



# News

from the General Council

Brothers of the Christian Schools

February 2009

Dear Br Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor, President

The General Council gathers three times a year for its Plenary Meeting in Rome. As the January/ February meeting concludes we share some news with you to keep you informed of the work of the Council. This is not an official Institute document but the first edition of news we hope to send to you after each plenary meeting.



## Meetings with Secretariats and Services

Over this past month we have met with each of the Coordinating Secretaries and the Brother Bursar General. For the first time we met also with the two Secretariats where Co-Secretaries share responsibility with the Coordinating Secretary; Ms **Carmelita Quebengco** and Br **Jorge Fonseca** of *Lasallian Educational Mission* and Ms **Montserrat Nieto Alvarez** and Br **Charles Kitson** of *Lasallian Family and Association*. Each Secretariat/Service reports to the Council according to the objectives outlined in Circular 456. The reports include an Action Plan, the minutes of each of the International Council meetings and any proposals for consideration and decision by the Br Superior and General Council.

## Lasallian Family and Association Secretariat

The *Lasallian Family and Association* Secretariat is conducting an Institute-wide survey on the reality of Lasallian association in the Districts. The survey seeks information on whether or not Districts have associates, how they define associates and whether there are formal recognition ceremonies, whether there are communities of associates, and the kind of formation programs available for associates. The survey was sent to each Visitor and nearly two-thirds of the Districts in the Institute have responded thus far. The Secretariat will analyze the information and prepare a report to present to the Brother Superior General and General Council in June, 2009. This survey gathering the most recent data on Lasallian association is an important step toward bringing greater clarity and understanding of the term and how it is being lived. The General Council will devote a significant portion of the month of June examining the feedback and recommending next steps.

The Council also took the decision to have a first meeting with the Lasallian canonical groups – the Guadalupana Sisters, the Lasallian Sisters of Vietnam and the Union of Catechists – in order to start the study process of a model of the Lasallian Family. It is just a first step towards responding to the request of the last General Chapter.

## Being Brothers Today Secretariat

The *Being Brothers Today* Secretariat has developed a Lasallian Biblical Prayer programme to be launched during Lent. It will be available to the entire Institute either electronically or by hard copy to those areas that have difficulty in accessing the internet.

## Revision of the Rule

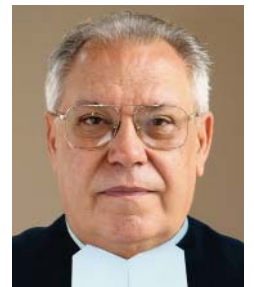
The community of the General Council during its Days of Recollection, utilised the process adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Commission on the Rule to reflect and share on articles 39 -41: "Association for the service of the poor through education."

## Formation Days

Two formation days focussed on Africa with contextual, religious life and formation issues addressed by two priests Missionaries of Africa and Br **Gabriel Somé**, General Councillor for RELAF. Brothers from RELAF attending the current CIL, the formation secretaries and other staff of the Casa Generalizia participated. The General Council followed up the two days by continuing discussion based on its meeting with the RELAF Visitors.

## Eternal Rest Br Mario Presciuttini

The death of Br **Mario Presciuttini**, Coordinating Secretary for the Service *Lasallian Research and Resource* came as a shock to all despite his illness. The Brother Superior and General Council attended his Requiem Mass at Colle La Salle in Rome.



## Meeting CIL

Brothers of the General Council met with the Brothers and Lay Lasallians attending CIL. Prepared questions on a range of Institute issues facilitated the sharing in language groups.

## Forward Planning

Initial plans were put into place to facilitate international meetings to take place over the next few years. These included the next New Visitors' workshop, the Inter-Capitular meeting and the International Meeting of Representatives of Young Brothers.