

A Summary of Circular 461: Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an act of HOPE.

Below you will find a very short summary of Circular 461: Associated for the Lasallian Mission... an act of HOPE (Sept. 2011). A large portion of this document discusses levels of commitment and participation in the Mission, along with growth and involvement. **Spring into Action** is a call to all associated in the Mission to do their part, however small, to be a beacon of hope to others and invite others to be a part of the Mission. Our hope for this document is to inspire you to participate in the associated Mission and potentially deepen your formation through the reading of the full text of the Circular, a very inspiring read.

- Introduction: Who serves the Mission?
 - We, Lasallians, are “Together and by Association”.
 - What do you see as a possible model of our Lasallian Family?
 - “You are a Lasallian teacher. Don’t you know that you must climb the mountain to reach the children?”
 - “I am associated with the Lasallian Mission. I belong to the Lasallian Family.”
 - We are called to deepen our Lasallian spirituality as people from all states of life (religious, married, unmarried). Other readings to consider:
 - *-Lasallian Association for Mission:1679-2007*, Br. John Johnston
 - *-Regional Task Force Report USA/Toronto (2009)*
 - “What was true in the past must be nuanced today for the vitality of our Lasallian Mission” The people we minister to are always changing and our practices must evolve to meet their needs; education is about adapting.

All people involved in the advancement of the mission of De La Salle, however small the part, are participating in the Lasallian Family. How are we associated?

- 1: Association: A Fundamental Characteristic of the Lasallian Charism
 - Lasallian Association is one of acceptance, believing that there is “unity in diversity” and that it requires “response and flexibility”.
 - While the number of Brothers declines, the number of young people served by Lasallian institutions increases.
 - Renewed hope in the future: avoid the two extremes of having Brothers occupy all leadership positions and taking Mission components away from the Brothers.
 - “Lasallian...influenced by the person, written works, and social initiatives of...De La Salle.”
 - We recognize that many men and women center their personal and professional lives on the Founding Lasallian story.
 - It is important to encourage our Lasallian colleagues to participate in Lasallian formation programs to respond to local needs.
 - Lasallian Family/ Shared Mission/ Association

- “Not all Lasallians are participating fully in this new dynamic of Association. This calls for an attitude of respect, patience and constant invitation that encourages unity in diversity.”

We can all work, at various levels, to further advance the Mission together than we ever could alone.

- 2: Fundamental Elements of Lasallian Association
 - Association exists for the Mission, implies member of a community, a journey, and a commitment.
 - Those who serve the more economically advantaged should be more concerned with social justice and systematized change, therefore serving the poor.
 - Association requires integration of the charism into personal and professional life.
 - *How does your Lasallian Association illustrate a presence in the human society?*

- 3: Common Characteristics experienced in Different Ways
 - Lasallian education dignifies every human being as unique and educable. There is no place for discrimination of any sort.
 - The role of Lay Lasallians
 - “Unity in Diversity”, not all Lasallians are Christian, however all can deepen their own personal faith and spirituality.
 - “Together and by Association”, not merely collaboration at our local ministries, but a deeper sense of belonging through the Mission.
 - Power of Invitation, invitation should be ever present and all inclusive, to deepen Association for the Mission.
 - *“I am Lasallian. I am Lasallian 24 hours a day-in my work, with my family, when I pray. The values I hold, the person I try to be, the work I do and the relationships I have are all lived within this context. Being Lasallian is where I find God and it is where I am called to try and live as faithfully as I can the values of the gospel.”*

- 5: The Lasallian Family
 - The Lasallian Family is defined as all who participate in the Lasallian educational enterprise in the Spirit and Mission of De La Salle.
 - There are NO second class citizens in the *Lasallian family*. Even though some may have vocations to marriage and others to the formal commitment of the consecrated life, we are all part of the *Lasallian family*, and share a mutual commitment to the Mission.

- 6: Fostering Association
 - Association is a means of responding with creativity to needs and accompanying others on their journey. We can work with others to respond to the needs of those that we minister to, while at the same time working with our peers to continue formation and deepen their commitment to the Lasallian Mission.