
THREE PERSPECTIVES, A COMMON JOURNEY?

Consecrated Life, after nearly five decades since Vatican Council II, continues its journey of search and reflection. Situated “at the very heart of the Church” it remains “as a decisive element for her mission, since it manifests the inner nature of the Christian calling” (*Vita Consecrata*, 3).

Indeed, men and women of every continent have felt themselves called by God to participate in the life and ministry of Religious Institutes born of the Spirit’s impulse. A story animated by a founding charisma, the person of an exceptional founder or foundress, a first community.... the process seems similar, yet in each case one recognizes a unique personality that the Spirit is raising for common ecclesial service.

The Institutes committed to Christian education especially have been left questioning by the presence of a significant number of men and women who share the work of the school. Professionals in education and other fields of knowledge, whether committed Christians or not, even those of other denominations, they too have let themselves be called by the Spirit and are identifying themselves with a charisma they feel to be their own, because it gives them a sense of belonging, of meaning, and of church. This has led to the development of true religious “families” that surely will have a significant presence in the whole universal Church.

For this reason, we have invited two Religious Institutes committed to Christian education to share some of their basic documents that, from an ecclesiology of communion, bear witness to their own search; they are the **Sisters of the Society of Teresa de Jesús (STJ)** and the **Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS)**. There is no doubt that their contributions will help us to re-read our experience as a Lasallian Family and evaluate new avenues for our own reflection.

The Digital Review of Lasallian Research wants, in this way, to promote a dialogue between friends, among our lay sisters and brothers with whom we commit our time, our projects and our future.