



Beatification of Bro. Raphael-Louis Rafiringa

20 years after the Beatification of Victoire Rasoamanarivo, on Sunday June 7th Madagascar celebrated its second Beatus: Br. Raphael-Louis Rafiringa (1856-1919) of the Christian School.

A huge crowd, estimated at between 200,000 and 250,000 persons, took part in the solemn celebration of the Beatification of the first Malgache Religious. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Archbishop of Antananarivo, His Excellency Mgr. Odon-Arsène Razanakolana, assisted by all the other bishops of Madagascar, Cardinal Armand-Gaetan Razafindratandra and the Bishop of Réunion Island.

The most solemn moment was the reading of the Decree of Beatification by His Excellency Mgr. Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints. After the Proclamation, there followed a spontaneous acclamation of joy. Then a giant portrait of the new Beatus was unveiled and a flock of hundreds of pigeons rose into the sky.

Other initiatives preceded and followed the Beatification ceremony:

Saturday May 30th: a large pilgrimage was organized from the city parishes and arrived in the morning at the hill of Soavimbahoaka for a Eucharistic celebration at the tomb of the Beatus.

Friday June 5th: this was the day for the Religious who also came in large numbers to spend a day of reflection and prayer at the tomb of the Beatus.

Saturday June 6th: three other manifestations characterized the Vigil. The first took place at 9.00 A.M. in Mahamasina Square, where, in the

presence of the Mayor of the city and the Religious, Civil and Military Authorities, a bust in honour of the Beatus was unveiled. Then there was the naming in honour of the new Beatus of a Cultural Centre created on the initiative of Prof. Casimir Rabenantoandro. The day ended with a Vigil of Prayer in the large chapel of Soavimbahoaka.

Monday June 8th: The Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Armand-Gaetan Razafindratandra in the large square facing the Sanctuary erected in honour of the Beatus brought to an end in a splendid way the festivities in honour of one of the finest and most significant figures of the Island.

He brought Gospel and Culture closer together

Brother Raphael Louis Rafiringa was the first religious in Madagascar. He was a Brother of the Christian Schools, a Congregation founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle in 1680 for the Christian education of youth. In 1856, when he was born in the neighborhood of Mahamasina in Antananarivo, the country was more or less closed to outside influences; at his death in 1919, Madagascar had drawn closer to Christian culture and had been a French colony for more than 20 years.

The panorama where he developed and carried out his life shed particular light of this first native religious, and made of him a very significant interpreter of the evolution that his country underwent.

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BEATIFICATION OF BR. RAPHAEL-LOUIS RAFIRINGA

(from page 1)

He appears before us almost as if he were the new Malagasy poised on the cusp of a new epoch. What enormous historical and psychological differences between Raphael Louis Rafiringa and Rainiantoandro, his father, the chief of the queen's blacksmiths! The first reached beyond the restricted ambit of his native land, while the destiny of the other, however diligent and honest a blacksmith he may have been, lived out his life within the traditional confines of the island. There are substantial differences between the one who was the faithful, illiterate, devoted servant to his queen and the other, who was raised to the Malagasy Academy (nominated in 1902) and fervent follower of the King of kings. Only two generations, but what diversity.

Gifted with great intelligence and a strong will, he challenged the ambitions his family had for him (his father was the chief of the queen's blacksmiths) and asked to join those missionaries recently arrived on the island, not priests, but who attracted so many children to their school. The religious who was responsible for his formation had him admitted to the Congregation only after 7 years of apprenticeship! But he had matured in a surprising manner on the human, cultural and religious levels.

Teaching school, translations of French works into Malagasy, composi-

tion of schools text books all occupied his time until suddenly, following the riots in favor of independence on the island, foreign missionaries were expelled and he was elected, by popular acclaim, to be responsible for all the Catholics on the island. In this unexpected responsibility he was sustained by the Catholic Princess Victoire Rasoamanarivo (beatified by John Paul II on April 29, 1989 and up till now the only blessed of the country). He gave undeniable proof of his uncommon capacity by forming catechists, by organizing conventions, meetings and para-liturgies in every corner of the island, by writing pamphlets and compendia of Catholic Doctrine, songs and poetry. After 3 years, when the missionaries were given the possibility of returning, to their amazement, they found the Christian community more numerous and fervent than it had been when they left.

He died in Fianarantsoa on May 19, 1919. His remains were transferred to Antananarivo in 1933.

While Br. Raphael's coffin was on its way from Fianarantsoa to Antananarivo the miracle that led to his beatification took place in the Cathedral of Antsirabè. One of his former catechists wanted to take leave of his former teacher one last time and when he touched the coffin containing Br. Raphael's remains, he was healed instantly of "persistent lack of function of the lower articulations."



Antananarivo
June 2009



Photos: Rodolfo Meoli, fsc
José A. Warletta, fsc
Lanto Rakotomanga





June 7th 2009

Ceremony of the Beatification

Place of the Beatification: Antananarivo

Celebrant for the Holy Mass: His Excellency Archbishop Odon Marie-Arsène Razanakolona, Archbishop of Antananarivo

Representing His Holiness Benedict XVI for the Beatification: His Excellency Archbishop Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints

Other participants:

His Eminence Armand Gaétan Card. Razafindratandra, Archbishop Emeritus of Antananarivo;

His Excellency Augustine Kasujja, Apostolic Nuncio for Madagascar;

All the Bishops (22) from Madagascar;
100 priests and religious.

For the Brothers of the Christian Schools were present:

Br. Alvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Superior General

Br. Gabriel Somé, General Councilor for Africa

Br. Rodolfo Cosimo Meoli, Postulator General of the Institute

Br. Charles Kitson, Secretary and Coordinator of the Lasallian Family and Association

Br. Odon Razafindrakoto, Brother Provincial of Madagascar

Br. Hilaire Raharilalao, Vice-Postulator



Rome

Mass in occasion of the Beatification of Brother Raphael-Louis Rafiringa



On June 14th, feast of Corpus Christi, a commemorative mass of the Beatification of Br. Rafael-Luis Rafiringa took place at the Generalate. Besides many lasalianos of Rome, numerous Madagascans resident in the city participated, animating with songs in their own language. The mass was presided by HH. EE. Mons Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of the Saints; Mons Agostino Marchetto, former Apostolic Nuncio in Madagascar, now Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Emigrants; Mons Francisco Col-laço Blasco, also former Apostolic Nuncio, and Mons Joseph Gasi, Bishop Emeritus of Tombura-Yambio (South Sudan).

From one island to another

The island of Madagascar, where Blessed Brother Raphael Louis was born, lived and died, is the third largest island in the world. It is situated only 800 kilometers north the much smaller island of Reunion where the saintly Brother Scubilion Rousseau FSC died and where he was beatified by Pope John Paul H on April 29, 1989. The 37-year old Bro. Scubilion had come to the island of Bourbon, as Reunion was known at the time, in 1834. He had always desired to set out some day for that "much larger island."

In a letter sent to his Provincial in France on December 8th, 1885, he wrote as follows; *"For several decades the Jesuit Fathers have been struggling to bring the Catholic religion to Madagascar: they had to suffer a great deal, but so far the effort at evangelization has made little progress ... Let us pray that the tree of the Cross might someday be planted on the highest peak of the Malagache mountains ... Let us hope that the moment will come as soon as possible when the disciples of our venerated Father and Founder will be spread in great numbers over this country ... It is now more than twenty years that I have been asking God for this favor. Personally, I would love to be in the number of those who would have the good fortune to go there."*

But divine Providence had other plans and Bro. Scubilion had to remain in Reunion for the rest of his life. His extraordinary and persistent apostolic activity led to the abolition of slavery on that island. In 1867, when Bro. Scubilion died, our Bro. Raphael Louis was only eleven years old, but he was destined to continue in his native land the work of Brother Scubilion. He would become for half a century the person who would play a ever more decisive role on the Madagascar scene. Thus there was a transition in gospel witnessing between two strong personalities, between two saintly Lasallian Brothers in two neighboring but very different islands.

Venezuela

The La Salle Foundation of Natural Science, in favor of knowledge and conservation



The first official scientific expedition for 2009 took place from May 27 to June 5 on the island of Aves. It was sponsored and organized by the Hydrography and Navigation Administration of the Venezuelan Navy and the Ministry for the Environment.

The island of Aves is a small, insular formation of 3.16 hectares. It is located southwest of the island of Guadalupe and southeast of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, some 580 kilometers from land. Geologically it is the surface

point of an underwater mountain range (Aves is the protruding part) that runs parallel to the arch of the Lesser Antilles and it separates the Venezuelan basin from the Grenada basin.

The La Salle Foundation of Natural Science was one of the pioneering Venezuelan institutions along with Simón Bolívar University and the Venezuelan Navy in exploring and studying the biodiversity and ecology of the island of Aves. The first expeditions date from the beginning of the 1970s (1970 - 1973) and they were done by the personnel and researchers from those two institutions that worked in the Margarita Marine Research Station, the Institute of Technology and the Hydrography and Navigation Administration of the Venezuelan Navy.

The principal objective of this project is the creation and startup of a free internet access site on the national and international levels which will offer important information on the diversity, distribution, biology and ecology of the marine fish of Venezuela.



La Salle Foundation received the Scientific Journalism Prize

The La Salle Foundation of Natural Science received the Municipal Prize of Scientific Social Communication "Aristides Bastidas" 2009, by its trajectory of more than 50 years for the investigation and its social application to the service of people.

São Paulo EPEL 2009



237 Lasallian teachers, Brothers and Lay people, participated in the District Gathering of Lasallian Teachers (EPEL) of São Paulo District, Brasil. The event was organized by the AMEL of

the District, with the topic "Enlarging horizons", and the motto "Lasallians: from the first sources towards a New World".

Thus, the encounter of three days passed in an ambient tuna, favored by the persistence of the Council for the Educative Mission Lasallista, and by the disposition, joy and will to learn of all the participants of the EPEL.

All this generated a feeling of brotherhood, making possible to appreciate ours lasallian sources.

We want that this "New World" can also occur in this part of the Institute called Brazil.



The International Lasallian University Leadership Program



The International Lasallian University Leadership Program met at the Generalate from June 7th through June 20th. Over 50 representatives from 23 Lasallian higher education institutions have gathered for the third edition of this program sponsored by the International Association of Lasallian Universities, IALU.

This important formation program includes presentations from members of the General Council and experts in the essential facets of the history, charisma, spirituality, and pedagogy of La Salle. Association, the Lasallian Family and future considerations for Lasallian higher education are also being covered in this intensive and rich community experience.

Participants received an in-depth look at the Lasallian international university network, which is the second largest private higher education group in the world. Lasallian colleagues from the US, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Palestine and the Philippines shared best practices and the realities of the local situations.

Dialogue and group discussions were designed to enrich the information and help all the participants work on creating initiatives at their home institutions. Regional and international collaboration will be facilitated through work generated by this program and will further enhance projects already begun by previous participants.

International MEL Council

At the meeting of the International MEL Council, held in Rome from May 4-8, three priorities were established for the Lasallian Educational Mission. These were derived from the challenges and lines of action from the 44th General Chapter and from the guidelines of the 2006 International Assembly. The priorities are:

1. Lasallian education for the 21st century for the service of the poor.
2. To draw up a guide that will spell out the essential elements needed for systematic and differentiated formation and for accompaniment of the Lasallian Family.
3. Structures for the Lasallian Mission in the 21st century.



Plan of Action 2009-2011

The priorities of the Secretariat for the Lasallian Education Mission are reflected in the document of the 44th General Chapter, in the report of the International Assembly of 2006 and in Circular 256 of 2008. Also taken into account will be three fundamental elements for accompanying the development of each one of the lines of action and orientations set out in the General Chapter and in the International Assembly respectively:

- Communication in its different forms and as a medium for maintaining relations with the Regions, the Districts and the works of the MEL network.
- Becoming aware of the realities which are being lived in the Regions, in the Districts and in the works of the MEL network.
- Concrete responses to particular situations in order to contribute in some manner to the needs which arise in the Regions, in the Districts and in the works of the MEL network.

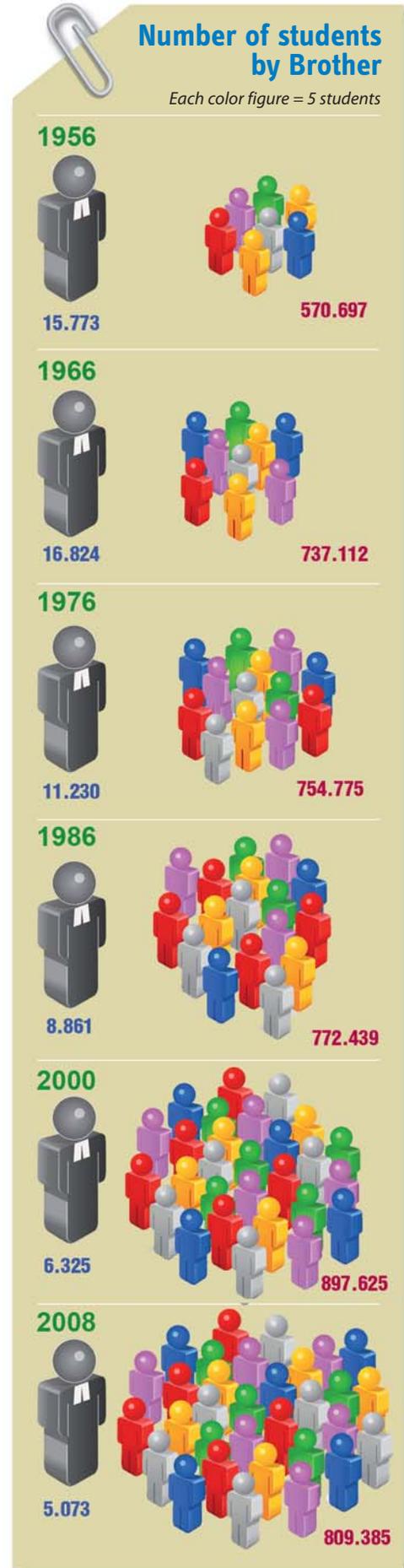
Within this framework there will be four fundamental central themes for advancing the Plan of Work of the Secretariat for the Lasallian Education Mission during the period 2009 - 2011.

Each one of the themes has projects which contribute to the energizing of the lines of action of the Secretariat:



Central Themes	Projects
Communications	Visits
	Meetings
	Correspondence
Publications	MEL Directory
	Virtual Library
	MEL Bulletins
	MEL Digital Journal/Revue
Research	MEL Structures
	Research into mission themes
	Formation
	A prospectus for institutions
Formation	International Congress
	Invitations to formation events

We hope that these projects can be achieved and above all that they will help in some way in the development and energizing of the Lasallian Education Mission.



Coordination and progression in formation – a positive experience



Every formation process is long, it has its own stages and diverse people are involved. With the purpose of assuring coordination and progression in the process we set up coherent programs for the various stages with corresponding objectives, means and strategies. This is what happens in the formation of Brothers in French-speaking Africa. We have a Plan for Formation, which is the point of reference for the programs of the different stages and formation groups. But what happens in practice? Is that coordination and progression assured among the contiguous stages of formation? The difficulty increases when groups are international ones and when they are located in different countries, such as is our case: The novices spend two years in the Novitiate in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) and the young Brothers spend another two or three years in the Scholasticate in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). There tend to be groups of about 20 young men.

To meet this challenge we had a meeting between the Novitiate and Scholasticate staffs. This meeting was chaired by the Secretary for Initial Formation for French-speaking Africa. There were seven Brothers present for the meeting, which lasted for four days, from April 15 to 18, 2009 at the Novitiate in Bobo-Dioulasso.

We shared information about the reality of each of the two groups: the characteristics of the young people who arrive at the Novitiate and then later on go to the Scholasticate, and the most important dynamics of each stage. We had thorough discussions about how to develop the formation plans for each group and the corresponding means for doing so.

In the Novitiate, "the privileged experience of initiation into the religious life of the Brother," there is great emphasis on the promotion of interior life and the life of prayer for the novices. In order to do this, the novices are invited to recollect themselves, they have times for small group sharing where they talk about fraternity, the Sunday Gospel, spiritual reading, and they



look at faith in light of current events; Wednesday afternoons are devoted to exercises in interior journeys.

In the Scholasticate young Brothers already have had some experience with interior life and a rich practice in making mental prayer. Formation personnel are well aware that they need to continue mentoring the Scholastics in these practices. They study the way to continue the exercise of sharing faith by looking at real events, a practice which was begun in the Novitiate.

Postulants come to the Novitiate from different African countries. Community life for the first three months is not easy due to cultural diversity and different ways of relating to people. Upon arrival, novices receive training in "non-violent communication" skills. Relationships quickly improve thanks to close mentoring and to competent conflict management techniques which are carried out in three aspects of community life: fraternity, commissions and in each group.

In the Scholasticate there is the sense that the Scholastics already have experience in inter-cultural living. To prepare themselves for going to an apostolic community, the third-year Scholastics make up a smaller, "second" community.

Towards the end of the meeting the need to give expression to the richness of our Lasallian spirituality and charism in a kind of pedagogical journey was brought up.

During the meeting we noted the quality of our formation teams who work in the Novitiate and in the Scholasticate. There was overall satisfaction in the outcome of the meeting. The challenge will be to continue giving continuity to what was shared at the meeting, that is to say, in how to promote the coordination and the progress between these two stages which are so important for the formation of the African Brother.

*Br. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga
Secretary for Initial Formation*



Philippines

A Joyful Celebration



13 June, Saturday, was a joyful day as we witnessed commitment professions of several young brothers and the entrance to the postulancy of five young men. Novices Brs. Aikee Esmeli and Mikey Cua publicly pronounced their first vows in the presence of family, friends, Brothers and other members of the Lasallian Family. Five aspirants also took a step further in their discernment with their entrance to the postulancy program. Our six temporarily vowed brothers namely, Brs. Alex Diaz, Sockie de La Rosa, Mandy Dujunco, Arian Lopez, Rey Mejias and Richie Yap were also on hand to renew their vows. At the beginning of my sharing during the eucharist I mentioned that 13 June 2009 marks our Superior General's Golden Jubilee as a Lasallian Brother. Let us keep our postulants and all our young brothers in our prayers. Let us also remember our formators, JJ Jimenez, Vince Fernandez and Rory Higgins.

Venezuela: Br. Superior General with the Young Brothers



In his pastoral visit to the District of Venezuela, Brother Álvaro had the opportunity to have a pleasant chat with the young Brothers. Each Brother talked about his formative experience in the areas of spiritual life, community living, anxiety as regards the apostolate and his professional enrichment.

Br. Alvaro invited them "to live a community life that is more evangelical and fraternal. Take care of the human and improve relationships. So that the Gospel might illuminate and motivate your community life."

There was a subsequent meeting with young people belonging to youth movements and it was an opportune time to make known to them the true meaning of the Brother's vocation.

Initial Formation: "Steps and Thoughts that we continue to build on"



and in this reality; in the poor and their problems, their dreams, frustrations, abilities and culture.

– that is committed to the Kingdom of God and its justice, intervening as a community on structures that generate exclusion, providing experiences that teach about cooperative organization.

– that seeks to generate structures and organizations about base communities that are open, making them sustainable in the long term and avoiding personal initiatives.

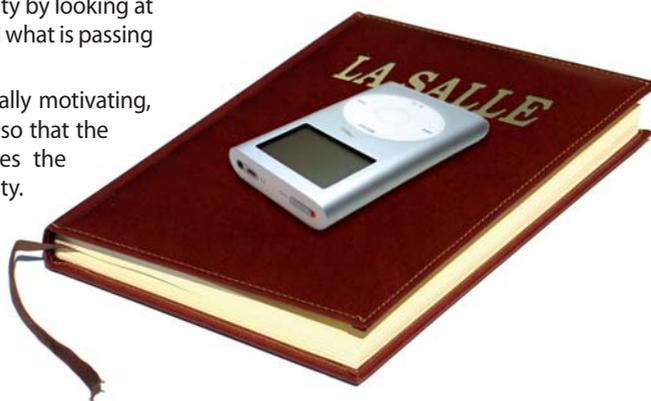
– that opts for the neglected in ministries, for those who are outside the usual channels for the poor and weak.

– that nourishes and promotes the participation of all, where each one can say what he or she feels without fear, frankly and freely.

This year, 2009, the GGJ has had three meetings with the discussion centered on creating spaces for the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, encouraging activities for problem youth and for special needs children. For their part, the Brothers in initial formation met four times to add to these topics with study meetings on Lasallian spirituality and pastoral theology.

These are steps and thoughts that we continue to build on. We are always aware of frailness, dispersion, and of the many activities that we tend to get involved in. Knowing that, we encourage these initiatives, this generational community of young Lasallians. To be evangelized by the lives of poor people that live next to us, to sew experiences in this territory which is so filled with injustice and inequality, to be a community of presence which is counter-cultural, a witness and missionary... To continue feeling renewed by this Jesus Christ, the friend of the poor who came into our life in order to transform it.

Br. Alejandro Bruni



The year 2007 was the beginning of a new formative journey in the District of Argentina-Paraguay: Formation and accompaniment of **Brothers in Temporary Vows** and the establishment of a **Young Generational Group (GGJ)** made up of postulants, novices and the above-mentioned Brothers.

The intention of these meetings was to discern about problems and common interests so that we might increase the capacity for dialogue and joint coordination. Furthermore, the idea was to build links and interpersonal references that will help us to think as those who are progressively assuming leadership positions in our communities and in different District posts.

Both groups have their own purposes and calendars; nevertheless, far from being two groups that are in opposition to one another, they complement and interrelate with one another.

During some of the meetings there is prayer, discussion and sharing on common topics. We think about some "wishes" and horizons that we as a young community would like to have. Here are some of them:

"We want a youth generational group (GGJ and Brothers in temporary vows)..."

"Queremos una comunidad generacional juvenil (GGJ y Hnos. de votos temporales):"

– that nourishes, shares and strengthens spirituality, that prays in community by looking at reality, what is happening and what is passing us by.

– that is enthusiastic and mutually motivating, promoting deep encounters, so that the life of each Brother becomes the Word of God for the community.

– that adheres to and cultivates a spirituality of incarnation, that discovers God in the most human things; speaking and living in this time



Bolivia: A Novitiate that is Filling Up

Previously Bolivian novices would go to Peru, then make their novitiate in Argentina and most recently in Costa Rica. It was beginning in 2006 that this new novitiate began for the District of Bolivia.



For two years the novitiate was located in the center of Cochabamba as construction was going on for a new building. The house that was being used was small but well adapted to the needs of the novitiate. Beginning in 2008 the novice moved to the new novitiate which was located very far away from the center of Cochabamba, in "El Paso," situated in the "Mosoj Rancho" (New Ranch) area. The scenery is beautiful, at the foot of the Tunari mountains, one of the most important peaks in Bolivia. It is a wonderful experience each day to see the people who live in the area and who devote themselves to cultivating flowers which are raised for export.

The Director of the novitiate is Brother Cimarrón Jesús Rocha Castro, and Brother Martín Corral, former General Councillor, spent his last years here as Sub-Director. The current Sub-Director is Brother Raúl Guzmán Losantos.

This novitiate program lasts for two years and has the following objectives:

- To make an in-depth discernment on the Brother's vocation.
- To help the novice with human, Christian, and Lasallian maturation.
- To help the novice progressively acquire a basic spiritual stance as a disciple of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Achieving these objectives requires long periods devoted to prayer, reflection, study, reading, retreats, and interviews with the Brother

Two groups of novices have finished their novitiate already and the last of them are already in the new site. This house is a sign of hope for all Lasallians in Bolivia that are working in a more integrated youth and vocation ministry program that is adapted to the needs of the young.

Br. Cimarrón Rocha

Montse Nieto, Co-Secretary of the Lasallian Family and Association Sharing Mission and Community



My name is **Montserrat Nieto**. I live and work in the Spanish city of Valladolid, at La Salle College, one of the two schools run by the brothers in that city. I teach Economics, Philosophy and Religion and belong to a Lasallian Christian

Community called *Shemá*, which is Hebrew for "Listen".

One of the things which I value highly is the tremendous help from people, and their confidence shown me by my Community, the Visitors, my family and many brothers and other persons connected with de La Salle. I have begun to realise that there are many people with great Faith.

What are your links with de La Salle?

For me it all began at the age of eighteen, when I was studying in the pre-University course at one of the Brothers' Schools. We were invited to join a Christian group to reflect on our Faith and to share it with one another. Then it was that a road was opened to me full of life, discovery and Faith. I owe so much to the brothers in that search: I discovered a mission in which I could take part and which I could live according to the Gospel.

Later I was lucky enough to share in the educational mission of the Brothers and other Lasallians. In one way or another for the past nine years I have always been linked with Shared Mission and Association in general and in a more definite manner in the District Committee for Shared Mission and Association; and for the past two years in fact, for the Region as well. In addition I have taken part in Lasallian Weeks organised by the Region of ARLEP and in the Rome gathering of Europe in 2000. All those experiences have helped me to open my eyes and to discover a multitude of ways of living and sharing the mission and the community.

You told us that you belonged to a Lasallian Christian Community, called *Shemá*. What exactly is *Shemá* and who are members of it?

As I have already said, the year when I began studying at a De La Salle school, the brother in charge of pastoral work there, invited us to

join a Christian group where we could share our faith and make a certain commitment to helping the less fortunate. The programme included a weekly meeting and prayer together. There were also two important events per year, one when we young people, brothers and secular teachers met to celebrate Easter and the other at Christmas time to pray together. On one occasion as many as 300 of us met at the same time.

The catechumenal course of the Brothers, in which Jesus and his Gospel were shown to us as examples to follow, lasted until we were about 22 or 23 years old. When that course was over, we were encouraged to carry on sharing our faith among parish groups or in adult Christian Communities. But it was also then that the District invited us to get to know St. de La Salle as a person. We did this together with other educators (teachers, formators, Christian groups and Brothers) from the whole Region of ARLEP. This presented us with one example of how a person can live the Gospel: according to the method of de La Salle,.... and many of us were thrilled by it.

In my Community it was usual to say, paraphrasing the text of Saint-Exupery in *"The Little Prince"* that our relationship with de La Salle has been like a friendship which is woven bit by bit, just like the friendship of the fox with the little prince in that story.

Hence, as we gradually got closer to de La Salle and as our attachment to him became closer, we began saying to the brothers: *"This is not right; you help us to understand de La Salle, and we feel attracted by his life and his way of living the Gospel, then you invite us to depart!! But what if we don't go away? and what if we continue to share with you the Faith, Mission and Community?"*

And so getting to know the attractive model of de La Salle has caused some of our colleagues to change their studies to educational courses, because we all con-

sider education as a real mission, in our work and by our commitment.

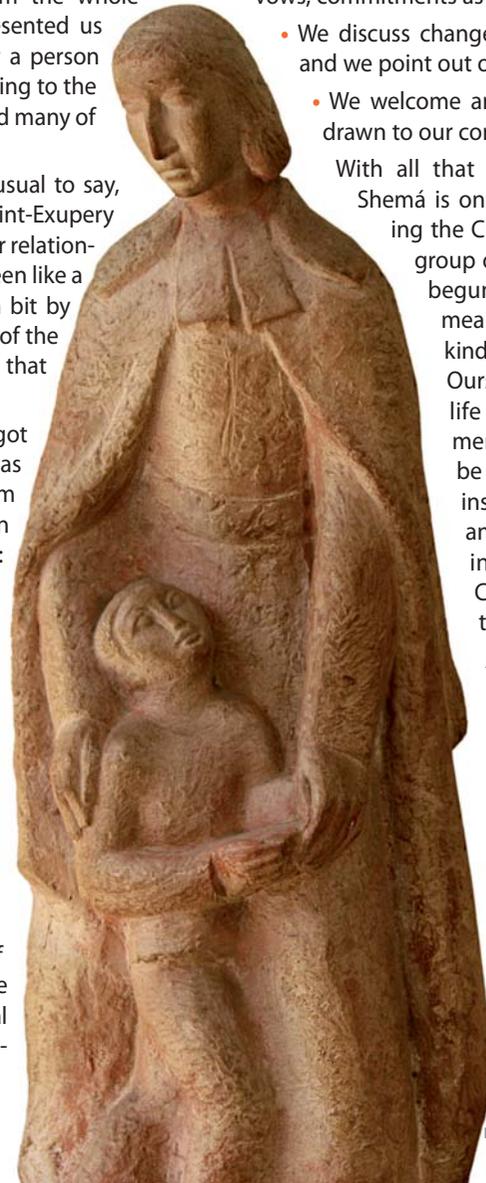
Today the community consists of eleven persons, all sharing our ideals, and some actually living together, doing work in neighbourhood; some of us are married, some are single, others consecrated.

- In our daily life we have regular prayer, meals together if possible, we have Mass together, and meet once a week for training and formation.
- We are sent on mission by the community, two by two: to undertake pastoral work in parish schools, to help in what is called "the Neighbourhood Association".
- We share salaries and possessions.
- We share with the Brothers and Associates regional gatherings, for birthdays and other celebrations, like District Days, renewal of vows, commitments as associates...
 - We discuss changes in our way of life and we point out one another's failings.
 - We welcome any persons who feel drawn to our community life

With all that we can affirm that *Shemá* is one form of emphasising the Christian life among a group of seculars who have begun to search for the meaning of life through a kind of catechumenate. Ours is a Community for life and faith, whose members feel a call to be Christian educators, inspired by de La Salle, and living a style of life inspired by the first Christian Communities.

And "God who never forces a person but who guides him with wisdom.....was leading me from one commitment to another."

So there you have me. Next moves? Sufficient for the day is what the day offers.



Rome, July '09

Holy Land - Jordan

“Your grace is sufficient for us”

VEGA - Formation programme for Young Lasallian Leaders



VEGA, the formation programme for Young Lasallian Leaders, was held from 11th to 19th July at the Generalate in Rome. This was a pilot project which the **International Council of Young Lasallians** (ICYL) hopes will be replicated in similar forms in the rest of the Institute as well as in the participants' own Districts. This historic formation program was mainly focused on Young Lasallians in RELEM (Europe and the Middle East) but also included a number of Young Lasallian Leaders from our other Regions. VEGA afforded all participants the possibility to

appreciate the work of, and exchange views with, fellow Young Lasallians coming from very diverse realities across the Institute. It also provided them with the opportunity to nourish their own personal formation as they follow their star...their Lasallian star.

The journey was based on the three major elements of Lasallian life: **Faith, Service, Community**. Our VEGA challenge was to ask every participant “To See” (*VEDere*), “To Contemplate” (*GIudicare*), and “To Act” (*AGire*) in favor of the poor in the world around us.

The Holy Land/Jordan Sector and the Lasallian Family organized, from July 15th to 21st 2009, a missionary camp at El-Huson, a village in northern Jordan with a large Christian presence (40%). The camp took place in the school of the Latin Patriarchate. The spiritual theme of this camp was: “Your grace is sufficient for us”

We chose this village for several reasons:

- The encouragement of the parish –priest, Fr. Imad Twal and his assistant, Fr. Tarea Hijazin;
- The presence of the children and their thirst for the word of God;
- A locality which is very pleasant in summer.

The aim of the camp was multiple:

- To give the opportunity to live in community and to deepen their spiritual and cultural knowledge and to have an experience of gratuitous service to needy children.
- To make known the Institute of the Brothers and the Founder to the young people and the Christians of this village..

The participants were Young Lasallians from the colleges of the Sector: Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Amman. Each day between 120 and 150 children from the village came and participated in the activities.



Vietnam: Lasallian Youth Congress

On Sunday on the Devine Trinity Feast, on 6/7/09, 250 Young Lasallians gathered in Lasalle Mai Thon, Binh Thanh District, HoChiMinhCity, to participate to the 1st Lasallian Youth Congress, with the Topic: “Go with St JB De La Salle to educate ourselves”.



the Youth came here to offer the Thanksgiving to the Divine Trinity and to praise Bro. Raphael Rafiringa, full of educative devotion, as an intellectual teacher, a reconciliator of the Lasallian Institute on the Madagas-

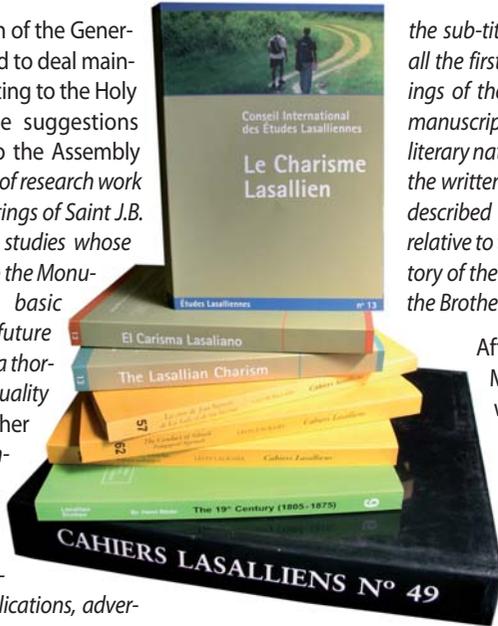
car Island, whom today, the Church elevated to the rang of Venerable. The Blessed Raphael gave to the Lasallian Youth an excellent example through his perseverance to follow the vocation, although he met a lot of ordeals in his Lasallian Vocation.

In the picture, the participants form the Lasallian Star in order to show the unity and the association in the Lasallian Spirit.

Bro. Provincial, before declaring the end of the Congress, once more repeated the advice and the sending of the Young Lasallians with courage to testimony to the world by their own exemplary life so that these become the yeast, the salt and the light of the world. The song “Let’s go forward” showed their decision of all the Young Lasallians with the attitude

A 50th Anniversary to celebrate: The Collection of “Cahiers Lasalliens”

The Third Commission of the General Chapter of 1956 had to deal mainly with questions relating to the Holy Founder. Among the suggestions which it presented to the Assembly one finds “The pursuit of research work on the life and the writings of Saint J.B. de la Salle, by critical studies whose ensemble will make up the Monumenta lasalliana, a basic starting-point for a future critical biography and a thorough study of the spirituality of the Saint.” And further “the creation of a central Lasallian organization at the Mother House, given the task of directing and coordinating the works, publications, advertising...” (Circ.354)



the sub-titles: texts, which will be above all the first biographies and certain writings of the Founder, up till now only in manuscript form: studies of a historical or literary nature, centred on the person and the written work of the saint; documents described or produced in-extenso, and relative to the life of the saint or to the history of the first decades of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.”

After fifty years, it is really a Monumenta lasalliana which we have at our disposal. The latest volume which has appeared in the collection, which is number 65, proposes a study by Br. **Jean Pungier** on *The Catechism of the Mysteries and the Feasts of John Baptist De La Salle*, following up number 64 on the

Three years later the first issue of the collection appeared, *The New Testament quotations in the Meditations for the Time of Retreat*, with presentation, critical examination, introduction and notes by Br. **Michel Sauvage**. In his preamble, Br. Superior Nicet-Joseph, addressed himself to Br. **Maurice-Auguste**, Director of “Cahiers Lasalliens”: “Since June 1956, you have been asked to promote among the Brothers, direct and coordinate the initiatives undertaken to respond to this wish of our revered Capitulants.”

Following this introductory letter to the collection, on April 30th 1959, Br. Maurice-Auguste himself presented the project: “Our ‘Cahiers’ have had prescribed for them relatively narrow frameworks. In time, first of all, so as to retain, in the usual manner, nothing but data relative to the entire century which opened with the birth of our Holy Founder (1651) and closed with the resignation of his second successor, Most Honorable Br. **Timothée** (1751). In the nature also of the works which they intend to propose, limiting themselves to the three domains defined by each of

same subject. Preceding this were two volumes on *The Conduct of Schools* by Br. **Léon Lauraire** (and a third is due out soon). Going through the collection we meet yet other Brothers, at the head of whom we must place Bros. Maurice-Auguste (Alphonse Hermans), Léon de Marie (Louis Aroz) and after them, Yves Poutet, Miguel Campos, Jean-Guy Rodrique, Émile Rousset, Leo Burkhard....without forgetting the Brothers who, here in Rome, work at preparing and distributing the publications.

The family of Lasallian researchers, more international, is renewing itself and diversifying. The collections are also diversifying with successively, Études lasalliennes, Thèmes lasalliens, Essais lasalliens. The new facilities for distance communication promise us a very different half-century from that which we have known. Without neglecting our libraries because of this, let us profit as much as possible from the facilities offered by our monitor screens.

Br. Francis Ricousse
Lasallian Research and Resource Service



Br. Maurice-Auguste

The Lasallian Library

Books and other publications relating to the works of the Institute regularly arrive at the Lasallian Library of the Archives, whether it be a case of university publications or of occasional monographs. Often the authors have essentially drawn their material from our archive collections: those of the Mother House, those of Districts, those of local establishments (when the latter have taken the trouble to preserve them). These works have in common the fact of making appear the dynamism and the capacity for adaptation of those who went before us, in all the regions of the world.

Let us note on this occasion the following title from among others:



Politique, Éducation et Identités linguistiques. Le Collège des Frères des écoles chrétiennes de Jérusalem (1922-1939). The author, Karène Sanchez, is a French academic with a name coming from the South, who was teaching for three years in Jerusalem and is today at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. It is an example of an establishment which, at a given moment in its history, and beyond the intentions of its founders, of necessity situated itself in the network of the political influences of a region in rapid evolution.

Lasallian Research and Resource Service

Br. **Diego Antonio Muñoz León** (left), from the District of Mexico-North, started as Coordinating Secretary of this Service. For his part, Br. **Edgard Hengemüle** (right), from the District of Porto Alegre, is the new person in charge of the Department of Research.



Meki, Ethiopia An integral program



Meki is a small city of about 50,000 inhabitants which is situated some 140 km. south of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Not long ago Meki was a sleepy village. Today, thanks to the new highway which links the capital to the Kenyan border, it has been converted into a noisy and vibrant crossroads of people and commercial interests.

In 1989, responding to an invitation from Bishop Woldehanes, the Brothers took over the administration of the diocesan college. In the course of recent years, the college –

the only centre of secondary education in a 50 km. radius which offers access to university – has been converted into one of the best colleges in southern Ethiopia. The majority of the pupils succeed in getting into the public university, which is of course, gratuitous.

But success has brought with it a great number of financial and similar problems. Today in Ethiopia, for an education centre to be self-sufficient it needs the pupils to pay a monthly fee of € 15. The college in Meki, because of the poverty of the pupils, many of them children of shepherds and small farmers, only receives two or three euro a month. As a result the college is totally loss-making.

The centre also faces another serious problem: very few female pupils manage to finish their secondary education and go on to university. Victims of atavistic ancestral customs, the girls, at a very early age are abducted, raped and forced to marry during puberty. Thus end their dreams of a new life.

The situation becomes even more serious since the majority of the parents of the pupils are shepherds and small farmers who survive in a mere subsistence economy trapped in medieval methods.

What to do?

Raise the fees, closing the doors to the poor? Continue lamenting the tragedy of the African woman? Accept a situation of food insecurity,



exposing the poor to a crisis of cyclical famines?

The Brothers have accepted the challenge: the poor will continue to be educated; the young will be able to go to university and the shepherds and farmers will benefit from a commercial economy.

The key: the creation of a centre of formation and agricultural production of 62 hectares on the banks of Lake Zway.

The Centre:

- will organize courses of formation in agriculture and cattle-raising.
- will sponsor campaigns for the artificial insemination of cattle.
- will carry out pilot experiments in family bio-gas.
- Will buy fruit and milk from the farmers to transform them into dairy products and jams.

With this in mind, in the centre:

- there have been planted 10 hectares of vines; 10 hectares of maize; 1,500 banana plants; and we have introduced new types of plants such as strawberries, alfalfa and beans...
- the following are being built: a dairy for 160 animals; a bodega capable of producing 80,000 bottles of wine a year; a factory for producing dairy products and jams; some classrooms for the formation in farming...

S+D



And thanks to this effort from the Brothers:

- we will be able to keep the fees low so that the poor may have access to the university.
- we will be able to finance the running of a new residence for 50 female students, which is already under construction.
- we will be creating new sources of revenue for peasants and cattle-farmers.

This dream is being shared and financed by:

- The Government of the Basque Country
- The Government of the Community of Valencia
- Proyde
- Fundación Freedom
- Caritas Spain
- Caritas Guipúzcoa
- Kutxa of Guipúzcoa
- Caritas Feldkirch
- Ampelos (Italian NGO)

La Salle International Foundation



In response to the 44th General Chapter and the 2006 International Assembly, the Secretariat for Solidarity and Development has created La Salle International Foundation (USA) to assist with large-scale fund raising and to aid needy Lasallian operations in their movement towards self-sufficiency. Brother **Craig Franz**, former President of two universities in North America and President of the International Association of Lasallian Universities, heads this new foundation.

Brother Craig has been weaving together the technical and legal framework to establish this new entity as an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. In contradistinction to most Brothers' foundations in the USA which are religious charities, as a public charity, La Salle International would be eligible for funds not otherwise available to religiously affiliated institutions.

La Salle International is headquartered in the Paulist Hecker Center next to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Catholic University of America

To familiarize La Salle International with funding needs around the world, Africa and Asia were visited during the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009. These visitations provided first-hand knowledge of Lasallian institutions, determined funding needs, offered possible



collaborations with other NGO's, and provided suggestions for financial self-sustainability. Countries visited included Burkina Faso, Rwanda, the Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, Philippines, India, and Sri Lanka. While in Asia, La Salle International presented concept papers for future large-scale funding in the Institute to the visitors and bursars attending PARC 32.

La Salle International is designed to support the efforts of the International Council for Solidarity and Development. One of the primary projects with which it has been engaged is the inter-congregational effort to restore health and educational services to the war ravaged country of Southern Sudan. Welcoming the collective participation of over 60 different religious congregations, new health and teacher training institutes are being established through this project called *Solidarity with Southern Sudan*

Schools, groups, corporations or individuals interested in financially assisting the work of La Salle International Foundation can make contact at:

3025 Fourth Street, NE;
Washington, DC 20017 USA
tel: +1 (202) 526-6095; fax: +1 (202) 526-6096
craig@lasalleinternational.org

Brothers Without Borders

Dire Dawa – A City of Richness in Spirit

Summer Volunteer Project collaborating with the Brothers of Irish District. There were ten volunteers from Ireland and two Brothers from India. It was a total cross cultural experience. A project involving people of three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe, is a great model that Lasalle's Mission has no borders

Dire Dawa is one of the poorest cities in Ethiopia, which feels the pain of poverty. Now approximately 60% of the people in the town are unemployed and very poor. The Government's support to the handful of poor families couldn't wipe away the ever growing



poverty rate in this town.

The Brothers have established **Lasalle Boys Club** in order to respond to the needs of the street boys. They target the children living in panic situations such as



Secretariat Solidarity and Development

In line with the 44th General Chapter's invitation to intensify our efforts to promote education for justice and to strengthen our actions for the direct service of the poor, this new Secretariat helps Brother Superior and his General Council with the fourfold responsibility of encouraging the ongoing process of conversion to the poor; promoting actions of solidarity in finances and personnel among the different Sectors of the Institute; accompanying the progress of policies that lead each Sector of the Institute to economic self-sufficiency; and, providing an answer to the problems related to the migratory movements in the world.

Secretariat for Solidarity and Development is directed by a Coordinating Secretary who works with an international Council.



Br. **Pedro Arrambide**, a member of the District of Bilbao, is the Coordinating Secretary of Solidarity and Development.

Br. **Amilcare Boccuccia**, a member of the District of Italy, is Director of Development.

Br. **Stephen Tuohy**, a member of the District of Eastern North America (DNA), is Director of SECOLI.

The Secretariat for the Solidarity and Development is assisted by an **International Council** composed of the Coordinating Secretary, the Director of Development, the Director of SECOLI and of members named from each Region of the Institute.

Br. **Jorge Gallardo de Alba**, General Councillor, accompanies the Secretariat.

children from broken homes, victims of early marriage, children of the poorest of the poor and children from HIV/ AIDS affected families.

Since the Government does not aid the teachers in the schools, it is not possible for the Brothers to run any school for the street kids. So the Brothers started **Lasalle Youth Center** in March 26, 2007, as an attempt to do something about the growing number of street children in Dire Dawa. They decided to begin with 10 boys. The home offers personalized attention and care, guidance and counseling, food, shelter, education and a sense of hope for their future. In the coming years, they have planned to increase the number into 50.

*Br. Martin Jeyaseelan
Delegation of India*

Lasallian International Children's Fund (LICF)

Towards the end of the 43rd General Chapter, the Regions of the Institute announced their decision to create the *Brother John Johnston Fund for the Protection and Welfare of Children*. Subsequently, Brother John modified the name to *Lasallian International Children's Fund*.

LICF Grantees are:

LICF Disbursements to SECOLI Projects in US\$						
Country	Place	Description	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bolivia	Sta Cruz	Orphanage Laundry		1,252		
Burkina Faso	Nouna/Badenya	Audio Visuel/Équipement de classe	4,426			2,081
Cameroun	Diang	Salle d'Informatique		3,926		
Congo R.D.	Mbandaka	Dotation d'outil informatique au College				4,800
Cile	Esperanza	Orfanato	3,272			
Ethiopia	Dire Dawa	Scholarship	3,500			
Häiti	La Tortue	Clôture du terrain de l'école 3e p.			4,876	
India	Boys Village	Scholarship	3,476			
Kenya	Child Discov.	Food Clothing Bedding		4,824		
Kenya	Nyeri	Street Children Program				3,834
Madagascar	Port Bergé	Toiture et peinture de l'école		3,070		
Malaysia	PARC	Youth Coordinator's Workshop			800	
S. Africa	Phokeng	Clothes for Nkaneng S. C. Children				2,737
SriLanka	Mannar/Boys' T.	Boarders/Vocational Training in War Area		2,160		6,429
Total			55,463	14,674	15,232	12,247

five Lasallian projects around the world. The *Mission Drive* was Central Catholic's largest and most successful charity and justice project chaired by the Office of Campus Ministry in collaboration with the National Honors Society, CCHRIST (a student human rights and advocacy organization), and Student Council. Working together to both

fund projects. Through August 2009 the investments of contributions have generated earnings which have funded 16 projects.



Your contribution to LICF will build the endowment base and fund projects in perpetuity.

Bro. Stephen Tuohy

Since June 2000 there have been 118 contributions to LICF totaling 343,891 US\$. One contribution of 16,800 US\$ came from Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States. Bryan Woll of the class of 2008 writes of the School's 2007 Lenten Mission Drive:

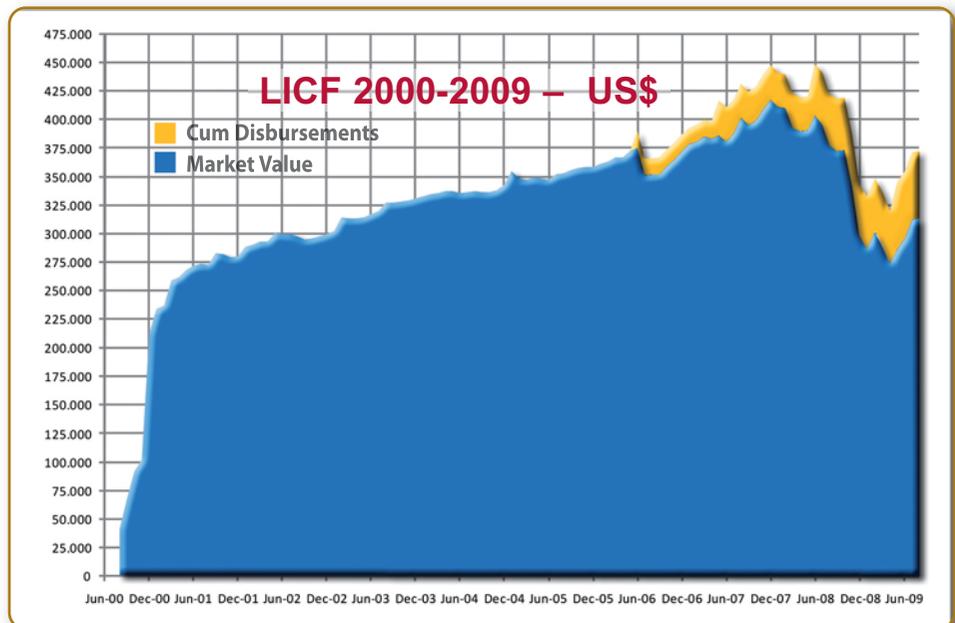
The food was meager. Complaints were many and loud. Hunger brought out unruly behavior. While these sentences appear to describe malnutrition in a developing nation, they are, in fact, recalling a day last spring when 825 high school boys were denied their choice of lunches and drinks. The students had only one choice for their lunch — soup and a sandwich— and were unable to purchase anything from the vending machines. This activity, known as the "Simple Meal," was part of the Lenten Mission Drive at Central Catholic High School and sought to give the student body a brief taste of what life is like for the millions of people who live in economic poverty everyday.

Central Catholic, a diocesan high school in the Lasallian tradition, is located in the heart of the city of Pittsburgh. Central Catholic undertakes a Mission Drive each Lent to benefit a Lasallian school or project both in the US and throughout the world. It is the largest of four school drives that the Office of Campus Ministry sponsors each year. The beneficiary of this past year's Mission Drive was the Lasallian International Children's Fund, which disburses about \$15,000 annually to four or

raise money and awareness, Central Catholic's "Offering to God" was a record breaking \$16,800. Through daily solicitation, dress down days, the Simple Meal, and donations from the feeder parishes and alumni, Central Catholic was able to provide enough money to fund an entire year of disbursements from the Lasallian International Children's Fund.

All contributions to LICF are invested in an endowment, the earnings of which annually

Send your contribution to:
SECOLI-LICF
 Via Aurelia 476
 00165 Rome, Italy



Panorama RELEM

RELEM and the running of Services

The path opened a year ago at the constituent meeting of the RELEM Council (Paris April 2008), has opened up a series of lines of action. The five services organized have taken on their responsibilities with meetings and concrete projects. The first presentation of this new dynamic of the Services of RELEM took place at the beginning of 2009 at the Visitors Conference in Jerusalem. A Council of 10 members coordinated all the shared initiatives in RELEM. At the annual Visitors Conference the proposals and lines of action which will be carried out were approved.

The services are work teams composed of 5 members (Brothers and Lay Lasallians) from many of the countries of RELEM. They have their responsibilities: Reflection, proposal and execution of the projects which the Bros. Visitors will determine.

The ASSEDIL Congress 2009

The Congress of **Directors of Educational Establishments** of RELEM, which brought together about 100 participants from all over the RELEM geographical area, allowed for finding a line of work shared between ASSEDIL and RELEM..

The web-page has already been set in motion: www.assedil.at – (p.strass@delasalle.at).

We wish to put on record here the guiding principles of the initiatives and dynamics which most call upon us today and demand concrete actions:

- Attention to the formation and accompanying of Directors of Lasallian Centres.
- The identity of our educational project and, specifically, the defining of the profile of the Lasallian educator which we need today to bring this project to a conclusion.
- Various exchanges and meetings. Beginning to set in motion innovative European projects which promote mutual knowledge and formation.

The questions and motivations are multiple. Reflection is being aimed at:

- How to broaden our local vision towards one that is more European and global.
- How to combine our synergies and potentialities: NGOs, youth, centres....
- How to open up and respond in a professional way to educational and religious pluralism and to the cultural diversity in our Lasallian Centres.

Present-day education calls upon us to grow in quality and demands ongoing formation. We are aware that we have at our disposal an enormous human and professional potential. Putting new energy into this potential invites us to get to know each other, to share initiatives, to be in contact with other pedagogical experiences, to share resources, to keep watch over our project, to grow in motivation and in coherence, to respond to the educational necessities of today, to innovate, to create dynamic networks and examine what we have achieved in order to grow in the construction of the International Lasallian Community.

As an annual project we have the challenge of organizing the next Congress of ASSEDIL of 2010 which will take place in Alexandria, Egypt.



RELEM Logo



After a lot of consultation and various projects The Regional Council has adopted this logo unanimously. With it we wish to express the two fields and the values which make up the reality of RELEM.

The symbol of the Lasallian Region of Europe and the Mediterranean – RELEM – is made up of two abbreviations: **E**, (Europe) and **M** (Mediterranean), the M acting as a bridge between cultures.

Crowning both letters is the yellow Lasallian star of five points, a sign of faith, which lights up our new Region and the entire Lasallian and ecclesial world.

As the identifying sign, there are RELEM and La Salle, the immortal name which crowns us and unites us in a warm embrace.

Chile Postage stamps with works of Br. Fermín Gainza



On June 10th last, the Chilean Post Office issued a series of commemorative stamps in memory of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Santa Maria de los Angeles in the Octava Region (Eighth Region) of that country.

The cathedral of this area had an important intervention by Bro. Fermin Gainza, of the District of Argentina-Paraguay, a Chilean by birth. Painter, sculptor and poet, during almost his entire life he dedicated himself to the initial formation of the Brothers, being Director of Novices for more than 20 years.

The postage stamps reproduce the façade of the Cathedral and the image of the apse of Nuestra Señora de los Angeles, inspired by Notre Dame de la Belle Verrière in Chartres.

In the commemorative envelope, as well in the pamphlet, as background one can see the Trinity which crowns the apse, inspired by the famous icon of Andrew Rublev..

Br. Santiago Rodríguez Mancini

Cartagena, Colombia: Centenary of de La Salle School

The School started its work on March 29th, 1909, first with the name of “Colegio de San Pedro Apóstol”, changed in 1924 for *Colegio De La Salle* of Cartagena. During all these years the quality of the education of this institution became more and more appreciated; the last three years De La Salle School of Cartagena maintained the level of *Muy Superior* (Very High) in the official ICFES Standards of excellence.



Faisalabad, Pakistan

Brothers and Teachers see first-hand the carnage

Gojra, a small city about 220 miles southwest of the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, lies in a region dotted with hard-line Islamist schools. La Salle High School, Faisalabad is one of the adjoining Cities, an hour drive from Gojra City and Korian village where Christians homes were set ablazed. The attack, which Pakistani officials said was incited by a radical Islamist group, followed rumors that some Christians had desecrated a Holy Quran – an act regarded as sacrilege by Muslims. The violence drew condemnation on Monday from the prime minister and the pope, a chilling reminder of how religious extremism has left minority religious groups in this country increasingly vulnerable.

The Brothers and teachers from La Salle Schools, Faisalabad lost no time to visit one of the most neglected Christian Villages which was attacked on 31st July, 2009. The Brothers and teachers brought with them "Charpies" - kind of a reclining beds, and trunks to store their belongings and distributed among the victims. It was alleged that an angry mob of Muslims attacked the Christians and wounded dozens others after burning 40 houses and a church over the alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in this village.

This was followed by setting fire to another Christian colony in the city of Gojra City a day later. It was heartrending to see women and children lying outside their charred houses, while the male folk working in the scorching



sun to rebuild their houses.

Speaking to the village folk of Korian, they recounted the poignant incident where more than 500 Muslims, responding to calls from a mosque, attacked Christians in the village. Local sources said nearly all village Christian families fled. The fires destroyed their homes – collapsing their wooden roofs or melting T-iron roofs – and all belongings within that the attacking Muslims had not first looted. In this Korian village, we found that a large number of livestock belonging to villagers had been stolen by the mob, destroying their livelihood.

The day we arrived in the Gojra City Paramilitary troops patrolled near the dozens of targeted houses, with their blackened walls, charred furniture, and twisted ceiling fans. Six people died in the fires, two by gunshots.

Christian schools across the country closed for three days. In a telegram, Pope Benedict XVI said he was "deeply grieved" to hear of the "senseless attack." Pope Benedict sent his condolences to families of the victims and called on the Christians "not to be deterred in their efforts to help build a society which, with a profound sense of trust in religious and human values, is marked by mutual respect among all its members."

*Bro. Shahzad George Gill
President - Delegation of Pakistan*



INTERNATIONAL LASALLIAN DAYS FOR PEACE
SEPT 21 - OCT 21, 2009

The International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL), launched the follow-up initiative for the **International Lasallian Days for Peace 2009**, to be held from September 21st to October 21st.

All of us are called to find ways to participate in this powerful Lasallian peace movement.

Each Region, District or educational center decides the calendar and the appropriate activities, like:

- Voluntary work experiences
- Commitment to live a simpler, less consumeristic life-style
- Prayers, Workshops, Campaigns,...
- Peaceful marches
- Intercultural or Inter-religious activities.

For further updates and correspondence regarding this initiative or any project, visit the Institute website at www.lasalle.org and look at the *Lasallian Family and Association* tab.

Australia
25 years in Balgo Hills



This month the De La Salle Brothers will celebrate 25 years of service in Balgo Hills.

Apart from the educational opportunities that the Brothers have brought to this remote indigenous community, they also recently established employment and training programs through BoysTown.

These programs provide young people with greater employment prospects with ten local youths recently awarded casual work contracts.

LAST APPOINTMENTS

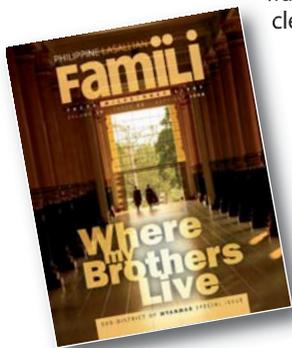
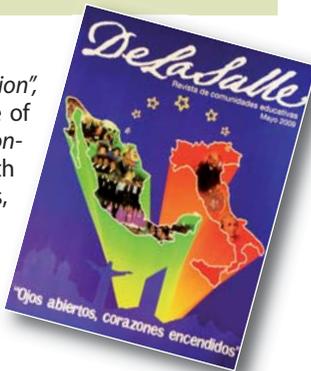
Brother	District/Delegation	Position	Term
Désiré Rasamison	Madagascar	Visitor	01.07.2013
Venant Ntagara	Rwanda	President	05.12.2012
Dennis Lee	Eastern North America	Aux.Visitor	09.2013
Thomas Scanlan	Eastern North America	Aux.Visitor	09.2013
Jerome Sullivan	Eastern North America	Aux.Visitor	09.2013

Lasallian Publications

In this section we will present periodical publications from the Regions or Districts. Some of these publications already have their own web pages.

“Revista para las Comunidades educativas”

“Today we are the face of La Salle”, “Different talents... only one mission”, “Open eyes, burning hearts”, “Lasallian Volunteers...”; these are some of the titles of the **Revista para las Comunidades educativas** (Educational Communities Magazine), in which Lasallians from Mexico-North share their experiences, their wishes, their dreams and perspectives, and the thousand faces of the Lasallian mission: schools, ministries, missions, different events of the educational communities. This publication, in Spanish, is a projection of the district solidarity and the fraternal service of the education, with a clear social and apostolic perspective.



Famili (Philippine Lasallian Famili)

The magazine, in English, has as subtitle: “Facts, Milestones, Lives” and collects articles and news on the Lasallian Family in Philippines. A careful presentation, dynamic and very attractive brings nearer the educational and lasallian reality of the country and the Region.

The last published numbers can be consulted and downloaded (in PDF) from the web page of the District:

<http://www.lasallian.ph>



The communities FSC in the Generalate 2008-2009: General Council, Central Community and CIL Staff

intercom n° 134 - August 2009
Brothers of the Christian Schools
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Postal address : C.P. 9099 (Aurelio)
00100 Rome, Italy

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Translation Coordinator: Bernardo Montes, fsc
Articles for publication can be sent to the address mentioned above or by e-mail to:

intercom@lasalle.org

www.lasalle.org – www.lasalle2.org

Changes at the Generalate



Br. **Luis Miguel Fernández Renedo**, Director of the House and the Central Community, returned to his District of Valladolid. Br. **John Guasconi**, from the former District of LINE (now part of DENA) is the new Director of the Community.



Br. **Lorenzo González Kipper** finished his position as Secretary General, and went back to the District of Mexico-North. He was replaced in the post by Br. **José Antolínez Cuesta**, from the District of Valladolid.



Bros. **Antón de Roeper**, from the District of Great Britain, and **Jaime Dalumpines**, from Philippines, also rejoined their Districts.



From the community of Guadalupanas de La Salle Sisters, Srs. **Margareth dos Santos Avellar** (Brazil) and **Josefina Padilla** (Mexico) are also back in their countries.

José Ramón Deras, has finished one year of volunteering in the Generalate and returned to his country, Mexico.



To all of them, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the work carried out and for their valuable presence among us.