

Preparatory Commission for the 44th General Chapter



The Brothers on the Preparatory Commission for the 44th General Chapter, met for the second time in Rome from February 12th to 25th, 2006. During these two weeks we continued our discussions with a view to producing an interactive preparation plan and an alternative way of running the Chapter. This model implies thinking in a different way about how the Chapter develops so as to favour discernment, enriching ourselves with cultural diversity and growing in hope. A prayer and logo for the Chapter were presented to the General Council and have already been approved.

The Commission kept all the Brothers and members of the Lasallian Family in mind and ask all of them for their prayers so that we can all begin to see the will of God at this moment in history.

Br. Lorenzo González K.

Meeting of the Superiors General with H.H. Benedict XVI



Br. Álvaro Rodríguez greets H.H. Benedict XVI, in the presence of Card. Franc Rodé, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life.

Consecrated persons are called to be for the world credible and shining signs of the Gospel

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI met at the Vatican on 22nd May, 2006 with approximately 1,500 Superiors General and Vicars General of Religious Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The hour-long prayer

service and the hour-long papal audience, which were held in the Paul VI Hall, were organized by Cardinal Prefect Franc Rodé, with the assistance of the Unions of Superiors General (USG/UISG).

Brother Superior Alvaro Rodríguez Echeverría and Brother Vicar William Mann attended the gathering. In his role as President of the Union of Superiors General (USG), Brother Alvaro was one of four persons to extend some words of greetings to the Holy Father.

The Holy Father underlined the grave responsibility of Superiors General to sustain and guide their brothers and sisters *"in an epoch which is not easy, marked by many dangers. Consecrated men and women of today have the task of bearing witness to the transforming presence of God in a world ever more disoriented and confused, a world in which shades have replaced clear and distinguishing colours. To be able to see our times through the eyes of faith means to see mankind, the world, and history in the light of Christ, who is crucified and Risen"*.

Continuing his address the Pope said *"secularised culture has penetrated the minds and hearts of not a few consecrated persons"* and therefore *"consecrated life today encounters the dangers of mediocrity, acceptance of middle-class values, consumer mentality ... a condition demanded for the following of Christ, is renunciation, detachment from all which is not Him. The Lord wants men and women who are free, not bound, able to leave everything to follow Him and in Him find their everything"*. Benedict XVI stressed the importance of *"courageous decision at the personal and community level which impress new discipline on the life of consecrated persons leading them to rediscover the totalising dimension of following Christ."*

Concluding his address to the Superiors General, the Holy Father encouraged consecrated persons *"to be for the world credible and shining signs of the Gospel and its paradoxes, not adapting their mentality to this world but transforming themselves and renewing their commitment continually in order to discern the will of God, all that is good, pleasing to him and perfect."*



Logo for the 44th General Chapter

Author: Br. Felipe de Jesús Ocadíz Luna
"Cristóbal Colón" School
District of South Mexico

Rionegro, Colombia

International Session for Novice Directors

From March 19th to April 9th 2006 an international Session for Novice Directors took place in the beautiful setting of the De La Salle Casa de Encuentros, Rionegro, in the District of Medellin, Colombia. This was the first international Session specifically organised for Novitiate formators since 1991. The Session, directed and facilitated by the Institute Formation Secretaries, Brothers Alberto Prada, Michael French and Aidan Kilty, was attended by Novitiate formators from all current functioning Institute Novitiates, with the exception of those in Kenya, Brazil and Central America, along with a number of other formators involved in initial formation



who have been identified as potential future Novitiate formators. A total of 16 participants took part in the Session which, among other objectives, offered Novitiate personnel

the opportunity to explore the future of consecrated life from the perspective of the ecclesiology of communion, to discuss the integration of association into initial formation programs, and to reflect on other key elements in the formation process such as formation in prayer, affective formation, accompaniment and discernment. It was also an opportunity for participants to share good practice, to exchange experiences, and to relax and reflect in an atmosphere of prayer and fraternal support.

The three-week Session took place within walking distance of the Colombian interdistrict Novitiate in Rionegro and the occasional formal and social interchanges with the Novitiate Staff and a group of almost 20 Novices – youthful, idealistic, exuberant, spontaneous and talented – reminded participants of the context which their theological and formation reflections needed to address.

*Bros. Aidan Kilty and Alberto Prada
Secretaries for the Formation*

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São Paulo, Brazil



New Scholastics

At the end of the annual retreat, on January 5th, 2006, Brother Moyses Romero made his perpetual profession and six novices made their first vows.

On February 10th, in the La Salle Postulancy community in São Paulo, there was a celebration to welcome 8 entering Postulants. Besides the new members, five second-year postulants and five young men in the pre-novitiate, a program begun this year also in São Paulo, are continuing their journey of vocational discernment.

On February 12th, five young men joined the Lasallian Aspirancy program in the city of Toledo, Panama. Along with these are another three who began with us in 2005, and so we have 8 young men in the process of formation in this community.

New Secretary for the Formation

Br. Timothy Coldwell is the new Secretary for Formation, starting in September 2006, replacing Br. Aidan Kilty. Br. Timothy, from the District of New Orleans-Santa Fe, is currently involved with the San Miguel High School, Tucson, Arizona. He has been a member of the team preparing the document "Being Brothers Today".



Bobo Dioulasso, BFA, June 12th, 2006: First vows of 13 novices from Rwanda, R. D. of Congo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast and Madagascar [here with Br. Guillaume Phanzu].

CIL 2006: "Being Brothers Today"



There are five instruments for supporting the interactive process of preparation for the General Chapter of 2007. The third, the document "Being Brothers Today", is one of the basic texts for the work of this CIL.

Without previously knowing the contents, participants reflected in small groups on the different sections of the document. Then they were receiving the text in parts, so that they could compare and contrast their concerns and evaluations.

The mediator-facilitator for the debates was Br. John D'Cruz of the CIL staff. It is not easy to lead a dialogue between Brothers from such different cultural backgrounds, but the talents and the high level of thought of those present were of great help in this environment of active searching which has been created.

The analysis of the context was the point of departure. The social changes within the Church and the Institute itself were the centre. The global contribution was very rich. It was stressed the social changes which have most directly affected the life of the Institute: the family, the habits of youth, the changes in values, the eruption of new technologies, globalization, advances in communications.... Special emphasis was put on the emergence of the new poverties.

In the first part of the document there is a comparison made between the context in which the "Declaration" appeared (the Chapter of 1967) where the Brother was situated "in the world of today", and the very different reality, forty years later, in which the Chapter of 2007 will take place. All this leads to re-situating ourselves as Brothers in the here and now. This was the work of the following days.

The second part of the session focused on looking at the reality of the Institute in terms of its great geographic regions. Among the things that surfaced, the following stood out: community, Lasallian mission in a more secularized context, the lifestyle of the Brothers as consecrated men, shared prayer as the core of the Brother's activity, the new situation of mission with lay personnel,



the forms of association/belonging, senior Brothers, meaningful educational service of the poor, the presence of the Brothers in formal and non-formal educational settings.

The third phase of CIL was devoted to an in-depth look at Lasallian icons, especially as these are present in the Founder's Meditations. Br. Álvaro, Superior General, incorporated them into his reflection for the group. He shared his conviction that the Institute is experiencing a privileged time. He began his intervention with a visual presentation on a song by Diego Torres: *The Color of Hope*. There is growing inter-

Being Brothers Today

"This document is one of the texts that we are writing with a view to the preparation of the 44th General Chapter in 2007. It is not only a text, but a process that invites us to look deeply at our certainties and our convictions about the mystery of being Brothers in the Church in the world today.... Is intended to be a "working tool," a text that is a witness and a sentinel which urges all Brothers to ask themselves about what it is that is most profound in their lives as Brothers."

(Br. Álvaro Rodríguez, Presentation)



est, without precedent in the history of the Institute, in association for the Lasallian mission. Nevertheless, it is evident that the *community* is not seen with the same vitality within the project of mission and therefore it is important to strengthen community living. There are many temptations that lie ahead: Secularism, a "feel good" society, human love which displaces the meaning of divine love, forgetting about our essence as human beings, being merely employees in our mission, making institutions the priority, clericalism, a poor and excessive use of new technology. Nevertheless, there are many doors that are open today to the Brothers, a new phase in the history of the Institute is emerging in which each Brother must be and feel that he is a protagonist.

The interventions of Bros. William Mann, Vicar General, and Miguel Campos, General Councillor, helped the Cilists to focus on the roots of the Institute, with a critical view of the founding moments which included Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the first protagonists.

Later on, assembling by continents and in plenary sessions there were shared parallels between the Founder's experience and current reality...

The fourth and the final phase of CIL: the creation of programs to foster interactivity in preparation for the 44th General Chapter. The goal: to involve as many Brothers as possible in the process of prayer, discernment, and reflection. Bringing things back to the large group was both plentiful and profitable. The agreement in our proposals was quite striking. The Institute is very diverse but among those present, from nearly 40 different countries, there was a common view.

The principal ideas were:

- The 44th General Chapter is important, but it is not the end of the journey to be made, but a launch into the future.
- Most important of all is the opportunity for and the achievement of revitalizing communities.
- There is a process that involves the conversion and the renewal of the Brothers.
- It is not so much about commenting on a Document but about an in-depth look at "the text of our lives," "our own stories," "our icons."
- There must be awareness of the new needs, new times that require new and appropriate responses.

- Being convinced that as Brothers and as members of the Lasallian Family "we are" able to move forward in seeking new ways.

CIL concluded with an emotional and profound act: commissioning. The Brother participants in the session were officially sent by Brother Superior and his Council to bring to their Districts and Regions all this good news.

Lasallian Educational Mission

Asia-Pacific Lasallian Educators Conference APLEC 6

The APLEC and the Pacific Asia Regional Assembly (PARA) were scheduled one day apart in order to cut down on the participants' travel expenses. Many of those attending PARA were expected to attend the APLEC that preceded it, making this a week-long Lasallian formation activity.

PARC has sponsored an Asia-Pacific Lasallian Educators Conference (APLEC) every two or three years since the late 1980's. This year's theme was, "The Future of Technology and Mass Media, and Their Implication on Youth and the Lasallian Educational Mission". Some seventy participants attended, representing all the PARC countries except Myanmar and Vietnam.

The speakers were generally well received and the group discussions generated productive exchanges. Dr. Miguel Rapatan's talk on "How Emerging Technology Can Help Shape Pedagogy" was among the more appreciated presentations.

The general conclusions of APLEC 6 appear to have been that:

1. technology will continue galloping forward at an amazing rate, and mass media, which utilizes this technology to its advantage, will continue to be a powerful instrument to promote values and ideological stances;
2. Lasallian educators need to develop critical thinking in their students so that they do not readily accept everything that is present-



ed to them;

3. Lasallian educators must assist their students in exercising discipline when choosing what is available in cyberspace; and,
4. Lasallian educators are encouraged to employ modern technological tools for the teaching of Gospel countercultural values.

Br. Victor Franco

ARLEP: "Lasallians Building the Future"



The 1st ARLEP (Spain and Portugal Region) Mission Assembly, "Lasallians Building the Future," was held April 26th to 29th in Sant Martí de Sesgueioles.

There were 51 participants from the Region's 7 Districts, including two representatives from the Sub-District of the Gulf of Benin. Two-

thirds of the participants were lay persons and one-third were Brothers, including all the Brother Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors. Invited guests included Bros. Juan Pablo, General Councillor, and Antonio Botana, Secretary for Association.

This Assembly was held as a Partial Assembly preparatory to the International Assembly of the MEL to be celebrated in October-November 2006, and at the same time, was the first Assembly for the Mission of the ARLEP Region.

The main topic dealt with in this Assembly were the commitment to organizing new structures of mission in the service of the youth, promoting the Lasallian communities and strengthening the Association spirit, focused on the Mission.

European Association of Directors of Lasallian Institutions ASSEDIL

The Annual Congress of ASSEDIL (European Assoc. of Directors of Lasallian Institutions) was held in Malta from March 31st to April 3rd 2006. The theme was: *Leading and managing a Lasallian School in a changing society.*

After some words of welcome and the statutory General Assembly of the Association, the theme was taken up by a variety of speakers who led the participants to a high level of reflection: M. Michel, delegate of trusteeship/sponsorship in France, Br. Terry Collins, Auxiliary-Visitor of Great Britain and Br. Herman Lombaerts, university lecturer from North-Belgium.

Furthermore, some Maltese personalities honored us by sharing some time with us and telling us about their experiences and their present pre-occupations (the former President of the Republic and the present Minister of Education).

The exchanges in small groups allowed the theme of the Congress to be dealt with and also allowed the Directors to take up again the questions put to the Partial Assemblies which are being held at present in the Lasallian Regions. ASSEDIL is also participating in this reflection which is taking place during these months all over the Lasallian world. This Congress is also helping to reinforce the links at European level, thus prefiguring the future Lasallian Region of Europe

Br. Claude Reinhardt

Valencia-Palma "Project Obert"

The District of Valencia-Palma opens the "Projecte Obert" (Open Project), its first center for court-appointed minors in the Community of Valencia. The center opened on January 23th of this year. The center receives cooperation from the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Region.

The initiative carried out with the opening of the center is within the framework of social commitment. The goal is to try to cover the costs of the students who live close by, and to contribute to their personal and professional development, as well as to try to integrate them into society.

Quebec, Canada, 25-26 de March Partial Assembly for the Mission and the Association



About 40 people - Brothers, Associates and our most committed collaborators, including a good number of young people, gathered at the Maison Sainte-Dorothée in Laval, Quebec, to hold a Partial Assembly of 'Associated for the Mission' - as is being done by each Lasallian Region - first phase of the International Assembly which will

be held in Rome at the end of October 2006.

In a very fraternal atmosphere, the participants, coming from the diverse educational works of the District, and thanks to the original and efficient way the Assembly was run, exchanged views on the strengths, good fortune, obstacles and challenges for the future in the District.

The participants, by their presence, were already showing one of the strengths of the District: the strong cohesion which exists among them and a family spirit which makes one optimistic about the continuation of the Lasallian Education Mission in this part of the Institute.

This was a good meeting which strengthened the convictions of the participants, and a good preparation for the I.A. 2006 in Rome.

Br. Claude Reinhardt

Dates for the Partial Assemblies

Madagascar	March 2005
Central Africa	August 2005
Proche Orient	November 2005
USA/Toronto	November 2005
Italy	November 2005
PARC	December 2005
West Africa	December 2005

RELAL	March 2006
Canada Francophone	March 2006
REBIM	April 2006
RELEC	April 2006
ARLEP	April 2006
RELAF	April 2006
France	July 2006
Young Lasallians	July 2006

Partial Assembly of RELAL

There were three Sub-regional Assemblies, in March 2006:

- North Sub-region (Mexico, Central America and Antilles)
- Central Sub-region (Bogota, Ecuador, Medellin and Venezuela)
- South Sub-region (Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina-Paraguay, Porto Alegre and São Paulo)

These Sub-regional Assemblies appointed delegates for editing the final Regional document, elaborated in Caracas, on April 5th-7th, 2006.

A common method was used, with four main themes: analysis of the reality, Mission, Association and structures of the Association.

These were the main stressed points:

- The clear and preferential option for the poor.
- The emphasis in values allowing a life style where the solidarity and the service are fundamental elements.
- The explicit announcement of the Gospel



which creates the appropriate atmosphere in the school to share and live the Good News, and the creation of community and commitment within the Church.

- The importance of a quality and systematic formation for teachers.
- The explicit involvement of Lasallian Universities in the development of the Educational Mission of the Region, especially in the field of research and proposals.
- That the Association for the Mission becomes a reality within the Region.

Bobo Dioulasso / 27-30 March 2006 Partial Assembly RELAF

General aim: To reflect the reality of the Region as it appears. To make these particularities known to the International Assembly.

Lasallian Educational Mission

Presentation of the different works in the Region to the service of the poor: formal and not-formal educational institutions (high schools, technical and professional schools, agricultural centers, centers for street children,...). Initiatives of integration of professional formation into "classical" schools (carpentry, electricity, informatics)

Economical challenges

How to reconcile the educational service to the poor with the consequent finance resources?

The contribution of governments and/or parents do not match the expenses of formation.

The salaries of the lay partners; are not sufficient and do not progress in relation to the cost of living.

Association

There is a good atmosphere of collaboration, in general.

Very different level of commitment by the lay people: the "associate" level has not been assumed yet. Therefore, terms like "collaborator", "partner" would be more appropriate. Anyway, some lay people could be considered at this level, although their commitment has not been expressed through a specific formula.

Problems

- Identity of Brothers and lay people badly assimilated: this causes misunderstandings from both parts.
- Lack of communication channels between Brothers and lay people.
- Fear in some Brothers, especially the young, of losing privileges.
- Some partners perceive the relation Brothers-lay people in terms of the relation employer-employee.
- Fear in some Brothers of seeing the partners organized in *trade union structures* under the wing of Association.

Urgencies

- Need of formation for the partners.
- To propose to lay people a spiritual process.
- To insist on the theme of Association in the initial formation of the Brothers.
- Structures of formation for Brothers and lay people.

The First Regional Meeting of Associates - ARLEP



On December 17th and 18th the "Cristo Rey" house at Pozuelo, Madrid, hosted the first Regional gathering of lay associates in the ARLEP Region. The meeting was called by the Regional Shared Mission and Lasallian Association Commission and it provided an opportunity for meeting and sharing.

District and personal processes were shared and from this sharing proposals concerning the future were made. The purpose of these proposals was to help strengthen the ties between current lay Associates themselves and between the Associates and the communities of Brothers. It was hoped that this would help to facilitate the processes for future lay Associates in the Districts. Those in attendance, nearly fifty persons from all over ARLEP, expressed their satisfaction with this experience.

Association Commission

The Association Commission met on April 22nd-26th, 2006. The first two days it met with the MEL Commission to identify their roles during the upcoming International Assembly. Members of both commissions made up the preparatory committee and each member will be extensively involved as leaders in preparation for and during the Assembly.

The Commission meeting itself had two focuses: first, each member presented a report on advances made in the living out and the understanding of association in their respective Regions and Districts over the last 12 months. The second part of the meeting was the preparation of a report that the Commission will make to the IA in October: areas that needed more attention; obstacles or difficulties that exist around association for mission in the world; critical points or questions and, based on the commissions work and study over the last 5 years, recommendations for the future

International Gathering of "Signum Fidei"



From March 20th - April 2nd, twenty-five representatives from around the world met at the Generalate of the Brothers to discuss the Signum Fidei Association in the world today. This was an historic gathering since it was the first time an international gathering of representative members of the Signum Fidei Association had ever met.

The gathering mirrored many of the issues that exist in any multinational gathering held during this third millennium, post-Vatican II age in which we live. Just as the Roman Catholic Church and our Lasallian Institute has dealt and continues to deal with issues of identity, centralized authority, cultural diversity, religious pluralism and differences in spirituality, these issues provided a dramatic background for the discussions during the gathering.

The Signum Fidei Association emerged in the 1970s when, in several places in the world, Lasallian lay people, hoping to find a way to be more committed in their Christian lives, asked the Institute if it would be possible to create closer links with the Brothers and with their spirit. From these beginnings, the Signum Fidei Movement spread so that today it is in 29 countries. In 2000, the 43rd General Chapter recognized the members of the Association as Associates for the Lasallian Mission.

The members of the Association make an annual commitment and belong to a local Signum Fidei community. The primary task of the meeting in Rome was to revise the "Style of Life" document which is a description of how members of the Signum Fidei members live their lives. The document, in 13 Chapters, describes numerous aspects of the Signum Fidei style of life describing their relationship with God, their relationship to each other in their communities and their role in their families, and the various educational activities to which they commit themselves.

Br. Alvaro Rodriguez, Superior General, addressed the assembly, reminding them of their history and challenging them to be part of the Church's current "Ecclesiology of communion" with its emphasis on the importance of the role of the laity in today's Church. He emphasized that the Lasallian charism is a gift to the Church, and that the Signum Fidei Association must plot its own course within the parameters of Lasallian Association as set down by the General Chapter, the inspiration of our Founder and the influence of Sacred Scripture: "The future of your life is in your hands, not ours."

Based on the reports from the various countries represented at the meeting, it is obvious that the members of the Association are spiritual people who are committed to making a difference in education, both formal and informal. They strive to be Lasallian models for those with whom they associate, demonstrating in their lives Lasallian values and principles of educational service to the young, especially the poor.

As the Signum Fidei movement continues to plot its course for the future, Br. Victor Franco, General Councillor, pointed out 13 issues that he believed were important to consider as they revised their "Style of Life" document, reflecting feedback from continental meetings and his visits to Signum Fidei communities. His questions dealt with the issues of 1) official Church recognition, 2) the use of the word consecration, 3) the admission of non-Catholics and/or non-Christians to the group, 4) the admission of priests and other religious, 5) Signum Fidei youth, 6) the length of commitment, 7) the minimum length of their formation process, 8) the relationship of Signum Fidei to the Institute and the Districts, 9) linkage with other Lasallian groups, 10) the training of animators, 11) the structures of coordination and communication, 12) stable financial resources for the organization, and 13) the frequency of international assemblies.

With the tasks well defined, the group worked hard for two weeks revising their "Style of Life" document, working in language groups and in general assembly, striving to do their best to orchestrate



a future that would make an impact on the world. Given that this was the first time many of the participants had participated in an assembly under a system of parliamentary procedures gleaned from several cultures, it was a learning process for all that managed to move forward and tackle the many theoretical, cultural, linguistic, theological and technological problems thrown at them during the two weeks.

Br. Donald Johanson

District of West Africa

The District of West Africa groups the countries of Burkina Faso and Niger. It is made up of 10 communities and 32 Brothers, who work with lay partners in 12 works. There are 3 secondary schools, 4 colleges for comprehensive education, 1 professional secondary school, 2 vocational training centres, 1 primary school and 1 remedial class.

As well, the District houses the inter-African novitiate in Bobo-Dioulasso, the second city in Burkina.

Despite the limited number of Brothers, the District, inspired by faith, opened two new communities in 2005:

- One in Kongoussi to the north west of Burkina where there is great need for education. Three Brothers (one Frenchman and two Burkina nationals) are there preparing for the establishment of a secondary establishment. For the time being, they are living in rented accommodation. Two Brothers are teaching in a college run by Sisters, and the third is teaching in a diocesan primary school.
- The mission of the second community is to set up an agricultural centre in the south west of the country in Beregadougou. It witnesses to the interest of the District in the peasant world which makes up the greater part of the population of the country. The District of Douala has generously seconded one Brother for some time for this foundation. The new centre will train rural couples how to improve their production.

The Brothers, motivated by great hope, have planted, virtually with tears, these two communities. In fact the sacrifices taken on are huge for they are a measure of the faith animating the Brothers, and of the hope placed in these works: numerous choice fruits in the area of education and training of the students and young people, and vocations for the Institute and the local Churches.

Founding new works, hoping for vocations and working wholeheartedly for the betterment of people and society makes sense only if love is the beginning, the middle and the end of our activities and our lives. "By this will everyone know that you are my disciples: if you have love one for another" (Jn.13.35). More important than academic success, the prestige of the works and the gratitude of the parents is one of the great challenges to know and be able to respond to this need with fraternal love in com-



munity, in the educational teams, with the young people, in the Lasallian family... so that each work of the District may be a little more, each day, a place of evangelisation.

The limitations, the difficulties (personal and community) do not stifle the vitality of the District, which is manifested through:

- the relief given by the young Brothers who, though few in number, are dynamic,
- the spiritual renewal of the Brothers and communities,
- the strengthening of collaboration with lay people sustained by training,
- the witness of the old Brothers as examples of generosity, and availability, and of the gift of themselves,
- the commitment to the pastoral care of the young and of vocations as well as to prayer,
- the trust in Providence of God who always carries out his promises at the right time.

The educational needs are immense and the people are becoming more and more helpless. Thanks to the generosity of the educational teams, and of the local and international Lasallian family, it is possible to mobilise the human, spiritual, material... resources.

So, we can face up to the double challenge of the Lasallian educational mission in our situation:

- to offer quality education
- to be always accessible to needy and middle class families.

*Br. Sylvain Consimbo
Visitor of the District of West Africa*

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Bros. José Manuel Agirrezabalaga
and Stephen Tuohy
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Countr./Dist.	Place	#	USD	Description
Argentina	Malvinas	2830	3,212	Fund for improving housing 2006
Brazil	Pelotas	2667	19,680	Purchase of furniture
Brazil	Porto Alegre	2826	10,714	Leaders training for Youth Ministry
Brazil	Uruará	2810	7,135	Attention to adolescents with learning problems
Burkina Faso	Nouna	2814	3,984	Photocopier
Cameroon	Diang	2846	3,926	Renovation of computer room
Chile	Santiago	2824	7,091	Help to "Hogar Esperanza" 2007
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2602	4,350	Archives of the District
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2785	3,932	English learning
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2790	3,634	Training courses for teachers 2005/06
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2857	10,000	Purchase of an offset printer
Congo R.D.	Kinshasa	2861	4,750	Formation for young people with learning difficulties
Congo R.D.	Tumba	2862	4,635	Installation of solar panels
Cuba	Santiago	2833	8,400	Formation of young people
Djibouti	Tadjourah	2866	11,900	Multi-purpose building
Eritrea	Keren	2839	6,000	Photocopier
Ethiopia	Addis Abeba	2853	5,000	Minibus for Postulancy
Golfe Benin	Conakry	2865	2,618	Formation for teachers
Golfe Benin	Dapaong	2863	5,461	Drilling of a well for the school of Namatongue
Haiti	La Tortuga	2867	10,948	Repair the roof of School Saint-Miguel
India	Boys' Town	2730	6,555	Tuition Assist. 3
India	Boys' Village	2631	12,696	Transportation for Brothers Pastoral Activities
India	Dindigul	2758	1,285	Motor Bike
India	Dindigul	2773	4,651	Furniture and Equipment for new community
India	Dindigul	2802	12,808	Scholarship for Street and Working Children
India	Madurai	2774	11,517	Jeep for Vocation and Pastoral Work
India	Tuticorin	2807	6,977	Books, Uniforms and Meals for 100 Poor Students
India	Tuticorin	2808	5,722	Audiovisual Equipment and Photocopier
India	Tuticorin	2809	3,488	Daily Running cost of School Bus 1 Year Gas
Israel	Jaffa	2850	5,000	Computers
Kenya	Lwanga	2806	4,928	Lwanga Archives Start-Up Cost
Kenya	Nairobi	2748	4,600	Music Instruments and Instruction Scholastics
Madagascar	Antananarivo	2739	12,164	Vehicle for Rural Educational Center (Sisters)
Madagascar	Antananarivo	2789	176,541	Chapel and hall (Sisters)
Madagascar	Antsirabe	2828	3,450	Construction of toilets and showers (Sisters)
Madagascar	Antsirabe	2829	15,753	Construction of the wall (Sisters)
Mexico Sur	Sierra	2848	5,000	Human promotion for rural communities
Pakistan	Faisalabad	2832	4,470	Scholarship, books and uniforms for Urdu High School
Pakistan	Khushpur	2756	8,453	Three Classrooms La Salle High School
Peru	Urubamba	2868	29,750	Religious formation for rural teachers in the Andes
Rwanda	Kisaro	2576	51,084	Social center for countrymen
Sri Lanka	Colombo	2737	2,550	Formators Transportation to Lipa Novitiate
Sri Lanka	Diyagala Bo	2854	6,000	Instruments for Boys' Town Band

The Santiago Development Project (PRODESSA) A Work in the Service of the Mayan World

A country of contrasts...

Guatemala is a country of profound contrasts. Next to the beauty of nature and the simplicity and affability of its people we run into some profound relationships based on racism and discrimination of the Mayan population, who make up sixty percent of the country. On a par with the growth of the macroeconomics, the fact of exclusion is our daily bread.

The United Nations Program for Development places Guatemala among the top four world countries, in terms of inequality. The difference is so enormous that, for example, a wealthy family can buy a house for US \$350,000 in an exclusive residential area, while a poor family - based on its monthly earnings - would need approximately 184 years if they wanted to buy it.

PRODESSA in the context of Guatemala

In this context, and faithful to Saint John Baptist de La Salle, we Lasallians have taken on the challenge to work for the education of the forgotten, the dispossessed, and the poor of this country: the indigenous Mayans.

The Santiago Development Project – PRODESSA – set up in 1989, supports the efforts and the participation of indigenous communities to find solutions for the destructive effects that poverty causes them and to help satisfy their needs in a lasting and equitable way.

If anything has characterized the work of PRODESSA, it is the way it has accompanied the Mayan people, that is to say, it never sought to replace them but to offer them spaces and opportunities so that they could express their own voice. It is important to mention that the quality of our educational proposal sees to it that the project be an obligatory point of reference for anyone wanting to learn about alternative experiences with cultural relevance in the field of education and development in Guatemala.

The mission of PRODESSA is as follows: *"Inspired in liberating faith, fraternity, service, and the Mayan culture, we work in solidarity with rural communities, especially Mayans, supporting community and educational development processes that ensure fairness and the quality of life in order to influence the building of an intercultural, fair and just society."*



J.A. Warletta

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.prodesa.net>

e-mail: direccion@prodesa.net

Postal address:

Apartado 13 B
Ciudad de Guatemala 01803
Guatemala

the use of Mayan languages in oral and written communication.

- Integrating culture and knowledge of the indigenous culture in the school curriculum and in literacy programs, avoiding the imposition of the dominant society.
- Enabling Mayan leaders to foster the development of their own communities and to overcome poverty.
- Reclaiming the historical memory with and for the communities.
- Strengthening the movements that work in favor of reclaiming Mayan culture.

The Mayan people have the inalienable right to be the subject of their own history and PRODESSA desires to contribute to the fulfillment of this right, although in a modest way.

At PRODESSA we have learned and we are convinced that many solutions will come from the richness of the Mayan view of the world. Over the course of 500 years, Mayan men and women have learned how to stand firm. Therefore, we ought to learn how to deal with their nature, how it is organized and what drives it. Many of the innovations we have promoted are a recuperation of their traditional wisdom, since, as Leonardo Boff says: *"If we want to become rich and to accumulate... it is useless to ask for advice from the indigenous... But if we want to be happy, unite human being with the divine, integrate person and nature, make work compatible with leisure time, harmonize inter-generational relationships... then we should talk to them."*

At PRODESSA we know that in a certain way we are all called to be "prophets of history" and that we ought to embrace the utopian inspiration of Saint John Baptist de La Salle for which we need to *convert ourselves to the future*, a conversion which we were invited to make by Brother Álvaro Rodríguez, Superior General.

We have never stopped while making this journey. The main richness of PRODESSA is that of an ongoing journey.

At PRODESSA we have always understood that the option for the poor is not a poor option. On the contrary, we have been called to take part in the social reality, not to be indifferent towards hurried justice, instilled freedom, violated human rights, the exploited worker. PRODESSA has definitely called us to take the side of justice, freedom, democracy, ethics, the common good, and of the poor.

Therefore, in its support for the Mayan culture, PRODESSA contributes to:

- Strengthening the proper culture identity for the restoration of the Mayan people.
- Increasing the decision-making ability of community groups to affirm their own cultural resources such as land, the knowledge of history, technology...
- Increasing the availability of foreign cultural resources that will improve the life of the communities such as intermediate technologies, knowledge of the Spanish language, advances in science and technology.
- Using the mother tongue as the principal language in the educational process, fostering



Guatemala

The Tragedy of a Tropical Storm



When tropical storm *Stan* hit Guatemala, the country was shaken from its routine. It was devastated, smashed into a thousand pieces, demolished.

This tragedy was so painful that one of the settlements, Panabaj, was not only declared uninhabitable but it was considered a cemetery. The rescue efforts were abandoned here. The place's inhabitants, more than 1,400 persons, were buried by an avalanche of mud and stones: a cemetery without a town!

The crisis revealed our extreme vulnerability, heightened by the passing of Hurricane Mitch seven years before, when nine days of continuous rain caused 268 deaths. Then *"there were three days of rain and the system collapsed. If there had been another week of rain, we would have been finished,"* said Bishop Álvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos.

It is not by chance that the vulnerable areas in Guatemala are always the poor ones, where the marginalized, the indigenous, the inhabitants of rural areas dwell. Those who are always rudely affected by natural phenomena. Their lives in a country such as this are a disaster and their deaths only close this cycle of indifference for those who have in their hands the power to correct such a secular situation.

The Guatemalan State and society face a great challenge: either allow this injustice and inequality to go on forever or take urgent action so that the reconstruction of the country is not built upon the same bases of exclusion and discrimination. Solidarity in many sectors, certainly very generous, and charity are not the solution to build up a country that should eradicate this aberrant system that attacks the dignity of all human beings.

Neither the re-adaptation of the budget announced by the government, nor the millions of dollars and euros offered by the international community are the solution for avoiding natural phenomena to snatch away the lives of children, women, old people, and poor men that carry centuries of indifference and unhappiness on their backs.

The number of dead and missing are a thorn which sticks in the heart of those who have some sense of social responsibility. Those affected by this storm are the constant victims of injustice. They are that half of the Guatemalan population that demand and merit a life of dignity where their human rights are respected.

*Br. Óscar Azmitia
Guatemala*

"Lasallian International Children's Fund" comienza la distribución de fondos

Br. John Johnston has announced that the Lasallian International Children's Fund now has a market value of \$ 363,000 and will begin disbursements on May 15th, 2006.

Towards the end of the 43rd General Chapter, the Regions of the Institute announced their decision to create the Br. John Johnston Fund for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Subsequently, Br. John modified the name to Lasallian International Children's Fund. He and his advisors decided to allow the fund to grow to at least \$ 350,000 before beginning disbursements.

The purpose of the fund is to provide monies from interest and dividends for programs directly in the service of needy children and youth, for advocacy projects on behalf of children, and for the training of leaders in the promotion of the rights of children. The fund will provide between \$13,000 and \$15,000 annually, sufficient to make aid available for three or four mini-projects that meet the criteria.

Because the fund is intended to provide assistance internationally, and because SECOLI has a highly effective infrastructure already in place, Brother John has asked the Directors of SECOLI to designate recipients from among those seeking assistance.

Requests, therefore, should be sent directly to SECOLI, using the standard Request Form for Mini-Projects and conforming to all SECOLI policies. Each year the Directors of SECOLI will choose three or four projects for funding by the LICF. They will make disbursements annually on May 15th, feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The 2006 LICF recipients are:

Country	Place	Project #	Description	US\$
Burkina Faso	Nouna	2815	Audio Visual	\$4,426
Chile	Esperanza	2824	Orphanage	\$3,272
Ethiopia	Dire Dawa	2853	Scholarship	\$3,500
India	Boy's Village	2804	Scholarship	\$3,476
				\$14,674

The Lasallian International Children's Fund has reached its current value because of ongoing contributions and market growth. The hope is that the fund will continue to grow, making more monies available each year. Anyone wishing to contribute to the principle of the endowment can send donations to:

SECOLI-LICF
Via Aurelia 476
00165 Roma, Italia

Support a SECOLI Project

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

Br. Jose Manuel Agirrezabalaga
jmagirrezabalaga@lasalle.org

Br. Stephen Tuohy
stuohy@lasalle.org

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



Formation for the Mission

District of West Africa Lasallian Formation Meeting



As every year, a Lasallian training meeting was held in Toussiana at Spiritual Center Théophile Elola (C.S.T.E.) on March 14th - 17th, 2006. Sixteen lay teachers and seven Brothers reflected on "the challenges for the Lasallian educator"

Three animators, including two lay people, presented some topics:

- o Physical, moral and financial difficulties
- o Gratuity and self donation
- o Lasallian Education

The exchanges were very rich and interesting at both groups and plenary level. After watching the film "The meeting in Parménie" about Saint John Baptiste de La Salle, the participants expressed their feelings: "Through this film we have understood that the School is the place where the child must feel being loved, protected from social dangers. It helped us to understand why we are committed and to do our best to fulfill our mission, which is "touching hearts."

Suggestions and propositions were made to improve the collaboration and the commitment of each one in the common mission. Representatives from Niamey and Nouna could not attend the meeting. Another meeting was arranged for next year.

Br. Antoine-Marie Dabiré

Dreams for the PARC Region in 2020

From 27th to 31st December, 2005, thirty seven Lasallian Brothers and Sisters from the Pacific-Asia Region met in Pattaya, Thailand, for a workshop entitled: "Let the Passion Burn: His Light in the World Amongst Young People."

As a result of the workshop, participants agreed that their dream for the PARC Region in 2020 included communities of Brothers, Sisters and Lasallian partners "without borders", educational ministries providing hospitable spaces and a sense of belonging as well as being accessible and welcoming to marginalised youth groups, Lasallians creatively responding to emerging needs and a new organisational structure that promotes Regional cooperation, interdependence and solidarity.

The group strongly endorsed various movements including the establishment of a Lasallian Formation Centre for the Region, the establishment of a mobile Lasallian formation team with media support, the identification of persons who can be trained as resource persons in various fields, the establishment of an intentional Lasallian community composed of Brothers/Sisters/Partners directed towards serving Sectors in need and the establishment of a database for needs identification and resource mobilisation in the Region.



The group also asked that all Lasallian Formation programs include in-service training in curriculum development for initial and continuing formation, especially in terms of being counter-cultural (*Sociological*), being prophetic (*Theological*) and involving justice and peace (*Ideological*).

Philadelphia, USA Lasallian Leadership Institute's Third Cohort Graduates

Gathering in Mt. Pocono, PA from March 23 through March 25, 2006, the East Coast's third cohort of the Lasallian Leadership Institute graduated. Br. Bill Mann, Vicar General of the Institute, was the final presenter of the three year formation program. He focused the group around a metaphor of the Lasallian family as a house and highlighted the constant need to *build and renew* within our individual apostolates, our Districts, our Region and our worldwide community.



As we gathered for the last time as LLI students we reflected on our three years together and passed the torch to the fourth cohort of the Lasallian Leadership Institute which will meet for the first time this summer.

Manila, Philippines Continuing Formation Workshops

Last January, fifty lay partners gathered at the provincialate in Green Hills, Manila, for a workshop on Life Transitions. The workshop was offered by Br. Michael G. French, Director of CIL, and was organized by Evangeline Peralta and Michael Gamo.

Together they explored a model for understanding personal transitions in life, shared reflections about work and intimacy and finally explored implications for institutional transitions. The workshop included input, reflection exercises, small and large group sharing and prayer. Since the age range of the participants was from 22 to 82 years, they had a varied and rich experience to draw on for their reflection.

The participants, who were mainly administrators from the centers in Luzon as well members of the provincialate staff, participated well and created a lively atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and sharing of experience.

Young Lasallians

International Symposium of Young Lasallian Coordinating Team of the Organizing Committee



On May 20th and 21st, the Coordinating Team of the Organizing Committee for the Youth Symposium met at the Mother House to work out the final details of the process of organization. The object of the meeting was the sub-dividing of the rooms and areas to be used, the management of financial details and the organization of work groups. The list of those participating in the event numbers at present 125 delegates coming from all 11 Regions of the Lasallian world. They will meet in Rome to reflect on the Mission and to share their own experiences.

<http://www.lasalle.org>

<http://www.lasallesymposium2006.org/>

Manado, Indonesia Young Lasallian Corps

In his visit to the Universitas Katolic De La Salle Manado, Indonesia, on January 25th - 30th, Br. Victor Franco, Councilor General, spent an entire day meeting with the *Young Lasallian Corps* (YLC).

The session started with with an inspiring session on the parable of the Prodigal Son, accompanied by a study of the painting by Rembrandt of The Return of the Prodigal Son. There the Young Lasallians learned humanity, compassion, love and forgiveness from different points of view: the father, the elder son and the younger one.

After a lunch with the Brothers' Community the meeting resumed with a session including a discussion on Lasallian Youth communities in the region of PARC, as an overview for the YLCers. Despite the difficulties of spreading and living the Lasallian spirit among other Lasallians, the students were encouraged to stick to their dreams for YLC. Then the day's meeting concluded with a prayer service that helped everyone contemplate how our existence in the universe truly resembles the presence of God.

France

Easter in Parménie, a step on the road

On Holy Saturday at noon, some Young Lasallians arrived in Parménie under the rain. They received their stick and bag of necessities for the pilgrimage road to the top of the hill. During the reflection time and meditation the participants prayed and shared their thoughts around four words: *me, path, Easter and Christ*.

After that a celebration of reconciliation was held and it was led by Father Dominique Bouzy around five major themes: *light, forgiveness, brotherhood, life and love*. The night started with the torches march. There were three roads divided according to the three Lasallian words: Faith, Brotherhood and Service. They ended with a big torch that was lit up with fire. Then the Easter celebration started in the small chapel of Parménie. On Sunday for the first time, the celebration of the mass lasted all day long. It started with a small prayer where the story of the Emmaus disciple was a testimony that "*Easter is a step on the road*". A Eucharistic moment closed this celebration, a special experience and example of the commitment that each youth must make in the road towards love.



Italy

National Convention of the Young Lasallians

"Dove c'è La Salle, c'è casa" (Where there is La Salle, there is a home). This was the call of wel-



come heard by 150 youth participating in the 4th National Convention of the Young Lasallian

Movement which was held between March 9th and 12th at the Generalate of the Brothers in Rome. These were four days of intense work reflecting on the theme "*fare casa*" (building a family spirit) for putting at the centre of our efforts for the young and the poor, starting out from the experiences of 'rupture' lived by St. John Baptist de La Salle, patron of all teachers, who chose to '*fare casa*' imitating the style of God by selling his own home in

which relations were based around privilege and power, in order to give life to other "homes" where service and welcoming the needy were the first rules.

The convention was also the occasion for the Young Lasallians to prepare for the big event of this coming summer. From July 25th to 31st, in fact, the Second International Symposium of the Youth Movement will take place in Rome, just one year ahead of the General Chapter of 2007. The first such symposium took place in Quebec with the forming of the International Council which for the past four years has been reflecting on the identity of the Young Lasallian, based on faith, community and educational service of the poor.

USA, East Coast

Three-Hundred Brothers Gather for Holy Week Retreat

Some 300 Brothers of the Districts of Baltimore, LI-NE, and New York and the Delegation of Toronto gathered in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, from 12th to 16th April 2006 for Holy Week Retreat.

This retreat was a follow-up to a Lasallian Futures Assembly that was held in Catskills, New York, during the summer of 2004 when about 50 Brothers and 50 Lasallian Partners focused on the future of the Lasallian educational mission in the geographical area from Toronto in Ontario, Canada, to Washington, DC, in the USA.

When it came time at the conclusion of the Holy Week Retreat to propose the direction for or against greater union, cooperation and collaboration among the Districts and Delegation, the Brothers were almost unanimous in proposing that work should begin immediately to move toward the creation of one new District-like entity in the Northeast.

While what such re-structuring would look like is not yet clear, a plan has been put in place to keep the momentum of the retreat going. The



Brother Visitors and Brother Delegate will have a final draft in June 2006 of a document proposing a Confederation of all of the Lasallian educational ministries of the Northeast. This work has been in-progress since the Lasallian Futures Assembly that was held in the summer of 2004. A joint meeting of the District and Delegation Councils to follow-up on the direction given by the Brothers at the Holy Week Retreat has already been scheduled for August of 2006.

Lasallian Centenary in Australia



On Friday, May 26th, one hundred years after the arrival of one hundred and thirty Brothers in Australia, the impressive altar of St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, Australia was the perfect backdrop for the Centenary Mass that brought Brothers, colleagues, friends, students and staff from De La Salle school communities together in celebration.

In his homily, Archbishop Frank Carroll, (a former student of one of the De La Salle schools in Sydney), said that it was "a great privilege to be

present at this Mass of thanksgiving to pay tribute to the Brothers". He encouraged the students to appreciate something of the very special spiritual and educational heritage of which they are blessed to be a part and to commit themselves to sharing the mission of the Brothers and the good news of the Gospel.

"The spirit of St John Baptist de La Salle is alive and well in our schools and in new forms of outreach to the poor and marginalized in our society. The Brothers and members of the Lasallian family sow generously the seeds of Gospel faith and love. May we never forget to thank them and the rich heritage they have given us over these one hundred years"

The work of the Brothers and Partners goes on being dynamic in numerous activities addressed to fulfill the needs of poor and underprivileged, not only in Australia, New Zealand and Papua-New Guinea, but in all the PARC Region.

Congratulations to the Brothers of the District of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and their associates as they celebrate their 100 years of service.

Angela Finn

Tijuana, Mexico

25th Anniversary of the La Salle Comprehensive Formation Center

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the La Salle Comprehensive Formation Center, in Tijuana, Mexico, was held on Saturday, May 20th, 2006. There was great joy due to the many Brothers who attended, both from Mexico and from the United States (District of San Francisco). The event began with a Mass that was concelebrated by the Bishop and five priests, two of whom were former students from the Center.

Antioquia, Colombia

Project for underprivileged communities

In compliance with its educational mission of working preferably for the poor, The Lasallian University Corporation has developed since 1999, in the framework of the university extension, two courses addressed to people from underprivileged strata.

The course of "Food handling and Social living", in which 2,787 people have been qualified, aimed to give elements to the participants to carry out their jobs in the best way in the scholar restaurants (canteens), in the street markets or at home, not only as regards the technical aspects of food handling, but also to develop better social relationships. This point was especially worked within the module of "social living".



Video of Founder

In the web site of the Institute, in the Resources section, there is a Photodex video of the life of John Baptist de La Salle. It is a 5 minute presentation created by Br. Donald Johanson for our museum in Rome.

<http://www.lasalle.org>

Visit of Br. Superior General to the District of France

Br. Superior has finished his visit to the District of France. Previously, the Superior had visited the District sectors in Djibouti, on the island of Reunion, and in Greece. This second part of the visit started in Parménie on April 14th (see page 12) and continued in the Western sector. In Quimper Br. Álvaro met with student and teacher delegates from the professional training courses in Likés. It was very encouraging to see the interest that the teachers have for mentoring the students in their formative process. In the same sector, he also met with groups of Lasallians and with senior Brothers from the communities of Blain and Keroser.

The visit to the Central sector began on April 20th. There, Br. Superior visited the centers of Godefroy de Bouillon and Franc-Rosier (Clermont Ferrand) and Motte Servolex (Chambery). He also met with senior Brothers from the communities of Caluire, Argonay, and Puy-en-Velay, where he stressed the importance of senior Brothers continuing to consider themselves as part of the District's mission by their interest, their welcoming spirit, and above all by their prayer for the District and for the Institute.

On April 24th, Br. Álvaro went to Metz to begin the visit to the Eastern sector. He had a meeting with the Brothers at the house in Borny and he



also visited the works in Guénange-Richemont which welcomes young people who are experiencing difficulties in their families and those who have been sent there by the courts due to behavior problems.

Also in this sector he visited the AJR (*Avenir Jeunes Reims*) Center where help is given to unschooled children with social problems in order to prepare them for the workplace. The Center receives less money from the state than it needs, so to make up for that deficit products produced on the premises are sold, mostly carpentry products.

The visit to the District ended in June with the meeting of the General Council with the team of Brothers Visitors of the District.

Visit to ARLEP (Spain and Portugal)

Br. Superior General started on January 14th the pastoral visit to the ARLEP Region. Starting in the District of Catalunya and in different steps, he visited, in this order, the Districts of Valencia-Palma, Andalusia, Bilbao, Valladolid and Madrid, to conclude, on March 22nd-23rd, with the visit to the Central District. On this occasion he could also visit the European Novitiate, in its new seat in Madrid, Ciudad Lineal. Currently there are four novices (three Spanish and one Polish) and four formators (one French, one Polish and two Spanish).

He valued the vitality of the Lasallian family in the Region and the orientation and quality of

the works. *"The Lasallian mission -he said- is still very alive"*. He pointed out:

- The variety and richness of the educational institutions.
- The educational relationship centered in the person.
- The commitment of all the educators in helping every pupil in a comprehensive development as a person.
- The special attention to children and young people with problems: immigration, poverty, family break-up...
- The importance given to personal care and orientation..
- The interest in the promotion of human and Christian values.
- The quality of the relations within the educational community.
- The interest in the formation of teachers.
- The extraordinary quality of many lay people to live the Lasallian spirit.
- The increasing role of lay people in management positions.
- The increasing presence of works of non-formal education.

In the light of such a dynamism, Br. Superior General stated that the ARLEP Region could make a great contribution to the future Lasallian European Region.

Publications of Br. Flavio Pajer

Br. Flavio Pajer has published a new school text-book for the study of the Catholic religion and other religions, intended for the first cycle in Italian secondary schools. The textbook (*La Religione*, Società Editrice Internazionale, Torino 2006) is spread over 3 volumes for the pupils, plus a didactic Guide for the Teacher, giving a total of 790 richly illustrated pages. It was written in conformity with the new *Syllabus 2005* of the Italian Scholastic Reform and carries - as required by the laws of the Concordat - a *nihil obstat* from the Italian Episcopal Conference..

Thousands of books published over time by the Brothers

Any idea about how many school books have been published by the De La Salle Brothers? A project in Canada has set out to describe all of the books published by the Brothers for their pupils from the beginning of the Institute. So far they have listed 2,037 books from Canada and 2,965 books from France. To see a list of these books, check the link to the Canadian site:

<http://www.bibl.ulaval.ca/ress/manscol>.

If you are aware of other books the Brothers have published, send them a note at paubin@upc.qc.ca so they can add them to the list.

Br. Alain Houry

Bethlehem University Christian Muslim Forum

On February 9th, 2006, Christian and Muslim leaders were invited during the students activities hour to Bethlehem University to discuss the issue of the publication of the cartoons insulting the Prophet. Bishop Attallah Hanna from the Greek Orthodox Church, and Sheikh Abdel Majid Ata, Mufti of Bethlehem District, and Mr. Naser Lahham, chief editor at Ma'an News Agency were among the panel who gave their reflections on the issue.

Sheikh Abdel Majid Ata (BU'84) expressed his appreciation to Bethlehem University for hosting the meeting. He emphasized the strong relation that bonds Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and the coexistence they practiced for centuries. He added *"we have no problem with the Danish people, we as Palestinians and Muslims have good relations with many European countries and organizations, we should not jeopardize this relationship because of a few irresponsible persons."*

New Regional Team of ARLEP



From left: Bros. Ángel García Elena (*Bursar*), Juan José Brunet, Luis Timón (*Aux. Visitor*), Ismael Beltrán (*Visitor*), Néstor Ferrera (*Secretary*) and José M^a Martínez

What is the use of recording data from novitiate registers?

Four years ago, two Swiss Brothers (they are blood brothers as well), Raymond and Richard Böhi, agreed to and set about this work at the suggestion of Brother Edwin Arteaga, then Director of Archives at the Generalate House: for a month each year, they have come to the Generalate to enter this data on Access software and they have worked on it at home also. Since then, other Brothers have joined in the work: Bros. Gabriel Somé (West Africa), Richard Züger and René Steinmann (Neuchâtel), Jean-Claude Mauvilly and Paul Boussemart (Besançon).

The names of more than 46,000 young men have been inserted in a data base, with his name as a Brother, his surname and first names, his father's first name, his mother's surname and first names, his place of birth, his date of birth, entry to the novitiate and taking of the habit (with the location of the novitiate); if it applies, his entry to the Junior Novitiate and, when it happened before the end of the novitiate stage - his departure or dismissal (sometimes with the reason), the date of his decease...

These registers have been regularly maintained at the Mother House since 1838 but the Archives also have notebooks covering the years preceding and following the French Revolution. They do not contain so much detail but they are, with the registers of vows, the principal means of knowing the names of Brothers of the period. It is common knowledge that in 1960 Brother Maurice-Auguste published, in Cahier 3, the initial register of Brothers, the compilation of which began undoubtedly in 1714 (CL 3 covers the years 1684-1719). The total number of young men entering the novitiates of the Institute can be estimated at 100,000. So, we are about half-way through, and other contributions will be able to shorten the time for reaching the end. Noting down all these details is, indeed, painstaking work for it requires that written manuscripts of various times, languages and inks be deciphered, the names of places difficult to identify be verified on the Internet, or even correction of the mistakes of the secretary of the Mother House at the time, It was he who copied into the register the information he received from the novitiate in question. All the checking and proofreading are indispensable for ensuring an accurate tool.

But why do this?

First of all, to preserve the footprints of those who entered the novitiate and who did not go beyond that stage. Before scholasticates became general, the novitiate consisted of two periods: one for "formation in the religious life of the Brother" in the novitiate house, and the other, for "bringing up to standard and preparing for carrying out the duties of a Brother" - either teaching school or filling some temporal employment - in a community in which the novice was "placed". If the novice died or left before the end of that stage, information about him was not transcribed into the "master card index" which included, in addition, for each Brother, all the houses to which

he was appointed up to the day of his death or departure: only the novitiate registers trace the steps of those novices. For a short time, those young men had in mind to consecrate themselves to the young in the Institute: it is a duty to remember them.

The data base, once completed, will make it possible to find a Brother whose family has preserved some hazy memory, like this one: "I think one of my great-uncles was a Brother of the Christian Schools at the end of the 19th century and that he was called Brother Leon". If Leon was the first of his religious names, it is found easily enough in the *master index* ("grandes fiches") which is classified in that way; but if the family name is relatively common (Martin, Garcia, Rossi, etc.) and if it was Ariste-Leon or perhaps Abraham-Leon, only the data base will enable the research, otherwise it is impossible. This kind of request comes fairly often, especially when the Brother left the Institute and started a family: a Brazilian teacher was very touched at thus discovering the footprints of his deceased father.

It will be a simple exercise to find the families, the towns and the provinces that have supplied the greatest number of novices. It is already known, for example, that more than 100 Brothers hailed from the area around Saugues during the years Brother Benildus was there and those that followed; undoubtedly, others places and periods of numerous vocations could be found. Likewise, for the first young man from a particular country to enter the novitiate: by finding the first ones, it will be possible to search the *master index* for those who remained in the Institute; for example, the Dutch Brothers who entered the Institute before the District of the Netherlands was created.

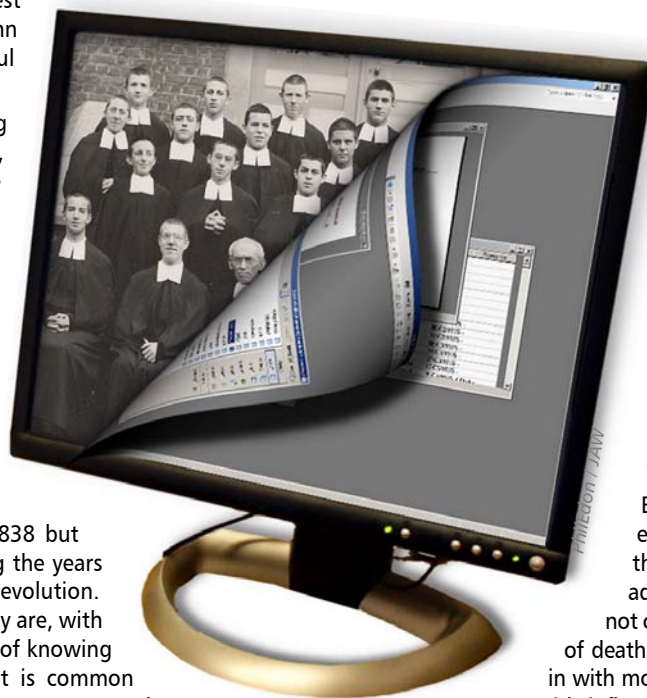
By comparing the date of birth and of entry to the novitiate, you can calculate the age at which young people were admitted - some have been found who had not completed their thirteenth year! The study of deaths while in formation will reveal if they fit in with mortality tables or health crises, such as the Spanish influenza or tuberculosis in the second half of 19th century France. That of departures shortly after the start

of the novitiate is to be modified by the time in the Junior Novitiate. Complementary research will be needed to link early departures with expatriation for those who had to go to another country to make their novitiate in Paris, or Lembecq or Bordighera, etc.

It will be possible, when the recording is finished, to carry out a statistical study on the age of entry according to periods and places; by coupling that with the *master index* it will be possible to see the relationship between the age of entry and perseverance. Many other research projects will be able to take advantage of this data base, and it is fitting to thank warmly all those who have, and those who will have, contributed to it.

In theory, computerising the *master index* would offer much more extensive services as can be seen with what is accomplished by the Personnel Bureau for the Brothers forming part of the Institute from about 1970. But, the mass of information to be entered in the programme would be 10 to 20 times greater. Perhaps the example of those who worked perseveringly on the novitiate registers will encourage a sufficient number of others to attempt, in their turn, a second venture with the computerisation of the *master index*.

Br. Alain Houry
Director of
Archives



Changes at the Generalate



Br. **Aidan Kilty** [1], Secretary for Formation, returns to his District of Great Britain. He will be replaced in this position by Br. **Timothy Coldwell** (see page 2).

Br. **Thomas Cooney** [2], until now in charge of the office of Institute Personnel, also joins the District of Great Britain.



Br. **Donald Johanson** [3], Director of Electronic Communication, especially the Institute's web site, returns to his District of San Francisco. Br. **Roch Dufresne** [4], from the same District, will replace him in this job.

Ing. **Mario Alberto Díaz Muñoz** [5], after a year as a volunteer among us, also joins his country, Mexico. Shortly we will welcome another mexican volunteer, **Carlos Ernesto Reveles**, who together with **Ignacio J. de León**, in Rome since January, will look after the maintenance of the computer services.



Br. **Leonardo Enrique Tejeiro** [6], from the District of Bogota, has also joined the Community of the Generalate. He will be the new Procurator General of the Institute. This position was held by Br. **Rodolfo Meoli**, together with the one of Postulator General



Br. **Jaime Dalumpines** [7], from the District of Philippines, will join the Generalate to boost the work at the Archives.



To all those leaving the Generalate, we express our deepest gratitude for their presence and their work. And to those arriving, our warmest welcome and our best wishes in their future activities.



Vicar General Visits Schools in New Orleans

Br. Vicar General William Mann recently visited the three Lasallian schools and communities of Brothers that were evacuated when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the USA on August 29th, 2005. While the schools and communities are now operational, many families of students, faculty, and staff still struggle in difficult and challenging circumstances. Huge sections of New Orleans (where De La Salle High School and Christian Brothers School are located) and the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain (where the St. Paul's School is located) remain devastated or uninhabitable even eight months after the storm.



The visit was an expression of solidarity on the part of the Institute and the Lasallian family to the many Lasallians affected by the hurricane, and an opportunity to understand the challenges for that sector of the Lasallian family to provide a more normal environment to many young people, and to contribute to rebuilding the life, seriously damaged in the Metropolitan Area of New Orleans.

Br. **Rodolfo Meoli**, Postulator General, has been elected Vice-President of the College of Postulators. The "College of Postulators", formed by the Postulators General from many Religious and Lay Institutes, was founded in 1927. Its aim is to collaborate with the Holy See and support and help the Postulators in the matters related to the Causes of Saints.



Recent appointments

Brother	District	Funtion	Term
Colin Griffin	Pakistan	Deleg. & Presid.	01.02.08
Henry Dissanayake	Colombo	Visitor	01.01.09
Yemanu Jehar	Rwanda	Delegate	01.01.09
Carmelo Santamaría Urizar	Ecuador	Visitor	07.01.09
David Hawke	India	Delegate	15.01.09
Jorge Gallardo de Alba	Japan	Presid. Deleg.	01.04.09
Arockiadoss	India	Presid. Deleg.	02.04.09
Gerardo A. Castillo Trujillo	Venezuela	Visitor	15.04.09
Irénée Pierre Rason	Antananarivo	Aux. Visitor	01.07.09
Marcos Corbellini	Porto Alegre	Visitor	01.01.10
Esayas Tzegay Gabir	Lwanga	Visitor	15.01.10
James Wallace	Lwanga	Aux. Visitor	15.01.10
Josep Martí i Roca	Catalunya	Visitor	16.03.10
Josep Guiteras i Llimona	Catalunya	Aux. Visitor	16.03.10
Johann Gassner	Central Europe	Aux. Visitor	01.05.10
Paul Kaiser	Central Europe	Visitor	01.05.10
Luis Timón González	Central Spain	Aux. Visitor	01.07.10
Ismael Beltrán Millán	Central Spain	Visitor	01.07.10
Juan Carlos Maldonado	Bolivia	Visitor	04.07.10
Jean Paul Aleth	France	Aux. Visitor	01.08.10
Jean Rafflegeau	France	Aux. Visitor	01.08.10
Jean-Luc Lambert	France	Aux. Visitor	01.08.10
Paul Cornec	France	Aux. Visitor	01.08.10
Pierre Mourier	France	Aux. Visitor	01.08.10

Inaguration of the Videoconferencing Room in the Generalate



On Sunday, March 5th, we opened the Videoconferencing Room in the Generalate. For the first time, in Rome, Brother Superior was involved in a meeting that was taking place thousands of miles away. The meeting was the "partial" Assembly for RELAL North, and it took place in Cuernavaca,

Mexico. Twenty-four representatives from Central America, South Mexico, North Mexico, and the Antilles were delighted to feel supported as they saw and heard Br. Superior speaking from Rome.

Dates to keep in mind

July 25th-31st, 2006

■ Youth International Symposium

October 23th - November 4th, 2006

■ International Assembly 2006

November 15th, 2006 - March 31st, 2007

■ CIL: Formation for the Lasallian Charism

April 30th - June 2nd, 2007

■ 44th General Chapter

