage, attention at various thresholds or stages of life is important for an ongoing integrated religious life. There are Districts that are unable to provide quality accompaniment to Brothers who are at key stages in the life cycle. With this program, the Secretariat for Formation can also provide assistance to the Districts and Region in ensuring proper attention is provided.



3

CIL: Program for Formators

Centro Internazionale Lasalliano (CIL) & the International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission (CIAMEL)

Lasallian formation for mission is a comprehensive vision that integrates association, formation, and mission. The CIAMEL is continuing to grow in its understanding of its role and function within the Institute. Quality formation for Brothers and Lasallians in the areas of mission and association is a priority.

The Lasallian Mission Moving Forward Plan highlights the new forms of education that have emerged in light of the global pandemic. Various online platforms offer new pathways for learning and formation. CIL is a term well-known by many Lasallians and Brothers throughout the Institute. The long-term residential program has been phased out over recent years and replaced by short-term, thematic programs in Rome and Regions. Still, CIL is a term that many people associate with quality formation experiences.

Amidst the advancement of technology and changing landscape in communicating with other Lasallians worldwide, CIL will adopt a blended program. With the development of an online learning management platform, the formation programs will be offered in two modalities- in-person and online, thus making the International Lasallian Center (CIL) partly a virtual location. Because of the flexibility provided by online learning, experts from across the globe can develop asynchronous and synchronous formation experiences that open participation to many more people in the future. Given the structure of online learning, participants from around the world can get to know one another, thus strengthening the international character of the Institute. For the Program for Formators, the first three parts will be all online interactions.

The creation of the online component of the central administration of the Institute, in service to all the Secretariats, would allow for increased collaboration among all the Secretariats and experts outside the central administration in providing quality experiences that align with the thresholds and domains developed in the Pilgrim's Handbook. This online platform would assist the Districts and Regions in their work of formation, which should still provide for meaningful accompaniment and integration in the local context.



4

Theme/ Focus



The Program for Formators will enable the Formators to:

- Recognize the formative efforts of our existing formation programs for the Brothers in varied cultural contexts.
- Identify the essential Lasallian elements for the formation of Brothers in the 21st century.
- Gain insights on notions of sexuality, sexual development, sexual identity, problematic sexuality, and affective sexuality.
- Acquire intercultural competency and increase appreciation of cultural influences that contribute to diversity in the context of Lasallian formation.
- Explore ways of integrating the Pilgrim's Handbook with the current formation programs in the District/ Region.
- Establish a formal network of formators in the Institute for future formation collaboration works.

A. Surfacing Realities: Identifying Today's Challenges in Religious Formation

In order to handle the challenges connected with religious formation, there must be a program of life in the formation and ongoing formation period. This program of life is designed for the overall growth of the young candidate, which includes information, accompaniment, correction, dialogue, decision, etc. In order to face the real challenges, the mindset up of our Institute and the mentality of the religious should undergo authentic changes. This program will present specific concrete strategies to help Formators cope with the challenges faced by the religious in their formative journey.

The program will facilitate discovering new itineraries of formation for young people to achieve an increasingly better integration of the theological and anthropological visions, with renewed educational pedagogies to achieve a harmonious growth between the spiritual, cultural, and human dimensions.



B. Introduction to the Pilgrim's Handbook

The program will introduce the metaphor of formation as a pilgrimage. The Pilgrim's Handbook is intended to assist the formation process and to be an accompanying presence for formators along the way. Ideally, it will re-frame

Lasallian formation for mission for all and provide helpful tools and considerations for the ongoing renewal of formation programs and the vitality of the mission.

The program will emphasize the perspective that the Pilgrim's Handbook is not merely the present but also the future needs that are already beginning to emerge. The best strategy for facing the various challenges of the future is formation, for which the most important challenge is developing an inclusive model that can reach everyone. | *Lasallian Formation for Mission.*

C. Formation Today: Psycho Genesis & Psycho Dynamics Implications for Formation

The program will deal with the primary objective of the formation process, that is, to prepare those starting on the journey to the religious profession for the total consecration of themselves to God, in the following of Christ, at the service of the Church's mission." The emphasis in formation is on the growth and development of the whole person, which presupposes the integration of his intellectual, emotional, sexual, behavioral, and spiritual capacities.

D. Sexuality & Affectivity

The program will talk about the formation process elements that formators should promote, which includes: the physiological, emotional, and psychological understanding of human sexuality; sexual maturity, and living with the self-sacrifice involved in a life of chastity; and appropriate boundaries in relationships. | *Nurturing Right Relationships (Catholic Religious Australia)*

E. Child Protection Implications for Formation

The program will look into the essential elements that ensure the Brother's knowledge, understanding, and commitment for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. All Lasallians share these policies. Those responsible for formation should be assured that their own practices in the formation of Brothers promote human maturity and that they are role-modeling healthy norms of conduct.





The person who provides spiritual accompaniment should ideally be different from the person with canonical responsibility, to guarantee the integrity and confidentiality of the formative process.

Formation systems that are typically characterized by rigid, formal, hierarchical relationships inhibit or, in some cases, preclude healthy psychological and psychosexual development and deprive candidates of opportunities for responsible decision-making. These systems reward compliance and the inhibition of aggression and libidinal energy. Structures such as Aspirancy and the evaluation process for Brothers making temporary and perpetual vows must be studied at the local level to ensure that they truly promote each person's human maturity. The formation of formators in this area is a priority. Formators should also be advised by a highly qualified interdisciplinary team. | *Pilgrim's Handbook 12. 3.*

F. Religious Life in the 21st Century

The program will facilitate a dialogue and discussion on being a religious in the 21st century. Participants will be prompted to reflect on: How does our society make sense of the vocation to religious life today? What language is there to explain why it is relevant to be a religious Brother? And how do we put a formative dimension on the language “Brothers without borders”?

G. The FSC in the 21st Century Beyond the Borders & Service to the Poor

The program will help the formator to read and discern the signs of the times in order to be attentive to the calls of the present-day world, and to take up a leading role in the formation of young men to face the mission challenges.

The formation encourages a critical reading of history primarily from the conditions of the poor and marginalized. Attention to the new forms of poverty is one of its essential orientations. It also helps each person to discover a call, requiring a personal response that comes through the educational needs of the young. | *Formation for Mission 5.4.*





H. Interculturality in the Formation

The program will present a holistic understanding of culture that links the meaning and expression of culture to life in the Lasallian community, and this expression is never purely individualistic. Furthermore, a holistic understanding of someone's culture considers all the dimensions of a person's identity as intrinsically related to values and meanings. We include here a framework that can be used by formators and evaluators to more holistically understand the complexity and beauty of culture.

Coming into the Lasallian family, discovery and dependence go hand in hand. Entering a new community means navigating a new culture, learning its practices, becoming aware of the vision and values that drive the community, and building relationships with and for whom one works. The formator creates programs which help the candidate through this transition. Unfamiliarity with the Lasallian culture and its expectations can mean that the candidate might experience a sense of vulnerability. Formators should exert every effort to be supportive and encouraging in order to allow participants to acquire a firm foothold in the Lasallian community. | *Pilgrim's Handbook 7.4.*

I. The Identity and Vocation of Lasallian Formator

The formator engages in a dialogue. He undertakes a “journey”, at one's own pace, together with others, in order to discover one own identity and vocation to the mission. The program aspires to provide the formator a sense of how to make formation more meaningful and relevant. | *Formation for Mission 5.5.3.*

J. Lasallian Discernment

In the area of spirituality, one should be helped to move from cultural religiosity to genuine intimacy with a God present in all of life. The program hopes to build a deeper understanding of the spiritual motivations that support the mission as well as competence and confidence in the fulfillment of responsibilities.

The program will allow a community journey that seeks to discover the presence of God. Prayer, in person and in community, is necessary for one's discernment and integration in order to assume one's responsibilities regarding the formation of others.





The movement is from “saying prayers” to developing a relationship with God characterized by growing openness and intimacy, from prayer as a discrete activity towards a contemplative awareness of God's presence in all of life. | *Pilgrim's Handbook 7.2.*

K. Pilgrimage of the Formator

The program will introduce the metaphor of formation as a pilgrimage, understood as a personal and communal journey of faith that deepens a sense of mission and purpose within individuals and a community. The pilgrim journey of John Baptist de La Salle continues to inspire our Brother Formators. A pilgrimage takes time;

it involves pauses along the way that provide opportunities for insight and renew the pilgrim's motivation to continue. A pilgrimage is not always easy or smooth and will include detours and interruptions. Those times are key opportunities for growth. | *Lasallian Formation for Mission.*

L. Formation Programs Alignment

Those responsible for formation should have a general plan that is then adapted to the reality of each group and person. Hopefully, the Program for Formators will initiate the alignment of current formation Programs to the Pilgrim's Handbook thru the Lasallian for Mission Matrix. | *Pilgrim's Handbook 12. 1.*



5 Conclusion

The alignment of formation programs of the Brothers with the Pilgrim's Handbook will continue to be a collaborative work. It must be adapted through processes of implementation, reflection, assessment, and feedback at all levels. Formators, present and prospective, may benefit from this program in the process of studying the effectiveness of a holistic formation process. The Lasallian Formation for Mission Matrix presented in the Pilgrim's Handbook can assist the formators in organizing its programs and resources.



6 Appendices

This section contains the necessary information about travel preparations and the minimum expectations during the formation program.

APPENDIX 1

What is needed immediately

1.1. Visa preparation

- Confirm the name and email address of delegates.
- Visa: (for those who need)
- Travel Dates: 8 September 2022- Arrival | 27 September 2022- Departure

If a Brother needs a visa in order to enter Italy, we will send him a **“Letter of Invitation”**, for him to get a visa. Please make the request of this Letter of Invitation to the Secretary-General, **Br. Antxon Andueza (email: aiandueza@lasalle.org)**

Please send with your request a copy of the first page of your valid passport, which has your personal data, as soon as possible.
Indicate the address where the “Letter of Invitation” is to be sent.





For VISA Letters of Invitation

Please complete and return via email to aiandueza@lasalle.org. IF YOU REQUIRE A LETTER OF INVITATION for a Visa.



Name	Country of Origin/ Nationality
Current MAILING ADDRESS to receive the LETTER OF INVITATION	
Reference Phone Number for International Courier Service	
City & Country of ITALIAN EMBASSY/CONSULATE where you will apply for VISA	

1.2. Online Google Program for Formators Classroom Registration

Purpose:

- o All three online asynchronous activities will be done in CIL Google classroom.
- o All documents related to the program will be stored in the CIL Google classroom.
 - Rubio, et al. (ed.) (2019). Lasallian formation for mission: Pilgrim's handbook. Brothers of the Christian Schools. Rome, Italy.
 - Secretariat for Formation (2017). Our life as brothers. Brothers of the Christian Schools. Rome, Italy.

Instructions:

1. Create a Google email (Gmail) account if you still don't have one. You can use your current Google email account to join our CIL Google classroom if you already have.
2. Send your Gmail to the Secretariat for Formation.
3. You will be invited to join the CIL Google classroom. Wait for the email.
4. Go to the CIL google classroom and click Sign In using your Gmail or Google Account.
5. Make sure to sign in with the correct account.
6. At the top, click Join class.
7. Enter the class code to be provided by the Secretariat for Formation and click Join.



APPENDIX 2

General Program Design

3 Online Synchronous Meetings <i>Dates will be announced after the list of delegates will be completed.</i> Dynamics of each day: Morning is input; Afternoon process and discussions.			Day 0 (TH) Arrivals	Day 1 (F) Welcoming and Introduction Sharing of realities Challenges Reflections	Day 2 (SA) Fellowship & Community Building
Day 3 (M) Introduction to the Handbook Themes/focus of the program Matrix Thresholds & Domains Liminality	Day 4 (TU) Formation Today (Psycho Genesis/Psycho Dynamics) Spirit of Faith Discernment/ Motivation/ Accompaniment	Day 5 (W) Sexuality & Affectivity Gender Relationships/ Community Celibacy Homosexuality Personality	Day 6 (TH) Sexuality/ & Affectivity Child Protection – Implications for formation	Day 7 (F) Religious Life in the 21st Century Prayer & Liturgy	Day 8 (SA) Excursion Community Building
Day 9 (M) The FSC in the 21st Century: Beyond the Borders & Service to the Poor New Calls and Responses Main topics in Formation that must be present	Day 10 (TU) Interculturality in the Formation Dialogue and Discussion Personal/ Communal Discernment	Day 11 (W) The Identity and Vocation of Lasallian Formator & Lasallian Discernment	Day 12 (TH) Pilgrimage of the Formator Discernment and Program Creation	Day 13 (F) Pilgrimage of the Formator Discernment and Program Creation	Day 14 (SA) Excursion Individual Planning
Day 15 (M) Formation Program Alignment: Program Presentation (Output)	Day 16 (TU) Departures	<i>Post-Program Implementation</i> One document of formation programs aligned with the Pilgrim's Handbook (Toolkit of the Handbook).			

Texts: **Lasallian Formation for Mission: A Pilgrim's Handbook; Our Life as Brothers** (articles by Br. Paulo Dullius); **Strength of Vocation: Consecrated Life Today; Gaudete et Exsultate.**



APPENDIX 3

In-Person Session General Information

3.1. Dates & Location

9 September – 26 September 2022

Casa Generalizia La Salle

Via Aurelia 476

00165 Roma – ITALIA

(+39-066 65231)

www.lasalle.org/en/where-we-are/generalate-2/

3.2. Arrival and Departure

Flight Details. Please send us your travel arrangements into and out of Rome to the Secretariat (formation@lasalle.org) by **Friday, 26 August 2022**. Include your arrival date, time, airline, flight number, and the Roman airport (Fiumicino) you are arriving in. Please do not delay in sending your travel arrangements

Upon arrival in Italy: For participants that have obtained a Schengen Visa from the Italian Embassy in their country, have a copy of the official Invitation Letter to you, issued by the Secretary-General, when you arrive in Italy. This may help if you encounter problems with the Italian Immigration Authorities.

Lost Luggage: Do not forget to make a formal claim before leaving the luggage area if you lose your luggage upon arrival.

Appendix 4 provides easy instructions to get from the Fiumicino Airport to the Casa Generalizia. Please review that attachment carefully. If you cannot take the shuttle or have other concerns about travel from the airport to Casa Generalizia please email formation@lasalle.org with any questions.

If you arrive at the airport and have difficulty, please contact **Brother Rey Mejias (+39 320 6836172)**.



3.3. Dress

The dress during the CIL session in Rome is casual. However, you may want something more formal for the liturgical celebrations. In September, average weather temperatures in Rome range from 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) in the daytime down to about 60 degrees Fahrenheit (16 degrees Celsius) at night throughout most of the month. Rome's weather in September might be some of the best the city experiences all year. Pack accordingly.

3.4. Laundry

There is a laundry service at the Casa Generalizia that takes a few days to return the clothing. Laundry will be collected on Thursdays evening and returned on Wednesday the following week if this helps with packing. It is good to have either your name or an identifiable mark on your clothing if you use the laundry service. In addition, there are some washing machines and dryers located on the floors of the house.

3.5. Excursions

Weekends are free during the program. One optional all-day excursion for the entire group scheduled for Saturday is included with the program. Details will be provided upon arrival.

3.6. Dietary

During the Session, meals are provided each day by the food service at Casa Generalizia. If you have special dietary concerns, please share them on the registration form. The water in the house is potable from the tap.

3.7. Medical Conditions/Allergies, etc.

Inform the Secretariat if you have any special medical conditions or allergies that we should be aware of. If needed, bring your own personal medications in clearly labeled containers.

3.8. Electricity Supply

Electricity in Italy is 220 volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. Check to see if you need a plug adapter and/or power converter for your electronic devices.



3.9. Laptop or Tablet PCs

We recommend that you bring at least one laptop or other personal electronic devices that will enable you to access the Internet. Wi-Fi is available at Casa Generalizia.

3.10. Prayers

The participants in the Formation Session are invited to join the Central Community in the morning for prayer and Mass. We will have prayer each evening. Participants will be invited to take turns preparing the prayers. There are materials in the Generalate for preparation and for duplicating.

3.11. Currency/Monetary Needs

Italy uses the Euro currency. You can exchange money in the Conti at the Generalate or best before you arrive in Italy. All expenses for the program are covered by the registration fee. Any additional meals or excursions are the responsibility of the participants.

APPENDIX 4

Transportation going to the Generalate (Casa Generalizia)

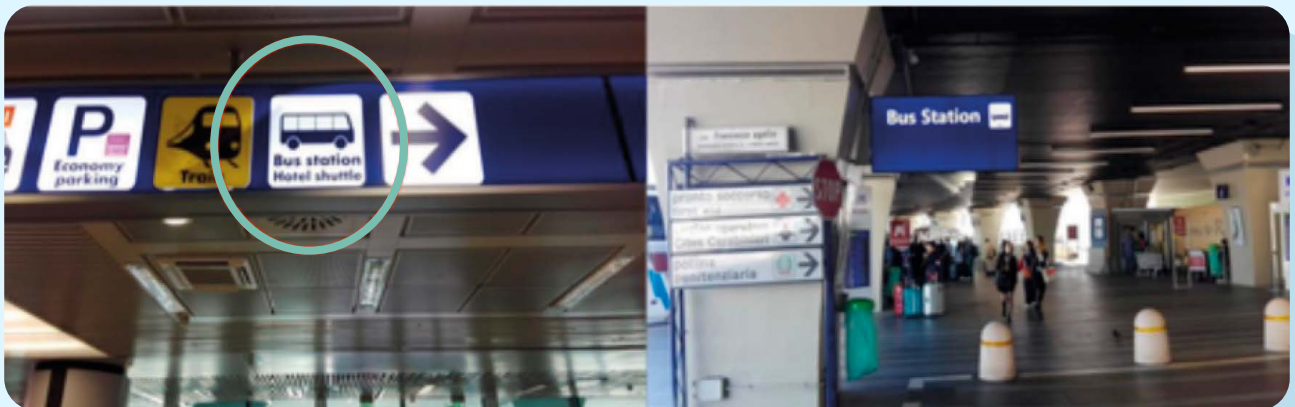
Destination Address: VIA AURELIA, 472 / 476 00165 ROMA

Phone numbers: Casa Generalizia Reception: (+39) 066 652 31

Br. Antxon Andueza, General Secretary: (+39) 380 349 5353

← Starting Point: Fiumicino Airport

4.1. Look for the Bus station at the end of Terminal 3.





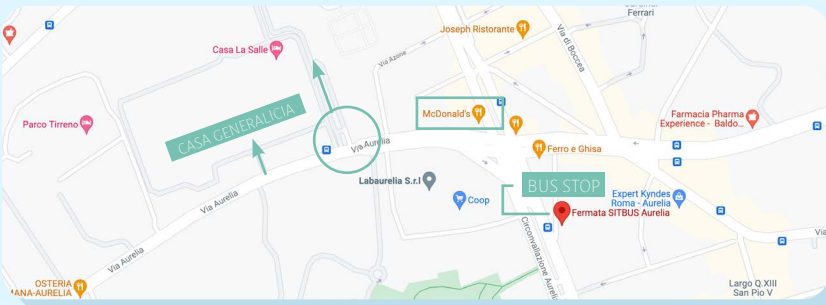
4.2. Most of the Bus lines go to TERMINI. Some of them also go to the VATICAN. One of them has a stop at **Circonvallazione Aurelia number 19**, in front of the Supermarket CRAI, at about 400 meters from the Generalate. It's the "SIT – Bus Shuttle" in Lane 12. The ticket costs 6 euros. You can buy the ticket there. You can buy it also online: <http://www.sitbusshuttle.com/>

← **From: Aeroporto Fiumicino**
→ **To: Centro Roma Circonvallazione Aurelia, 19.**



4.3. Before getting on the bus, tell the driver you are going to Circonvallazione AURELIA. He will tell you where to put your bag.

4.4. The bus will take 20-30 minutes to arrive at Circonvallazione AURELIA. The driver will announce the stop at due time. It's the first stop from Fiumicino. (The return to Fiumicino can be made from that very stop).



4.5. Now walk in the same direction of the BUS for about 100 meters, cross to the other side and go for 300 more meters to Via AURELIA 472. You will see, on your right, the entrance to CASA LA SALLE and CASA GENERALIZIA.



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For more inquiries regarding the program, please contact
Br. Rey Mejias FSC, Coordinating Secretary, Generalate,
Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, via
Aurelia 476 Rome, Italy | rmejias@lasalle.org.



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