



DOCUMENTS OF THE 46th General Chapter



Brothers of
the Christian
Schools

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Brothers of the Christian Schools



**Documents of the 46th General Chapter
Brothers of the Christian Schools**

Rome

21 November 2022

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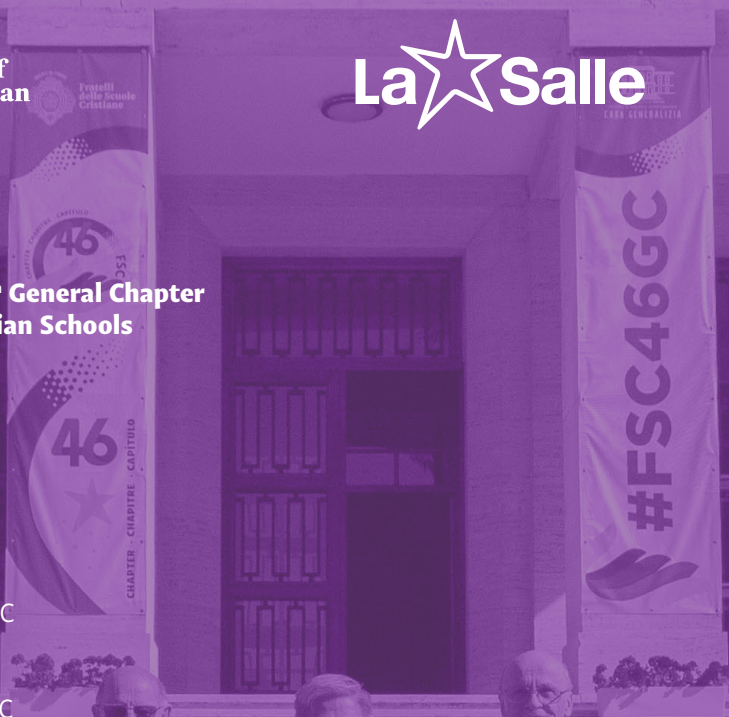
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NOVEMBER 2022



ROME, ITALY
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CIRCULAR 478 | NOVEMBER 2022



**Brothers of
the Christian
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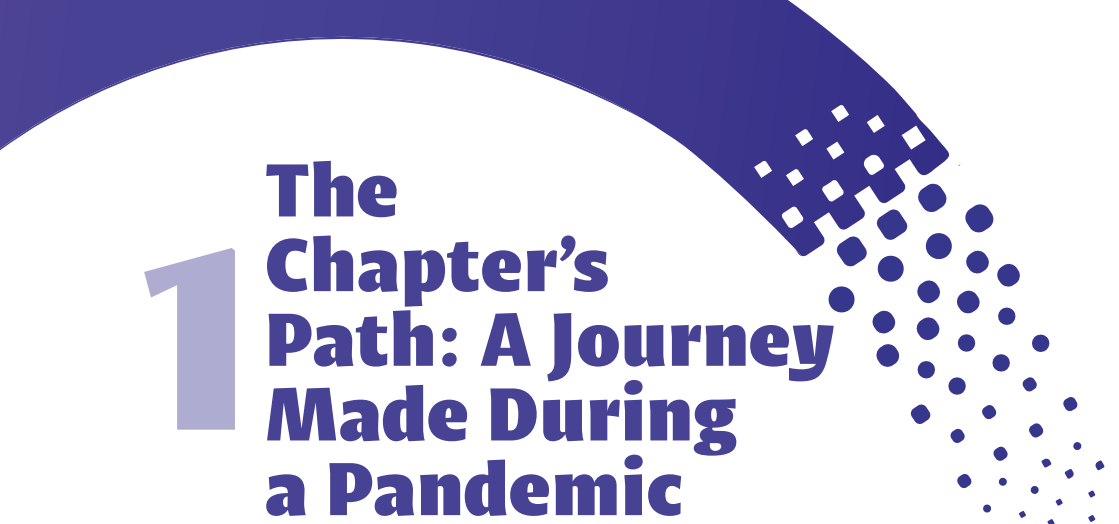
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NOTE:



This symbol indicates that the texts in the box correspond to decisions taken by the 46th Chapter.





1 The Chapter's Path: A Journey Made During a Pandemic

*Dear Brothers
and members of the Lasallian Family,*

The road that has brought us to this presentation of the documents of the 46th General Chapter has been a long one, longer than usual.

On May 2, 2019, the Chapter journey began when Brother Superior General and his Council announced it and appointed a Preparatory Commission, seven Brothers who would meet a few months later to design the Chapter process. A year later, on April 30, 2020, when the COVID pandemic – a health situation that was to change everything – had just begun, the General Council published Circular 476, formally convoking the 46th General Chapter. By that time, the Preparatory Commission, based on recommendations from the General Council, had designed a different kind of Chapter, shorter than usual and intended to be fresh, inspiring, outside the realm of what was considered familiar - our usual comfort zones, our

own structures - in a “new environment in which to renew our hearts and minds, discerning a new pathway so as to respond to the invitation of Pope Francis to exercise *barefoot leadership*. The location chosen was Pattaya, Thailand, and the motto of the Chapter was *Building New Paths to Transform Lives*.”

After the publication of Circular 476, the process of electing the delegates and appointing other participants began. There would be 70 capitulants: 11 by right, 50 elected by the Brothers of the Districts, and 9 appointed by Brother Superior. To this were added 13 consultors and 2 invited Lasallian Sisters.

The Preparatory Commission also decided, in order to follow a different style, that a person from outside the Institute should facilitate its development and propose a different methodology. Sister Leslie Sándigo, a religious of the *Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*, accepted our invitation to be the facilitator. She proposed that we follow the methodology of “Appreciative Inquiry”, which builds from the recognition of the good things that we already have, celebrating these with the joy of thanksgiving. It then moves boldly into an articulation of our own truth, identifying what gives us life and what will bring us to the future that we desire.

The pandemic, however, altered our plans, delaying the process by a year and changing the Chapter’s location. There were months of confinement, difficulties of all kinds, death and hope, irreparable losses, contagions and vaccinations, along with virtual meetings that

tried to replace personal ones. Creativity was put to the test. After various doubts and hesitations, it was decided to return the location of the Chapter to Rome. The Preparatory Commission still underlined its desire that the spirit of renewal that had brought us first to Thailand should continue to permeate the Chapter in Rome. And on Sunday, May 1, 2022, we had the solemn opening of the 46th General Chapter at the Casa Generalizia.

The process and methodology proposed by the Preparatory Commission was quickly approved and adopted by the Chapter delegates. It also led us to a new vocabulary, with different terms replacing our traditional “proposals.” The Chapter identified the challenge and its conditions, along with the dream and the values it requires. They determined processes of conversion that we have to undertake to overcome our fears and allow ourselves to be challenged by the Gospel. The final step was to design paths of transformation and synodality that will shape and define our future.

There were three proposed themes: *Association for Mission; Leadership, Sustainability, and Governance*; and *Life of the Brothers*. These facilitated our introspection and opened up paths for reflection. Among the various activities were “Marketplace” sessions, distributed over several days, whereby different Secretariats were able to present their achievements since the last Chapter, as well as share their perspectives and proposals for the future. Each phase contributed to the final results.

In this document, we provide the results of the 46th General Chapter, a Chapter that proposes an Institute that is more prophetic and ecological; an Institute that lives in solidarity and has clear objectives; an Institute that is a bearer of hope, fraternal and synodal; an Institute that is dynamic and open to the new; an Institute that is a place of welcome, sensitive to the needs of those on the human peripheries. The Chapter also chose a team of Brothers to lead these life-transforming journeys into the future, to encourage us to live the authenticity of our vocation, communion in diversity, and a solidarity that sustains us in our fragility.

May the fruits of the tree that we have planted and nurtured together be abundant and sweet.

6

2 The Chapter's Story: Dreaming and Building Together

The 46th General Chapter wanted to inspire the Institute and the Lasallian Family to “build new paths to transform lives” with the help of an innovative approach, “Appreciative Inquiry”, a process and methodology that fosters change, increases strengths, and seeks to convert them into habits, promoting growth, enthusiasm, and motivation.

By focusing on our potential rather than on our limitations, mistakes, or existing difficulties, the process builds a step-by-step narrative that assumes reality in order to understand what has happened in the past, and then harnesses our potential to transform us and move forward with much greater focus and momentum.

These “positive changes” are presented here through a fictitious but plausible story in the year 2050, almost three decades into the future. An elderly Brother, representing the capitulants of 2022, speaks to the novices and young Brothers, and shares with them how he experienced the transformations of the Institute during and after the 46th General Chapter.

Note that the official texts that were approved by the 46th General Chapter appear with a colored background, while the fictional story appears in normal text.

★ *The Joy of Thanksgiving:*

We Appreciate and Acknowledge

What fond memories I have of the stories from older Brothers I lived with during my time in formation! And here I am today, many years later, sharing with you what my participation in the 46th General Chapter was like.

Those were different times, of course, but we owe what we are today to what we have learned from one another and from all those who have gone before us, especially those courageous Brothers in 2022 who knew how to overcome the vicissitudes of life and creatively respond to the needs of their time.

Perhaps you are asking yourselves, “What new things could a 75-year-old Brother bring? Is there anything new under the sun?” Well, those were also the questions that the Institute asked itself in 2022 as it considered the theme, *Building New Paths to Transform Lives*. And yet something did change. Today I want to share my experience of that Chapter with you, a Chapter that was very different from what had been done before. Yet this Chapter came about as the result of a lived history, and it came to be received with the joy of thanksgiving. What a joy it was then, and what a joy it is today, to be able to appreciate the best of what we are, and to seek what we want to be!



★ *The Audacity of Truth:*

We Discover and We Dream

The work of the Chapter is naturally connected to the daily work of our communities and ministries within the entire Lasallian Family. In spite of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic influenced many of the meetings prior to the 46th Chapter, still the Young Lasallians, the Young Brothers, and others were able to gather, and the third International Mission Assembly was able to complete its first phase. This is why one of the first decisions of the General Chapter was to learn about and support their work:



As part of the same family, the delegates of the 46th General Chapter share the proposals and the spirit launched by the first phase of the International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (III AIMEL), “Identity. Vitality. Transformation.” We encourage the AIMEL delegates to continue their work in the second phase. We share their proposals and justifications while we expressly commit ourselves to developing them and



putting them into practice, as an essential part of the “new paths to transform lives” that we are called to build.

After devoting several days to deepening the major themes proposed for the Chapter - *Association for Mission, Leadership and Governance*, and *Life of the Brothers* - and receiving reports about the things done during the previous eight years, the Chapter began in a courageous way, wishing to present a great **challenge** for the whole Institute. It would be something that seemed almost impossible before arriving in Rome. Yet the Spirit was at work, and the whole Assembly was able to agree on what was essential for the next seven years:



As Brothers of the Christian School, we es, called by God and challenged by various forms of poverty and injustice in our world embrace the founding, prophetic intuition of the Lasallian Family and commit ourselves, together and by association, to witness communion and hope through educational and evangelizing service among those who are impoverished.

This was an impulse to “be what we are”, and it was also a great challenge. This challenge was accompanied by

some essential **conditions** that would help us become witnesses of communion and hope:



- ★ *As Brothers, beginning with initial formation and continuing throughout our life in community, we deepen our vocational identity by responding to the call of the God of Jesus, allowing our hearts to be touched and converted by those who are poor.*
- ★ *In communion with our lay partners, we re-imagine our way of living, in order to be fraternal witnesses committed to those most in need.*
- ★ *At all levels of the Institute, we will ensure structures of governance that generate co-responsibility, sustainability, transparency, and solidarity to creatively ensure the animation of the Lasallian educational mission throughout the world.*

It was an invitation to be faithful, to be open to the needs of the world, and to appreciate the best of

what we are called to be. What a great and beautiful challenge!

We move ahead together as part of a large family, our Lasallian Family; never alone. From the simplicity and fraternity that is the leaven of our day-to-day endeavors, the Kingdom may begin to grow like a loaf of bread, providing food to so many who are hungry. This is the **dream** for the next seven years:



We are one Lasallian Family, with diverse vocations; leaven for a more fraternal world, sent forth to encounter God in those who are poor, and to promote justice.

Therefore, we also recognized that in order to live what we had said, it would be necessary to remember our essential values, all of them of equal importance. These are the **values** we cherish, that move us and bring us to action. They are what we want to bring into reality:



- ★ ***Prophetic Audacity.***
- ★ ***Solidarity.***
- ★ ***Interiority.***
- ★ ***A culture of Encounter.***
- ★ ***An Integral Ecological Commitment.***

You may think that it's all just words and more words. Even this was something that was discussed a lot during the Chapter: "Is it worthwhile for us to keep on writing great and beautiful texts, if later we forget to remember them and to do what we had said?" This Chapter wanted to say little and act much.

Once the dream was defined, we began to discern what **conversion processes** were necessary if we were to live this dream, and live it well, knowing that there could be no transformation without conversion. Six diverse but integrated conversion processes emerged:



★ ***To allow oneself to be challenged by the Gospel, to allow oneself to be led along the path of God's grace like Saint Paul, Zacchaeus, and the other icons of conversion that the Gospel gives us, to allow oneself to be moved by the needs of the world, and to come out with appropriate and adapted responses like the Good Samaritan did.***

★ ***To overcome our fears to transform our diversity into richness.***

★ ***To become aware of our personal and institutional vulnerability, which***



leads us to change our gaze when confronted with the Word of God.

★ *To return to the Gospel, overcoming self-referentiality, allowing ourselves to be touched by God who makes himself a living presence in the poor, living prophetic audacity, interiority, and solidarity, accepting our mistakes and asking forgiveness for the serious damage caused by the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.*

★ *A Global Vision for the Institute as opposed to a confederation of Districts.*

★ *A journey of synodality based on trust and availability.*

Many years have passed, and these conversion processes still continue to challenge us today.

Following the “Appreciative Inquiry” process, we also gave expression to the **results** that the Institute could achieve by setting out on the road inspired by our challenge and our dream. This is what success would look like:



★ *We Brothers have discerned where, with whom, and for what purpose we should be.*

★ *A more prophetic Institute that makes decisions in a way that is congruent with its inspirational documents.*

★ *A governance structure that allows us to walk in synodality.*

- *To make visible the Kingdom of God through dynamic and open Lasallian communities - Brothers, Sisters, lay people from different cultures who live authentically in association for the educational service of the poor - with initiatives and presence at the human peripheries.*

★ *Governance structure:*

- *With greater communion, collaboration, and solidarity at regional and Institute levels.*
- *Aligned with the challenge, conditions, dream, and values that the*



Chapter has decided.

- With leaders who are prophetically bold and committed to reality.***
- Achieving greater vitality where there is fragility, and greater strength where there is greater future.***
- ★ *Flexible and responsive governance structures.***
- ★ *Systems of accountability.***
- ★ *Development of educational communities of encounter.***
- ★ *Radical availability of Brothers.***
- ★ *Vibrant Lasallian communities where interiority is fostered.***
- ★ *Sustainable structures of governance and formation for the Lasallian Family (shared authority, reflecting realities, etc...).***
- ★ *To give answers to real expectations and real needs***



- ★ *To have works that become places of welcome, especially for those whom the school does not welcome.*
- ★ *Works/communities where living the Gospel is reflected in the example of the Brothers who are more anchored in their vocations and attract others to share the Lasallian vocation.*
- ★ *Lasallians who are more united and in solidarity, happy in their vocation and bearers of hope.*
- ★ *Educational and evangelizing activity which is more effective and more fruitful.*
- ★ *Discouraged and pessimistic Brothers who rediscover the zeal of their first commitment.*

At this point, the Chapter was decisively oriented towards the future, expressed with audacity and truth. But we were also aware that none of this could be done without mapping out concrete ways forward. This is when we moved to the next phase of the Chapter.





The Strength of Decisions: **We Make Plans to Give Life**

This phase of the Chapter's work was a very important and prophetic moment. I will not accompany it with many more words, because the text speaks for itself. There were **seven paths of transformation** that were identified. These are the paths that will allow the Institute and the Lasallian Family to realize everything that had been identified in the previous stage.

With these pathways, in line with "Appreciative Inquiry", we recognize what we are, we identify what we are called to be, and we commit ourselves to what we are called to do concretely. Here are those specific pathways, Brothers, without further comment, each one shining with its own capacity for transformation:



1

Building a Fraternal World through Education, Evangelization, and the Promotion of Justice.

2

The Pathway of Radical Availability to God.

3

Renewed Structures for the Future.

4

Integral Ecological Conversion.

5

Association for Mission guarantees a bold and prophetic Lasallian Family.

6

Lasallian Vocations: Walking Together.

7

Leveraging the human and financial resources of our international Institute to help ensure the sustainability of the Lasallian Mission.

1 **Building a Fraternal World through Education, Evangelization and Promotion of Justice**

Biblical reference: Mt 11:2-6

“ When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me”.

We recognize...

- ★ That proclaiming the Gospel to the poor is the mission of our Institute, and that Scripture as well as Church and Institute documents continue to enliven us.

- ★ That throughout our history we have been able to respond creatively to the material and spiritual realities we have encountered, and that there are Brothers and Partners who are living icons of fidelity to our mission.
- ★ That we are living in an age of disinformation and extremism, and the pandemic has further worsened the global education crisis; thus, hope and the joy of the Gospel are needed.

We are called to...

- ★ Bear witness to the Reign of God: educating in faith for justice. Therefore, the Lasallian educational and evangelical mission finds a way of living its deepest meaning through a pedagogy of fraternity that ensures equity, inclusion, and belonging in all our communities. (This is in line with Proposal 7 of III AIMEL and Identity Criteria 1 and 4.)
- ★ Raise our awareness about different forms of poverty that are increasing in our time, and let ourselves be challenged and moved by these realities and overcome our institutional fragilities. (This is in line with Proposal 5 of III AIMEL and Identity Criteria 11 and 15.)
- ★ Renew our zeal for catechesis and evangelization. (This is in line with Proposal 6 of III AIMEL.)

We are committed to...

Commitment

1.1 Educate our consciousness – Brothers, Partners, and all our students – to be sensitive to the sins of injustice. Educating for justice across the curriculum, to take seriously their civic and political responsibilities, and the call to be advocates for creating peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

1.2 Leverage our heritage, international presence, and prophetic witness to achieve a more active public advocacy and deepen our solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable; work collaboratively and creatively to ensure that all our school communities respond effectively to the global education crisis; and seek out structural solutions to the roots of poverty and other injustices.

1.3 Leave our comfort zones and make the peripheries our home, so that the new communities and ministries that are created go in that direction.

1.4 Ensure an experience of total immersion and continuous presence on the peripheries, for at least one year, before or shortly after perpetual profession.

1.5 Renew our engagement in the pastoral ministry of evangelization by providing Brothers and Partners with theological and catechetical formation and resources.

<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
<p>a. The Institute’s structures of governance will present a strategic plan within 6 months’ time after the planned International Assemblies (November 2022) .</p> <p>b. Each District will report annually on the progress achieved regarding each one of these commitments.</p> <p>c. This pathway will be evaluated at the Intercapitular session.</p>	<p>District leadership and CIAMEL</p>
	<p>Multiple levels starting with the Center of the Institute and CIAMEL.</p>
	<p>Every Brother and each community and District leadership.</p>
	<p>Center of the Institute, Brother Visitors, and Formation Commission.</p>
	<p>Center of the Institute, CIAMEL, IALU, District leadership, and Mission Council.</p>

2 The Pathway of Radical Availability to God

We recognize...

- ★ That to be leaven in the Lasallian Family, we need a spiritual life rooted in the Gospel and our Lasallian heritage, which allows us to discover God in the signs of the times and in the faces of those who are poor.

We are called to...

- ★ Individually and as communities, deepen our interior lives and share our experience of God with others, especially in our educational ministry.

We are committed to...

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
2.1 Dedicate the year 2025 to deepen and share Lasallian spirituality in the Church and the world, on the occasion of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Bull of Approbation.	2025	Superior General and General Council.

<p>2.2 Assign to a General Councilor the responsibility for Lasallian spirituality and Community Life, with the possibility of creating a Secretariat for the accompaniment of communities and the life of the Brothers.</p>	2023	Superior General and General Council.
<p>2.3 Create an international network of Lasallian spirituality which supports animators and companions in the interior life, which will sponsor international, regional, and District programs, experiences, and resources.</p>	By 2025	Superior General, General Council, CIAMEL, IALU, IALU
<p>2.4 Prioritize in the personal and community annual program the regular sharing of our loving encounter with God and the central place of silence with the Word.</p>	Annually	Every Brother, Directors, Visitors / Presidents.
<p>2.5 Participate in a systematic formation program, with flexibility for individual situations, that deepens each Brother's interior life and further enables him to share his experience of God with others.</p>	2022-2029	Every Brother, Directors, Visitors / Presidents.
<p>2.6 Practice our radical availability by providing opportunities that empower, accompany, and identify Brothers of all ages to prioritize and respond to needs on the peripheries, particularly on the occasion of perpetual profession.</p>	2022-2029	Every Brother, Directors, Visitors / Presidents.

3 Renewed Structures for the Future

We recognize...

- ★ That the **structures** of animation and governance of the Institute must generate co-responsibility, sustainability, transparency, and solidarity to ensure the life and mission of the Lasallian Family throughout the world..

We are called to...

- ★ Guarantee the promotion of the charismatic vitality of individuals, communities, and Districts and Regions that make up the Institute.
- ★ Strengthen the bonds of communion and accountability, so that we may continue to grow in our service to those most in need.
- ★ Ensure an increase in the participation of Lasallian associates in the structures.

We are committed to...

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
<p>3.1 Promote, from the Institute, the creation of a commission concerning the Lasallian Charismatic Family that will strengthen the different vocations that make it up, following a path of synodality, based on trust, and congruent with the inspirational documents of the Institute. To this end, the Superior General and his Council will take the necessary steps to set up this commission, which will be evaluated at the Intercapitular session.</p>	2022-2023	Superior General and General Council.
<p>3.2 Develop a strategic plan in each District or Delegation of the Institute by the end of 2023 that includes the proposals of the General Chapter and the III AIMEL, including the creation of the MEL Assembly and the MEL Council, if they do not exist.</p>	2022-2023 and then annually	Visitors and District/ Mission Council
<p>3.3 Guarantee a better representation in the General Chapter. The Superior General and the General Council will apply the following criteria, among others: include the requirements of canon law, the number of Brothers, the average age of the Brothers, the number of countries per District.</p>	By 2027	Superior General and General Council, CIAMEL.

<p>3.4 Appoint flexible work teams to accompany the Districts in their work, helping them to develop aspects of mission, finances, patrimony, formation, association and organization of the Brothers that are deemed appropriate. These teams are to be appointed by the Superior General in liaison with the General Councilor of the Region and CIAMEL.</p>	<p>From 2024 forward</p>	<p>General Council and CIAMEL</p>
<p>3.5 Renew the five Regions of the Institute in coherence with statistical realities, the promotion of the charismatic vitality of persons, the communities, and the impulse of the educational mission in the Districts and Delegations that integrate them.</p> <p>To this end, each Region, prior to the Intercapitular meeting, will present for approval to the Superior General and his Council the Renewal Plan to be developed after its approval.</p> <p>The General Councilor for the Region will have the necessary authority to work with the Board of Visitors and the MEL Council to determine the organization and the means to be put in place in order to achieve the renewal objectives.</p>	<p>By 2025</p>	<p>Superior General and General Council.</p>

4 Integral Ecological Conversion

“ Since everything is received as gift and everything is connected, we are committed to a new way of being in the world where convictions, attitudes, and lifestyles generate ecological citizenship that promotes a more fraternal world.

(Cf. *Laudato si'*, chapters 4 and 6; *Fratelli tutti*, chapters 1 and 3).

We recognize...

- ★ The existence of networks of Lasallian ministries and organizations committed to a vision of integral ecology and care for the common home.
- ★ The invitation made in the *Declaration of the Lasallian Educational Mission* and the III AIMEL, in line with the Lasallian tradition, to get involved as communities and ministries in the work for justice and the care of our common home.
- ★ The effort that is made in our school programs to protect the environment and practice solidarity.

- ★ The commitment made by the Institute throughout history in the promotion of children's rights.
- ★ The importance of collaborating with other organizations (*Laudato si'* 38 and 179) that work for the care of the human being and the common home, in order to generate more life in our world.

We are called to...

- ★ Embrace a broad understanding that leads to overcoming the limits of the socio-economic and political systems and that address the human roots of the ecological crisis.
- ★ Take the leap from an ecological spirituality towards the Mystery, where ethics acquires its deepest meaning (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 210).
- ★ Promote ecological awareness in our Lasallian communities as a contribution to a more fraternal world.
- ★ Believe that the care of the common home is more effective when we witness it as a Lasallian Family.
- ★ Defend human dignity, especially through the protection and safeguarding of the rights of minors and vulnerable adults (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 75)

We are committed to...

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
<p>4.1 Promote, in the initial and ongoing formation of Brothers and Lasallians, the awareness of critical citizenship for the exercise of civic responsibility, as well as programs and policies for all Districts on the safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults, so that all Lasallians institutions will be safe places, in line with the commitments of the Global Compact on Education.</p>	Throughout the seven years	<p>Secretariat for Formation</p> <p>Formation directors in each District, Delegation and Regions</p> <p>CIAMEL</p>
<p>4.2 Promote from the Center of the Institute, in coordination with the Secretariats and Services as well as the Lasallian Universities, programs that foster the process of integral ecology in line with the Laudato Si' platform, guaranteeing human and financial resources to be able to develop them.</p>	2023	<p>Superior General and General Council</p> <p>Bursar General</p>
<p>4.3 Support proactively within the Lasallian Communities the proposals of the III AIMEL, whose objective is to develop integral ecology projects and the local, District, and Regional levels.</p>	From 2023 forward	<p>MEL Council for the Districts and Regions</p> <p>Community Directors</p> <p>Directors of Educational Ministries</p>

4.4 Evaluate and review in each District, in dialogue with the Lasallian Communities, their location, connectedness, and belonging to the world of the poor while opting for simple and sustainable lifestyles.	From 2023 until the next intercapitular Assembly (or similar), in which we ask for such an assessment to be shared)	Brother Visitors or Delegates
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5 Association for Mission guarantees a bold and prophetic Lasallian Family

We recognize...

- ★ For the Lasallian Family, the fruitful and prophetic journey of Association for Mission is unfolding in diverse expressions and characteristics.
- ★ Association for Mission compels us to widen the expression of community experiences, enrich our lived spirituality, and extend the limits of our Mission.

We are called to...

- ★ As one Lasallian Family, to strengthen Association for Mission in the spirit of creative fidelity, and to work in synodality in order to respond, together and by association, to the needs of a world that cries out from the peripheries, so that our educational ministries are places of salvation.



We are committed to...

Commitment

5.1 Recognize that AIMEL and CIAMEL are natural structures to advise Brother Superior General, and to set the direction for the Lasallian Mission, Association for Mission, Formation for Mission, and a Culture of Vocations. Empower those structures so that they can animate and take further responsibility for the Mission.

5.2 Implement the final proposals of the III AIMEL in relation to Association for Mission.

The signs of the times require us to review the current reality of Association, as well as to create and further develop opportunities, structures, and networks that will:

- A.** Establish, foster, and secure structures of belonging, commitment, and Association in each District.
- B.** Build and continue to develop intentional communities of Lasallians to share mission, life, spirituality, and faith.
- C.** Ensure formation in Lasallian identity for all Lasallians in the various stages of engagement in Association for Mission.
- D.** Ensure accompaniment and governance from the context of Lasallian Association (Report of phase 1 of III AIMEL 2022).

<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
2022	General Chapter
2022-2029	CIAMEL and Secretariats; Regions, Districts.

5.3 In addition, implement the proposals of the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians.

1. Culture of Vocations

- A.** Promote Lasallian vocations, emphasizing inclusivity and openness to young people of all religions, beliefs, and ideas.
- B.** Provide opportunities for quality formation experiences and encounters that engage and connect young Lasallians, while maximizing the use of online platforms.

2. Service with the Poor

- A.** Strengthen Lasallian formation on the theme of social justice and promote a deeper understanding of social problems as well as the different forms of poverty to encourage Young Lasallians to address real-world challenges.
- B.** Respond to the real needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups in order to ensure that service and mission projects achieve impact, and empower communities to become self-sufficient.

3. Communications and Networking

- A.** Strengthen collaboration through the global Young Lasallians online community to continue to provide a platform where ideas, best practices, and resources can be shared.
- B.** Maximize the use of social networks to promote the different works and projects of Young Lasallian groups worldwide.

4. Sustainable Organizational Growth

- A.** Ensure that structures and mechanisms are in place at the Local, District, Regional, and international levels, with adequate allocation of human and financial resources, to guarantee sustainability and quality programs of Young Lasallians. (First phase of the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians).

2022-2029

CIAMEL and Secretariats;
Regions, Districts,
International Council of
Young Lasallians

5.4 Incorporate and strengthen in the initial formation of young Brothers, in the ongoing formation of all Brothers, and in the formation for all who form the Lasallian Family, concepts and experiences that ensure the mutual appreciation and understanding of Association.

5.5 Continue to open the Lasallian Family and to collaborate with Charismatic Families in Mission, Fraternity, and Community.

5.6 Design and develop in the Districts, with guidance from CIAMEL, the necessary strategies, with concrete indicators, so that it will be possible to annually evaluate the progress and strengthen structures for shared mission and Association. This evaluation will be carried out annually and reported to CIAMEL.

Updates to be given at the Inter-Capitular session.

2022-2029	Secretariat for Formation, Houses of Formation, Regions, Brother Visitors, Districts.
2022-2029	Institute, Regions, Districts, other religious and Lasallian congregations
2022-2029	Visitors, CIAMEL, Mission Councils, Mission Assemblies, District approved bodies for Shared Mission.

6 Lasallian Vocations: Walking Together

We recognize...

- ★ Lasallian vocations continue to be of great need in the Church and in the world. All Lasallians have experiences, reflections, and insights that are a rich treasure for us and for others. This richness has great value for all those who are discerning their vocation in life and requires structures and means to make it a reality.

We are called to...

- ★ Live our vocation with passion and empower others to discern their vocation.

We are committed to...

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
6.1 Implement actions that will allow the creation of a culture of vocations according to Circular 475, in conformity with proposal # 4 of the III AIMEL report.	2023-2025	The Secretariat for Formation, in collaboration with the renewed involvement of the International Vocation Ministry team, Vocation Directors of the Districts.
6.2 Develop new ways to accompany Brothers in their vocational journey, especially young Brothers, and accompany Lasallians in their vocational journey according to the framework of the <i>Lasallian Formation for Mission</i> (the Pilgrim's handbook).	2022-2029	Secretary for Formation, International Vocation Team, General Council, CIAMEL and Districts.
6.3 Guarantee an ongoing and coordinated international campaign for the promotion and animation of Lasallian vocations, especially that of the Brothers.	2023-2029	International Vocation Team, local Vocation Directors and Offices of Communication.
6.4 Identify suitable Lasallians and provide them with adequate formation to accept and fulfill responsibilities in vocation ministry and the accompaniment of young people.	2023-2025	Secretary of Formation, CIAMEL, General Council, Regions, Responsible for Formation and Vocation Directors of the Districts.

7 **Leveraging the human and financial resources of our international Institute to ensure the sustainability of the Lasallian mission**

We recognize...

- ★ That our present resources are based on the efforts of the Brothers who have come before us.
- ★ That our present resources can be better applied, leveraging the international character of the institute.

We are called to...

- ★ Respond to urgent concerns, in a spirit of discernment, to determine priorities and act boldly as one body in line with the Gospel.

We are committed to...

Commitment	Times	Responsible
<p>7.1 Implement the following International Strategy Council and Secretariat of Solidarity proposals:</p> <p>7.1.A Mission Endowment Fund.</p> <p>7.1.B Solidarity Fund.</p> <p>7.1.C Endowment Fund in support of the care of retired Brothers.</p> <p><i>See explanation below.</i></p>	3 and a half years	Brother Superior General and his Council, Bursar General, CIAMEL, Secretariat of Solidarity and Brother Visitors.
<p>7.2 Promote a proactive intervention in Districts where there will no longer be Brothers active in the mission or capable of exercising leadership roles.</p> <p>In the immediate future an increasing number of Districts will no longer have Brothers active in the mission or capable of exercising leadership roles. The Brother Superior General and his Council will proactively intervene so that the Districts will have a definitive plan within two years.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <p>A. How the Lasallian mission will be supported.</p> <p>B. Adequate support and health care of elderly Brothers.</p> <p>C. That the patrimony of the Institute is protected.</p>	2 years	Brother Superior General and his Council and Brothers Visitors

<p>7.3 In the light of our Institute’s global realities, every District or Delegation of the Institute is required to present to the General Council a Viability Plan, bearing in mind the documents approved by the Institute, especially Circular 460 “<i>Towards Self-sufficiency</i>”, to be approved by the Superior General and accompanied by the Brother Councilor with responsibility for the Region.</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>Brother Visitors, Brother Superior General and his Council.</p>
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Based on the detailed work of the International Strategy Council (ISC) and Secretariat of Solidarity, which needs to be validated in discussions between Institute and District leadership, this is **proposed**:

7.1.A. The establishment of a Mission Endowment Fund to support the creation and consolidation of Institute-wide new educational works in service to the poor. This Fund will be financed jointly by the center of the Institute and the Districts, each contributing an equivalent of around 1.5% of their declared investments, once the data of the ISC is validated.

7.1.B. The creation of a Solidarity Fund to support the long-term vitality of the Lasallian mission. This Fund will be financed jointly by the center of the Institute and the Districts, each contributing an equivalent of around 1.5% of their declared investments, once the data of the ISC is validated. The creation and management

of the Solidarity Fund will be coordinated by the Secretariat of Solidarity and Development, in consultation with the Brother Superior and his Council.

As an expression of co-responsibility, it is intended that there will be contributions from all sectors of the Lasallian family, building on initiatives already in place in Districts. This co-responsibility is not asking the Districts to contribute, but rather to use their local knowledge to help to organize a “pro capita” co-responsibility contribution among their institutions.

- 71.C.** The creation of an Endowment Fund in Support of the Care of Retired Brothers to support the care of sick and elderly Brothers in Sectors where the support level is inadequate or unsustainable. This Fund will be financed jointly by the center of the Institute and the Districts, each contributing an equivalent of up to 6% of their declared investments, once the data of the ISC is validated.

To this end:

- ★ The Brother Superior and his Council will begin discussions with Brother Visitors on the implementation of these funds – A, B and C – as a matter of urgency and report to the Intercapitular meeting on its progress.
- ★ The Central Government of the Institute – Bursar General – will provide the funds to cover the expenses required to transition the proposals that have been approved.



Other proposals

In addition to the paths of transformation, some Brother capitulants made proposals to the Chapter that were approved as commitments:

We are committed to...

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
<p>P.1 Organize in each Region, within a maximum of one year from the publication of the Chapter documents, a meeting, forum, or assembly suitable for defining at the Regional level the co-responsibility strategies necessary to complete the process of “Appreciative Inquiry” according to the keys provided by the Chapter’s work.</p>	2022-2023.	General Council, Regional Working Teams.
<p>P.2 Encourage mutual knowledge among the Young Brothers:</p> <p>A. Organize a meeting of Young Brothers (under 40 years of age or with less than five years of perpetual profession) at the Regional level at least two times between Chapters, to foster mutual knowledge and common work among the Brothers.</p> <p>B. Organize at least two International Assemblies of Young Brothers in the time period between one Chapter and the next one.</p>	Twice before 2029	Brother Superior General, General Council and Brother Visitors.

<p>P.3 To create an Ongoing Committee of Young Brothers.</p> <p>A. Composition: one Young Brother from each Region, to be appointed by the Brother Superior General and his Council. The members shall be renewed every three and a half years.</p> <p>B. Presidency: One of the five Young Brothers who are members of the Committee shall serve as President. The presidency shall be decided by consensus among its members.</p> <p>C. Functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of the International Assemblies of Young Brothers. 2. Collaboration with the organization of Regional meetings of Young Brothers. 3. Collaboration with the International Vocation Team for the promotion of the Brother's life. 4. Collaboration with the International Council for Young Lassalians. 5. Such other functions as the Brother Superior General and his Council may deem appropriate. 	<p>Fall 2022</p>	<p>Brother Superior General, General Council and Brother Visitors.</p>
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What do you think, dear Brothers? These are pathways that are still open, many years later. The challenge we want to respond to was not only for the Chapter of 2022, but for the whole Institute and the Lasallian Family yesterday, today, and forever. We need you! We are all involved in these paths.

The rest of the Chapter you already know: we renewed the general government of the Institute and asked the new Brother Superior General and the Brothers of the General Council to lead and accompany us for the next seven years. Pope Francis himself received us, and although he was not yet familiar with our Chapter documents, he was right in reminding us,

“It is good to interpret the Chapter in this way: on the move, as a construction project for new paths that lead to one’s brothers, especially the poorest. But we know that the ‘Way’, the truly new way, is Jesus Christ: by following him, by walking with him, our lives are transformed, and we in turn become leaven, salt and light.”

He also reminded us that “the world is experiencing an educational emergency. The educational pact is broken” and we have before us two great challenges: fraternity, and the care for our common home, both of which are closely linked to education. He asked us Brothers,

“You are in the front line, educating so as to move from a closed world to an open world; from a throwaway culture to a culture of care; from a culture of rejection to a culture of integration; from the pursuit of vested interests to the pursuit of the common good. (...) And you also know that you cannot do this work alone, but by cooperating in an ‘educational alliance’ with families, with communities and ecclesial aggregations, with the educational realities present in the territory.”

None of this can be done if we do not also “grow from within.”

“You cannot give to the young what you do not have within yourselves. The Christian educator, in the school of Christ, is first of all a witness, and he is a teacher to the extent that he is a witness. I have nothing to teach you in this regard, but only, as a brother, I want to remind you: witness. And above all I pray for you, that you may be brothers not only in name but also in fact. And for your schools to be Christian not in name but in fact.”

It still fills me with emotion, even though time has passed, remembering all this. It is a vision that cannot be lost and that is now also in your hands, Brothers, and in the hands of all Lasallians so many years later. We want to continue building new paths to transform lives! Let us go forward with the joy of evangelizing by educating and of educating by evangelizing.

Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!





FRATRES SCHOLAR



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3 Message from the General Council

***Dear Brothers
and members of the Lasallian Family,***

The 46th General Chapter of the Institute was held from May 1st to May 22nd, 2022, at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. The worldwide Covid pandemic had postponed it for a year. Seventy delegates representing every part of the Institute, along with thirteen appointed Consultants and many support personnel, translators, etc., gathered for three weeks to reflect, pray, dream, discuss, deliberate, and set the

direction for the Institute for the next seven years. This Circular provides a description of the process and an overview of the adopted commitments that will guide our mission and ministries into the future. What it does not convey is the genuine spirit of community and association that grew among the participants during our short time together. The success of this 46th General Chapter is largely due to the care with which it was planned and the genuine collaboration that resulted, responding to the real needs of today as we move ahead with hope and audacity.

Toward the end of our Chapter, Br. Armin highlighted the Gospel reading of the day. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) This is a comforting text because it assures us that if there are challenges or problems that we cannot address, we should simply stay with Jesus. We don’t have to solve all the worlds’ problems. We don’t need a perfect list of resolutions from this Chapter. What we can do is rest in the comfort of God, who says, “I will make all things new” and not “You will make all things new.” Perhaps the Lord is inviting us to go onto our little boat and go to where there are no paths, only the movement of waves, trusting that the wind of the Holy Spirit will lead us. The boat is safer near the shore, but boats are made to go away from the shore, where it is risky, where we go by the grace of God and the guidance of the Spirit. It is a disposition described by our Founder:

“A person who abandons himself to the Providence of God is like a sailor who puts out to sea without sails or oars.” (Med. 134.1)

The Gospel constantly invites us to “open up” in new ways, to open our ears, and most especially our hearts, to the groans of people who may be far from salvation, those who we may not even recognize or wish to spend time with. One way that the Casa Generalizia has done this is by providing transitional housing to migrants and displaced families, working in collaboration with the Sant’Egidio community. And there are many outreach projects within the Lasallian world that are on the forefront of “opening up” in similar ways as part of our educational mission.

We are called to open our hearts to the reality that the reign of God is here. How do we reconcile the world’s sufferings and the mystery of God’s reign with the sufferings and the fragility that is part of the world today, including that of our own relationships with each other? It is so much easier to do what most of us did during the pandemic. Feeling threatened, we go into a *fuga mundi*, hiding from the world, closing our doors, and preserving ourselves.

The new biography of St. John Baptist de La Salle by Bernard Hours captures this same kind of moment in his life. “*Viewed in retrospect, it is evident that Jean-Baptiste set forth on a new path at the end of 1679.*” There was a disruption that brought about a conversion in his life. A new path “*gradually opened up before him and*

would lead to decisive breaks with this prior life.”¹ This is also what lies before us today. What happened to those early teachers with De La Salle finds echoes in our lives and ministries today. “Since they were reduced by their state to the most modest of means, and since they had no funds, they were at times plagued by doubts. They imagined their distress if they were to lose M. de La Salle. Fanciful thoughts and fears formed in their minds, causing them to slip into weariness and discouragement. M. de La Salle soon realized this, and when he set about to learn the reason, they told him candidly that they saw nothing firm or stable in their situation, that the least misfortune could destroy all his projects, and that they were unhappy at the prospect of sacrificing their youth in service to the public, with no assurance of being cared for after their work was done.”² What we are experiencing even today is not new to our Institute. It was at the very heart of the Founder’s own journey. But that key experience was also the yeast, the salt, and the light that gave birth to a new family in the Church.

What we are called to do is to look at the mystery of God’s reign in the light of the groanings that we hear within and also without. It is an experience that the apostles lived on that long night of fishing, when they worked all night long but never caught a fish. And when they were ready to retire and throw everything away, they heard that other invitation, “Throw your nets on the other side.” Open up! We have been working all night long, but we are asked

¹ Bernard HOURS, *Jean-Baptiste de La Salle: A Mystic in Action*. Pg. 132.

² MAILLEFER, ms. 1723, CL 6., pp. 54 and 56. In B. HOURS, *Jean-Baptiste de La Salle: A Mystic in Action*. Pg. 142.

today to throw out our nets again, but into the other side. That is the invitation of the Chapter to us, and we must make it ours.

Pope Francis in his beautiful message to us, affirming many of the pathways of our Chapter, ended by saying that each one of us must recognize that to be effective in this new path, we must first of all rediscover each Brother as our brother. This is a good place to start. There is a fragility that we share in our vocation as Brothers. There are hurts. There are experiences of disappointments within our communities. We have not been brothers to each other all the time. The first call is to rediscover that brotherhood, those wonderful moments when we could uphold each other. No words; prolonged spontaneous loving affirmation of each other. Forgiving each other, and maybe forgiving ourselves, is a very good place to start. But also extending that forgiveness and that fraternity to Lasallian Partners, opening new pathways as authentic sisters and brothers. Pope Francis says that this is what we need to do. But he also says that we need to not just be authentic Brothers, we also need to have authentic Christian schools. Our ministries will have to be truly Christian. And to be truly Christian in our day means to be inclusive, to treat everyone as a sister and a brother.

A recent commencement speaker said something that we could well adopt as we plan our future. She spoke about “vagrant birds.” These are birds that don’t follow the usual migratory routes. Some people refer to these birds as those who accidentally lost

their way. But in biology, vagrant birds have a very special role. They extend the known spaces of food and other essential benefits, reaching beyond what is known by the flock. It is a very important element in ensuring the sustainability of the species. They may be called wayward birds, but they are also essential in ensuring long-term survival. She said to the students, and perhaps to us today, “I don’t see any vagrant birds. There aren’t any in the sky right now. But I see them before me. I see them in all of you. You are what our species needs: fresh thinkers, great souls, explorers of ideas, wayward birds venturing into unknown skies, unafraid of unconventional thinking and uncommon wisdom, experimenting with new ways of doing things, of seeding life anew and helping humanity, not just to survive, but thrive.”

Brothers and members of the Lasallian Family, these are thoughts and priorities that we should make our own. The results of the 46th General Chapter that are in this document are meant to give substance to those efforts and to encourage us to be hopeful, bold, and confident of God’s presence in our midst. The Gospel calls us to nothing less.

Your Brothers:

Brother Armin Luistro, Superior General
and the members of the General Council:

Brother Carlos Gómez Restrepo, Vicar General,
Brother Martín Digilio,
Brother Anatole Diretenadji,
Brother Ricky Laguda,
Brother Joël Palud,
Brother Chris Patiño

Tree planted by Brother Armin Luistro on 18 May 2022, the day the 46th General Chapter elected him as Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

May its fruits always be abundant and sweet.



Albero piantato da **Fratel Armin Luistro**
il 18 maggio 2022,
giorno in cui il **46° Capitolo Generale** lo ha eletto
Superiore Generale dell'Istituto dei Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane.
Che i suoi frutti siano sempre abbondanti e dolci.







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