

## A community on the way

When Pope Benedict XVI held his first interview, a few days after his election, he was asked what specific message he wanted to bring to the young people he was going to meet in Cologne, and his immediate response was: *I want to show them how nice it is to be a Christian, since there is the widespread idea that Christians must observe an immense number of commandments, prohibitions, principles, etc., and that therefore, Christianity is, according to this idea, something that tires out and oppresses life, and that life is freer without all these burdens. I would like, on the other hand, to stress that to be supported by a great love and by revelation is not a burden, but they are like wings, and that it is beautiful to be a Christian. This experience gives us depth, but above all it gives us community when we know that, as Christians, we are never alone: first of all we find God, who is always with us; and then we, among ourselves, always form one great community, a community that is on a journey, that has a future project: all of this demands that we live a life that is worth living.*

This is fundamentally what I hope you young people will contribute to the Lasallian educational mission. That, by embracing the experience of a God who is always close, you might be a community on a journey with a future project starting from the horizons of the present, the body, the fragmentation, the religious. That you might make possible the mission, sharing your dreams and acknowledging that the Lord will not quench your thirst, nor satisfy your hunger but that he will urge you towards life, so that others, so that everyone, might have life, and have it in abundance.

*(From the speech of Br. Álvaro Rodríguez to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians)*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians Mission: Possible!



The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians was held in July 2006 at the Generalate in Rome. It was coordinated by a team of Young Lasallians from the Regions of Italy and ARLEP and attended by one hundred fifty delegates representing all of the Regions of the Lasallian world. During the Symposium, the delegates shared experiences and developed the theme **"Mission Possible: a Shared Dream."**

This International Symposium constitutes an important step in the construction of the Lasallian Youth Movement and is an opportunity to give a response to the request which the whole Institute and the Lasallian Family has in front of it as a call to follow the Lord Jesus in the Third Millennium. From the invitation of the General Chapter of 2000 *"to rethink the mission from the perspective of association for the human and Christian education of all young people starting out from the poorest"* and from the mandate given by John Paul II to the young *"to construct a civilisation of peace without avoiding facing up*

*to injustices"*, was born the need for an international network of young Lasallians which took concrete form with the constitution of an International Council active since 2000 and with the Vicar-General, Br. William Mann as its Adviser.

The First International Symposium took place in Quebec in 2002; some 'continental' and regional meetings along with multiple initiatives carried out locally in the service of the most disadvantaged, marked out the path which today is leading the young Lasallians of the world to have a significant say in the future of the mission which the Holy Spirit has confided in the Church to the disciples of St. John Baptist de La Salle, both religious and lay. This educational mission ought to call upon and unite in active participation and in the search for their own vocation, young people who feel called to serve the Lord Jesus in a community group starting out from the face of those who are suffering.

The Second International Symposium is a decisive stage not only in the process of

consolidating the Movement of Young Lasallians at the international level but also in building a "youth voice" and having a say in the MEL/Association Assembly in autumn 2006. We have lived a passionate experience during the Symposium's preparation; we hope it will be the same for you too.

So, in the Generalate, 150 young Lasallians from all over the world began the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of the Young Lasallians Movement.

The first day opened with exercises for getting to know each other. Centered on the Creation, the prayer was animated with symbols and texts from the Founder.

Wednesday, July 26 was a very full day, with a great deal of profound content. On this first full day of the Symposium, we young Lasallians from all over the world were invited to reflect on the following question: what kind of world are we called to build?

Emilio Baccarini placed us within a framework from the Christian-philosophical point of view, in which each of us is important and necessary in effecting the change that the world must make if we are to move toward a tomorrow filled with fraternity and peace.

The participants in the Symposium were well satisfied with the visit to Assisi with regards



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

*Postal Address:* C.P. 9099 (Aurelio)  
 00100 Rome, Italy

**Director:** Br. José A. Warletta

**Translators:** Bros. Bernardo Montes, Aidan Marron, John Blease, José M<sup>a</sup> Pérez Mendía, José Martínez, Jean Beaudoin, José M<sup>a</sup> Bourdet, José A. Warletta

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to their expectations of an experience of faith. We could use many words to describe the experience, but we will sum it up in a single expression: Saint Francis.

On Friday, July 28 we discovered that without a doubt our mission is possible. We appreciated the diversity of responses that Young Lasallians are providing in situations of poverty and desperation we can see all around us.

Many are life choices, like that of being a committed young person in the Philippines, or being a young Lasallian in France and Australia. There are also multiple concrete commitments such as the network of San Miguel Schools in the US, the Indivisa Manent youth movement in Colombia, the school for peace and life in La Reliquia, Doposcuola di quartiere in Italy, the CINTRA center in Barcelona (Spain), working with refugees in Karthoum (Sudan), missionary experiences in Egypt, or the Lasallian Volunteer movement in El Salto (Mexico).

All these interesting service experiences, despite their great diversity, have two fundamental points in common: they arise from a faith-based interpretation of reality, and they are united to a powerful experience of life and fraternity.

Saturday, July 29 was not very different from the rest of the working days. We concentrated on the situation of the International Movement of the Young Lasallians and the perspectives for the future. We began with a presentation of the International Council of Young Lasallians and then continued our reflection in language groups. These groups discussed the model of young Lasallians proposed for the immediate future of the aforementioned council.

Brother Alvaro left the young people with words of hope for a future full of meaning is possible only to the extent that they turn to the poor whom we are called to serve through education.

Br. William Mann, Vicar General, together with Diane Leugteb Munson and Daniela Massotti, presented some final remarks to the Symposium.

The Eucharist was animated by the whole assembly of young people with great enthusiasm and passion.

The final party was held in the courtyard of La Salle school. Everyone was delighted with the spectacle of colors, music, games and dancing while the Brothers and parents served the dinner. ■



## United by the Mission

As we look to the future, it is certain that the last five days we have spent together will shape the years that lay ahead. Our path will not be paved by one person or one idea. Our steps will continue to be small but steady so that we leave no one behind but constantly move in the direction of all of our dreams. Our aims may be many, but we are clearly united by the mission that we live and the Spirit that calls us to do just that.

May we continue to teach each other, to learn from each other, and to inspire each other to work for a better world. Let us use the links we have as an international community of young people committed to education, tolerance, and peace as an example for all of the nations from which we come. Each person in this room is responsible for our movement; let us continue to work together for something truly great.

*Diane Leutgeb Munson, ICYL*



## Profile of the Young Lasallian<sup>1</sup>

Associated in the Educational Mission, Young Lasallians,<sup>2</sup> coming from different realities and whatever their vocation, are called to be protagonists of a personal and community project by becoming permeated with the Lasallian charism which shows itself in the linking of Faith, Community and Service.

Young Lasallians unite themselves around a common spirit and mission. Through a process of discovery, sharing and integration, Young Lasallians live, in varying degrees, the following five characteristics:

1. A vocation to be lived in reference to the charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his values;
2. a life of faith which discovers God in everyday reality in the light of Scripture and, for persons of other religions, according to their own sacred texts;
3. a community experience lived in diverse ways and according to the identity of each one;
4. a mission associated with the educational service of the poor and which implies a certain duration of time;
5. a universal openness which transcends the person and the local reality.<sup>3</sup>

Sent to share the same mission with all Lasallians of the world, Young Lasallians live in their own way what the Founder wished and what the Brothers try to live still: to respond to the educational and spiritual needs of the children of the working class and the poor. Three large fields of action (even though they are not exclusive) can sum up the specific expression of this Lasallian Mission for Young Lasallians:

1. touching the hearts of children, based on a knowledge of their rights and of their needs, while trying to be active agents in educational service;
2. promoting social justice, based on a good knowledge of what is socially at stake so as to be able to target injustices;
3. living Lasallian values so as to be a visible sign of the Love of God, while seeking, wherever this applies, to be active in the pastoral ministry and faith formation of the young and in transmitting these values to others in an authentic manner.

United in the Spirit and in the mission, Young Lasallians display a rich diversity, as much on the vocational, cultural, generational and religious level as on the professional level. Thus a profound respect is lived among these young people, whether they be lay people, Lasallian Sisters or Brothers, clerics, students or those working professionally, Catholics, or members of another religion or belief system. No discrimination, whether sexual, racial, political, linguistic or other is encouraged in the various Young Lasallian movements around the world.<sup>4</sup> The generally accepted age of Young Lasallians fluctuates between 16 and 35.

Following in the footsteps of John Baptist de La Salle, himself an innovator in his time, Young Lasallians display a bold creativity in the world of today. They therefore commit themselves to a multitude of service projects, whether in favor of the poor, children and young people, education, the environment or any need inspired by the Lasallian mission and spirit. Furthermore they operate at local, national and international levels.

Young Lasallians are, therefore, the constructing agents of a world of love, who act in association with the Lasallian Family and in collaboration with all persons and groups of good will.

<sup>1</sup> This is a working document that will continue to be revised over time.

<sup>2</sup> To note that, depending on Districts, the Young Lasallians are known by different names.

<sup>3</sup> Brothers of the Christian Schools, The Acts of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter: "Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor as a Lasallian Response to the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Rome: Casa Generalizia, page 4.

<sup>4</sup> Following Quebec 2002, the first International Symposium of Young Lasallians, a synthesis was made by the International Council of Young Lasallians. Expressed in the form of a Creed, this synthesis could, in its entirety or in part, help the teams and the movements to proclaim their commitment and their adhesion to the Lasallian Family. It is based on this Creed that young persons might each construct their own Lasallian identity by stating what they believe in and what animates them.

# Lasallian Educational Mission



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE  
ASAMBLEA INTERNACIONAL  
INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
**2006**

## International Assembly 2006: "Associated for the Mission"

1. to look for and to propose responses to the new needs of the Lasallian mission
2. to share experiences of association, to analyze and evaluate the unfolding of the process of association for mission;
3. to present plans for action to the next General Chapter with regard to points 1 and 2.

### The role of the Assembly

Its role derives from the mandate which the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (2000) has conferred upon the IA-2006:

- Its role is one of discernment and launching proposals and action plans.
- The IA-2006 has been endowed with the mandate to discover and to make known reality as regards Association and the educational mission, in the light of the Lasallian charisma; to draw attention to areas of concern and to challenges arising; to build a Lasallian vision of the present situation.
- The IA-2006 should point out the road to follow and to offer plans for action.

*(More extensive information about the IA-2006 in the next issue of Intercom)*

From October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the International Assembly 2006: "Associated for the Lasallian Mission", takes place in Rome, Italy. 158 Delegates from all the Lasallian Regions participate in this gathering, held in the La Salle Generalate.

### Origin of the IA-2006

The IA-2006 owes its existence, first of all, to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter, which established it by means of two propositions, 3 (Association) and 8 (Lasallian Educational Mission).

- It was convoked by the Brother Superior General and his Council, through the MEL Standing Council (Prop. 3 and 7).
- The General Chapter envisioned the IA-2006 as an opportunity for a meeting between Brothers and Partners on the world level to develop the following objectives (according to Propositions 3 and 8, in light of guidelines 1 to 4, pages 13-14):

## France Beauvais: A new University Center

The merger between the ISAB (Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture de Beauvais) and the IGAL (Institut de Géologie Albert de Lapparent) to form a new University Center, with the name of **Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais**, has been announced.

IGAL, a Geology and Environment Graduate School (250 students and 20 employees) will move onto the LaSalle Beauvais campus in September 2007.

The LaSalle Universities project was a major element of the merger. This new name demonstrates the involvement of ISAB and IGAL in the IALU Project.



Moraga, California

## Manado, Indonesia Recollection for Principals and Teachers of Catholic Education

Members of *Signum Fidei*, Manado, successfully facilitated a Recollection for principals and teachers of the Catholic Education Foundation chaired by Fr. Fred Tawaluyan. Held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, this event aimed to introduce the principals and teachers to Lasallian Spirituality and the life of the Patron of Christian Teachers. During the group discussions, every participant (about 180) was encouraged to share his/her experiences in life related to their call as teachers. Hopefully this event will be followed by other similar or related events to further promote the Lasallian Spirituality.

## USA San Miguel Schools Are Expanding and Merging



Mr. Terry Shields, the Director of the Lasallian Association of Miguel Schools in the USA, has announced the opening of San Miguel Academy in Newburg, New York. It will be the sixteenth Miguel School sponsored by the Institute within the USA/Toronto Region and the first in the New York District.

Also announced was a decision to merge the San Miguel Schools with the Nativity Schools, a similar network of schools begun by the Jesuits and now sponsored by various Religious Congregations in the USA.

The new entity will be called the Nativity Miguel Network of Schools. The Miguel Schools and the Conference of Visitors in the USA/Toronto Region endorsed this decision.

The sixty-one schools in the network will share a set of Mission Effectiveness Standards which will shape a collective identity and strengthen their capacity to deliver a unique, faith-based education to middle school students. Those interested can check the web page of this new network [ [www.nativitymiguelnetwork.org](http://www.nativitymiguelnetwork.org) ] for more information.

## San Francisco 2006 Assembly on Mission

The District of San Francisco's 2006 Assembly on Mission was held at Saint Mary's College of California July 30 to August 4.

Delegates from throughout the District, representing all of us who share in the Lasallian mission here in the west, gathered for an intensive week of prayer, education, discussion, and envisioning of the future.

Priorities expressed and affirmed at the Assembly will help to guide the District in creating its Action Plan for the next four years

In response, the Brothers and Partners of the District of San Francisco designed the first District Assembly on Mission, which was held during the summer of 2002. Out of this assembly emerged priorities for the mission which were approved by the 11th District Chapter and became part of the District's Context for Action/Action Plan for



2003 - 2007. Some of these priorities are:

- Create new schools for the poor;
- Make existing schools more accessible to the poor (5% program);
- Prioritize formation activities;
- Develop an evaluation of the Catholic, Lasallian character of the schools (CLASP);
- Prioritize service-learning;
- Create connections between Saint Mary's College and the schools of the District;
- Reach out to Lasallians internationally and offer international opportunities;
- Form a District Mission Council;
- Hold a similar Assembly on Mission just prior to each future District Chapter.



## World Communications Day 2007 "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education"



Benjamin M.S.F. Silva

This is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XVI for the World Communications Day 2007.

In presenting the theme today, Archbishop John Foley, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said: "The theme chosen by our Holy Father for World Communications Day underlines the need for parents and educators to realize the important form-

ative influence of the media in the lives of children."

World Communications Day, the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council (*Inter Mirifica*, 1963), is observed in most countries, on the recommendation of the bishops of the world, on the Sunday before Pentecost (in 2007, May 20<sup>th</sup>).

The announcement of the theme is customarily made on September 29, the feast of the Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, the latter having been designated patron of those who work in radio. The Holy Father's message for World Communications Day is traditionally published in conjunction with the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers (Jan. 24).

(Signis)

## October 5<sup>th</sup>: World Teachers' Day

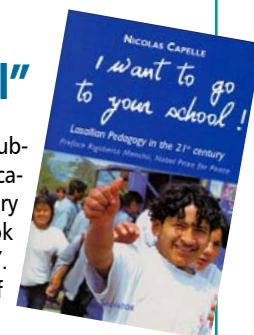


The world is currently witnessing a teacher shortage crisis. Up to an estimated 35 million new primary school teachers are needed globally by 2015, almost as many as are currently teaching in primary education. Without these teachers, the millennium goals to which the world's countries have committed themselves - especially those of achieving universal primary education and eradicating extreme poverty - will not be met.

## Bethlehem University begins the new academic year

Through all the uncertainties that are taking place in the Middle East, Bethlehem University continues to serve the people of the Holy Land. Approximately 2599 students ended registration for the new academic year 2006/2007 on Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. With the support and generous assistance of the Alumni, BU continues to focus on "lighting a candle in the darkness".

## "I want to go to your school"



The *Editorial Salvator* publishes this book on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the Lasallian book "Conduct of Schools". Under the direction of Br. Nicolas Capelle, some fifteen authors offer us an account of their educational experiences in different situations and countries.

The book presents a mosaic of positive educational initiatives all around the world, handing over the word to people working for social transformation.

It has been published in French, English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

### La Salle European Novitiate



Last September 30<sup>th</sup>, Brothers Javier (Andalusia), Arsenio (Madrid), José Miguel and Jaime, (Valladolid) and Artur and Rafal (Poland) celebrated the feast of Initiation to the Religious Life. With the slogan: "Called to grow together", they expressed their will to start out on their way as Brothers of the Christian Schools, in the community of the European Novitiate, with Bros. Rafa and Jorge (Novices of 2<sup>nd</sup> year, District of Valladolid), Br. Jacek, doing his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Novitiate in Kopiec (Poland) and the three animators (Bros. Rafael Muñoz, Janusz Robionek and Josep Canal).

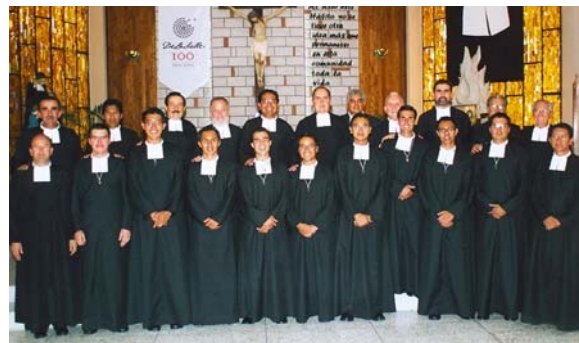
### Inauguration of New Novitiate in India

On May 28<sup>th</sup> the official opening of the new Novitiate building of the Indian Delegation took place in Bangalore. The new building, which is located in Sakalavara Village, Bannerghatta, was blessed by Archbishop Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore.

The new building can accommodate around 30 Novices plus a staff of 3 Brothers. There is also ample guest accommodation. The first profession in the new Novitiate took place on Pentecost Sunday when 8 Novices made their first profession. Their post-Novitiate formation will continue in Boys' Village in Madurai where they will also have teaching and supervisory responsibilities. (See article on INTERCOM # 129, February 2006).

On July 8<sup>th</sup> 2006, nine young men in Mexico D.F. ended their Pre-Novitiate and received the Lasallian habit in order to start their Novitiate in Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. Present at the ceremony were many Brothers from the two Mexican Districts as well as friends and family members of the new Novices. The Mass, the ceremony of taking the habit and the festivities which followed were especially marked by the enthusiasm and joy of the large number of young people who participated. Also present were the aspirants from both Districts, the postulants, pre-novices, second-year novices and scholastics as well as companions from volunteer movements or missions in which those who were beginning their consecrated life had participated.

Three weeks later, thirteen novices ended their formation period and took their first Religious Vows. At present these new Brothers are beginning their



scholasticate - six from North Mexico in Monterrey and seven from South Mexico in San Andrés Cholula, Puebla.

## From Haiti

I begin by saying in the style of the Gospel: "I announce to you great tidings.....a new child has been given to us..." and it is the opening of our Novitiate in Haiti, which for this year at least, will operate in Port-au-Prince. Earlier the opening ceremony had taken place on September 15<sup>th</sup> under the loving gaze of Our Lady of Sorrows. Br. Adalberto Aranda, representing Br. Álvaro Rodríguez, was in charge of receiving the novices and presenting them with the Rule and our emblematic Rosary.

Present also were the Brothers living in Port-au-Prince and some distinguished invited guests. After the Eucharist, an equally fraternal meal brought this beautiful moment to a close.

Finally, eight days later, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, they set out for their new destination, full of enthusiasm - although with a little cloud of anxiety in facing the new - towards their Vaugirard, but accompanied by the Lord who was presiding over their exodus, as well as by his earthly representative, their Br. Director, Br. Yvon Brissio.

In this Sector of Haiti we are 14 Brothers who represent the ideals of globalised solidarity: 5 from Haiti, 3 from France, 2 from Canada, 2 from Spain and one each from Cameroon and Mexico. It is a small Sector,

with only two large educational centres, one in Port-au-Prince and one in La Tortue, but which are a vast field for the exercise of our noble mission.

*Br. Germán Martínez*



## Myanmar

Myanmar is a Sub-District of the Philippines. The first Brothers arrived in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1860 from Ireland, France and Germany by way of Penang. Local vocations began by 1910. St. Peter's, Mandalay and St. Paul's, Rangoon were among the most prestigious schools in Southeast Asia. The rubber plantations of LaSalle Orphanage supported all the communities and schools of the sector. Of the 20 Brothers in Myanmar today several are from the LaSalle Orphanage.

In 1965 the schools and plantations were nationalized. The Brothers were allowed to keep residences and vacation properties where the communities are located today but they were not permitted to conduct schools.

Presently students attend free government schools through the 10th standard but as a rule they also attend tuition classes before and after school and on weekends. The Brothers are permitted to run boarding departments for these students where teaching of catechism and character formation are primary objectives. These students are provided tuition classes for their regular subjects and taught English and computer skills as well.

The Brothers live simply. There is one 26-year old pick-up truck serving the two communities in Yangon (Rangoon); the communities of Kalaw, Maymyo and Lashio make do with one motorcycle each and bicycles. The communities have no heat or hot water though it can be surprisingly cold in the mountain communities outside of Yangon where you can see your breath in the morning.

In the capital, Yangon, the Brothers run the LaSalle English-Computer Center which began in 1996 with support from the Delegation of Japan; the District of Ireland gave additional support in 2000 as did the Brothers' schools of Italy in 2006. They have 18 computers on which 20 students learn: Basic Computer, Desk Top Publishing, Computer Programming or Hardware Repair and Maintenance. In addition, they run English classes for students who have completed 10th standard exams (17-18 years old). For these classes, there can be as many as 48 students



enrolled in 3 month modules. There are 3 Brothers involved and another Brother in Yangon works for the Archdiocesan publication, *The Sower*. The Brothers also assist the Jesuits who are developing a program for teaching English in the city, modeled on the Lasallian Center.

In Kalaw, for 2006-07, there are two formation programs for those seriously considering the Brother's vocation. The first is a one year Come and See Program. Students waiting to begin university studies pursue a residential program that includes English, computer skills, basic catechism, music and sports. At the end of the year, by mutual decision, those who seem capable and willing will continue as "aspirants" with a program that also

includes their first year university studies. For 2007-08, the Come and See Program will move to Maymyo and the aspirancy will continue at Kalaw. One year of postulancy is in Myanmar; a second year of postulancy and the novitiate are in the Philippines.

Three Brothers live in Pyin Oo Lwin, known also as Maymyo, the location of La Salle Juniorate, a boarding facility and tuition center for approximately sixty 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard students. One of the Brothers teaches computers to adults from the town. Three Brothers work with catechists at the *Lashio Catechetical Center*, a two year residential program supported by the Parishes and the Bishop.

## SECOLI Projects Funded: 1 September 2005 - 31 August 2006

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Recipient	USD
Argentina	12,817
Bethlehem	31,316
Brazil	12,194
Burkina Faso	72,556
Cameroon	80,423
Chile	13,884
Colombia	4,500
Congo R.D.	74,652
Cuba	8,138
Djibouti	12,566
Egypt	7,229
Eritrea	15,500
Ethiopia	13,500
Golfe Bénin	10,074
Guatemala	15,454
Haiti	1,803
India	184,902
Indonesia	5,000
Israel	5,000
Kenya	1,500
Lwanga	20,375
Madagascar	37,793
Madagascar (Sisters)	43,815
Mexico South	5,000
Mozambique	30,117
Myanmar	7,227
Nicaragua	10,000
Nigeria	34,992
Pakistan	120,349
Paraguay	9,814
PARC	17,300
Peru	35,802
Peru (Sisters)	13,980
RELAF	156,485
RELEC	2,212
Rwanda	19,790
Sri Lanka	110,856
Sudan	5,000
Chad	6,008
USA	20,047
Vietnam	127,581
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,430,739</b>

Donor	USD
AEDES BPM Real Estate	18,460
Andalucia	13,461
Antilles	400
Australia	242
Belgium North	6,069
Belgium South	40,288
Bilbao	1,565
Bobby Francis	827
Burkina Faso	47
Canada Francophone	12,597
Casa Generalizia	3,581
Catania	7,142
CEI	82,010
Córdoba Alumni	10,204
Egypt	2,000
Fonds Supérieur	51,084
France	93,434
FSC Foundation	1,700
Great Britain	19,661
IMRS	122,605
Ireland	124,212
Italy	47,099
Japan	16,467
Japan Alumni	5,000
LICF	14,674
Madrid	1,000
Mexico North	107,934
Mexico South	225,007
Midwest	556
Misereor	31,901
Missio A.	173,008
Missio M.	26,251
New York	500
Netherlands	16,174
Philippines	150
Premia	45,874
Propaganda Fide	24,756
San Francisco	6,000
Switzerland	29,169
Toronto	31,738
UMAEL	5,000
Valencia	10,856
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,430,739</b>



Bros. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga  
and Stephen Tuohy  
Directors of SECOLI



# Through its Projects **SECOLI** promotes and facilitates Solidarity and Interdependence within the Institute



Project #: 2688  
Amount: 11,440 USD  
Donor: ULS of Mexico South  
Recipient: LCES, Sri Lanka  
  
Support for Pre-Schools in the shanty town of Colombo, LK



Project #: 2817  
Amount: 7,000 USD  
Donor: France  
Recipient: Asuncion, Paraguay  
  
Spaces for Educational Activity



Project #: 2757  
Amount: 85,363 USD  
Donor: Ireland and IMRS  
Recipient: Multan, Pakistan  
  
Tuition Center construction for poor village students



Project #: 2515  
Amount: 27,182 USD  
Donor: CEI  
Recipient: Bérégadoug, Burkina Faso  
  
Equipment for the CLIMA project



Project #: 2796  
Amount: 5,000 USD  
Donor: Ireland  
Recipient: Nazareth, Ethiopia  
  
School repairs & Library, AV, Sports Equipment



Project #: 2637  
Amount: 18,477 USD  
Donor: CEI  
Recipient: Douala, Cameroun  
  
Equipment Electronics laboratory



Project #: 2834  
Amount: 13980 USD  
Donor: Belgique Sud  
Recipient: Hnas.Guadalapanas, Peru  
  
Purchase house for the community



Project #: 2743  
Amount: 5,443 USD  
Donor: Suisse  
Recipient: Tumba, Congo  
  
Computer Tumba Institut



Project #: 2845  
Amount: 11,004 USD  
Donor: Francophone Canada and Mexico North  
Recipient: Diang, Cameroun  
  
Formation for ORA Method



Project #: 2856  
Amount: 19,224 USD  
Donor: Ireland  
Recipient: Bethlehem University, Holy Land  
  
University classroom renovation

## How are SECOLI Projects Funded?

1. Mission Coordinators of some sectors contact SECOLI before the beginning of their school year to select specific SECOLI projects to present to their schools for support.
2. Some schools ask SECOLI to recommend appropriate Projects for their students to fund.
3. Some sectors make annual contributions to be dispersed at SECOLI's discretion.
4. The Lasallian International Children's Fund funds SECOLI projects annually.
5. Individuals make donations to SECOLI
6. Some Donors receive requests directly from a project site but prefer the money be sent through SECOLI.
7. SECOLI refers projects to appropriate non-Lasallian funding agencies.

## New Apostolic Volunteer Opportunities

YV: Young Volunteers - RB: Retired Brothers

	District / Visitor / e-mail	Place / Contact / e-mail	YV	RB	Language	Type of Work	Time
Africa	Burkina Faso Fr. Yemanu Jehar yemanuj@lasalle.org	Bobo-Dioulasso Noviciat Fr. Yemanu Jehar yemanuj@lasalle.org		x	Français	Assistant pour l'équipe de formation	3 ans
Europe	Valencia-Palma H. Rafael Matas rafamatas@lasalle.es	Comunidad San Benildo (Paterna) H. Pepe Tomás jtomas@lasalle.es	x	x	Español	Acogida de jóvenes toxicómanos y de universitarios de países del sur. (Residencia Intercultural La Salle/CEIM)	1 año

For more information and full listing of offerings go to: <http://www.lasalle.org/English/Mission/SECOLI/misevolist.php>

# Real Life

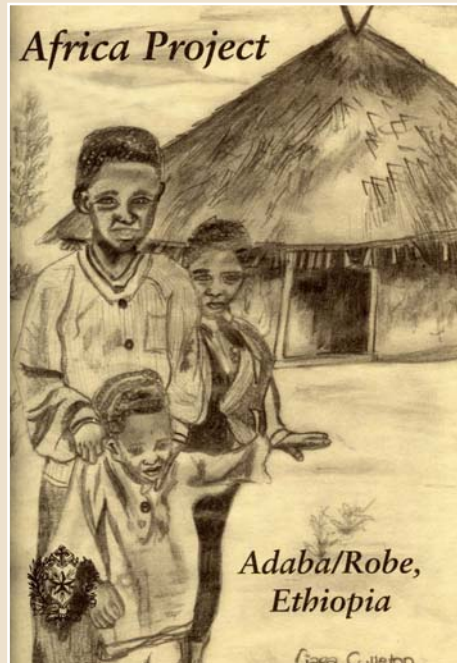
by *Roisin Burke*  
Ireland

On 23 June I undertook the trip of a lifetime by heading off to Ethiopia. It was daunting to say the least as we were saying goodbye to the luxuries of a developed country and subjecting ourselves to rigours of third world living where the price of life is cheap and comforts and conveniences such as hot showers are still largely an unknown concept.

Arriving in Addis Ababa, (where we spent our first few days in Ethiopia minus my rucksack, which had taken off on a junket to Tel Aviv) was when the magnitude of what I was letting myself in for really hit as the reality of the poverty of the country was inescapable and the differences between the third world and developed world became blatantly obvious. Thankfully we were all soon put at relative ease by the welcoming nature of the hospitable Ethiopians. This was a recurring theme throughout our stay in Addis and Robe. I was overwhelmed by the sheer generosity of the people we met. People went out of their way to accommodate us and ensure that we enjoyed our time in the country. If Ireland is the country of the cead míle fáilte (one hundred thousand smiles), Ethiopia surely must be the country of the cead míliúin fáilte (one hundred million smiles).

I worked primarily in the orphanage in Goba, which was about 15 km from our compound in Robe in the Bale Region of Ethiopia. The term orphanage is a blanket term for home for the destitute, mentally and/or physically disabled, AIDS victims etc. When I arrived there on my first day, my immediate thoughts were: how soon can I leave as I couldn't believe that people actually had to live in the orphanage as there were physically handicapped children tied to toilets and mentally handicapped women shackled. I saw two boys playing in the orphanage and was told they were waiting for their mother to finish work and bring them home. I couldn't comprehend how terrible it must be to have to bring your children to a place like this while you worked. By the end of the six weeks I was so jealous of the two boys: Johannes and his brother because they got to stay and play in the orphanage while I had to go back to my 'real life'. The orphanage at first so intimidating became the place I wanted to spend all my time, as the sheer love from the children and patients was infectious and addictive. Personal space is a concept completely unheard of in the Goba Orphanage but the closeness and spontaneous shows of affection that becomes second nature is one of the things you really miss upon return to Ireland.

Four nuns from Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity run the orphanage/home. The Head Nun Sister De Grassio was an inspiration as she was so happy and positive despite the destitution that surrounded us. She encouraged us and gave us free rein within the orphanage. That culminated in us helping distribute food during a bi-monthly feeding programme she runs for over 1,000 poor people from the two



*The concept of the Summer Projects began back in the early eighties. Each year a different group of young, energetic and enthusiastic Irish volunteers come together to make a difference to a community of people for whom a little counts a lot. They spend a year raising money and six weeks of their summer holidays helping in Kenya, Ethiopia, Togo and Nigeria. This is a story of one volunteer describing her experience in the summer of 2004.*

towns of Goba and Robe and organising a picnic/walk through the countryside for those patients that were able to walk. The picnic was for me the best experience of my time there. When we arrived at 1:30 to bring what we thought would be twenty patients (in reality probably 40) we saw everybody dressed to the nines in their Sunday best. The women were wearing high heels and the men were sporting blazers and sports jackets just to go on our walk. I then finally and fully comprehended that it really is the simple little things that make the difference out there. It was a surreal experience for them to be treated like they were normal members of the community going off for a walk through the fields, getting to enjoy a few hours reprieve from the tedium of sitting in the orphanage all day and for some, getting to experience their first bottle of Coca-Cola. For the minimum of effort that it took to organise, the results were so worthwhile and the memory of all of us trailing through the fields will live

with me forever. A local man called Mengistu (who was of incredible help to us) said later even if we had just walked outside the gates of the orphanage and back in again they would have been happy as some of the patients had never before left the orphanage.

Working and living in Robe was one of the happiest times of my life as the job satisfaction you get when interacting in the orphanage and in the afternoon classes in the school in Robe is unparalleled. There is such a hunger for knowledge and a genuine love among the youth that it makes you feel ashamed when you realise how much we take for granted back home.

Before leaving to come back to Ireland we visited another orphanage in Addis run by the Missionaries of Charity. This orphanage was an orphanage in the real sense of the word as it housed over three hundred children with AIDS. This was by far one of the toughest experiences I had, as I knew that every child in there had a 3-5 year life expectancy. It seemed unbelievable that the little boys who were lined up in front of me to screech out hymns for us foreign visitors had no future and there was nothing anyone could do about it. That made me realise the huge problems relating to Ethiopia are not merely monetary or about development and infrastructure but that this apparent incurable disease is wiping out huge swathes of the population. However in the orphanage in Addis infectious Ethiopian smiles were everywhere on the children and the love they showed towards us and each other made me realise that thanks to the Sisters the precious little time they had was happy and filled with love.

On returning to Ireland, it is scary how quickly you slip back into 'real life'. Even now, months later it still feels like I have left real life behind in Ethiopia as out there life is simplified into survival and living from moment to moment, enjoying every second of the life you have been granted, which, judging from the happiness and love I experienced from Ethiopians seems to be a very good idea.

## Support a SECOLI Project

*If you or someone you know would like to support any of these projects contact:*

**Br. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga**  
[jmagirrezabalaga@lasalle.org](mailto:jmagirrezabalaga@lasalle.org)

**Br. Stephen Tuohy**  
[stuohy@lasalle.org](mailto:stuohy@lasalle.org)

### SECOLI

Via Aurelia 476  
00165 Rome, Italy  
Tel.: 39 06 665 231  
Fax: 39 06 663 8821

# Formation for the Mission

## Australia/NZ/PNG Lasallian Heritage Program



Thirty-five participants gathered at Narooma, Australia, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May for the District of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea's second Introduction to

the Lasallian Heritage program in 2006. The participants were representative of the wide range of Lasallian works.

Some excerpts from the program evaluations of the participants capture the very positive experience in Lasallian Formation for Mission that the District is committed to providing.

*"I've enjoyed meeting this 'extended family,' getting to further develop relationships with known workers, and I leave feeling more informed about our Lasallian heritage. It truly has given me a sense of community and pride, and has deepened my own commitment to my work."*

*"As a relatively new teacher to the Lasallian (and Catholic) education system, I really appreciated the opportunity to gain so much knowledge about what being 'Lasallian' means."*

## ARLEP 13<sup>th</sup> cycle of the CEL (Lasallian Spanish Center)



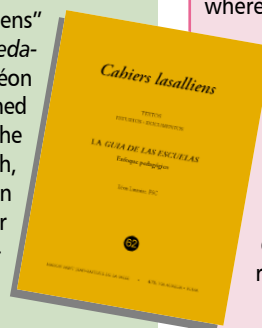
Last September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, witnessed the beginning of the 13th cycle of the CEL (Lasallian Spanish Center) in the Regional Center of Madrid with the participation of 22 people, including the members of the permanent staff. The diverse origins of the 10 Lay people and 12 Brothers forming the group mean a personal and cultural enrichment for all: we share experiences from the closest realities to us in ARLEP (Bilbao, Valencia-Palma, Catalonia, Madrid-Canary Islands, Portugal and Andalusia), to communities geographically and culturally much more distant to us (Madagascar, Bolivia and Equatorial Guinea).

During these three months of intensive formation in the Lasallian journey, spirituality and pedagogy, community opportunities to share faith will have special importance. All

of us in the group feel and confirm that, in spite of realities, so plural and different, from which we come from, our vocation of Christian teachers and our commitment with the Lasallian Educational Mission, together with the Charism of John Baptist de La Salle, bind us to each other.

The formation moments will combine with leisure ones, such as excursions, walks together in nature, cultural visits or social experiences. We will finish our CEL experience with a Lasallian pilgrimage, which will take us in November to go around the main sites related to the origins of the Institute.

The # 62 of "Cahiers Lasalliens" ("The Conduct of Schools - Pedagogical Approach", by Br. Léon Lauraire) has just been published in the Spanish version. So, the three versions (French, English, Spanish) have already been edited during 2006, the year that commemorates the Tercentenary of "The Conduct of Schools".



## Chicago Lasallian Social Justice Institute

Once again during the month of July, the USA/Toronto Region sponsored the Lasallian Social Justice Institute for Brothers and Lasallian Partners. One group of the one-week Institute was held in El Paso, Texas, and was focused on the difficulties and challenges faced by immigrants at the border between the United States and Mexico. Another group of the one-week Institute was located in Chicago, Illinois. Its focus was on urban issues such as gang problems.

Both sessions were community based, provided first-hand experiences of the urgent needs of today's poor, and allowed for prayer and reflection on these matters within the context of our Lasallian heritage and the social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.



## Philadelphia Lasallian Volunteer Orientation

La Salle University hosted this year's Lasallian Volunteer Orientation from July 23 - July 30, 2006. The gathering brought the group of almost fifty volunteers from all over the nation to Philadelphia. The group listened to guest speakers, shared prayer together, worked together to overcome the St. Gabriel's Hall Ropes Course and shared some time to grow as a community. The event culminated in a Commissioning Ceremony where the volunteers pledged their commitment to Lasallian values of Faith, Service and Community and to the apostolates where they will serve.

The Baltimore District will welcome six volunteers for the 2006-2007 academic year to live in District Communities and share in the work of three of our apostolates. Three of them will return for a second year in service.



## 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter 2007 "Shared Reflections" by Brothers

To aid the interactive process in preparation for the 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, groups of Brothers are being invited to share, on the Institute's web site, their reflections on Document 2: "The Ad Hoc Committee on the Rule" and on Document 3: "Being Brothers Today."

– These *Shared Reflections* are to be no longer than 2,500 characters, including spaces.

– The deadline for sending these *Shared Reflections* is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

– They are to be sent to a member of the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter:

In Spanish: Br. Carlos Gómez  
[hercarlos@hotmail.com](mailto:hercarlos@hotmail.com)

In English: Br. Peter Iorlano  
[piorlano@bethlehem.edu](mailto:piorlano@bethlehem.edu)

In French: Br. Pierre Ouattara  
[ouattaras pierre@yahoo.fr](mailto:ouattaras pierre@yahoo.fr)

In Portuguese: Br. Edgar Nicodem  
[enicodem@terra.com.br](mailto:enicodem@terra.com.br)

In Italian: Br. Stefano Agostini  
[stefano.agostini@lasalleitalia.it](mailto:stefano.agostini@lasalleitalia.it)

– These Brothers will send what is to be published to the Web Site Director at the Center of the Institute, Br. Roch Dufresne:  
[chapter07@lasalle.org](mailto:chapter07@lasalle.org)

– To access the web site space that has been set aside for Shared Reflections so that they can be read, a username and a password are required. These can be obtained from your Brother Visitor.

## Canada Francophone Lasallian Day

About one hundred Lasallian Associates, Brothers and Lay people, gathered at Mont-Bénilde to celebrate together a common objective called "Fraternity and Educational Mission in development."

Br. Louis-Paul Lavallée, Visitor, proposed an orientation for the day: we are on the way towards the General Chapter in May-June 2007. What does "being Brothers today" means for us here in Quebec? And on this basis, how are we going to build the future of the Lasallian Mission among us, in response to the real needs of young people?

Five Young Lasallians who had participated at the International Symposium of Young Lasallians in Rome, last July, presented us, with the help of photo projection, their experience of that event and its main orientations.



There was then a celebration on the topic of the "miraculous fishing". And in the light of these words, we celebrated the engagement renewal of Denis de Villers, Paul Foisy, Yves Gaudreault and the first engagement of a new Associate, Jeannelle Bouffard.

This Lasallian day has revealed once again, in a luminous way, what unites us and drives us forward: the Christian and Human education of young people, especially those most disinherited.

Br. Gilles Martineau

## Manila, Philippines PARC: Viability and Vitality through Restructuring



Representatives of the District of Penang (Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore) and the District of the Philippines and Myanmar held meetings in Manila in June and July to explore possible ways of strengthening the Lasallian mission in those countries. The meetings followed up a decision of last December's PARC meeting which identified several "clusters" of Districts and Delegations within the Region that saw the advantages of working together in order to strengthen the vitality and viability of the Lasallian mission in their respective sectors.

The plan drawn up in Manila calls for the creation of an "Alliance Council" made up of the Regional Coordinator and the Visitors of both Districts. They are to be assisted by a team of full-time consultants whose task it is to identify existing and future needs/opportunities in the countries that make up the Alliance (which includes Indonesia) and to recommend ways of providing services and resources in response to those needs/opportunities.

Also present at the June meeting in Manila were representatives from the District of Colombo and the Delegations of India and Pakistan, who met separately to look at ways by which they might help one another. A second meeting has been scheduled for September to follow up on this encouraging start.

An earlier meeting in Bangkok last May brought together another cluster, this time representatives from the District of Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, the District of Vietnam, and the Delegations of Thailand and Japan. The positive energy generated at the meeting is expected to develop into concrete action in the near future.

## Madurai

### Young Lasallians National Gathering in India

During the month of August, some 95 Young Lasallians representing 14 different Lasallian projects of the Delegation of India participated in a two-day leadership camp that was held near Madurai, India.

There were presentations, group discussions, interactions, and sharing of views. The gathering came to an end with a colourful cultural stage programme fitting to the theme of leadership.

Participating at the gathering were 12 junior novices of the Delegation and a number of

the children from the Tsunami affected area – in which some Brothers now work. "The most striking thing about the programme," reported one Brother, "was how wonderfully the Tsunami-victimised children got involved ... This was an opportunity for them to come out of fear."

Brother Jeyakumar, the Lasallian Youth Coordinator for Indian Delegation, who because he was refused an Italian Visa and unable to be in Rome in July for the International Symposium of Young Lasallians, was happily able to be part of this programme.

## Argentina

### Executive Council of the OMAEC

The President of UMAEL (*World Union of Lasallian Former Students*), **José Ramón Batiste**, has visited Argentina to attend and represent UMAEL, at the Meeting of the Executive Council of OMAEC (*World Organisation of Former Students of Catholic Schools*), in Buenos Aires, from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> and to visit the La Salle Alumni of Buenos Aires (Centenarian Association 1903-2003).

UMAEL prepares with great effort and enthusiasm the IV World Congress that, as has already been announced, will be held in Panama in October 2007.



## Guadalupana Sisters in La Réunion Island

Last October 6<sup>th</sup> the first group of three Guadalupana de La Salle Sisters arrived from Madagascar to La Réunion to create a new community on this Island. They are Sisters Marie Jacqueline Rasoanasolo, director, Marie Remy Emerthe Mulandoli and Martine Rasambpazafindrasana. This new community will settle down in Sainte-Marie and look after the Sanctuary of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau (*photo*), first by helping Br. Vincent



Maillot, Vice-Postulator since 1986. They will take gradually full charge of the Sanctuary. We wish them a good apostolate!

## Japan

### Happy Jubilee



50 years ago, in September 1956, Brother **André Labelle**, 26, arrived in Japan. Coming from the District of Montréal (current District of Canada Francophone), in 1950, – he was 20 – he was sent to the missionary scholasticate in Rome (his second Scholasticate!). In 1952, he was assigned to Togo, as one of the three founders of the Lasallian mission in that country.

In 1955, the Superiors asked him to move to Japan, where he arrived in 1956. He would work there in our institutions of Kagoshima, Tokyo and Hakodate. He would also offer his collaboration to the Jesuit University *Sophia*, for language teaching, first during his leisure time, and then full-time. He also collaborated with the "Movement for a Better World", the animation of retreats and sessions on the Vatican Council guidelines, in Japan and Southeast Asia.

## Wall "The Founders"

Picture of the mural painted by Br. José David Berbesi (Director of the *Colegio La Salle* in Tien-da Honda, Caracas, Venezuela) for the University La Salle of Chihuahua, México.

The painting is eight meters long by three meters high (26.24 x 9.84 feet). The title of the work is "The Founders".



## ARLEP

# Fourth Meeting of Associations of Lasallian Former Students

Over the course of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, the Fourth Meeting of Associations of Former Students was held in Valencia (Spain) using the slogan: "Our Response...commitment".

Representatives from 41 Associations throughout ARLEP participated, under the organization of the Coordinating Council of Associations. Brother Superior General sent a wonderful message to the participants in which he expressed his joy for the theme of the main conference: "The commitment of former students or how to evangelize in the Lasallian fashion."

Br. Ismael Beltrán, Visitor of the ARLEP Region and Br. Rafael Matas, Visitor of the District of Valencia-Palma, both participated.

There was a rich exchange of experiences on the part of the various Associations (Talavera de la Reina, Tarragona, La Felguera, Aguimes, Benicarló, Fundació Comtal, etc.) There was also a "Vocation Panel" as well as different roundtable discussions on various themes.

The President of UMAEL, who is also Presi-



dent of the Coordinating Council, José Ramón Batiste, spoke about the "most significant advances" made over the course of the two past years.

One of the salient points of this Fourth Meeting was the presentation of the document "The Character Proper to Associations of Lasallian Former Students" which was presented by Brother José Luis Miró, who drew up the document along with a group of former students.

## Lima, Perú

# Lasallian alumni launch web page



The alumni of the *Colegio La Salle* in Lima, Peru have sent their voice into cyberspace. Thanks to the help of the College and the Association and the work of Freddy Linares and Roger Stechman, they now have a new platform for fraternity, service and information for the more than 6,000 graduates of that school.

By means of this new communication tool, the former students will be able to receive news concerning the college and association, find out about the activities which are being carried out, register and keep their data up to date and have access to the photo album which carries photos dating back to 1933.

<http://www.aalasalnelima.org>

## Bro. Raymond Blixt Honored for Work with At-Risk Youth

On July 21, 2006, the *Trey Whitfield Award* was presented to Bro. Raymond Blixt for his commitment to the at-risk population served by Martin de Porres School. The Foundation, based in East New York, Brooklyn, annually recognizes adults who have demonstrated a commitment to the positive development of youth, especially those at-risk.



## Latest appointments

Brother	District/...	Function	Term
Bruno Kapalata Kwibe	Rwanda	President	15.09.09
David Sinitiere	NO-SF	Aux. Visitor	01.06.07
Adalberto Aranda Ramírez	Antillas (Del.)	Presid. Deleg.	-
Sylvain Consimbo	Afrique de l'Ouest	Visitor	30.06.07
Francis Carr	Midwest	Visitor	01.07.11
Stephen Deignan	Ireland	Visitor	09.05.08

## ICYL Member Protests for Peace

A member of the International Council of Young Lasallians and her husband recently pled guilty to misdemeanor trespass at the Minnesota National Guard Armory in Winona (USA). **Diane Leutgeb Munson** is one of the founding members of the International Council of Young Lasallians. She was a participant at both the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians in Quebec in 2002 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians in Rome in 2006 (see page 3). As she stated at her trial, "it is time for each of us to take on the consequences of this war, to accept our own responsibility in it. Dorothy Day reminds us that 'silence means consent.' I choose not to be silent..."

Both Diane and her husband Mike Munson are associated with the *Winona Catholic Workers*, who conduct the *Bethany House of Hospitality* for poor and homeless people. Both are graduates of Lasallian schools.

[Peace-activist **Dorothy Day** was one of the founders of the *Catholic Worker Movement*, along with former Brother **Peter Maurin** of France (see article on page 15).]

## IFCU



Br. Armin Luistro, the President of De La Salle University in the Philippines, was elected as Vice-President of the **International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)** during its Triennial Assembly. Congratulations!

## Chapel of De La Salle University Cancun re-opens

Having as its framework the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the celebration of the Centenary of the arrival of the De La Salle Brothers in Mexico, Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> saw the re-inauguration of the Chapel of La Salle University Cancun, severely damaged during the passage of Hurricane *Wilma* in October of last year.

## 1892-1902: The Lasallian Years of Peter Maurin

We know that Peter Maurin (1877-1949) was, beginning in 1933, the spiritual and intellectual advisor of **Dorothy Day** who created, with a newspaper - *The Catholic Worker* - a vast Christian social movement. Since the Cause for Beatification of Dorothy Day is being studied, some people think that Peter Maurin himself could be the subject of similar study. The Archives of the Mother House allow us to give some details about the 10 years which he spent in the Institute in the Paris region.

### The eldest of a family of 22 children

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1892, there arrived at the Juniorate of Buzenval, **Pierre Aristide Maurin**, son of Jean-Baptiste Maurin and Marie Pagès, born in the hamlet of Oulet in the commune of Saint-Julien-du-Tournel (Lozère, France) on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1877. He was the eldest of a rural family which would include as many as 22 children: many of them would become priests, missionaries or religious.

### Three and a half years of formation

Pierre Maurin, aged 14 and a half, doubtless did not have any trouble getting used to life in a large group. Six months earlier, in fact, on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1891, the **Juniorate of Buzenval**, at Reuil-Malmaison, had 136 Junior-Novices and 5 classes: the Brothers were young, since, out of 17, only 5 were finally professed. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1893, Pierre Maurin was admitted to the **Novitiate at Rue Oudinot** in Paris, the Mother House which at the time housed almost 500 persons.

Since 1884, Br. Joseph had been Superior General and he was sensitive to social questions: in 1887, Br. Hiéron, with the support of Br. Assistant Exuperien, had created the first French Christian trade-union, which would be the fore-runner of the CFTC (*Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens*).

Taking the habit on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1893, Pierre Maurin became Br. Adorator-Charles: on December 31<sup>st</sup> there were 65 Novices under the direction of Br. Rainfroy, who had succeeded Br. Bernard-Louis on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1892. A year later, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1894, Br. Adorator-Charles went to the Scholasticate where Br. Altigien had been Director since 1891. The scholastics numbered 78 and there was a staff of 10 Brothers.

In July 1895, Pierre Maurin passed the *Brevet élémentaire* in Paris and this gave him the right to teach in France. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1895, he made his first annual vows. A week later he began his teaching career in the lower classes.

### 6 years teaching in 6 schools

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1895, he was sent to **Passy Boarding School** at Rue Raynouard in Paris: Br. Auguste-Hubert, described in his biography as "a religious educator", was Director of this large community of 88 Brothers. This prestigious house had four divisions and 24 classes and included 813 boarders (from well-to-do families), the youngest of whom were in 9<sup>th</sup> Class. Br. Adorator-Charles shared 8 B (35 pupils) with Br. Barnabé-Gabriel who, like himself was 18 years old. With the boarding-school did he have time to continue his formation? Perhaps he was not up to the mark, or he did not adapt to these surroundings so different from his native farm.

Some months later in fact, he was in a very different environment, al-

though still in a large community, at **Saint-Nicolas d'Issy-les-Moulineaux** Boarding-School which was intended mainly for orphans, all free. He arrived on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1896 to take 8 D (the youngest boarders were in 11<sup>th</sup>, the first class in Primary School). The Community, which had Br. Anacleto as its Director since 1886, numbered some 76 Brothers, with a large number of young Brothers.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1896 he was sent to the school of Charonne at 124 Rue de Bagnolet, Paris 20. The Community consisted of 5 Brothers and there were 248 pupils, all of them day pupils and half of them free. There were 5 classes and he had 4<sup>th</sup> which had 46 students. At the start of the following school year he had 2<sup>nd</sup> which had 41 students, but he is referred to as "a soldier in 1898".

This was probably a big turning-point in his life. Br. Joseph had died at the beginning of 1897 and it was Br. Gabriel-Marie who was elected Superior. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1898, Pierre Maurin began his military service at Lodève (Hérault), which revealed to him the profound inadequacy of the Brothers way of living for the world which he now discovered.

After 11 months, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1899, Br. Adorator-Charles took up teaching again, this time at the school of **St.Pierre de Neuilly**, quite near Paris, where he taught 6<sup>th</sup> with 63 pupils. There also, of the 8 Brothers in the Community, only two were professed: there were 7 classes with 415 pupils, all of them free. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1899, at Athis-Mons, he pronounced his Triennial Vows: later he would not renew them.

He did only one term at **St-Louis de Versailles**: on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1900, he took charge of 3<sup>rd</sup> with 34 pupils. There were 13 Brothers, 11 of them professed: there was just one Brother of his age. The school had 285 boarding-pupils, 6 classes in the school and 2 at the Junior Seminary.

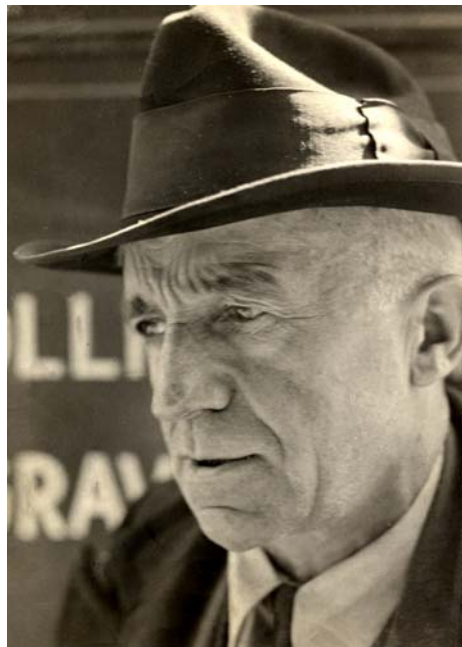
On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1901, he found himself working as an 'auxiliary' at **Vaujours**, a boarding school in the north-east suburbs of Paris: the Fenelon Society took in 422 boarders in 8 classes and gave them a formation in horticulture (5 Brothers were in charge of the training). In October 1901, Br. Adorator-Charles (aged 24) and Br. Allard (aged 20) were in charge of 6<sup>th</sup> Class which had 57 pupils. The Community had 36 Brothers, 20 of them very young.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1902, on the expiration of his Triennial Vows, Pierre Maurin left the Brothers for good at the age of 25 and a half. Whoever filled in his file noted: "disillusion, inconsistency". It is doubtless thus that his confreres saw his departure. **Peter Maurin**, as he would be called in the USA, had not found his path in the Institute.

Our Archives in Rome tell us nothing more about his Lasallian years. Later it would be said that Peter Maurin was a born teacher, always ready to speak to the most diverse listeners; there would be an emphasis on his ceaseless efforts to live and cultivate himself: few people would have read as much as he did.

### Poverty lived as a gift from God

Pierre Maurin was an activist for a time in the '*le Sillon*' (The Furrow), a Catholic social movement, but left it in 1908 when it seemed to him to be getting too involved in politics. In 1909 he emigrated to Canada and then, in 1911, entered the USA clandestinely, a 'jack-of-all-trades' and a Personalist philosopher, living always in poverty and discovering that poverty as a gift from God. We cannot write here what followed. Two important newspapers covered his death, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1949: the *New York Times* and the Vatican's *L'Osservatore Romano*.



Courtesy by Marquette University Archives

Br. Alain Houry  
Director of Archives



## Generalate Restoration of the statue of the Founder

The statue of Carrara marble, placed in the garden at the main entrance to the Generalate, was sculpted for the altar of the relics of the Founder in the main chapel of the Mother House. It is an exact copy, but in greatly reduced dimensions, of that made by the sculptor Cesare Aureli (Rome 1844-1923) in 1904 for St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.



In 1980, on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Centenary of the Institute, when the altar area was transformed to make it conform to the new liturgical norms and the relics of the Founder were put in the apse, the statue was set up in the open, in the entry garden of the Mother House.

The restoration was judged necessary because of the damage caused by weathering, atmospheric pollution and smog.

## Young Lasallians and Brothers Meet to Discuss Community Living

Vocations are plentiful across the United States of America. Graduates of Lasallian colleges and many other institutions of higher education are joining communities of the De La Salle Christian Brothers for an extended period of time. It is a remarkable change from just 10 years ago when a commitment of more than one year was exceptional.



These young Lasallians often have had contact with the FSC mission in secondary school. They usually volunteered at something in college. After college they become Lasallian Volunteers and are assigned to serve the poor and live in community with other young Lasallians and De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Recently 21 former and current Lasallian Volunteers came together from across the United States with 10 Brothers for a weekend of reflection on community living. They shared all the different variations of community they have experienced and they called for creativity in developing new forms of community life for the mission. Some are raising families, others are in professional university programs but all want to continue to live Lasallian community for the mission. They are excellent examples of what Br. Robert Comte calls "Narrative Identity" in MEL Bulletin #25. In other words, their life experience over many years has formed their Lasallian identity.

One Brother summarized the weekend discussion about identity with the phrase: " 'Being Brothers Today' Ain't Just About Brothers".

For more information write to David Kasievich, Director of Lasallian Volunteers at [dkasievich@cbconf.org](mailto:dkasievich@cbconf.org)

## Centenarian Brothers

Some Brothers have "crossed" the 100-year line during this year 2006.

– Br. **Odina Cyr** (Isidore), from the District of Canada Francophone, born in August 1904, is currently the Doyen of the Institute (*photo 1*).



– Br. **François Nguyen Van Thien** (Jourdain De Saxe), also of 1904, from Vietnam (*photo 2*)

– At the close of these pages, we heard about the passing of Br. **Enrico Cagnola** (Gilberto) from the District of Italia, also of 1904 (*photo 3*).

– Another Italian, Br. **Alfredo Santiproperi** (Prospero Di Gesù), celebrated his 100 years last March 2006.

Also celebrating their Centenary during 2006, in order, Brothers:

– **Auguste Dalle** (Alexandre Marie) from France.

– **José Antonio Restrepo Acosta** (Bautista Rodrigo, "Rodriguito"), from the District of Medellín, Colombia (*central picture, celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday*)

– **Cosme Santamaría Ibañez** (Conrado Julián), from the District of Valladolid, Spain.

We join in thanksgiving to God, Lord of Life, for their fruitful lives, asking Him to go on blessing them, their Districts and the Institute.

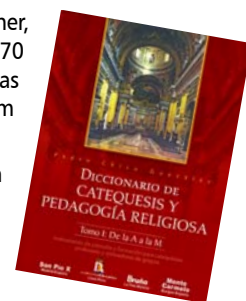


## Dictionary of Catechesis and Religious Education

The author is Br. **Pedro Chico González**, District of Valladolid.

In two volumes and with 2,336 pages altogether, there are 6,395 terms explained. It also offers 70 itineraries for the self-formation of teachers, as well as 10,750 cross-references in the CD-Rom included with the Dictionary.

It has been published by Editorial Bruño, of Lima (Perú), together with Editorial Bruño, of La Paz (Bolivia), Editorial Monte Carmelo, of Burgos (Spain) and Editorial San Pío X, of Madrid (Spain)



## Dates to keep in mind

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006

■ International Assembly 2006

Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007

■ CIL: Formation for the Lasallian Charism

April 30<sup>th</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

■ 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter