



Canada, Villa-des-Jeunes:
A group of young participants in a workshop.



Peru, July 4, 1995: Participants in a meeting for assistant principals and department heads of District schools.



Bogota: Principals, Administrators and teachers participating in a workshop about "The Institutional Educational Plan".



Khushpur, Pakistan:
Catechetical Training Center.

San Jose, Costa Rica: the formation group with members of youth groups on a day of retreat.



**THE MISSION THAT IS SHARED
IS THAT OF EVANGELIZING,
INSTRUCTING AND EDUCATING...**

"The educational planning of every apostolic work will be elaborated and evaluated by all members of the educational community based on the District Plan and in cooperation with District organizations. This planning will deal with matters of pedagogical nature and will particularly be attentive to the following:

- to respond concretely to situations of poverty.
- to become integrated into the culture and local situations.
- to plan the organization of Pastoral Ministry.
- to form members, respecting the personal journey of each one.

In the apostolates where people of other religions are present, the inherent human and spiritual values should be respected".

(42nd General Chapter, Circular 435, page 46)



LEBANON

LASALLIAN MOVEMENT FOR THE APOSTOLATE

In Lebanon various social and faith movements have been taking shape, a good many of them led by the laity, teachers, former students or university students.

1. Former Student Association:

Its goal is to financially assist students who are poor in Lasallian schools.

It meets weekly with a Brother advisor.

Members show a great deal of zeal and interest and they are very motivated in their service to those most in need.

2. CVX (Christian Life Community) Movement

The goal is in faith formation, growing in faith as adults and then spreading that faith in the local environment.

This group is composed of former students and those attending universities and they have a Brother as their advisor.

They are committed to taking care of the poor.

Since 1974 they have helped many victims of war, especially those who are asthmatic. They assure them of medical assistance, medicine and first aid assistance in the mountains. They also underwrite medical costs.

Their spirituality is strengthened by means of meetings, spiritual reading and especially by studying the social doctrine of the Church.

3. JDA (Youth of Today) Movement

This movement began in 1975 and it includes secondary school students as well as former students. The goal of this group is to help people who are victims of displacement and who feel alone, especially the young.

Their course of action consists of visiting these persons, offering them material, intellectual and moral help. They organize summer programs for them which include some training. One Brother acts as the group's advisor and accompanies members on their spiritual journey through life.

4. Lasallian Social Movement

This group is made up of lay teachers and former students of the technical section of the Mount La Salle school.

Its special focus is to promote cooperation and mutual support among the students in the technical section and among one another.

Its activities include artistic, literary, musical and historical research. There is also an interest in social action. They meet on Saturdays to share prayer and they are led by a Brother from the school.

They publish a magazine entirely from their own funds.

Youth Ministry

In all the schools there are youth ministry groups under the guidance of a Brother.

- Levels:

There are three levels:

* *Friends of La Salle*: members from the first two years of the program.

* *La Salle companions*: members from the last two years of the program.

* *Lasallian youth*: members from secondary and university.

Sponsorship of these groups is in the hands of the laity in accord with the guidelines of the Ministry Committee.

- Ministry Committee:

Members are recommended by the Chapter of the Delegation and the committee is composed of three members.



Lebanon: the Lasallian Social Movement, among other activities, cares for senior citizens.

Lay catechists

In the majority of apostolates the catechists are lay. In some a Brother or priest may serve in an advisory capacity. Where there is a team, they all participate in this ministry which makes them all more conscious of their mission within the Church and the shared mission.

The majority have received on-the-job training with annual workshops organized by the National Catechetical Commission.

The Chapter of the Delegation has proposed training of some catechists for the primary levels. Where this has happened, it has been a positive experience.

DISTRICT OF VALENCIA-PALMA PROMOTION OF LASALLIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (CCL)

Brothers-Parents Meetings

In order to form community with the parents of students and to create a consciousness of shared mission, the District of Valencia-Palma has held Brothers-Parents Meetings since 1990.

These meetings usually take place on weekends, all day on Saturday and Sunday morning.

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere there are discussions about topics relative to the common mission of Brothers and parents; there are conferences about those topics followed by small group meetings and questions are usually provided as well; the large group comes together and there is a festive Eucharistic liturgy.

In this way the commitment grows ever deeper in the Lasallian Christian Communities (CCL).

Decalogue for the Mission of a Lasallian Christian Community (CCL)

1. The CCL prays without ceasing to God the Father so that the Lasallian Mission is carried out according to God's will. And it also prays to St. John Baptist de La Salle that his spirit and charism might survive in our days.
2. The CCL nourishes its faith with the WORD OF GOD and it is serious about journeying with the WORD.
3. The CCL reads and studies the life journey of St. John Baptist de La Salle in order to assimilate his spirit and plan.
4. The CCL reads, assimilates and keeps watch on the appropriate character of the apostolate where it is located and it always is ready to defend, diffuse and revitalize it.
5. The CCL is particularly attentive to persons who share the mission and it offers these persons encouragement with its friendship always in a spirit of service and personal support.
6. The CCL attends all meetings of the apostolate that have to do with its particular character, with a view to witnessing, clarifying and defending for parents the Christian Educational Plan of the apostolate.
7. The CCL collaborates with some of its members, when possible, in the educational-pastoral activities of the apostolate, such as morning prayer, campaigns, celebrations, summer programs, etc.
8. The CCL takes on and guarantees the pastoral guidelines of the apostolate, especially in the area of catechetics, happily collaborating in the animation of groups, gatherings, graduations, etc.
9. The CCL efficiently collaborates with the D. O. E. (Counselling Department) and the School for Parents, inputting its own focus, organization or topics.
10. The CCL is attentive to the students who are most in need, directly, for example with PEI (Personal Enrichment Program) groups or indirectly, through other students or with another educational activity.

Brothers-Teachers Meetings

In order to establish the ties that bring unity in shared mission, it is necessary to value them and for that one must get to know them and the only way to get to know them is to meet them.

Therefore, the District of Valencia-Palma each year organizes a meeting between Brothers and teachers. Since the District is divided into two areas, peninsular and the Balearic Islands, there are two distinct sites on different days so that the team of the Shared Mission Committee can attend both meetings.

The encounter usually lasts an entire day which includes discussions, social gatherings, informal meetings, prayer and ending with the Eucharist.



**District of Valencia-Palma:
A meeting between Brothers and parents
to promote the Lasallian Christian Communities.**

"Good News" Workshops

For the purpose of offering faculty members opportunities for continuing formation in the area of religion, the District of Valencia, through its Shared Mission Committee began a series of workshops entitled "Good News" some six years ago.

The lectures are always in the area of religion and their purpose is to prepare and update religion teachers. In the beginning it was offered only to teachers working in Lasallian schools but now it is also open to teachers from other institutions.

It is given in different areas and there are six sessions each trimester or 18 hours in all.

Lectures include: First trimester, Theology; Second trimester, Christology; Third trimester, Ecclesiology. Some 200 teachers have attended these sessions and academic credit is available for the continuing formation program that is required of all teachers.

FRANCOPHONE CANADA

SHARED MISSION IN A YOUTH SHELTER

Shared Mission at Villa-des-Jeunes (Youth Villa)

A welcoming center

The "Youth Villa", in St. Augustine, is a shelter in which some 10,000 young people pass through yearly. The center recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Young people come to live in an atmosphere of reflection and their stay is completed with a program for moral and religious training and this complements what they already receive in Christian communities.

Normally the stay is only one day from 9 until 3:00 PM.

In addition, students are also accepted from 4 to 9 in the evening and there are sessions that are 24, 36 or 48 hours. Generally the groups are mixed with ages ranging from 12 to 17 years.

"Relief" movement

For some years now there has been support for the "relief" movement. This is intended for young people between the ages of 15 and 17 who have freely chosen to live in a base community made up of about 15 persons. Since 1982, more than 1000 young people have spent a weekend in this movement and have become part of a group near the parish.

The methodology for this movement is based on the idea of one young person evangelizing another. They themselves give testimony of their faith and they lead the bi-weekly meetings. The adults who attend are there merely to offer support.

The spiritual mandate entrusted by the Brother Visitors is "to offer the best to this type of young person: Jesus Christ". This is what the team at the center tries to do not only by word but also by attitude, gesture and action.

Canada, Villa-des-Jeunes:
A time for meeting and social exchange.

Shared mission and living together

This mission of education in faith is carried out by a team of Brothers and lay persons living together. The leadership in organization and methodology that is required here demands great flexibility and participation on the part of all. We are certain that our mission in this ministry is truly an experience of shared mission.

The two lay leaders in charge of the center are married and they have children; they try to make the Gospel something real in their lives.

In a newsletter concerning the center, the following was stated:

"We have received much from all the Brothers. They have helped us develop trust in ourselves. They have supported us during the difficult times; they allowed us to experience a spirit of fraternity and freedom. They accompanied us on our journey in faith. For this reason, as time went on, a deep desire to know more and more about the community of the Brothers was awakened in us and especially about the Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle. For some years now, through lectures and interchanges, we have strengthened a very important "spiritual tie"..."

Working with the Brothers over the years has truly been a time of grace. We have worked next to people of exceptional quality. We can only rejoice by what has been given to us..."

One of the lay persons participated with the Brothers in the 1995 retreat, an experience that was very good. In the July, 1996, both will participate in the French Lasallian Center workshop.



Camp l'Avenir at the service of youth

A guidance center

The Camp l'Avenir, the camp of the future, is one of the services offered by the Notre-Dame de la Rouge Center. It is a pastoral guidance "camp" which is located west of Quebec in a very simple place at the foot of a hill and close to a river, a perfect place for tranquility and contact with nature.

The Brothers established this some 30 years ago with the idea of hosting groups of young people between the ages of 12 and 17.

Activities

The various activities that are offered in the camp allow youngsters to find Jesus in the moments of prayer and reflection amidst other manual occupations, such as working with colored plastic threads, camping or canoeing.

One of the very important elements is learning to live together. The young people find peace, friendship and fraternity. Quite a few of them return to the camp again and again because they feel appreciated and loved. Each camper is involved in a group of between seven to nine persons and each group is accompanied by a young adult with human and Christian leadership qualities.

The success achieved does not come from isolated individuals but from a team that has come together little by little and in the which there is real sharing in practical ways. Brothers and young lay people are equally committed to its organization and day to day life.



Canada, Camp l'Avenir:
a group of young people and staff from the Center

Shared operation

This form of sharing mission is the result of a progressive openness on the part of both the Brothers and young people to whom jobs have now been entrusted that the Brothers traditionally held.

The committee on summer camps is composed of four young lay people and five Brothers and they meet regularly to make decisions that will affect the future direction of the camp. There are also other committees that meet throughout the year to prepare group activities.

The shared mission in this camp is supported by fraternal relationships between the Brothers and the young people in charge. The Brothers offer the young people a position next to their own which serves to eliminate any vocational or social differences between the two groups. Brothers and lay partners are considered equal, having joined together for the same purpose, that of serving youth and helping them discover the richness of life, awaken their hearts and help them listen to the Word of God.

DISTRICT OF SOUTH MEXICO SCHOOL FOR PARENTS



South Mexico: Lasallian Family Meeting in the Veracruz.

The formation of parents is important when they want to be part of the Lasallian Family and share the mission.

It was for this purpose that the school for parents was established.

There are three sessions:

1. Lasallian integrated formation session, with 20 lectures in the 20 sessions of 1 hour each (4 hours weekly).
2. Lasallian advanced session: 20 lectures with 1 session every two weeks.
3. School for parents, with three levels:
 - First level:* Personal development (5 lectures in the 20 hours, bi-weekly).
 - Second level:* Formation of the person (8 lectures in the 16 hours, bi-weekly).
 - Third level:* Values clarification (5 lectures in the 10 hours, bi-weekly).

DISTRICT OF BOGOTA

VARIOUS WAYS FOR PROMOTING SHARED MISSION

Support for Parents

1. The traditional bi-monthly information meetings for parents have been well attended. These afford parents the opportunity to learn about the role and duty of the family in the education of children through conferences and special presentations.

2. Parents participate in the discussion and decision making process through the Assembly of Parents, the Board of Representatives for each class and the Administration Institutional Board as well as by their participation in the Administrative Institutional Council. This opportunity for parental participation is now required by the General Education Laws but such has been the case for decades in the our Province. The Brothers have always been interested in the encouraging a sense of responsibility in the parents for the education of their children.

3. The school for parents has slowly but surely been extended to include several of our schools. Programs revolve around schools of psychological methods and family responsibility in the formation of youth. As a result of this experience support groups have been established in the each classroom for the development of specific and general institutional planning.



Shared Mission with students

1. The wealth of the District is in the its young people. And so youth ministry has always been a basic interest in the mission of the Brothers.

At the school level there is an organized ministry program which is based on the principles of our philosophy: Faith, fraternity, service, justice and commitment, the values that are symbolized in the Lasallian star, each of the five points represents a value that should characterize a true Lasallian. The effort to emphasize not only doctrine but the real living out of these principles has created a special type of mystique that identifies each of our students and that each student proclaims with pride.

2. Within each grade level there are representatives or class presidents of varying types: academic, ministry, discipline, sports, culture...There are committees that act on behalf of the group. The delegates for each class form, with their counterparts, school committees or councils.

Students participate in the student government by means of a Student Council which is made up of representatives from each class who are elected. In the addition, one student representative is appointed to form part of the school Administrative Council.

As a defender of student rights and motivator for the fulfillment of their duties, the students elect an establishment "spokesperson".

This type of student participation not only fosters training in a participative democracy at the civil level but it also enriches a true sense of community and solidarity which is an essential component of our educational mission: to be good citizens while building up Christ's Kingdom.

There is direct parent participation in the school through practical suggestions in the activities of the governing council of the Parents' Association and through participation in the school Administrative Council.

Youth training schools:

The youth ministry committee is made up of the Brothers who work in the D.E.F: this exists in the each school and is under the coordination of the Provincial Secretariat of Youth Ministry. It meets bi-annually during vacation periods to develop training courses for students who are leaders of various youth groups in the institutions of higher education.

Currently there are four types of training:

1. School for Lasallian Youth Leaders:

This is a two week program for human, Christian and Lasallian formation. This is a boarding program with 6 or 7 participants per school. There are talks dealing with psychological and social-political topics as well as themes dealing with Christian doctrine; prayer and sacramental experiences are held in the an atmosphere of youthful fraternity.

2. School for catechists:

This program's specific focus is on the training of young catechists who will help prepare children for First Communion and who will be faith leaders among their peers, keeping in the mind the perspective of parish catechesis.

The program is developed along the lines of a leadership meeting, adapting the content to leadership type experiences.

3. School camp:

This experience for young people is a three week program. Its basic objective is to channel and guide the creative and physical energies of the young people towards a reaffirmation of life values including discipline, solidarity and self-esteem. This is carried out in the a country atmosphere with specific training for living together.

4. Session for university leaders:

Under the guidance of the Vice-Rector for Promotion and Human Development of De La Salle University, this session is held bi-annually: these meetings attempt to form students who will assume leadership roles in the University's department of campus ministry.



Participants at one of the sessions for Catechists. Brothers and young school faith leaders meet for 10 days in a special place in order to obtain the necessary training in Lasallian Spirituality and methodology to be of service in catechesis in their own apostolates.

Apostolic Youth Groups:

In all our schools pastoral ministry is very much in evidence by the presence of apostolic youth groups which are led by Brothers and lay partners.

These apostolic groups are aimed at discussion, prayer and the social apostolate in marginalized neighborhoods or in rural areas; they take advantage of time off and vacation periods to carry out their projects of apostolic commitment in the camps, rural literacy centers, etc.

RUTA plan

Among the results of all these youth ministry activities is a good number of young people who are seriously considering a Lasallian vocation. For these young people interested in following the Lord along Lasallian ways there is a type of discernment process known as the RUTA plan with meetings, interviews, social gatherings and focused retreats that permit them to discern their vocation and make a decision to enter the Lasallian Postulancy program or to go along another road.

DISTRICT OF CATALONIA MASTER'S DEGREE IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FIELDS

The La Salle School of Engineering of the Raymond Lluï University of Barcelona has created a Master's program especially designed for leaders of educational institutions. It is a two year program with a total of 380 school hours.

One of the seminars deals with Lasallian Pedagogy and Institutional Formation. It includes the following areas: Lasallian formation (24 lectures); Theological Formation (21 lectures); Pastoral Formation (3 lectures); Ministry in the Christian School (6 lectures); Social Formation (5 lectures); Education and Justice (4 lectures); Social Leadership (3 lectures).

DISTRICT OF TURIN LASALLIAN GROUPS IN THE SHARED MISSION

Association of Lasallian women

The Association of Lasallian women was founded in Milan in 1947 through the efforts of Brother Anacleto Moro and Ms. Maria Vertua who was the first president. As time went on the association expanded to include Turin, Biella, Parma, Paderno and Genoa.

With the passage of time the name was changed but the initial spirit has maintained fidelity to its origin.

The objective of the association is to carry on the Lasallian spirit among the mothers of current or former students. In the beginning activities were centered around houses of formation. At the present time there is much activity dealing with Lasallian youth and retired Brothers.

Each year a project is selected for its activities.

Some women leave the Association when their children finish their studies in the Brothers' school; but many choose to remain in the group even after their children have graduated.

In each school activities are set up according to needs. In Milan, some one-hundred members collect funds periodically while others commit themselves to service as Lasallian Volunteers. Also the Turin Association contributes funds to worthy causes. The Association in Biella sponsors activities which benefit the school itself while the one in Paderno is linked in a special way to the vocational apostolate through prayer.

PARMA Mutual Shared Mission

Parma's De La Salle Institute dates from 1836 when the Brothers arrived at the request of the Duchess Maria Luisa.

After changing sites several times the Institute is now located on Scutellari Street near the cathedral. According to records, there were 38 Brothers in 1838 with a school enrollment of 486.

The reduction in the religious personnel brought about help from lay colleagues which increased costs and decreased student enrollment especially in the middle grades. The superiors, faced with a declining enrollment, decided to eliminate the middle grades and the effect was to put also the elementary grades in jeopardy.

This measure had an effect on the parents who decided to help the situation. A group of parents, committed to support the school, created the Lasallian Cooperative, with limited powers. The Brothers gave this their full support. The Cooperative has taken over institutional funding.

So Parma's De La Salle Institute is not only a Brothers' school but it is also a Church school as well as a school of Parma society. This effort is a practical effort at Shared Mission.

GENOA: a new Shared Mission Project

In 1992 the "Negrone Durazzo" School, located in the historic center of Genoa, closed its doors for various reasons, especially because of the lack of students in that area of the city.

Due to the combined efforts of the Brothers and a group of lay people, in cooperation with the "Negrone Durazzo Pius Institute", a new experiment was born called the "La Salle Project", consisting of three sections:

1. A *social-educational center* for boys and girls which was sorely needed. Each afternoon activities dealing with adaptation and recuperation are offered along with laboratory sessions.

2. A *shelter for young people* between the ages of 10 - 14 (limit 6) who need temporary housing up to a maximum of three months until a more permanent solution is arranged.

3. *Professional training courses* for young adults, both refresher courses and retooling courses are offered. The courses are available according to the organizations that request them (Liguria Region, the Province or Municipality of Genoa, Workers' Associations, etc.). The U. E. is requested to finance each individual case. The minimum number of registrants is 15.

In order to administer this project, the following have been established:

- **Lasallian Volunteer Association** in December, 1993.
- **The Lasallian Social Cooperative** in January, 1994. This group is in charge of the project management.

The training of lay colleagues involved in this experiment has been varied, according to the guidelines of the Institute and the District:

- a. *Signum Fidei Fraternity*: meetings every two weeks; meetings on prayer and vocations and participation in the annual national meeting.

- b. Attendance at the *two year CELAS course* in Turin.

- c. Participation in a "*Training Course for Workers and Volunteers*", 150 hours, with some 20 in attendance.

And so the Brothers, the Signum Fidei members and Lasallian Volunteers are all committed to ministry. Civil Service volunteers help out also and they receive adequate training and resources.



Genoa: a moment of relaxation and recreation.

Association "The Mass of the Poor"

This Association has its origins in 1933 in Turin and it offers spiritual and material assistance to beggars, vagabonds and the homeless.

This group's history goes back to 1928 and is associated with a Daughter of Charity who wanted to establish a more direct apostolate aimed at this type of person. She soon found herself facing a problem that was greater than she could herself handle and Brother Teodoro, a De La Salle Brother, promised to help her under the auspices of the former students of the Brothers who were members of the Union of Catechists of Jesus Crucified. This help also came in the form of evangelization. In time this ministry came under the direction of the Brothers with culinary assistance from the Daughters of Charity. It was really a providential work during the war and in the years immediately following.

Currently there are two Brother involved in the this work and one dozen lay adults, one Daughter of Charity who works in the kitchen and a Salesian priest who presides at liturgies.

With fewer numbers of Catechists there was the problem of personnel and so the call went out again to Lasallian former students as well as to current older students. Some 40 young people responded and gave themselves a new name - VOLT (Lasallian Volunteers of Turin).

Presently the type of assistance offered and the problems have changed dramatically aside from the fact that new charity organizations have been established to handle the Association's objectives.

So now attention is directed toward foreigners and immigrants with particular emphasis on the lonely, those marginalized and older persons. The problem is a serious one due to the many races, languages, cultures and religions.

The weekend is devoted to socializing with them, conversing, offering something other than monotonous routine and habitual isolation.

Some 150 persons come to these weekends and a group of volunteers tends to their needs. The volunteers direct the liturgy which the poor may choose to attend and an atmosphere of dialogue is created during the supper that follows, given by the "Opera Civile".

To those who want, there is an evangelization course offered and also one for learning the Italian language. All that is required for those of different religious persuasions (Moslems, Orthodox...) is respect and there is no further obligation of any kind.

In spite of many difficulties there are also many signs of hope such as group prayer meetings on main Christian feast days.

The Association obtained private legal status on September 9, 1991, from the Piedmont Regional Authority.

Funding comes from donations and other contributions from various sources but these funds are becoming more and more scarce. The annual budget is approximately 100 million lire (\$64,000.00 US) and in spite of all the difficulties encountered so far, Providence has never failed to help.

This ministry is an example of cooperation in shared mission among various constituents of the Lasallian Family.

ARCO Group: A Volunteer Association

Through the efforts of Brother Celestino Zanoni this ministry was established for the shelter and recuperation of drug addicts in Turin and the province in a six story building belonging to the District of Turin which formerly housed a school.

The ARCO Group is a Volunteer Association and is not-for-profit. It was founded on February 2, 1993. The idea came from a group of people who for many years worked in the area of therapeutical education. The site is located at 18 Via Capriolo.

- On March 1 the *ARCO Shelter Center* opened on weekdays as a day residence. This was the first phase of the therapeutic program based on the Mankind Project.
- On June 16, 1993 the *RAINBOW Family house* opened for young people without relatives to help them in their time at the shelter.
- On June 6 the *Lasallian community residence* opened which was the second phase of the therapeutical educational program.
- On November 10 the *ALBERIONE community* opened as a day residence.
- On May 31, 1994 the *social reinsertion phase* began to support those who had finished their time in the community.
- The ARCO Group achieved private legal status on December 30, 1993.

The Center's growth has been impressive. From March to December, 1993 some 70 young people were cared for and in December of 1994 the number exceeded 150.

In this work the help of the volunteers has been extraordinary in their attending to the needs of the young people who come for recuperation and reinsertion. The volunteers assure the good functioning of many services under the guidance of two female religious.

To assure and further this ministry a group has recently been formed with the name of the "Association of Friends of the ARCO Group".



**MASS for the Poor:
Brother Gustavo talking with the residents.**

REGION OF ITALY PROMOTION OF LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS

Organization of Lasallian Volunteers

In Italy there are several projects with volunteers working in Lasallian ministries, such as the ARCO Group in Turin, the VOLAS Association in Acireale, the Aquilone Association in Milan, the Regalbuto Association, the La Salle Association in Genoa and the La Salle Association of the Angelo Mai Institute in Rome.

Blessed with these many and varied initiatives, the Region of Italy sponsored a workshop about this topic and it was held at the Generalate on February 11-12, 1995. There were 18 Brothers and 44 lay partners in attendance, representing 24 different ministries: communities, associations, schools or groups.

Two experts on "The Italian Volunteer Foundation" presented talks on the subject in all its aspects, including spiritual and ascetic aspects.

Afterwards, characteristics proper to Lasallian Volunteers were discussed and there were three clear lines of thought: the educational goal, the community dimension and the spirit of faith and zeal.

From the discussion of these characteristics the need for adequate training was noted, both in motivation and in action, in order to fully realize the service of the volunteer.

Some criteria were established in the workshop for the present and the future:

- ensure that an association exists in each region.
- hold more national workshops to continually broaden the topic.
- create, in the future, a Federation of Volunteer Associations.

DISTRICT OF GREAT BRITAIN LASALLIAN PROJECTS IN FAVOR OF WORLD DEVELOPMENT

A volunteer activity: vacations for the physically challenged

In a spirit of communion, the Lasallian volunteers came together for an experience that would benefit the physically challenged. This was sponsored by the Rome Signum Fidei group.

The goal is to live with physically challenged persons during vacation time, sharing friendship with them and the enjoyment of being together.

The places chosen for this were Mondragone near Gaeta, with a beach, and Auronzo in Cadore, in the Alps.

There were great times together and it was obvious that the Lord had indeed blessed each person with special gifts. These were vacation periods, led by the Spirit, in which there was no difference between those in need of assistance and their helpers since all was shared in common amidst a spirit of family and fraternity.



Lasallian Family workshop for the Region of Italy to discuss the organization of Lasallian Volunteers. Rome, Generalate, February 11-12, 1995.

This experiment began in the District in 1985 and it brings together Brothers, teachers, students and parents.

Groups are formed during vacation time which travel to a developing country in order to take part in a specific project that will better the conditions of life while at the same time the participants get to know other cultures better.

The project began very simply and now it has expanded to include four or five projects annually.

This is a very concrete way of sharing mission between persons belonging to the Lasallian Family.

DISTRICT OF PERU

SHARING THE MISSION WITH PARENTS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS...

Sharing the mission with families

Parents are the primary educators for their children and the education they give is conditioned by the values that are present in the home.

To share mission with parents is to help them build an authentically Christian home.

The "School Committee for Parents" operates in the District and its purpose is to offer a formation for parents.

In the La Salle School of Lima there are 11 groups of Schools for Parents. The program has 21 sessions and it meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.



Peru: District Ministry Team.
Missing from the photo is Brother Manuel Olivé.

A Book of Reflections for teachers

In Peru this book is a very concrete expression of shared mission: it contains reflections for teachers.

It is made up of single page loose leaf sheets so that teachers can give a daily "Reflection" to their students, so important in Lasallian tradition.

Lay teachers are not always adept at speaking about topics that touch on intimacy and that might offer some spiritual guidance since they are so busy with the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

The District published this volume so that the teachers might ponder the contents of each topic, interiorize them and then transmit them to their disciples.

It is the mission of the Brother that extends to each Lasallian educator.

Sharing the mission with students

A. Lasallian Missions.

One very positive experience in Peru has been "Missions" with students.

The program consists in going to isolated areas to share some time with the people, to help them, to get to know them, to give Christian witness and lend them a hand.

In each mission there is a specific purpose: construction, repairs, installation, etc.

In 1994 there were 120 missionary volunteers who were upper level secondary school students divided among three schools: Tuti, Yanque and Achoma. They were accompanied by Brothers and lay teachers.

B. Vocation and Youth Ministry Committee.

- To involve young people in the apostolate and to teach them to share their own spiritual and material wealth with others is the goal of the many activities of this committee.

Vocation ministry goes hand in hand with youth ministry not only for the Brother but also for the Guadalupana Sister and for other forms of consecrated life.

- Among the activities of the Committee are:

* **National Lasallian Youth Meetings**, held annually at different sites in which all Lasallian Schools of the District participate. An integrated approach characterizes these meetings: prayer with social gatherings, happiness and good humor with a serious discussion of topics...it is a way of creating a family above and beyond the limitations of the school itself.

* **Vocation brochures**: These are simple sheets which are prepared to promote the Lasallian vocation among the student body, written in a familiar and clear style about Lasallian life, the person of the Founder, the mission of the teacher, the call of the Brother...

* **Lasallian Family Day**: Each school organizes its own day and participation is inclusive: Brothers, teachers, parents, students, former students, friends... There is a festive atmosphere with religious, cultural, sports activities as well as entertainment.

DISTRICT OF NORTH MEXICO LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS, YOUTH GROUPS, MISSIONS

Lasallian Volunteers

The Eighth District Chapter of the District of North Mexico, in accord with the guidelines of the 42nd General Chapter, decided to establish a Lasallian Volunteer program, especially in the ministries that served the poor. The El Salto Community, Pueblo Nuevo, Durango, began this program in January, 1995.

The young people themselves stated in their community program:

The Volunteer Program is our response to the invitation that the Lord Our God make to us personally and to our desire to consecrate this year of our life to God. We want to work through Him and for Him. We want to show our brothers and sisters on the sierra a loving God and a friend that we have found and cooperate with in the building of the Lord's Kingdom, associating ourselves with the Brothers in their apostolic effort in the Durango Sierra.

We, Lasallian Volunteers, in association with the Brothers of the Christian Schools of the El Salto community, animated by the love of God and because we want to respond to that love, living in fraternity the spirituality of St. John Baptist de La Salle, joyfully accept the challenge that the Church gives us, to work gratuitously and full-time, for one year, in the service of development and evangelization, especially of the poor, in the places where we shall be assigned".

Youth Groups and Missions

In all the District schools the laity work side by side with the Brothers in leading apostolic groups of youngsters, adolescents, young adults and former students. These groups are involved in varied areas of service and social development at each school: hospices, services for the blind, houses for abandoned children, hospitals, the care of hopeless cases, centers for youth reeducation, organizing sports programs in marginalized areas, home visits to the poor, catechesis and literacy.

Missionary projects are often carried out in the month of October, the month when all the schools commit themselves in prayer, solidarity and economic aid in favor of the Lasallian missions throughout the world by means of SECOLI.

Help given to the marginalized areas has a special dimension during the missions at Christmas, summertime and especially during Holy Week.

"Our life style is characterized by:

- 1. Our opting for God, united to Christ, moved by the Holy Spirit.*
- 2. Our life of fraternity, faith, friendship and service.*
- 3. Our opting for human development and evangelization, as a response to the needs of the people of the Sierra, to whom we are sent".*

Male and female young people participate in this program. Applicants must be high school graduates. Their consecration is for one year. They are sent in groups of 4 or 5 to each village for one month.

Their apostolate basically consists in creating or strengthening the community of faith: as catechists, men, women, young people, ministers of the Eucharist, and also they form committees to improve the life of the village.

They live in the village in the accommodation that the people provide for them; they eat what the people are willing to share with them; they visit the entire village and make a census report; they find out what the material and spiritual needs are, they lead prayers and take charge of the daily Eucharist, they foster the recitation of the rosary and the stations of the cross, they organize retreats for the people, they prepare catechists, they prepare for the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Matrimony; they support the formation of prayer groups and apostolic groups; with teachers they coordinate a way to improve contact with younger children and they support educational activities; they promote the creation of committees and they foster village participation for improving materials for the common good: place of worship, schools, sports facilities, etc.

Their life of fraternity is organized so as to include time for continuing formation (one and one-half hours daily), spiritual reading and for prayer in common.

When they complete the one month of service in the village, the entire fraternity returns to El Salto for a week of prayer, reflection, evaluation, material preparation and rest.

About 2,500 persons including Brothers, Sisters, priests, teachers, parents, students and former students participate annually in a mission. They are organized in fraternities of 20 members each and they are sent by the respective Bishops of the States of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Jalisco and Durango to some 150 villages where they minister.

The largest group of 1,250 missionaries, works in 85 villages of the El Salto Diocese, where they offer additional support to the efforts that are made during the year by the Brothers' community and the Lasallian Volunteers who offer their full time services to this diocese.

The Holy Week mission has as its objectives the human development and the evangelization of the villages. Activities include: family visits, prayer services and liturgical celebrations with the town, support for popular organizations, improvement of facilities, leading prayer groups, preparation of catechists and Eucharistic ministers, manual skills, sports and social activities with the people, and more.

SUB-DISTRICT OF MALTA ASSOCIATIONS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Stella Maris College

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) began twenty-five years ago in Malta's Stella Maris College and it has always been thought of as an integrated part of the school.

There was a time, especially at the beginning of the 1980's, when the organization fought determinedly to defend the freedom of education which was being seriously threatened by the socialist regime.

That crisis passed after 1984 and Association activities then concentrated on supporting the school's educational guidelines.

Since the education of young people requires close collaboration between the school and the family, the Association now has two main tasks:

- a. Aiding in formation for parents;
- b. Facilitating in every way possible contact between the family and the school.

The Association is headed by an elected committee from among its membership, whose function is to coordinate activities.

There is a **subcommittee for "continuing formation"** that organizes workshops, talks and cultural visits at least once per month.

Another subcommittee is the **women's subcommittee** which organizes social, educational and religious events in which many mothers participate.

The **Educational Helping Fund** offers financial assistance to those students who have lost the principal family wage earner.

Saint Benilde School of Sliema

This school also has a Parent-Teacher Association with the same objectives as the one in Stella Maris College.

The following activities were planned for 1994-1995:

- Two talks for parents (drug abuse prevention and children's hygiene).
- Green Week (in collaboration with other groups). Pottery for plants and various flora were donated for use on the school grounds.

The Womens' Club is in the process of reorganization. This group provides much support, including the funding for various activities.

For a time a news bulletin was published entitled "The Benildian".

Another mothers' group helps our occasionally, especially with the organization of First Communion.

Activities:

Apart from the activities already mentioned, there are other more focused groups:

- A group of parents is in charge of the "Stelmar Football Club". Each Saturday morning about 150 students are involved in learning, acquiring and developing their sports abilities through lessons, training sessions and competition.

- Another group of parents runs the "Scout" groups for the school. The organization and running of the groups is completely in their hands. There are weekly meetings with the various groups and sometimes activities are also offered for parents.

- The "Stelmar Sailing Club" is another group sponsored by parents and its maritime activities are carried out on Sunday mornings.

- A group of mothers regularly helps out with several activities, especially in the library.

- Whenever students are involved in activities outside of school, they are always accompanied by some parents who come along for supervision.

Formation of parents:

In close collaboration with the Brothers and teachers, parents are involved in the following formation activities:

- Two talks dealing with the prevention of drug abuse.
- Two talks concerning sex education.
- Guided visits: The Ghadira Nature Reserve, the Manoel Theater, a weekend in Gozo, etc.
- A full day, consisting of two mornings and one afternoon, of prayer and discussion during Lent, including a Eucharistic Liturgy.
- Four Family Masses, always well-attended on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day.
- Half day prayer meetings for mothers.
- Publication of the news bulletin "Parenteacher".

Malta: Lasallian schools teachers' meeting for year planning.



DISTRICT OF SÃO PAULO

THE LASALLIAN FAMILY COMMITMENT TO SCHOOLS

Parent Groups within the Abel Institute (São Paulo)

After the 41st General Chapter there were many District programs for providing training for Lasallian Family leaders. The organization was difficult because of the long distances involved which made regional meetings nearly impossible so the responsibility was left up to each apostolate.

The Abel Institute, Rio de Janeiro, took up the challenge and organized sessions for parents, with the following objectives:

- evangelize parents so that they will be able to participate more fully in the Lasallian Family.
- provide opportunities for studying the doctrine of the Church and the fundamental role of the family in the education of children.
- promote awareness of the life and spirituality of St. John Baptist de La Salle.
- promote the means so that participants might serve as Lasallian Family pioneers within their own communities.

Procedures:

1. Personal contact with parents, inviting them to participate in the session first and in the group later.
2. Form a group of 10 or 12 married couples, provide a weekend session for them under the direction of the Brothers and laity.
3. After the session, the group establishes its own rhythm of meetings to continue the training.

So far 74 married couples have participated in the session and seven groups have been formed. They meet monthly for prayer, discussion/study of Christian doctrine and Lasallian spirituality, sharing apostolic experiences that they have participated in as part of another association that cares for the needy.

Results:

- a deeper experience of Christianity within the family;
- improved relationships between the parents and the school;
- students are happy about their parents' participation in the Lasallian Family;
- parents spend more time working on behalf of the poor and marginalized;
- the parents report a sense of spiritual deepening for themselves.



Teachers in the District of São Paulo during a session at Conceição da Aparecida, MG, April 3-7, 1995.

Adult literacy. La Salle Education Center, São Carlos

In spite of the efforts that the country is making there are still many adults in the city of São Carlos, Brazil, who, for one reason or another, were not able to attend elementary school.

In order to help eliminate this unfortunate situation, the La Salle Educational Diocesan Center of São Carlos has encouraged its students in the Magisterium section to organize a Basic School for illiterate or semi-illiterate adults. The School has four grades and two campuses: one in the Diocesan Center itself, with a coeducational enrollment of 120, and the second in a public school in Ibaté, some 15 kilometers from São Carlos, with an enrollment of 75.

The La Salle Education Center provides all students with school materials free of charge.

Involvement in a ministry of care: Abel Institute, Niteroi, São Paulo.

In April, 1994, a group of Lasallians from the Abel Institute learned of the joint work that the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family and the Social Assistance Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were doing with a very poor group of 150 young children. Their work involved a halfboarding program with pre-school instruction and literacy.

They decided to work with them and they formed teams to participate in various activities, such as coordination, administration, secretary work, medical and dental services, evangelization, methodology, social gatherings, sports, etc.

These people were very generous with their time and some professionals maintain regular medical, legal and social services for this group so that immediate needs can be met.

Occasionally, the activities are evaluated during meetings that are held at the Abel Institute and which are attended by the Principal and by Lasallian Volunteers.

There are plans to further improve services and also to create workshops where the young people can begin to think about future employment.

The Lasallians have monthly meetings for adults about topics such as hygiene, sex, medicine and other topics that might improve their lives.

Recently a new dormitory has been built for the smallest children with space for 30 and a dining room, an activities room, dental facilities and a pharmacy. The Abel Institute also organizes financial campaigns to collect funds. A bazaar has been started where people can buy things which will also benefit this ministry.

We believe that this has been a very positive experience to stimulate our commitment to faith, fraternity and service.

DISTRICT OF CARACAS ELEVENTH ANNUAL MINISTRY DAYS

With the increased understanding of shared mission the District wanted to begin a new way of conducting the already well established District Ministry Days during which we Brothers would reflect on and design practical answers to the pastoral needs in our schools. For ten consecutive years the beginning of the school year has been preceded by a district commitment to meet about our mission.

As a response to Institute wishes that our lay partners with whom we share mission be more directly involved in processes of formation we decided to open these Eleventh Annual Days to the laity. The response was altogether unexpected as some 62 teachers joined us on September 7, 8, 9 in Barquisimeto to discuss the "Continuing Formation Program within the Shared Mission".

Topics:

STYLE OF THE LASALLIAN TEACHER

(page number references refer to the book *Spirit and Life* by Brother Alfredo Morales; P.E.L. = Lasallian Educational Program)

THE PERSON OF THE STUDENT

- personal knowledge of the student. The student as person (p. 250; PEL 2.1).
- respect for the maturing process of each student (p. 251; PEL 4.16).
- attention to progress in the learning process (p. 253; PEL 2.7.3).
- accompaniment and attention for the student (p. 260; PEL 1.19).
- reward as a way of increasing self-esteem (p. 266; PEL 4.4.1).

THE TEACHER

- attention to the teacher, especially the young teacher (p.270; PEL 2.4).
- gratuity as a principle of educational service (p. 301; PEL 1.12).

THE SCHOOL

- making the best use of time (p. 255; PEL 1.20).
- silence as guarantor of order and learning (p. 263; PEL 1.15 2nd).
- prayer and reflection in the classroom (p. 398; PEL 4.5.3).
- the school as an attractive appeal for the student (p. 275; PEL 1.6).
- the well-functioning school (p. 279; PEL 1.7).

DISTRICT OF FRANCE

SERVICES FOR LEADERSHIP IN MINISTRY

1. Catechesis and leadership in ministry

Lasallian pedagogical efforts do not distinguish between human and intellectual training and Christian and spiritual training. *"The living tradition of the Institute applies to the integration of faith in Jesus Christ in the daily lives of young people; it tries to closely unite efforts at evangelization with the work of civilization and access to culture".*

The objectives of the services for leadership in ministry are:

- to coordinate the pastoral activities and initiatives of young people;
- to help willing adults begin catechesis programs in the school;
- to encourage research teams to write documents about good methodological means;
- to make these research efforts known;
- to search for ways that the Lasallian message can help to inspire our concern for the evangelization of young persons.

The leadership in ministry program makes visits to schools, leads sessions, shares experiences, publishes a magazine entitled "Outil catéchétique" and other documents according to need.

2. Lasallian Youth Leadership

"We see sharing our mission and our spirituality with our lay partners and with other members of the Lasallian Family as an action of the Holy Spirit".

Guided by this affirmation of the Brother Superior and his Council and the desire of the Regional Assembly that asks the Brothers and the laity "to increase their commitment in the evangelization of the young people entrusted to us", the Brother Visitor of France has entrusted the mission of the pastoral leadership of Lasallian youth to a lay colleague.

This person is a part of the Secretariat team for catechesis and pastoral leadership. His appointment assures that the shared mission is seen on all levels, both in national administration and in local leadership.

One of the more intense moments of shared mission occurred during the Lasallian Youth meeting in La Baronnerie, Angers, May 25-27, 1995.

Leadership of the Lasallian Youth opens a new dimension of the shared mission: a team of four or five young persons meet three times per year to discuss guidelines and plans for use by Lasallian Youth teams.

3. Service for Lasallian vocations:

This is coordinated at the school, Diocesan and mission level.

There are three principles to keep in mind:

- Lasallian ministry should foster the entire person of the young person.
- A baptized person who is growing in faith should be able to find a place within the Church and carry out his/her vocation within the Church.
- The vocation of the Brother of the Christian Schools is very much needed for the world and the Church of today.

The Lasallian Vocation Service is a structure of the District of France for the service of vocation ministry. It was created by the 1990 Regional Assembly:

"to assure a steady leadership and to promote specific services, the Assembly requests the creation at the Regional level of a team of three Brothers full-time for the service of vocation ministry".

This team leads groups on weekends to reflect about the meaning of the vocation of the Brother of the Christian Schools; it also leads the Lasallian Search Group; it organizes meetings and assemblies for youth. It develops vocation ministry with young people or lay Lasallians, such as young teachers, etc.; and it assures the interrelation with other Institute and Church services of leadership, such as the national vocation service, the Mission Secretariat, etc.

It also supports communities as they work foster and accompany vocations.

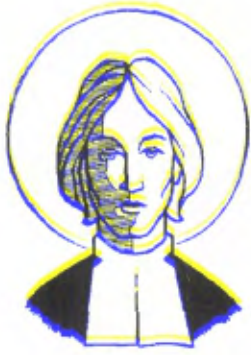
4. Mission Leadership:

SEMIL, the Lasallian Missionary Service, attempts to respond to the recommendation of the 1986 Regional Chapter, promoting interchanges between French Lasallian schools and those in developing countries. It aims to make other nations known to young people and adults and to have them be open to solidarity with these countries.

To realize this objective, SEMIL offers a stay of several weeks in various countries to youth groups. Participants carefully prepare for the trip by getting to know about the country, its population, religious situation, types of jobs, etc. After their stay, they stay in contact through the Lasallian network of schools, they foster occasions of solidarity and sometimes they are committed to be civil volunteers for periods of two years or more...

The adults who accompany the groups also hold trip preparation meetings. They are in charge during the stay and they follow-up the event as stated above.

Adults within the Lasallian network may also participate in trips of a similar nature. In February, 1996, one group went to India. These adult Brothers and lay persons often become agents themselves of a new type of missionary dimension in the school.



District of Rome: Participants at a CELAS meeting.



District of São Paulo, São Carlos Center:
Participants at a Session for Teachers.

District of South Mexico:
St. Benilde prayer community of Kinder La Salle,
in the chapel of the Lasallian Guadalupanas Sisters.



District of Central America:
Teachers in a formation group at Cartagena.

District of Peru, Arequipa:
Lasallian Youth at the Pentecost vigil.



**SHARING MISSION
PRESUPPOSES
SHARING SPIRITUALITY**

The Institute "sees the existence of the various Lasallian movements as a grace from God renewing its own vitality. The Institute can associate with lay people who want to lead the life of perfection that the Gospel demands, by living according to the spirit of the Institute and by participating in its mission.

The Institute helps them achieve their proper autonomy. At the same time it creates appropriate ties with them and evaluates the authenticity of their character"
(Rule 146)

"The 'Signum Fidei' groups constitute a form of spirituality for the Districts that is well suited to the laity - especially educators - and which finds its source of inspiration in St. John Baptist de La Salle".

(42nd General Chapter, Circular 435, p. 48)



THE "SIGNUM FIDEI" FRATERNITY

SHARING MISSION AND SPIRITUALITY



Origin

The "Signum Fidei" Fraternity began in the 1970's. In several places where there were Lasallian schools a good number of lay colleagues expressed an interest in making a deeper commitment to their own Christian lives along the spiritual and apostolic lines of the Brothers.

The superiors, seeing this as a sign of the action of the Holy Spirit, offered them the possibility of beginning an experiment in Lasallian life, with an appropriate lifestyle, the name "Signum Fidei" which appears in the seal of the Institute and which aptly expresses the purpose: to be a sign of faith in the world through one's personal life.

In November 1975, at a meeting of five lay persons and three Brothers held in Valencia, the principal guidelines of the "Style of Life" were drawn up.

In Rome on June 5, 1976, during the 40th General Chapter, the eleven first members of the Fraternity made their consecration.

What "Signum Fidei" is.

The Signum Fidei member is:

- *an adult Christian lay person who is responding to a call from God,*
- *and who wants to live out his or her baptismal consecration as a witness of faith*
- *in collaboration for the salvation of others, particularly in the apostolate of education, with special preference for the poor and those in need,*
- *and in connection with the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.*

The spirit of the Signum Fidei is the same spirit that should motivate a Brother; that is, the spirit of Faith which is the spirit of Christianity and that leads one to consider everything with the eyes of faith, to communicate that faith to others and to put that faith into service in order to bring others to salvation.

The living out of that spirituality takes place within some apostolate, such as that of Christian education, catechesis, helping others, etc., accompanied always with the living witness of the good example of the believer.

The Signum Fidei "community".

An important element of this living out of the Signum Fidei spirituality is that it is done in community, in "church". The group serves as a support and as a stimulus to the Signum Fidei member in order to fulfill his or her commitment, both the personal ones of the life of faith and those of the apostolate.

When possible, the Signum Fidei members gather together as a group or a community that establishes its own regular occasions for prayer, information and socializing.

The Signum Fidei journey.

It is up to the Brother Visitor to "admit" into the Signum Fidei those persons who want to become members of the Fraternity.

This admission requires a prior period of training in order to become familiar with the lifestyle that they desire to follow, the mission of Christian education in relation to the Institute of Brothers, what their commitment will entail, etc., and also to calmly discern if their motives are well founded.

After the training period, which is adapted to the circumstances of each District, members may make their consecration, with the approval of the Brother Visitor, and this consecration may be renewed annually.

In this way the Signum Fidei is part of the Lasallian Family and participates in the mission that the Institute received from God and from the Church.

The contact Group or Community is the ordinary place in which the member's spirituality and activities are nourished and which helps the member with appropriate continuing formation programs. Each group is structured and organized as an independent unit according to local circumstances.

In each District the Brother Visitor appoints a Brother or other person to serve as advisor to the Signum Fidei Groups. That person's mission is to accompany the members individually and the group as a whole in their growth in faith and the fulfillment of their commitments and to be the link between them and the Lasallian Institute.

At the Institute level, the Superior appoints a world advisor for the Signum Fidei Fraternities.

At the present time the following countries are participating in the Signum Fidei program: Italy, the Philippines, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Canada, Belgium, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, the Holy Land, Malta, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica...

The Signum Fidei Consecration

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with profound respect before your infinite majesty, I consecrate myself entirely to you to procure your glory as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me.

For this purpose, aware of the baptismal commitment that has enabled me to discover throughout my life the signs of your constant and merciful love, I unite myself with the members of the "Signum Fidei" Fraternity in order to promote, sustain and defend with them a total education for adults and young people, especially for those who are far from salvation, founded in the person of Jesus Christ and according to the spirit of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

I want to carry out this commitment in the following apostolic project:

wherein I will work individually or as part of a group, using all the means available to me, with your help, following the example of the Virgin Mary.

I promise to make the Gospel and its Law of Love the supreme rule of my life. Therefore, I accept the "Style of Life" of the "Signum Fidei" Fraternity and promise to adhere to it for a period of one year.

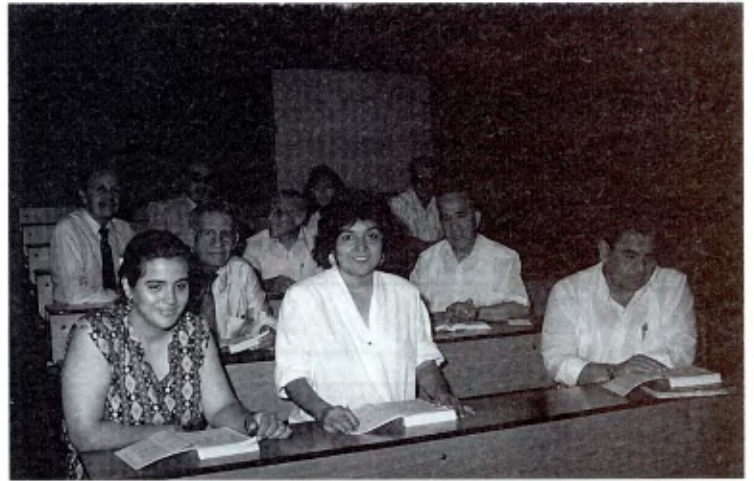
In testimony thereof I have signed.

Done at _____ on _____ in the year of Our Lord _____.

Signature



Barcelona, September 4, 1994:
Signum Fidei members from the District of Catalonia
renewing their consecration.



Guayaquil, Ecuador:
Signum Fidei members
at one of their regular meetings.



The "Signum Fidei" Association has published a document entitled "Style of Life" (Rome, 1994) and a "Handbook" entitled "Guided by the Spirit" (Rome, 1993) in both of which are the criteria for membership in the Association.

DISTRICT OF ANDALUCIA PLAN FOR THE SPREAD OF THE "SIGNUM FIDEI" MOVEMENT

A District Committee met to draw up a plan to promote the spread of the "Signum Fidei" Fraternity within the District.

The discussion concentrated on very practical points. The first point of order was to read the "documentation" concerning the movement: the texts of "*The 'Signum Fidei' Fraternity*" and "*Style of Life*" (dated October 7, 1994/Rome).

As a result of this reading, the following points were made:

a) **It should be made clear** as soon as possible to the following groups: teaching faculties, adult catechumens and Brothers' Communities that:

- the SF ("Signum Fidei") is "already functioning" and is an "open" group;
- the SF is a "stepping off point"; it is "demanding"; it is an "offer" to persons that have already followed a "process" and are "mature" enough to accept such an offer;
- they can be "invited" (or they can request) to become a member of the SF.

This information should be: wide in scope (including all the above groups) and individual (addressed to particular persons) that are in the final stage of the "process".

b) For this informational phase and for the next phase, we are committed **to drawing up two items:**

- an "**organization chart poster**" in which the various stages and persons to contact are explained;

- a "**notebook**" in which the SF identity and the "Signum Fidei" Groups are explained.

c) In the **MEETING PHASE an attempt is made** to offer appropriate guidance to those persons who feel called to membership in the SF; these persons should write a **PERSONAL LETTER** to the Brother Visitor in which they express their "motives" for their request, the request itself and their own personal data.

The Brother Visitor will evaluate each of the requests and respond to them.

d) Finally, if there are **persons who have requested membership** and the Brother Visitor's response is positive:

He will offer them a detailed plan:

- length of membership,
- conditions,
- a meeting with others who have requested membership,
- etc.

e) Throughout this process **there is a role to play** for those in charge of pastoral ministry and those in charge of the Lasallian Family in each school.

"Signum Fidei" Prayer

Father of all good things, in your loving providence,
you have chosen me to be a sign of FAITH
in this world
full of confusion and doubt.

Stir up in me and in all Signum Fidei members
a spirit of deep FAITH
and generosity in the apostolic project that,
following the example
of St. John Baptist de La Salle,
will inspire others to consecrate their lives
to bring the Gospel to the world of education.

Bless the work of our brothers and sisters
wherever they may be

so that together,
animated and carried along
by your Spirit of Love,
we might more and more become salt for the earth
and light for the world,
especially among the poor
and those far from salvation.

Receive our brothers and sisters who have gone
before us marked with the sign of FAITH
and who sleep in your peace.

I ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord
and your beloved Son. Amen.

DISTRICT OF THE PHILIPPINES EXPANSION AND LEADERSHIP OF THE "SIGNUM FIDEI" FRATERNITY

In the District of the Philippines the Signum Fidei Fraternity is deeply rooted in the form of an Association.

– The beginnings:

The Signum Fidei movement began in the Philippines at the beginning of the 1980's just after it was promoted in Rome.

It came from the desire of some lay colleagues who worked with the Brothers to share in and live out the Lasallian spirituality and mission at a deeper level.

The Brother Visitor, Victor Franco, invited a group of lay persons to some prayer meetings in order to share faith and become more familiar with the Founder. It was here that the desire for a greater commitment in the mission was born.

The first Signum Fidei consecration took place in 1982 in the presence of the Brother Superior General.

The first group or community, called "Chapter" in the District, began at La Salle Green Hills and the members committed themselves to the day to day operation of the school called "Signum Fidei Learning Center".

– Growth:

The number of teachers interested in this movement increased and so a second "chapter" was established at De La Salle-Lipa, Batangas; later on, more were established at Manila's De La Salle University and La Salle School, Antipolo. Currently there are Signum Fidei Chapters present in 14 District schools with more than 150 consecrated members and some 100 aspirants.



– Member formation:

In order to respond to the desire for an increase in spiritual growth on the part of the members, the Lay Formation committee, composed of Signum Fidei Coordinators, began Formation Seminars. The first was held at the La Salle Green Hills Retreat House from April 24 - May 1, 1989; the second one followed from May 2-7, 1990. The focus was on Sacred Scripture, the Sacraments, the teachings of the Church and the life of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The members from the island of Luzon were able to take advantage of some sessions in 1989 given on Saturdays by Brother Gregory Wright about the spirit and spirituality of De La Salle.

For the financial support of the "Chapters" the "Signum Fidei" Foundation has been established.

Each Chapter determines its own project and apostolic ministry.

– National Assemblies:

The Chapters decided to hold a National Assembly once every two years.

The following have been held to date:

1st National Assembly: May 24-26, 1991 with the theme: "Coming together in Faith".

2nd National Assembly: May 28-30, 1993 with the theme: "From commitment to commitment".

3rd National Assembly: April 18-20, 1995 with the theme: "Signum Fidei, Witness to the Joy of Easter".

Upper photo: Brother Victor Franco gives the homily to the Signum Fidei members of Luzon on the Feast of Saint Miguel Febres Cordero.
Bottom, left: A Signum Fidei member shares faith with the assembly.
Right: The Signum Fidei Group of the San José School at work during the April 1995 National Assembly.



LEBANON

VITALITY OF THE SIGNUM FIDEI FRATERNITIES

In Lebanon there are eight Signum Fidei communities. Seven are made up of teachers from Lasallian schools and one is made up of teachers from a parish school.

– Meetings:

Each community has a monthly meeting. The parish group has a meeting once per week.

There are three general meetings during the year, one every three months.

Mornings are devoted to recollection; afternoons include recreational activities.

At Christmas all members are invited to a Meeting.

– Meeting Content:

The program drawn up annually by the Brother Advisor and community representatives.

In general the topics are:

Sacred Scripture, with texts provided for sharing.

Teachings of the Church, with some chapter of a pontifical document provided for comments and sharing.

A Lasallian topic: Meditation, a chapter from the Signum Fidei Handbook, etc.

– Retreats:

During the summer there is a three-day retreat for Signum Fidei members. In 1994 groups from Lebanon and Jordan joined together for the retreat. The Jordan group was actually founded by a Lebanese who had been sent to Jordan by his community for that purpose.

In 1995 the retreat was held in Jordan along with the members from Lebanon and the Holy Land.

Another member was sent to the Holy Land to establish Signum Fidei communities there and so the seed has been planted.



DISTRICT OF PERU

SIGNUM FIDEI COMMUNITIES IN ALL APOSTOLATES

Groups:

The Signum Fidei Fraternity is very strong in Peru, having been established in 1985 in Trujillo. Later on it continued to grow so that now all apostolates have teachers that have made their consecration.

There are 11 groups in all and these were officially constituted into an Association on October 11, 1995.

Activities:

The groups adhere to the guidelines given in the "Signum Fidei Guidebook" and the "Style of Life", they hold regular meetings including an annual Assembly, they have frequent prayer meetings, there are retreats every year and days of recollection throughout the year, many talks and conferences about the mission of the Christian educator, shared mission, etc.

The groups are led and supported by Brother Manuel Olivé and Brother Adrián Revilla serves as advisor.

Apostolic Activities:

Besides their dedication to apostolate of teaching, there are other special activities:

- Family counseling.
- Support for needy schools.
- Catechesis for young children who would not normally receive it.
- Preparation for young people and adults for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, etc.
- Coordination of special days: Fathers' Day, Mothers' Day, etc.

Left: Signum Fidei Groups of Lebanon as they finish their three-day retreat.

Right: The Signum Fidei Group of Lima, whose members sponsor the school for children who would not normally attend classes.



REGION OF ITALY

THE SIGNUM FIDEI FRATERNITIES WITHIN THE LASALLIAN FAMILY

The two Districts of Italy, Rome and Turin, have seen the Signum Fidei groups grow and multiply.

The first consecration dates back to 1976 and members were on the increase anonymously until 1985. Beginning with that year the movement was formally structured in both Districts with coordination teams and District level leadership.

But Signum Fidei in Italy is also organized at the national level and there are sometimes Assemblies, Seminars, Retreats

and Meetings held at that level.

There are currently 15 Signum Fidei groups.

Social and apostolic commitment is characteristic of these groups that devote their efforts and attention to works of charity, such as camps for the physically challenged, educational activities, after school assistance, etc., etc.

Meetings for members of each group tend to be held every two weeks with time for socializing, reflection and prayer.



One Signum Fidei group of Malta.



A group of 8 Signum Fidei members in Panama with their advisor, Brother José Morales.

A Signum Fidei group from South Mexico in a preparatory session for the renewal of their promises.



Members of the Signum Fidei group of Cartagena, Colombia, renewing their consecration.



FRANCE

LASALLIAN THIRD ORDER

A little bit of history.

In 1984 some lay persons approached the Brothers of the Region of France asking for the authorization to begin a Lasallian Third Order. After some time of discernment, the superiors granted the permission.

As they began their initiative, they adopted some measures that would serve as the base for their future Rule.

Before the 1986 General Chapter, the Brothers of the Region of France and Brother Patrice Marey, General Councillor, asked these lay persons to draw up a Rule. They presented it in 1987 and it was accepted "ad experimentum" for a period of five years.

In 1992 the members of the third order asked the Brother Superior General if the approval could be extended for another three years and it was.

The Rule, as currently written in its 1995 edition, is the result of eight years of a life of faith and prayer mixed together with joys and difficulties. It is the result of a lived and a tested experience in an "open community", in its goal setting as well as in its various stages of mission and formation. It is not something which is definitive, but it remains open to the many possibilities which may yet be revealed by the action of Providence.

Goals

(from Chapter One of the Rule)

The purpose of the Third Order is to be on mission among young people as participants in the ministry of the local Church. The members of the third order take care to live out and carry the message of the Gospel in the world, especially in the field of education.

The members actively participate in the human and Christian education of youth, especially of those most in need, wherever they may be found.

They work in close cooperation with the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, share the same objectives, according to the spirit of St. John Baptist de La Salle, find their inspiration in the same Rule, keeping in mind their status as lay persons.

Third Order members work with the Brothers in their search for and development of a solid catechetical program, within an academic environment, that includes the basic fundamentals of doctrine, with a methodology adapted to diverse circumstances.

The members of the Third Order live a life of service - service to God, guided by the Holy Spirit - as they follow Jesus Christ according to the charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

Spirituality (from Chapter Two).

The Third Order was founded by Providence and in poverty...

The spiritual Father of the members of the Third Order is the Founder of the Brothers, St. John Baptist de La Salle. His personal journey revealed to them his abandonment to God and how he used this in a spirit of faith and zeal.

The members of the Third Order live out their faith as a gift for the ministry of Christian education. Ministers of God and of the Church, concerned with "touching hearts", they carry out their mission with a burning zeal that requires the work of the Lord.

This spirituality is nourished each day by the prayer of the Church that is shared in community.

This spirituality gives meaning to their commitment as members of the Third Order. It is lived out in whatever state of life God has called them as members of the Third Order, married or single.

Mission (from Chapter 3).

Members of the Third Order are at the service of the human and Christian education of young people, preferably in Lasallian schools and apostolates. This education includes all activities of the apostolate: teaching, catechesis, recreation supervision, administration and all those things that make up the life of a Catholic educational center.

With regard to the work that the Brothers do, some members of the Third Order feel called to work in activities apart from the school where there might be young people with special problems...whether acting as youth or adult supervisors their attitude is always one that recognises the importance of the person...

For their mission, the community is responsible for their continuing formation.

They submit their apostolic plans for the discernment of the community...thus assuring that their plans are in according with the purpose of the Third Order.

Members and the Community (from Chapters Four and Five).

The Third Order is made up of lay persons, postulants, novices or consecrated members, men and women, married or single who live in "open communities".

(Vocation) ... is discerned and deepened over a period of time ...by prayer, study and formation.

The age of admission to the postulancy varies in accordance with effective commitments and the amount of time spent as a candidate in apostolates of the Institute of the Brothers.

"Open community" is a group of at least three Third Order members who live in various places, but near to one another, and who meet regularly to pray, be involved in formation activities, reflect and share.

The community takes the necessary time and means to reflect on how it is practicing the Rule...It also draws up decisions that have been made...Interchanges give each the opportunity to express his or her thoughts.

Outside of meeting times, links between Third Order members are sustained and strengthened by community prayer which is the soul and breath of the Lasallian Third Order.

At the end of each academic year they draw up and revise the community annual program to which they are committed as individuals and as a community.

Postulants, novices and consecrated members participate together in a spiritual retreat once or twice per year.

Third Order members from different communities meet regularly and maintain cordial relations with each other...

The community pays special attention to documents from the Institute of the Brothers and those which come from the Council.

Commitment and Consecration (from Chapter Seven).

The commitment for Third Order members is based on one's Baptismal commitment. In the beginning it is for one year and it is renewable.

The following is the formula of consecration:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
following the movement of your grace,
I consecrate myself entirely to you,
in order to serve you according to the Gospel
and to procure your glory as far as I shall be able.
I wish to follow Christ
and serve young people following the example
of St. John Baptist de La Salle, according
to the spirit of his Institute and in union with it
and for this purpose, I.....associate myself
to those who have associated themselves to live
in the Lasallian Third Order in the service
of the human and Christian education of youth.

I therefore promise
to live according to the Rule of the Lasallian Third
Order
in current practice today.

Done at.....

Signature.

This commitment is annually renewed at the end
of the retreat.

Formation (from Chapter Six).

Each community establishes its own program for formation that includes:

- a training period for personal and community prayer and liturgical prayer;
- the spirituality of St. John Baptist de La Salle;
- interiorization of the Rule;
- learning to live in an "open community";
- preparation for proclaiming the Gospel.

The postulancy is a stage of initial formation that offers the means for reflection, enriching one's faith and vocational discernment. It lasts a minimum of one year and the candidate participates regularly in an open community.

The novitiate normally lasts for two years, according to the personal rhythm of each individual. This period includes an in-depth study of the spirituality of St. John Baptist de La Salle. The end of this period is marked by admission to a first commitment for a period of one year and it is renewable.

After several years of temporal commitment, the member may request admission to a final commitment.

Government (from Chapter Eight)

A secret ballot among the members of the Council and community leaders determines the leader of the Third Order. The mandate is for four years and may be renewed once. This person is the guarantor of the Rule, spirit and unity of the Third Order.

Each "open community" elects a leader from among its members with a three-year mandate, renewable two times.

Basic decisions are made by the Third Order Council which is made up of the founding members, two associate members and the community leaders.

* * *

Currently the Third Order headquarters is located at 78A, rue de Sèvres, 75341 Paris Cedex 07.

Means of communication and information for the Lasallian Family

For the entire Institute

Three Institute publications are aimed at the entire Lasallian Family and can serve as a way to "spread" the news concerning our life, our mission and our spirituality.

INTERCOM.

This is a "newsletter" type of publication containing information about the Lasallian world across the five continents.

There are five issues per year.

LASALLIANA

This is a publication offered for reflection that includes articles, ideas, articles of research, thought, etc.

There are three issues per year consisting of 20 articles per issue.

INSTITUTE BULLETIN

Since 1993 this publication appears yearly on a single theme with worldwide interest for the Institute. The theme is proposed by the General Council.

The distribution of these publications is handled through the Brother Visitors.

Region of Italy

Lasallian Flash Newsletter

FLASH is a periodical that publishes ideas, opinions, events and news. It informs, with the intention of creating a new Lasallian lifestyle for those who already are or who hope to be part of our educational world.

The **dual purpose** of the periodical is "to inform" and "to form". The contents are presented in an lively, clear and concise newspaper style. Long, exhortative articles are avoided.

The **content and structure** are as follows:

- The first page contains the lead article written by a competent Lasallian and in general deals with topics about the Institute or the Region of Italy.
- The second page is reserved for the Italian Lasallian Family.
- The third page tends to be devoted to an in-depth look at Lasallian questions.
- Pages four to seven report events or happenings relative to the vitality of the Lasallian Family in Italy, the events chosen are of newsworthy interest for all Lasallian schools.
- Page eight contains a selection of international news from the Lasallian world, compiled from the pages of "Intercom".

The format is similar to that of a newspaper rather than that of a magazine and so its specific objective is realized.

Other District Publications

In District newsletters there are references to informational sheets, bulletins or magazines that are distributed among the various Lasallian Family groups.

Baltimore: "District Newsletter"
Caracas: "Nosotros" Bulletin
Central America: "Unidos en La Salle"
Great Britain: "LACE" Bulletin
Malta: "Parenteachers"
Medellin: "Familia Lasallista"
Region of Italy: "Informa CELAS"
Region of Italy: "Flash Notiziario Lasalliano"
São Paulo: "Familia Lasallista" Bulletin
South Mexico: "Boletín Informativo"
Toronto: "Signum Fidei Newsletter"
Valladolid: "Intercom Distrito de Valladolid"

United States-Toronto Region

Heads of Lasallian schools have two publications at their disposal to help them study the topic of Shared Mission with the School Community:

1. Characteristics of Lasallian Schools.

Its publication was sponsored by the Regional Educational Board. It was drawn up with the help of more than 150 Brothers and lay partners from throughout the Region. It appeared for the first time in 1986. Later it was updated and published by St. Mary's Press. It offers a selection of quotations from the *Meditations for the Time of Retreat* and it describes the objectives and specific activities in three separate sections: 1. The Teacher as a Minister of Grace. 2. Association. 3. Administration of the Schools.

2. "Shared Mission":

This is also the work of the Regional Educational Board.

This was published during the summer of 1995 and it offers guidelines for use by administrators with their faculty and staff. It was drawn up by a committee of Brothers and lay partners and ideas were submitted by more than 200 Brothers and teachers.

It offer six steps for deepening the sense of partnership in the Lasallian Mission:

1. Inviting and welcoming.
2. Building the Foundation.
3. Sharing the Challenge.
4. Making Shared Mission Work.
5. Growing together in Faith.
6. Expanding Our Horizons.

The District, in response to its program of promoting and coordinating the Lasallian Family, began a quarterly publication entitled "Information Bulletin" in 1993. It is composed of sections pertinent to all District recognized groups.

It is seen as a unifying and coordinating element among all components of the various sectors and groups.

DISTRICT OF ARGENTINA DRAWING UP OF THE "BASIC CHARACTERISTICS"

N.B. This example from the District of Argentina has been chosen to conclude the current Bulletin devoted to "Experiences of Shared Mission". Perhaps it would have been appropriate also to serve as an introduction to all the rest. But since this example is broader than the topics of previous chapters and in a certain sense embraces them all, we think that it serves as a good epilogue and summary of the journey that is reflected in all of the experiences that were submitted.

Since 1978 the District of Argentina has called for all parties of educational communities to be included in plans to draw up a document that would contain principles, criteria and objectives of Lasallian education.

This process involved Brothers and lay teachers from all over the District. It was coordinated by District government and included three phases:

- 1st phase: participation by all teaching faculties;
- 2nd phase: document review and suggestions given in each school;
- 3rd phase: general evaluation and corrections submitted for incorporation into the final document.

The document was called "Basic Characteristics" because they are the fundamental guidelines for our educational efforts.

The first phase included the following important elements:

- personal reading of Church documents.
- meetings and small group discussions.
- large group meetings in each school for sharing the work of the small groups.
- personal written suggestions using sheets provided.

After this first phase was completed a committee of Broth-

This is a group composed of four Brothers, two Religious Sisters and five young people (three male, two female) who are in charge of retreats for students in our schools. The retreats take place in the retreat center which is located in a beautiful spot in the south of England.

The team works together in collaborative ministry in favor of the participants.

ers and lay partners was formed to edit the first draft, which appeared in November, 1979.

During the second phase the main chapters of the document were prepared in outline form:

- The Lasallian school in the salvific plan.
- The Lasallian school, a community that educates.
- The Lasallian school humanizes by promoting culture.
- The Lasallian school, a component of the Church.

In December 1981, the first edition was available to communities.

Characteristic of the entire process was:

- overall coordination by the government committee.
- broad participation by teaching faculties.
- participation made available by meetings of the educational community.
- discussions based on doctrinal documents.
- Brothers and laity working together.
- a marked sense of being catechized by all participants.

Some of the results of the entire process:

- the rediscovery of the spirit of De La Salle within the District together with an openness on the part of the laity to his charism and spirituality.
- a determined invitation by the Church to the laity to take their rightful place in the process of evangelization.
- very broad District participation including administrative councils, D. E. F., ministry committees, Lasallian spirituality weeks, the educational program, etc.

In short, "this has all been a process of communion and participation in which we Brothers and the laity, acting in close union, have attempted to renew the special mission that the Church has entrusted to us: the evangelization by means of the school", as the introduction to the Basic Characteristics states.



Region of Spain-Portugal, ARLEP:
A group of Lasallian teachers during a work session
in Aravaca, Madrid, in September, 1994.



Madagascar: a symbolic scene of Shared Mission:
together we work to build up the Kingdom of God.



Lebanon: Members of a "Joint Session" of former students.

Australia: formation session for Lasallian teachers.



León, District of South Mexico:
Opening of the second Lasallian meeting in the Bajío Area.

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