

The Purpose of the Assembly

The purpose of the Assembly is to describe and reflect upon the history and present situation of our Lasallian Association for Mission in the world today. This reflection will help us to develop a vision and some recommended directions and actions for the future.

One of the focus areas of the Assembly is Mission: to identify and offer responses to new, emerging needs of young people and others for the Lasallian educational mission.

We will need to address such topics as service of the poor and the growing culture of poverty in our world, pastoral ministry and needs for spiritual formation and religious education and educational innovation.

A second focus is the evaluation and sharing of our experiences of association, especially from our experiences over the last 6 years or so. In this we are bound to face the challenges of formation and accompaniment, religious pluralism, the spiritual lives of our fellow educators, and issues of identity and language.

A third area involves the examination of our structures – we will need to review the development of the communities of educators, those who may live, serve and pray together; and our governing and leadership structures that, until recently, were the sole domain of the brothers. How do we imagine structures and leadership that reflect our contemporary experience and spirit of Association?

Our ultimate goal is to present a vision and proposed plans of action around these topics to the Brothers attending the 44th General Chapter in May and June, for their consideration.

Gery Short, Chairman of the IA-2006



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE
ASAMBLEA INTERNACIONAL
INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
2006

The 43rd General Chapter recognized the reality of shared mission and the vitality brought to the mission by the combined efforts of Brothers and partners. The Chapter sought to formalize this recognition and to find ways to further explore Association for Mission. The Chapter called for two commissions to facilitate the dialogue of Association for Mission on the local, Regional, and international levels: The Lasallian Education Mission Commission (MEL) and the Commission for Association.

Associated for the Lasallian Educational Mission

Since 2001, these two commissions have formulated processes of discussion and offered some articulation of that discussion in the form of MEL booklets, Institute Bulletins, Forums, and other publications.

These Commissions also helped to develop a two stage process for an International Assembly. The purpose of the two stages of the Assembly, ultimately convoked by Brother Superior General and his Council (June 18, 2004), was:

- To look for and propose responses to the new needs of the Lasallian Mission
- To share experiences of association, to analyze and evaluate the progress and assist the development of the process of association for mission





• To present plans of action for the next General Chapter regarding the needs of the Mission and Association..

The Assembly's role was to discern, discover and articulate the realities of Association and the educational mission in light of the Lasallian charism and to express a collective future vision by recommending orientations, areas of emphasis and some lines of action.

The Assembly got off to a brisk start on Monday 23rd October 2006 with the words of Br. Álvaro Rodríguez, Superior General, who welcomed the delegates to the Generalate as "the Mother House, our common home, our family home". He challenged the delegates to answer the "call to conversion and to uniting our strength in a communion of service."

The Chairman of the Steering Committee congratulated the delegates and outlined the purpose of the Assembly: "to describe and reflect upon the history and present situation of our Lasallian Association" and especially:

- to identify and offer responses to new, emerging needs of young people and others for the Lasallian education mission;
- to the evaluation and sharing of experiences of association;
- and thirdly, the examination of our structures and leadership to reflect our contemporary experience and spirit of association.

After the reports on the different Partial Assemblies and the discussing groups, Br. Miguel Campos introduced a time of personal reflection with a conference about discernment steps in Jean Baptist De La Salle and his first Associates.

This type of reflection allowed the participants to face the critical today's realities in the light of De La Salle's life journey, the biblical icons and texts and modern icons. By groups of 4, participants shared their personal reflection. Every group prepared a poster later exposed in the main chapel. A celebration closed the day.

Phase of discernment

This time was helped by the presentations of the Council on Lasallian Educational Mission (MEL) and the Commission on the Service of the Poor.

Both commissions, whose descriptions can be found on this same web site, were created in 2001 and since then have advised the Superior General and his Council on these two critical aspects of the Lasallian world.

Educational Mission Report

The first presentation was given by the Lasallian Educational Mission Council, inspired by the priorities of the Chapter of 2000

1. The educational service of the poor, the Human Rights and the Rights of the Child.
2. The Pastoral and Evangelization Ministry.
3. The educational innovations.
4. The Lasallian identity and the characteristics of a Lasallian center.
5. Structure models for the Lasallian Mission.

Report of the Commission for Associates

1. Evaluation of the successes, challenges, and obstacles about the propositions of the 43th General Chapter.
2. Reflection by the Commission from its own experience and around 4 key points:
 - a) Our understanding of Association.
 - b) The signs of hope that favor the Association.
 - c) The obstacles that make difficult the Association.
 - d) And finally: Towards where to go?

These two reports made way for several interventions by the Assembly members, reflection, questions and sharing experiences.

Preparing the future

It was about identifying the main orientations for the Association for the Lasallian Educational Mission to the service of the poor, which will be the subject of the work of the last phase of the AIMEL. The aim of this phase was to establish an action plan for all the international Lasallian family, starting from some great priorities (*see attached list*).

On November 2nd, the 9 Commissions created the previous day, starting from the main trends, continued their work of development of some lines of action from the selected orientations.

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Photo: JeanScheijen



We acknowledge that this Assembly was an historic moment, an experience of communion in faith, in prayer, and in action to respond to the needs of the young, especially the poor. It was, in fact, an experience of association in our Lasallian journey.

New perspectives have arisen and have been discerned from our different points of view and from the lived realities of new needs, and these new perspectives have offered us new hopes for and

new pathways in the building of the Lasallian Family.

What we have lived here in Rome over these past two weeks has been an experience of and practice in what "Association for the Mission" must be in this world today: an experience of the universality of the Lasallian charism and a sense of communion that has caused the differences, real as they are, to diminish and to dissipate the fears between and among people.

Our experience is a witness to the Lasallian family and a powerful sign of our Lasallian charism, for it points us to the risks that we must take as we return to our ministries. We have discovered the shared and living charism; we have discovered it in creative fidelity to our Founder; and we have discovered its prophetic voice in our own lives.

We want to follow the itinerary of John Baptist de La Salle and we want to walk together in the light of the Lasallian charism, realizing as we do that we are being led by a God, Who guides all things with wisdom and serenity, who in an imperceptible way and over a long period of time will move us from one commitment to another in ways that we could never have foreseen in the beginning.

We invite you to walk along with our Founder and to walk with us!

(From Final Message from the Assembly to the Lasallian Family)

After a discussion about all the priorities and orientations presented and a personal time for redacting suggestions, the Chairman of the Assembly, Mr. Gery Short, pointed out the aim of the next step of the work, recalling the perspective to be assumed:

- *What risks are we willing to take?*
- *What journeys are we willing to walk?*
- *What horizons are we willing to reach?*

The Commissions met again in the afternoon to modify their reports according to amendments received.

These reports were presented again in a plenary session.

The two Commissions on the Association merged in one having in mind the convergences detected, and presented a single report.

The next day started with a Plenary meeting

and the distribution to the Delegates of last text of the Priorities, Main Orientations and Action lines (about thirty), fruit of the work of the 8 Commissions.

After a time of prayer and personal reflection, the Delegates indicate again their priorities concerning the 16 Areas of Emphasis by means of color stickers. The Delegates met then in the Plenary to take note of the priorities of the Assembly.

Four Areas of Emphasis collected more votes, in this order:

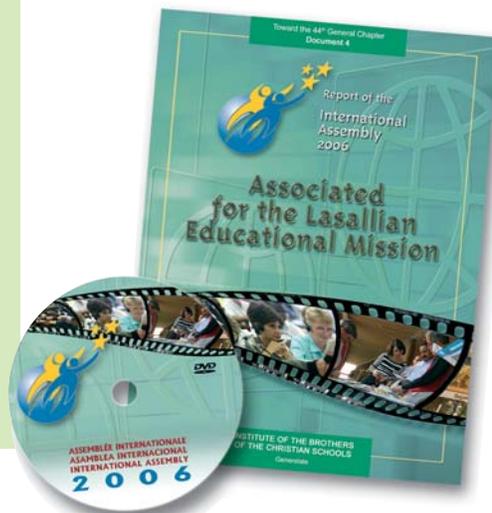
1. Formation and accompaniment for all the members of the Lasallian family.
2. Local and Intermediate structures for the Mission and Association for the Mission.
3. The comprehension of the essential elements of Lasallian Association and its processes by understanding the various experiences;
4. Revision of the current educational projects and creation of new ones.

And then...

The Chairman of the Assembly brought a certain number of precise details on the later steps:

At the end of the discernment phase of the International Assembly, the delegates identified ten Main Orientations for the future. In the Final Report of the Steering Committee these Orientations were revised and combined, allowing for, in the end, **eight Main Orientations**:

1. Pastoral and Faith Formation of Youth
2. Understanding Lasallian Mission
3. Structures for Mission and Association
4. Initial and Ongoing Formation for Mission and Association
5. New Responses of the Mission to New Realities
6. The Understanding of and Process of Lasallian Association
7. Multi-Cultural and Multi-Religious
8. Educational Service of the Poor





world was redacted from the suggestions of the inter-cultural groups, which had their last working session. This message was also included in the global document-report.

The last session was the closing one, with the speech of Br. Superior General: "New wins in new wineskins" about the aspects of the Mission today.

The Chairman of the Assembly, Mr. Gery Short ended the session with special thanks to all the numerous groups, committees, commissions, staff and individuals who worked to organize, support and guide the Assembly. The General Council and the Brothers' Community of the Casa Generalizia were thanked for sharing their home with us.

Then, the Eucharistic celebration gathered all the participants in the main chapel. As part of this last liturgy, the delegates were symbolically sending or commissioning one another by anointing each other's hands.



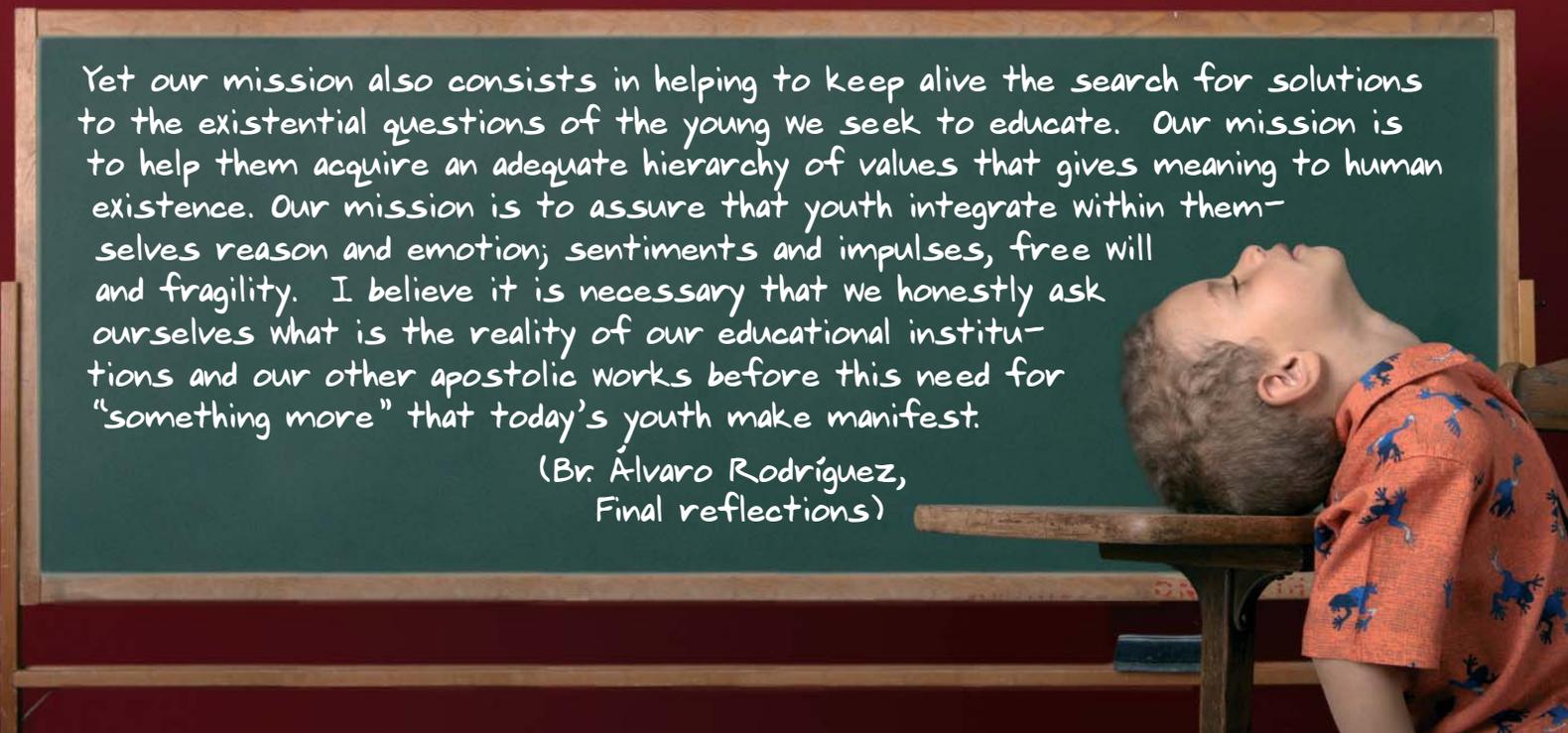
world and for the 44th General Chapter would be published at the end of January 2007; it will be accessible earlier in the Institute's web site.

- It will be proposed a possible re-grouping of the work of Commissions.
- A message addressed to the whole Lasallian

Participants to the International Assembly 2006

	Total	%	%
Lay (F)	36	23	61
Lay (M)	56	35	
Sisters	4	3	
FSC	62	39	39
Total	158	100	100

- A global document ,including this final report, will be prepared by the Steering Committee. This report for the Lasallian



Yet our mission also consists in helping to keep alive the search for solutions to the existential questions of the young we seek to educate. Our mission is to help them acquire an adequate hierarchy of values that gives meaning to human existence. Our mission is to assure that youth integrate within themselves reason and emotion; sentiments and impulses, free will and fragility. I believe it is necessary that we honestly ask ourselves what is the reality of our educational institutions and our other apostolic works before this need for "something more" that today's youth make manifest.

(Br. Álvaro Rodríguez,
Final reflections)

Meeting on Vocational Pastoral Ministry for French-speaking Africa

From 15th to 17th November, 2006 a meeting of Persona in charge of the Pastoral of Vocations Ministry from French-speaking Districts in Africa took place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Representatives of the Districts and sectors of West Africa, Antananarivo, Douala, Congo-Kinshasa, Gulf of Benin and Rwanda participated to the event. Also attended Brothers in charge from Egypt and Mozambique and a Guadalupana De La Salle Sister from Madagascar.

The central objectives of the meeting was to share the plans of animation of the Vocational Ministry in the different places and the corresponding materials, and to reflect around the experiences and practices being carried out, in order to identify the aspects to reinforce in each one of the districts and sectors.

It was emphasized the need to move forward in the programs of Youth Pastoral and to insert it in the Pastoral of Vocations. It was insisted on the regular and continuous support to those called to the Lasallian vocation, through vocational groups, meetings, relation with the local community of Brothers and Sisters, and the periodic personal interviews with the candidates.



It was considered to organize a 15-day course in the first half of August 2008, focused on the formation of companions for young people, to hold their service in the Vocation Ministry as well as in the Juniorates. In the final evaluation participants unanimously described the gathering as enriching, constructive and joyful. A commitment was assumed to keep in contact with each other to share the elaborated materials.

Br. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga

Delegation of India Formees' Get-together

For the first time the Delegation of India organized a programme for all the candidates from different stages of our formation houses. Junior novices from Lasalle Kadalaisai, Nagai and Mangalagiri and the aspirants from *Miguel Arul Thentral Madurai* arrived in *Boys' Town* on the 13th January 2007.

It was an experiential sharing. In the evening a game was organized for the formees. Liturgy of the Eucharist was celebrated and it was very well organized by the Aspirants. Each formation house brought their own programme and enlightened each other.

The programme was arranged for enlightenment. Br. Christopher enlightened the candidates on Brotherhood. Brothers Ignaci, Victor, Sekar, John Britto and Postulant Edison



shared their vocation stories and there was an interaction between the candidates and the Brothers and Postulant.

On Monday 15th, a thanksgiving Mass was organized by the aspirants and formees, joined by the boys and the people around *Boys' Town* campus. It was a good experience for everybody. Br. Arockia Doss presented a session on *Lasallian Virtues* and Br. Ignaci shared his life and experience.

Valencia, Venezuela Inter-District Formation Commission

On October 12th to 15th 2006, the annual meeting of the Formation Commission of the Districts which share the Inter-District Novitiate of Rionegro took place.

In a climate of fraternal sharing, there was an exchange of ideas on the advances and good decisions made in youth pastoral ministry, put forward by those in charge of formation in the respective Districts. Another theme which was taken up was how to share at an inter-District level, other stages of formation and how to continue thinking of greater collaboration and integration.



An important part consisted in sharing plans for formation and the drawing up of some common criteria which, in the end, will form the basis for thinking of the dreams which we could build together.

Córdoba, Argentina First Profession

Four second-year novices made their first profession last December 8th in our novitiate in Cordoba, District of Argentina-Paraguay: Alejandro Bruni and Cristian Tolaba, from Argentina and Claudio Ramos and Juan Ignacio Allende, from Paraguay. The celebration was very moving and deeply evangelical in its overall participation and in the way it expressed the vital commitment of these four young Brothers.

Lwanga District New novices

On January 14th, the new group of five novices arrived to begin their Novitiate experience. They include: Crefas Papai (Kenya), Geoffrey Gathinji (Kenya), Jastin Kebira (Kenya), Daniel Yoseph (Ethiopia), and Samuel Kidane (Eritrea). They join the six second-year novices making a total of eleven. Welcome to the De La Salle Novitiate! *Karibuni!*

Formation for the Mission

CIL 2006-07



Group of participants to the CIL 2006-07 ("Charism in the middle of the life"), with the General Council and the members of the Staff.

Australia/N.Zealand/PNG Lasallian Leadership Course on-line

The Lasallian Leadership Course is a two-year program designed to enable participants to fully explore what it means to be an educator in a 21st century Lasallian institution. It has been created to meet the changing needs of our mission. The course is best suited to key personnel in schools such as staff in middle management positions.

The course comprises two units of study with two semesters for each unit taken per year.

Unit 1: Australian and New Zealand Catholic Education in the Lasallian Tradition

Unit 2 : Social, Spiritual and Ethical Leadership in the Lasallian Tradition.

For further details : visit www.lasallian.org.au or email Trish Carroll at Lasallian Education Services, Melbourne: trish@delasalle.org.au

Canary Islands, Spain Animators Formation

During the weekend of October 13th to 15th, the animators in Pastoral Ministry of the Canary Islands, gathered together in the college in Arucas to receive and share formation.



The contents revolved around the Youth Pastoral Project. They included aims, contents, stages, the educational process; the Christian profile of the Youth Pastoral Ministry worker and the attitudes to work on; procedures: group dynamics; education of the emotions; the itinerary of the human group as educational work; the stages of the human group and the Leadership of the group by the youth animator; authority, demands, witness

In addition to this period, the Pastoral Ministry animators from Canary Islands also share a day of meetings in the middle of the academic year and during the summer activities.

Colombo, Sri Lanka Lasallian Resource Centre



A Lasallian Resource Centre was opened in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 6th October 2006. Thirty two lay teachers and several Brothers participated in the inaugural sessions. The Lasallian Resource Centre will undertake to organize regular sessions for the formation of Lasallian collaborators, to translate Lasallian materials to local languages and to develop educational tools for Lasallian Schools in Sri Lanka. Brother Benjamin Gunatilleke is its Director. Pictures show some participants on the first day.

Moraga, California, USA Buttimer Institute

After twenty years of operation, the Buttmer Institute of Lasallian Studies was reformatted from a three-week to a two-week session for three summers at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga. As a consequence of the restructuring, the Institute reached an all time high of sixty new participants for the first-year cohort.

Well over 100 Lasallian Partners and Brothers were in attendance for the three-year program as Brother Gerard Rumery, former General Council and presenter at the Buttmer Institute since 1987, concluded his involvement in this program of Lasallian education and formation. In addition to those

from the six Districts of the USA and the Delegation of Toronto in Canada, participants this year also came from Ireland, Mexico, and Singapore.



The communities of Brothers and the Lasallian educational works in the African countries of **Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast,** and the **Republic of Guinea** form one administrative unit of the Sub-District of the Gulf of Benin.

Lasallian presence began in this area in 1953 with the arrival of some Canadian Brothers to Togoville in Togo. In 1956 a community was opened in Bohicon, formerly Dahomey, present day Benin. In 1968 the first Spanish Brothers arrived here and in 1979 the first community in the Ivory Coast was founded in Daloa. Finally, in 1998 Lasallian presence began in Conakry, in the Republic of Guinea. The sector was made a Sub-District in 1987 of the Central District of Spain.

At the present time Lasallian works have extended to **Bohicon (Benin), Dapaong, Lome, Tami, and Togoville (Togo), Abidjan, Daloa (Ivory coast), and Conakry (Guinea).** By way of highlighting the diversity of the educational works in the Sub-District of the Gulf of Benin, here are some facts: there are three secondary schools, two professional formation centers, two rural formation centers, a house for street children, a literacy center for adults, and the Center for Catholic Instruction of the Diocese of Dapaong is under the direction of the Brothers. All of this is possible thanks to the generous dedication of 39 Brothers (22 Africans and 17 Spaniards), and many lay colleagues.

The secondary schools (offering basic and advanced diplomas) of Bohicon, Dapaong, and Togoville work with children who come primarily from families with limited resources. The Brothers of the Gulf of Benin have prepared special teaching materials in religious education for these children.

The Professional Formation Center in Daloa was founded to work with children with learning disabilities. Using their own studies as a starting point, the center prepares these children to enter the work force in the fields of electricity, electronics, mechanics, soldering, and maintenance. In spite of the difficult socio-political situation of the Ivory Coast, and specifically that of Daloa, the center is a

Gulf of Benin



reference point for other Professional Formation centers in the country, for its programs and for the excellent way in which it is run.

As a response to the request of Brother John Johnston, Superior General, the Sub-District of the Gulf of Benin took on the setting up of a Professional Formation Center in Conakry, thereby extending Lasallian presence to yet another African country, the Republic of Guinea. In October 1999 the new center opened its doors as a Church presence in a country which is mainly Muslim with a social fabric which has deteriorated under years of Communism and corruption. Professional areas which students study about include: Electronic and computer maintenance, bilingual secretarial courses, Accounting, and Management. Of the 212 students enrolled in 2006 - 2007, 57% are girls.

The Rural Formation Center in Tami, north of Togo, began in 1976, and it serves the local rural population. The "students" at the center

are entire families: young married couples with their children make up a settlement in the inner part of the Tami center, from the beginning of April until the end of December. The program lasts for two years and each year some 12 families join others who are already there. The program for parents includes literacy courses, domestic tasks, health courses, interspersed among the core courses of training in agricultural and cattle raising. Children attend the primary school there and the smallest attend kindergarten. All of this is part of the educational endeavors of the Rural Formation Center of Tami.

The *Akwaba House* for street children of Abidjan welcomed its first children in October 1999 after a long process of preparation. This was one of the "100 Plus" projects following the General Chapter of 1993. Some 30 children live as boarders in the house. The center's main objective is to place the children in their natural family environment. During the time that the children are at the House, one or two years maximum, they are cared for in an atmosphere of freedom and affection, by a group of Brothers and other teachers.

Since 1971 a Brother has been in charge of the Catholic Instruction for the Diocese of Dapaong. Recent Diocesan Directors, with great creativity and determination, have extended the network of diocesan primary schools by opening new ones in rural areas. Currently there are 82 schools with 381 teachers who work with 18,061 boys and girls.

The mission is calling us to these African countries in bold ways. The quality of the response will depend, on the one hand, on the vitality of the Brothers and their communities, African Brothers in particular and, on the other hand, on the number and quality of lay teachers in our schools who share deeply the Lasallian charism, spirituality, and mission in the spirit of association. Steps are being taken along this road, although it is difficult to foresee all the stages that will be necessary. It will be necessary to go forward, looking at the signs that point out the correct direction to take.

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Projects SECOLI waiting for donors

Country/District	Place	#	USD	Description
Argentina	Malvinas	2830	3,212	Accommodation improvements 2008.
Palestine	Bethlehem	2945	5,000	Scholarships for university students with special needs.
Bolivia	La Paz	2954	5,000	A popular library in Radio San Gabriel.
Bolivia	Trinidad	2942	10,000	Renewal of machines in a professional school.
Brazil	Ananindeua	2958	9,750	Teacher training.
Brazil	Pelotas	2667	19,680	Acquisition of furnishings.
Cameroon	Diang	2846	3,926	Refurbishing a computer room.
Cameroon	Mbalmayo	2610	34,019	Multi-purpose vehicle.
Cameroon	Mbalmayo	2902	35,294	The purchase of property for professional school.
Cameroon	Talba	2939	5,000	Audio-visual equipment.
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2602	4,350	District Archives.
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2857	10,000	An offset printing machine.
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2894	5,229	Bathrooms in a Professional Institute.
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2895	6,129	Bathrooms in Colegio La Salle.
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2896	5,940	School computer equipment.
Congo R.D.	Matadi	2881	5,400	Roof repairs 1 for a community.
Congo R.D.	Matadi	2881	5,490	Roof repairs 2 for a community.
Congo R.D.	Matadi	2882	6,000	Completion of a new community building.
Congo R.D.	Tumba	2862	4,635	Installation of solar energy panels.
Ivory Coast	Abidjan	2964	12,028	A vehicle to be used by CELAF.
Haiti	La Tortue	2977	10,382	A scholarship for a doctorate for H. J. Botondo, 2007-08.
Haiti	La Tortue	2977	10,382	A scholarship for a doctorate for H. J. Botondo, 2008-09.
India	Bangalore	2961	1,000	A vehicle for the Novitiate.
India	Boys' Town	2730	6,555	Scholarships for poor orphans.
India	Boys' Town	2934	9,367	Roof repairs for the Brothers' Residence.
India	Boys' Village	2631	12,696	A vehicle to be used for pastoral ministry.
India	Dindigul	2758	1,285	Motorcycle for the Director of a Technical School.
India	Madurai	2774	11,517	A Jeep for pastoral and vocational activities.
India	Madurai	2933	8,667	Youth Ministry leadership.
India	Mangalagiri	2920	7,267	A dining room for young people.
India	Mangalagiri	2922	7,629	Renovation of a community house.
India	Mangalagiri	2924	3,929	Renovation of premises for lay collaborators.
India	Nagapattina	2898	8,520	Books and a computer for a Brothers' community.
India	Nagapattina	2899	14,139	A vehicle for a social service center.
India	Suranam	2948	2,949	A night study program for poor, rural youth.
India	Suranam	2949	5,652	Material and equipment for a science laboratory.
India	Suranam	2950	3,150	Classroom furnishings for two rooms.
India	Tuticorin	2808	5,722	Audio-visual equipment and photocopier.
India	Tuticorin	2963	4,911	Tables and chairs for a school.
Kenya	Lwanga	2806	4,928	District Archives.
Kenya	Nairobi	2748	4,600	Musical instruments for Scholastics.
Madagascar	Antananarivo	2969	7,517	Re-printing Brother Hilaire's book.
Madagascar	Toliara	2970	4,107	Plumbing fixtures for a new community.
Madagascar Sisters	Antananarivo	2789	176,541	Chapel and parlor.
Madagascar Sisters	Antsirabe	2829	15,753	A new fence.
Madagascar Sisters	Mamoeramanjaka	2979	195,855	A new high school.
Madagascar Sisters	Mamoeramanjaka	2980	88,223	A new Sisters' community
Myanmar	Maymyo	2926	4,837	Renovations in the house for Aspirants.
Pakistan	Faisalabad	2936	7,500	A vehicle for the Delegation of Pakistan.
Rwanda	Byumba	2901	4,000	Community renovation.
Sri Lanka	Colombo	2737	2,550	A vehicle for formation staff in the Lipa novitiate.
Sri Lanka	Mannar	2887	11,764	Guest room renovations.
Sri Lanka	Mannar	2888	12,150	Bathroom renovations in a Brothers' house.
Sri Lanka	Mannar	2951	2,160	Support for a welcome center.
Sri Lanka	Mutwal	2892	7,086	Lasallian Resource Center.
Chad	Kelo	2974	32,651	A vehicle for a community of Brothers.



HH. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga
y Stephen Tuohy
Directores de SECOLI

Visit of Br. Superior to Khartoum, Sudan



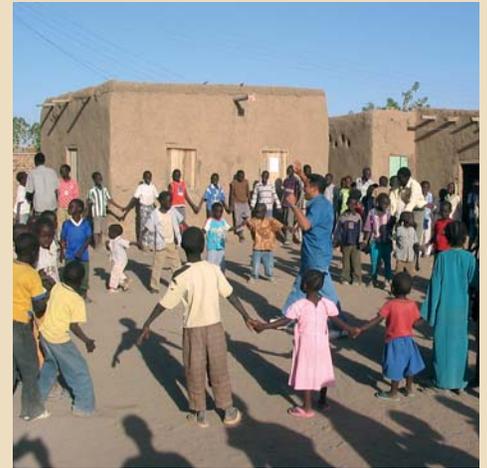
2945 Bethlehem University (Palestine)



2962 Faisalabad (Pakistan)



2938 Talba (Cameroon)



I was fascinated by my visit to Sudan which was for me a deeply religious experience. Three years ago the District of the Mideast opened a community in Khartoum, Sudan, thus beginning the Lasallian adventure in a new country for us thanks to the preparation made over the course of several years by Brother Michel Fleury. Today we have four Brothers there, each from a different country, living signs of the internationality of our mission: Yves from France who spent many years in Egypt, Jerome from the LI-NE District who had missionary experience in Kenya and Tanzania, Joseph our only Sudanese Brother, and Hossam, a young Brother from Egypt.

Two Brothers work at the Archdiocesan school, Saint Augustine College, and two respond to the needs of students from the small parish schools. These schools are very poor and they are made out of adobe bricks. These Brothers also mentor the teachers there and they offer encouragement to the catechists who embrace a deep and moving faith.

There are catechists who are true witnesses of the faith, as well as young, native volunteers who give up their free days to help the Brothers in various formation and child centers. In one of the centers a catechist told us that the Brothers were true shepherds for him and that he felt a certain distance from the priest and that the most important thing for him was that the children not only learn doctrine but that they are aided in embracing their faith. All of this, such as the suffering and poverty of the people, had a deep impact on my heart. The spirit of the community is very fraternal and community prayer is very well prepared and participatory. The Brothers also direct a language center, known as CLIK (Arabic and English).

There is a wonderful relationship with other native religious and priests and the Brothers have a wonderful ability to attract people. I gave a talk to some 40 men and women religious about the enchantment of consecrated life and another day I met with representatives of the various communities. The main problem is a mentality of a "temporary nature" because the majority of the displaced persons who arrived after the peace accord want to return to the South since they do not "fit in" in the North. All in all, they are people who have suffered a great deal but they would like to overcome this and get on with their lives.

As I was thinking about the Beatitudes as recorded in Luke for the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Scripture proposed to us for that time, I thought about the Christian people of Sudan and that some day they will rejoice in the Kingdom, have something to eat, cease mourning, and stop being persecuted.

The Institute has accepted the role as coordinator for the educational portion of the project put forward by the two Unions of Superiors General, which has to do with opening an inter-congregational center for teacher training and for health workers in the southern part of the country which is recovering little by little after the war.

*Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría
February 2007*

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

Br. Stephen Tuohy
stuohy@lasalle.org

SECOLI

Via Aurelia 476
00165 Rome, Italy
Tel.: 39 06 665 231
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PROYDE (Promotion and Development) is one of the La Salle NGO's of the Spain-Portugal area. It was founded in 1988, it has juridical standing and currently there are 1700 members.

It is a not-for-profit organization and was declared a public entity in Spain in 1998. Because of this, all of the financial contributions we receive have the highest tax relief available (25%). But this also obliges us to continual transparency and regulation. We submit an audit annually for an evaluation of transparency and good practice for independent entities.

The mission of PROYDE

Proyde's mission is to give witness that it is possible to build a world in which all people live with dignity and to be a channel for the participation of all those who wish to live in authentic solidarity in this new world that is being built.

By its connection to the De La Salle Brothers of the Christian Schools, Proyde is a privileged witness and a channel for the Lasallian Family and through it for the society in which it is, both in the North and in the South.

To carry out its mission, Proyde works:

- With development programs and projects in impoverished countries, especially in the area of education.
- For the transformation of social, political, and financial structures that support and even increase injustice, inequality, and exclusion, and for the change in cultural values that maintain those structures, through education in development, political impact, and the promotion of volunteerism.

What we do

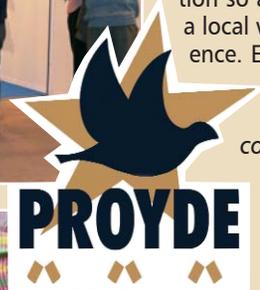
Proyde's first priority is to promote Awareness of and Education for Development in Spain. To that end, we dedicate our best effort. It is about Values Education (Solidarity, Justice, Peace, Teamwork), moving from Commitment (Personal involvement and lifestyle change) for the transformation of our environment and of the world to achieve a world that is more just and more human where we are all "of equal value" and where all can live in dignity.

Each year Proyde presents:

An Educational Proposal: which is made up of educational materials for the classroom, aimed especially at Lasallian Schools. Known as My Commitment, it involves the Development Objectives for the Millennium and a School Campaign around a concrete theme also dealing with the Development Objectives for the Millennium.

A Proposal having to do with Awareness and Propagation: This is made up of a series of activities that are linked to the slogan of the School Campaign or linked to a concrete project/reality which each local Proyde dele-

PROYDE



involvement and it is here where all the work we do is set up. Currently there are 270 of these volunteers.

Short-term volunteers in southern countries: (Summer projects). This type of activity is always done in teams. Its purpose is not to assist but to meet others (our brothers and sisters who live in southern countries). The objective of Proyde is that each person might become aware of the situation so as to commit himself or herself as a local volunteer at the end of the experience. Each year between 40 and 60 volunteers are sent.

Long-term volunteers in southern countries: This type of volunteer involvement is always done as the result of the request of a particular project or work in the south. Its purpose is to carry out a specific technical task. Proyde does not promote this type of volunteer program since we always prefer that indigenous peoples be involved at all levels.

Cooperative Projects and Programs

Projects and programs are funded primarily in Africa in the area of education and also in Latin America, Asia, and Rumania. Ninety per cent of these are Lasallian.

From its origin, Proyde has funded more than 700 projects at the cost of between 1.2 and 1.5 million Euros each year. Seventy per cent of those funds were obtained with public assistance.

Every five years Proyde undergoes a systematic assessment of its work with projects by an outside evaluation. The last one done covered the years 2001 to 2005.

The most important part of this work with projects is that it has been going on for years and it has been shared with many other NGO's and agencies in solidarity with the Lasallian family throughout the world: *Secoli, EDDE, Prodesa, Proa-Panama, La Salle Foundation, St. Joseph Development Trust, Associatia De La Salle-Rumania, Thsolofelo, Association des Frères d'Afrique de L'Ouest*, etc. Little by little we are weaving a solid network that is driving quality education for the most disadvantaged on our planet.

Javier Sánchez
Director of PROYDE

gation comes up with and administers. Some of these initiatives also include fund-raising.

A Proposal with Political Impact: Each year Proyde invites participation in a political pressure campaign. This campaign is always carried out in collaboration with other Church-sponsored NGO's and these are integrated into a platform known as REDES (networks).

This initiative, begun in 2003, has had 3 successive campaigns: *0.7 Get it back* (2003 - 2004); *World Campaign for Education* (2005 and 2006); *Without Doubt, Without Debt* (2006).

Special mention should be made of the activity of **Just Trade - Responsible Consumption** in terms of its making people aware. Proyde has 5 shops with more than 50 volunteers involved, with sales of almost 40,000 Euros per year. In these shops food craft items are sold.

Volunteers

As a result of the awareness campaign that we foster, many persons feel driven to commit themselves. For these people, Proyde offers three types of volunteer involvement.

Local volunteers: These are persons who devote a determined portion of their time, on a weekly basis, to collaborate in different areas of Proyde, either at its central headquarters or at one of its satellite sites. This is the most important type of volunteer

Notes:

- (1) To learn more about PROYDE, see our web site at: www.proyde.org
- (2) REDES (Network of Agencies for Development in Solidarity). See their web site at: www.redes-ongd.org

Young Lasallians

Australia/New Zealand/P-NG Lasallian Youth Ministers for 2007

A few of the District's part-time Youth Ministers in 2006 (namely Tom McIlroy, James Camden, and Darren Perrett) accepted re-appointment for 2007. Tom had been one of the District's delegates at the International Symposium of Young Lasallians (Rome 2006).

In addition, two more Youth Ministers have been appointed. Bec Barrett will work as a part-time Youth Minister at Holy Spirit College Lakemba, and Andrew Ulugia will work as a full-time Lasallian Youth Minister for the New Zealand sector of the District of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Not only will Andrew co-ordinate programs and events for Young Lasallians throughout the country, including leadership programs,

retreats, the 8th Asia-Pacific Lasallian Youth Congress 2007, and World Youth Day 2008, he will also become the Youth Minister at Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth.



Bec Barret (Bec Bolton) in the picture of her wedding with Andrew Barrett, November 2006. Andrew also participated at the 1st International Symposium of Young Lasallians.

Meeting of ICYL in Rome



The International Council of Young Lasallians met in Rome on February 22nd-26th, 2007. Eight of its members were present and spent the week working on various projects. The Council appreciated the presence of Diane Leutgeb Munson who took charge of the work of secretariat for the Council. The creation of a report for the General Chapter on next May occupied a good part of the working time of the Council. Moreover, ICYL applied in the development of a scheme of work for the years to come in which were specified the mission, vision, objectives and possible projects on which the Council intends to work to support Lasallian Youth Movement. In this direction, the Council prepares the launching of an International Day of Prayer, focused on the peace. This day would be held at the same time in the different Lasallian Districts. The Council also received a letter from Australia about a possible project of an International Meeting of the Young Lasallians to be held in Australia from 9th to 14th July, 2008. Lastly, ICYL appreciated the letter received from the coordinators for the Young Lasallians movements of the District of Proche Orient, met in Amman, Jordan at the beginning of February.

Parménie, France "Weekend for Couples"

9th-10th Decembre 2006: A time for better discovering ourselves as couples and taking stock of our commitments (individuals or as couples) and of our prayer life.

Commitments as couples: The method of animation was varied and intended to allow each person to be free to find his or her place. Starting out from the discovery of a work of art (Van Gogh's "The First Steps of Childhood"), Sophie and Laurent animated a time of sharing on commitment.

The exchange owed a lot to the testimony of the married couples and Brothers. Then, eucharist, 'soirée', dialogue, witness, prayer,... completed the program for that weekend.

Finally, each couple took some time to pray as a couple, and the final celebration was a high point of this first step in praying as a couple.



The Lasallian Family and Young Lasallians



Jeb Myers, 32, former Lasallian Volunteer in the USA, now lives and works with his young family at De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana. Jeb and his wife Charlene met when they were Volunteers at San Miguel School in Camden, New Jersey; and they both helped to found De La Salle Blackfeet School, one of the "San Miguel Schools of the USA," for Native Americans. One of the founding members of the ICYL, Jeb was appointed by Brother Superior to be a delegate at the recent International Assembly held in Rome in 2006.

About the IA-2006, Jeb writes: "After having had the good fortune of attending both the Young Lasallians Symposium and the International Assembly for Mission and Association of 2006, I have found that not only is the Lasallian Family alive and well, it is also a family in rebirth. The wonderful people who attended the Young Lasallians Symposium were full of knowledge, love, energy, and zeal ... The International Assembly for Mission and Association brought together another group of inspired Lasallians from throughout the world."

Italy



The new site of the Lasallian Youth Movement in Italy is already "on line", with new sections and more dynamic than the previous one: www.giovanilasalliani.it



Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter

On February 24th, 2007 the preparatory Commission for the 44th General Chapter concluded its fourth and last meeting. The ten Brothers, designated by the Br. Superior and his Council (Circ. 453, p. 15-16), from the five continents, have arranged to meet in Rome and by e-mail giving appointment in Rome and by electronic mail to know the notes, contributions and shared reflections sent by the Brothers and to plan the multiple aspects of preparation of the Chapter. Among other outstanding points are: the Capitular process with its four phases (see Circ. 454, p. 4-5); the production of the Chapter's Manual and the proposal of a schedule. Another important foresight was the invitation to Key Speakers who will help to the delegates in the analysis of the current reality in the World, the Church, the consecrated life, the Lasallian family and the Institute. An expert will be also invited to conduct the dynamics of intercultural and inter-linguistic sensitization which will help to "build community".

A team of assistant for the Chapter (facilitators, Liturgy commission, 'Listening and Writing' committee, communication) has been also organized, as well as the translators and technicians teams.



European Lasallian Region (REL/ELR)

The Lasallian Region of Europe (REL) began to exist on November 1st, 2006, on the basis of the Statutes adopted in Angers (France) by all the Brothers Visitor of the European Districts and approved by Br. Superior General and his Council on October 14th, 2006.

This is the conclusion of the reflection process that began in Leeds (U.K.) two years ago, regarding the need of forming one united Region out of the current Lasallian Regions: REBIM, ARLEP, France, RELEC and Italy.

The establishment of the Region "expresses the willingness of the units that compose it to cooperate with one another and so benefit by the added vitality that comes from acting together." (Rule 127).

Brother Joan Carles Vázquez, from the District of Catalunya, has been appointed



Regional Coordinator.

The District of Proche-Orient has formally applied for membership in the REL. Its integration could occur in May 2007.

Monterrey, Mexico I National Lasallian Congress

The First National Lasallian Congress was a perfect ending to the centennial celebrations of Lasallian presence in Mexico. More than 56 institutions and a total of 593 persons from the Districts of North and South Mexico were in attendance and representatives from the Guadalupe Sisters of De La Salle.

In addition to the keynote addresses, there was ample time for discussion which gave participants an understanding of what it



means to be a Lasallian in Mexico and how this relates to the world of education. In turn, participants discovered the main challenges and strengths that will help them guide their future projects.

You are the best gift

The District of the ARLEP (Spain and Portugal), within the motto for this year: "You are the best gift", have edited this vocational poster.

The motto tries to express the idea that we are here to make the other happy, in the same way that receiving a present makes us happy.

The poster can be found and downloaded in PDF format from the web page of the District of Valencia-Palma (section "Documentos"):

<http://www.lasalle.es/valenciapalma/>



Toronto Delegation joins the New York District

Starting January 17, 2007 the Toronto Delegation will be under the pastoral care of the New York District. During the last decade, the Brothers in Toronto have faithfully committed themselves to maintaining and enhancing the Lasallian mission. However, the reality of diminished numbers and the ageing of the Brothers, became the final catalyst for canonical change and incorporation of the Toronto Delegation into the New York District which has stepped forward to assist in the spirit of "Brothers helping Brothers."

The New York District, with its own long and glorious history, now goes forward fortified with new faith-filled members who



are in many ways different and the same. Together they will write new chapters in that history on a transborder basis as they attempt to "create communities where the experience of God is shared" and where, together with their Lasallian colleagues, they strengthen and enhance the Lasallian educational mission.

100th Anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers in Cambodia

A hundred years ago the Brothers opened our first school in Cambodia in the town of Battambang. Unfortunately the school did not flourish, but a second school named after Bishop Miche, a Frenchman, opened soon after in the capital, Phnom Penh. A school for the poor was attached to this school.

The Brothers left Cambodia in the 1970's when the country's political turmoil forced them to withdraw. Today the Miche school has been converted into a university campus by the Cambodian government.

After an absence of about thirty years, the Brothers are now back in the country. At present three Brothers have taken up residence in Phnom Penh and are assiduously studying the local language. Among the future ministries



under consideration are a center for HIV-infected and abandoned children, a language school for English and French, and a primary school offered to the Brothers by the Bishop of Battambang.

The simple Eucharist to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers in the Cambodia was celebrated in the newly-built Brothers' residence in Phnom Penh.

Japan Golden Jubilee



Brother Kyoichi Ishii was born on March 24, 1924 in Tokyo. A week later, not far from Tokyo, in the city of Narita, Brother Shigehiko Ohtomo was born. They met when they were students in Sophia University in downtown Tokyo: Ishii in the German Language Studies Department and Ohtomo in the English Language Studies Department. Those were difficult days of recovery after long years of war and hardship. Sharing a common dream of serving God as Christian Educators, Ishii and Ohtomo soon became friends and, together, applied to join the De La Salle Brothers.

They were part of the first group of Japanese young men who joined our Institute. Together, they made their novitiate and pronounced final vows on August 22, 1956. Although they had been always good friends and, since joining our Institute, good Brothers as well, until recently they had never been together in the same community.

Montreal, Canada Botanical Gardens celebrate their 75th Anniversary

Br. Marie-Victorin (1885-1944) was the initiator and the soul of the Montreal Botanical Gardens. From 1919 on, he was thinking about the educational interest of such a garden. At the end of 1929, on returning from a six-month trip across three continents, during which he visited all the great botanical gardens, he stated that he had come back "penetrated with the need for a city and for a university like that of Montreal to have a great botanical garden".

The fighting spirit of Marie-Victorin allowed him to build up a scientific, educational and institutional body of work which contributed in a unique way to the enlightenment of modern Quebec. But among all his contributions, it is the Botanical Gardens which is unquestionably his most beautiful and best known.



Valencia-Palma II Assembly of the LEM

From 27th to 29th December, Lasallians, Brothers and Lay people, from all the District of Valencia-Palma, Spain, held the II Assembly for the Educational Lasallian Mission.

There were three intense days of living together, reflection and faith celebration. The working

groups and the Assembly were focused in these points of interest: **Identity; Membership and Association; Formal and Non-formal Education, and the Statutes of the Centres Network.**

At the end, the Assembly celebrated the engagement of Association by Xisca Artigues, from the "Comunitat Overta" in Pont d'Inca (Balears), and the renewal of engagement by the rest of the Associates.

Vietnam

Brothers and Lasallian Partners

On New Year's Day in Vietnam, Brothers and Lasallian partners gathered for the fifth annual Association of Brothers and Lasallian Partners. Organized by Brother Luke Nguyen Huu Quang and a planning committee of partners, the gathering chose as its theme "How to be Brothers Today." This theme will also be addressed by the District chapter.



The assembled university students, Lasallian Sisters, alumni and partners were then challenged to suggest ways in which the Brothers can best be Brothers today. Small groups were formed to share experiences and ideas, which were then shared with the assembly. One key encouragement was that Brothers become one with the people with whom they live and minister.

In the afternoon, partners in the various apostolic communities presented the ways in which partners and Brothers cooperate together in promoting the mission.

Villingendorf, Germany

The Venerable Brother Gregorio Bühl

The 110th anniversary of the birth of Venerable Brother Gregorio Bühl and the 33rd anniversary of his death motivated his supporters from Torre del Greco (Naples - where he died on December 11, 1973) and from Villingendorf (Germany - where he was born in 1896) to commemorate him with a full liturgical ceremony.



The celebration in Villingendorf took place on December 16th and 17th, in the Church of Saint Gallus and in other places that were dear to the

memory of our Venerable Brother. On the occasion of the centennial of his birth, local authorities had already dedicated a street, placed a commemorative plaque over the baptismal font of his parish church, and they named the main hall of the parish after him. In the picture, Br. Rodolfo Meoli, Postulator General (3rd from the right), participates to the feast in Villingendorf.

**Plasencia, Spain
La Salle Avenue**



Last December 19th, to conclude the 50th Anniversary Program of "La Salle-Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" School, in Plasencia, Spain, a street named "Avenida La Salle" has been solemnly inaugurated.

Affiliated Christian Brothers



The Institute has given its highest honor to two members of the District of San Francisco: Patrick Bonacci of La Salle High School in Pasadena and Robert M Gardner of Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, naming them "affiliated members" of the Institute. Affiliation ceremonies for Pat Bonacci were held in Pasadena on November 18, The affiliation ceremony for Bob Gardner was on February 24th, 2007, at the College in Moraga.

Last appointments

Brother	Region/District/Subd.	Function	Term
Stanislaus Campbell	San Francisco	Visitor	01.07.11
Thomas Jones	San Francisco	Aux. Visitor	01.07.11
Joan Carles Vázquez	R.E.L.	Regional Coord.	01.07.11
Vincent Pelletier	LI-NE	Aux. Visitor	01.07.10
Carlos Alborno González	Argentina-Paraguay	Visitor	20.02.10
Thomas Johnson	Midwest	Aux. Visitor	30.06.11
Lawrence Humphries	USA/Toronto	Regional Coord.	01.08.11

From Lima, Peru



The new Team of the Alumni Association of Lima, together with the APAFA (Family Parents Association), gathered during one day more than 300 children from the Lasallian schools in Lima:

- Colegio La Salle
- Colegio Manos de Dios
- Colegio Fe y Alegria (Zapallal)
- Colegio Noé Zevallos

Most of this students come from very humble families, placed in extremely poor areas of the city, where the Lasallian Charism also arrives.

Guadalajara - Mexico

Tribute to Br. José Sanchez for his work as a botanist



October 5th was a day of celebrations for Br. José and for the entire Lasallian community of Mexico because in the person of Don José, UNAM had recognized the scientific work carried out by the French and Mexican Brothers in the first 100 years of the presence of Lasallians in our country.

Already in the past, Br. José had received other tributes which could be found in his book of collections or in publications about his research work published by foreigners and known only to specialists.

Centenary of *The Catechist's Manual* (published in 1907)

"To Our Dear Son, Brother Gabriel Marie, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The glorious title of Apostles of the Catechism, by which in an audience of October 10, 1903, We were pleased to call the Brothers of the Christian Schools, receives a new and eloquent justification in the Catechist's Manual, which, thanks to your diligent care and attention, has just been published, with a view to train catechists in the true sense of the term, or, in other words, to form true teachers of religion in the schools.

As We have Ourselves rapidly reviewed the volume which you have presented to Us, We are convinced that you have attained this noble purpose in a masterly way, by the analytic and logical development of all that the master needs as a remote and a proximate preparation for this science of sciences. In Our opinion nothing has been neglected, whether in fundamental principles, general and special method, or detailed directions. It is certain that if they live up to these precious teachings, the Brothers of the Christian Schools will be true sons of St. John Baptist de la Salle, who consecrated himself to the great apostolate of catechism, after being thoroughly equipped for this in the School of St. Sulpice. [...]

PIUS X, Pope, July 11, 1907."

This Pontifical Brief is reproduced in the edition of 1907, x+594 pages, as well as in that of 1908 from Mame (Tours) and Poussielgue (Paris). *The Catechist's Manual, a Methodology for teaching religion in Primary Schools and Boarding Schools* and its abridged edition (1909) would soon be translated into Italian, English and Spanish, under the control of the author.

The author, Br. Bernard-Louis (1847-1915)

The book was destined to stand out within the Institute and well beyond it. Circular 418, giving an account of the General Chapter of 1907, underlines "that there is a particular interest attached to the publication of this Manual, because here it is a question of the codification of the principles and practical rules referring to the teaching which forms one of the very ends of our Institute, the teaching of our holy religion. The author had been prepared for a long time for this work by a mission of zeal carried out in a persevering manner with the novices in our Mother House."

We know from his death notice that the author of the *Manual* was Br. Bernard-Louis, **Ferdinand Jeandron**, renowned as a calligrapher, catechist and Director of the Novitiate; he was in Vienna (Austria) in 1874 to represent the Institute at the Universal Exposition and he got to know German; between 1888 and 1893 he was Visitor of the Indies (where he was soon able to preach a Retreat in English); he was Visitor of Besançon from 1898 to 1907 and sent many Brothers to Canada after 1904; he was sent back to France in 1908, which left him with time to write the *Abridged* edition of his *Manual* (1909) and then, in spite of illness, *The Catechism for small children*, *The Catechism of*

Mary, and *The literal explanation of the Catechism of Pius X*.

Pleas from the Centre of the Institute

Almost every year, the Circulars from Br. Superiors kept on making references to *The Catechist's Manual* and, even more so to the publication entitled *Apostles of the Catechism*.

Circular 158 (Oct.25th 1908) recalled the exhortation of the Pope to a delegation of 62 Brothers during an audience on September 29th: "If a beggar appearing before us in rags and afflicted by hunger, begged us for alms, we would be touched by compassion and we all quickly give him the coins he needed so much. Alas, how many spiritually poor there are who are asking for the bread of religious doctrine! Have pity on them: come to their aid".

Br. Imier de Jésus, newly elected as Superior-General, continued along the lines of this struggle: "Let us be Brothers of the Christian Schools, let us be Apostles of the catechism. [...] Our adversaries have de-christianized the school as much as they could. Let us make it Christian with no less application and constancy" (Circ.188, May 30th 1913, p.11).

The *Bulletin of the Institute*, created in 1907, also talks about the Pontifical Brief (Bul. Nov. 1907). In 1909 the Bulletin introduced the abridged edition of *The Catechist's Manual*, "intended for all those engaged in the apostolate of the catechism, especially for volunteer catechists who are 'the foot-soldiers of a generous holy Crusade' [...] with so much ardour and self-denial" (Bul. Jan.1910 p.74). In 1912 there appeared *The Catechist's Manual*, "an authorized English translation of the *Manuel du Catéchiste*. [...] This tells us its value" (Bul.

July 1913, p.269). We should note that Br. Bernard-Louis having died in 1915, the Bulletin, whose publication was interrupted up to 1923 by the First World War, has nothing devoted to the memory of the author of *The Catechist's Manual*.

A test for the zeal of the Brothers: the Volunteer Catechists

In several Episcopal approbations, the Volunteer Catechists were already pointed out as the favoured recipients of *The Catechist's Manual*, following the example of the Brothers and priests who were catechists.

The General Chapter of 1913 underlined the adaptation of this work to present-day situations and to Papal recommendations: "We do not wish to end this article on the Catechism without saying a word about the groups of our past pupils who are Volunteer Catechists. They have been organized in a certain number of our schools, colleges and boarding-schools. It is a work which we cannot recommend too highly. It lives up so well to the views of our Holy Founder, to present-day needs and to the wishes expressed several times by Our Holy Father the Pope. We offer our sincere congratulations to those of our Brothers who have established it in their school and to the young people who devote themselves, with courageous zeal, to teaching catechism to poor children or to workers ignorant of the most elementary truths". (Circ.189, Sept.8th 1913: Results of the General Chapter).

It would be interesting to see if, in the different sectors of the Institute, *The Catechist's Manual* has given a new impetus to the catechetical activity of the Brothers and of those who participate in their zeal, and where we are today, in a world so different but even more deprived of true religious culture.

Br. Alain Houry
Director of Archives





Generalate

Ing. **Ignacio J. de León**, after a full year as volunteer among us, has returned to his country, Mexico. Our warmest thanks for his presence and valuable work at the Generalate.

Arrangement of gardens

In coincidence with the International Assembly 2006, the works of arrangement of the gardens that flank the Founder's Sanctuary came to an end. In the picture you can see the one located is between the Sanctuary and the 'Blocco B'.

Aula Magna

In the occasion of the 44th General Chapter several improvements in the *Aula Magna* are being carried out. These are, among others: electrical sockets to facilitate the use of laptops during the sessions; illumination, arrangements and painting of the stage; videoprojector and central screen; adjustment of the cabins for translators; blinds with electrical elevation. These improvements have been added to those recently carried out in the guests rooms: painting, air conditioning, Internet...

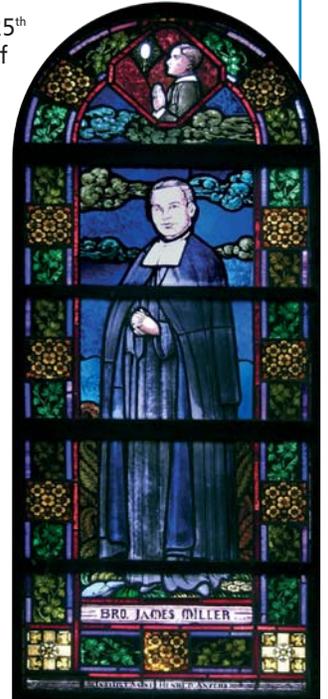


25th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Brother James Miller

February 13th, 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Br. James Miller. Brother James, or Hermano Santiago as he was known in Central America, was murdered by a group of armed men while repairing a wall outside of the Lasallian school in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. The De La Salle Brothers in this school had incurred the wrath of local military officials by refusing to cooperate with the conscription of their young male students into the military.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the death of Brother James Santiago Miller, the Brothers of the District of the Midwest have produced a CD containing: 80 pages on his life, texts, photos, art work, two prayer services, lesson plans. In the enclosure there is also a DVD on his life.

For further information please contact Brother Joseph Martin jmartin@cbmidwest.or



Porto Alegre, Brazil – January 8-12, 2007 Br. Superior, to the IALU



Br. Superior General attended the **VIII International Meeting of the Lasallian Universities Association (IALU)**, in coincidence with the Centenary of the arrival of La Salle Brothers to Brazil. We selected some paragraphs from his intervention:

... "I have the impression that the marvellous growth of the Universities is for us today a sign of the times. Indeed, you are like a miracle in our common history, a fact without

precedent in our more than 350 years of service to the society and the Church. I refer evidently to the growth of Lasallian Universities present all over the world, from North America to Europe, from Asia and Latin America to Africa, being multiplied just in the continents where the world-wide population grows, and where the greatest number of young people is concentrated. You have opened new horizons to us. You have run risks and have undertaken an adventure with professional men and women who lead us to places unknown in our tradition. Will not be this reality a new prophetic sign that call all the Lasallians in the world and that summons us for a renewed mission?"

... "We cannot be reduced to the simply technological level nor to the laws of the market. Our mission it is to maintain alive the anthropological dimension in a more and more virtual world. Our mission it is to be guardians of the mystery that each person locks up. Only in this way we will be able to assure what *Gaudium et Spes* expressed with as much lucidity and forces: *We can justly consider that the future of humanity lies in the hands of those who are strong enough to provide coming generations with reasons for living and hoping*" (GS 31).



Madrid Meeting Speaking Today of Martyrdom and Holiness

On October 3rd-5th a gathering was held at the seat of the Spanish Episcopal Conference in Madrid on the theme: **Speaking Today of Martyrdom and Holiness**. Our Postulator General Br. Rodolfo Meoli, in his capacity as coordinator of Postulators of the Causes of the Servants of God who will be beatified next year, was invited to update all on the present situation of these causes.

A most interesting and well received presentation was that of Br. Jose Antolinez, Auxiliary Visitor of the District of Valladolid at the time that the Martyrs of Turon were beatified and Visitor at the time of their canonization, on the theme: *Remembrance of Martyrs in a Religious Congregation of Educators*.

In the next beatification of 495 Martyrs there will be 44 Brothers of the then District of Barcelona and 14 from the District of Madrid.



Calendar

April 30th, 2007

■ Opening of the 44th General Chapter

June 2nd, 2007

■ Scheduled date for the closing of the General Chapter (to be confirmed by the own G.Ch.)

