

De La Salle TODAY

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA

SPRING-AUTUMN 2020

RESPONDING TO THE
TIMES: GREAT THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE



Dear Readers,

We will never forget 2020. A year that presented many challenges and many opportunities for growth. COVID-19 brought everything to a screeching halt in the spring—including this magazine! We typically print *De La Salle Today* in the spring and the fall. As we prepared to go to print in the spring, most ministries closed their doors as COVID-19 spread. So, we decided to hold this issue until now and update our content to tell the stories of today. We kept our spring content, which celebrates the theme “Great Things are Possible,” so we could still share these inspirational stories as a way to wrap up this liturgical year’s theme. That includes a look inside the Superior General’s pastoral visit to the Region, which was cut short because of the pandemic.

To help bring the theme to life, you’ll read about how a dream of starting a camp in Québec decades ago was reimagined in recent years to give it new life, even continuing to touch lives during the pandemic. We recall the story of Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC, who was beatified on December 7, 2019, and who was always “in direct contact with those who suffer” (Lasallian Reflection 5). You’ll see the incredible ways that Lasallian Women of Hope is bringing dignity to girls and young women by providing full access to education. We pay tribute to Lasallian Volunteers and 30 years of formation and service. Finally, we raise up senior Brothers who show us how “simplicity, the attitude of service, and humility are indispensable” (Lasallian Reflection 5).

In telling the stories of today, we take you through a timeline of COVID-19’s impact in our Region, from the sudden changes in the spring, to the creative ways we stayed connected while physically apart, to the innovative ways ministries are educating this fall. We also begin a conversation on the Lasallian response to racism. We realize there is much to say and do, and we hope this story continues the Lasallian dialogue and encourages deeper conversion.

We hope you enjoy what turned out to be an expanded issue of *De La Salle Today*. We hope these stories inspire you and make you think.

Live Jesus in our hearts ... Forever!



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
Editor

(Cover) Saint Mary’s College of California constructed 12 open-air pavilions to provide learning space for students participating in in-person courses. Courtesy Haley Nelson/Saint Mary’s College of California

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NEWS

2020 HUETHER LASALLIAN CONFERENCE GOES VIRTUAL



to utilize an innovative, web-based platform that will offer an interactive and rewarding virtual conference experience for participants. Keynote speakers Dr. Nekeshia Hammond, past president of Florida Psychological Association, and Jeff Yalden, motivational speaker, will present their keynote addresses online. Participants will also have the opportunity to virtually attend breakout sessions, pray together and build community through an online networking feature. Huether will take place November 19-21 at no cost to ministries or participants. Visit www.Lasallian.info/Huether to learn more.

The 2020 Huether Lasallian Conference is going virtual! In light of COVID-19 concerns and in alignment with this year's theme, "Great Things are Possible: Our Lasallian Mission Reimagined and Renewed," the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference and the planning committee have reimagined the gathering to bring compelling content to a virtual format. The conference is partnering with Eduscapse

FOUR YOUNG BROTHERS TAKE PART IN NOVITIATE

Four Brothers from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) are taking part in their yearlong novitiate experience at the Regional Novitiate in Chicago, Illinois. Brothers Kyle Mena and Joseph (J.D.) Macioce, of the District of Eastern North America, Brother Steven Angulo, of the Midwest District, and Brother Rafael Rodriguez, of the District of San Francisco New Orleans, joined Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, Novitiate director, and Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, Novitiate sub-director, to begin their novitiate on July 27, 2020. In addition to the in-house formation the Brothers are receiving, they are participating in programs of

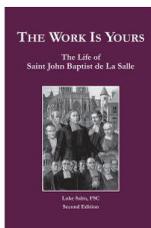
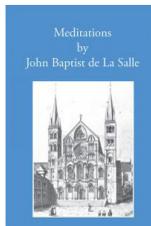
the inter-community novitiate with about 12 other congregations and 50 male and female novices. At the conclusion of the year's discernment, the novices may request to make first vows, formally called temporary profession.



From left, Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, Brother Kyle Mena, Brother Steven Angulo, Brother Rafael Rodriguez, Brother Joseph (J.D.) Macioce and Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC. Courtesy Brothers Steven Angulo and Steven Vasoli, FSC

NEWS

CBC PARTNERS WITH SAINT MARY'S PRESS TO DISTRIBUTE BOOKS



Christian Brothers Conference (CBC) has partnered with Saint Mary's Press to distribute a number of books published by CBC, enhancing a long-standing relationship between the organizations. This collaboration will streamline the ordering process for customers and make popular Lasallian titles more widely available. Effective in August 2020, Saint Mary's Press now prints and distributes 11 titles previously available through the CBC online store, including five books written by Saint John Baptist de La Salle: *Meditations*, *The Letters of John Baptist de La Salle*, *The Conduct of the Christian Schools*, *The Rules of Christian Decorum and Civility* and *The Duties of a Christian to God*.

These six Lasallian titles are also now available through Saint Mary's Press: *The Work is Yours*, by Brother Luke Salm, FSC; *I, John Baptist de La Salle*, by Brother Leo Kirby, FSC; *The Formation of New Teachers*, by Brother Frederick C. Mueller, FSC; *The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher*, by Brother Agathon, translated and edited by Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC; *Spirituality in the Time of John Baptist de La Salle*, edited by Brother Robert Berger, FSC; and *The Mind and Heart of John Baptist de La Salle*, translated and annotated by Brother Edwin Bannon, FSC, edited by

Brother Augustine Loes, FSC. A number of books and other items will continue to be available through the CBC online store, including *Lasallian Liturgies*, the annual pocket calendar, Live Jesus in Our Hearts wristbands and the Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher bookmark. Shop through Saint Mary's Press at www.smp.org, and through CBC at www.LasallianStore.com.

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS ADAPT TO CHANGE

Lasallian Volunteers (LV) are adapting to changes in their ministries and communities for the 2020-2021 service year, which include finding creative ways to connect with students and clients and following increased safety procedures in communities. Thirty LVs, including 12 returning and 18 first-year volunteers, are serving in 16 ministries and living in 11 communities across eight states. They began their service year with an online Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers in July, and virtual meetings with LV staff have taken the place of in-person site visits. Additionally, this year's LVs Run will be held as a virtual event on November 21, 2020, themed "Zoomin' Across the Country," with the goal of raising \$45,000. Visit www.LasallianVolunteers.org to learn more and donate.





MAINTAINING TWINNING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Lasallian ministries in RELAN and the Lwanga District are working to remain connected throughout the pandemic. After most schools in both RELAN and Lwanga closed in the spring, twinning coordinators from the Region, Districts and ministries in RELAN and Lwanga came together on Zoom to share updates on the challenges of COVID-19 and to discuss creative measures they were taking to support students academically and emotionally. In September, twinning coordinators received new resources, including updates on

COVID-19 impacts to individual Lwanga ministries and a video message from Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, RELAN General Councilor, and Brother Ghebreyesus Habte, FSC, Lwanga District Visitor. In October, twinning coordinators again connected over Zoom. As of September, most Lwanga ministries were still closed, while some were partially open. Learn more about the impacts and efforts to stay connected at www.Lasallian.info/Twinning.

LASALLIAN THEME FOR 2020-2021 LITURGICAL YEAR

“You Are Part of the Miracle: Our Vision. Our Passion. Our Future.” is the Lasallian theme for the 2020-2021 liturgical year, which starts November 29, 2020. It is the seventh theme in a series of annual themes that the Brother Superior and General Council developed following the 45th General Chapter. Each one supports the overall theme of “Living Together Our Joyful Mission.” They offer perspectives

to help Lasallians gain insights and develop integrated responses to extend and deepen the relevance of the Lasallian mission. Resources are available at www.Lasallian.info, including Lasallian Reflection 6, the logo and poster.



LASALLIAN:
*You are part
of the miracle*

Our Vision.
Our Passion.
Our Future.

(Left) Mount La Salle College in Naka, Nigeria, started the academic year with students in the graduating class only and safety precautions in place. Courtesy Brother Godwin Biin, FSC

NEW DATES FOR GENERAL CHAPTER AND INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS

Following postponements due to COVID-19, new dates are scheduled for the 46th General Chapter, the International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL), International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL). The General Chapter, originally scheduled for May 2021 in Thailand, will now take place May 1-22, 2022. ISYL is scheduled for October 10-16, 2021, IYBA is October 10-24, 2021, and AIMEL is November 15-26, 2021, all to take place at the Generalate in Rome.



To prepare for AIMEL, each Region hosted meetings of its delegates. Pictured here at their November 2019 meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, RELAN participants include delegates (back row from left) Dr. Scott Kier (MW), Brother James Martino, FSC (DENA), Pamela Gleeson (SFNO), Kenenna Amuzie (SFNO), Maryann Donohue-Lynch (DENA), Alan Weyland, RELAN coordinator (DENA), Mark Freund (RELAN), (front row from left) Dr. Jeanette Mines, AFSC (MW), Johanie Chabot (FC), Sylvie Courtemanche (FC) and Dr. Mike Daniels (SFNO), along with Dr. Rani Roy from Manhattan College, who was appointed by the Superior General.



APPOINTMENTS

CHARLES ABBA, Principal, Christian Brothers Academy, Albany, NY, effective spring 2020

ANNEMARIE BACICH, M.ED., Principal, Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento, CA, effective July 1, 2020

DR. BRIAN E. BASS, President, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN, effective July 1, 2020

ANDREW BRADY, President, West Catholic Preparatory High School, Philadelphia, PA, effective July 1, 2020

DEBRA BRILLANTE, Principal, Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, NY, effective August 2020

DR. JAMIE BRUNNER, Interim Principal, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN, effective July 1, 2020

DONALD G. COATES, Director of Development, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective January 6, 2020

JOHN DOLS, Principal, Holy Family Catholic High School, Victoria, MN, effective July 2020

MAGGIE DOMBROSKI, Associate Director of the Office of Advancement, District of Eastern North America, effective June 8, 2020

ASHLEY FLETCHER, Communications Specialist, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective November 4, 2019

DAVID GENDERS, Director of Communications and Marketing, Midwest District, Burr Ridge, IL, effective July 6, 2020

ANITA GODSHALL, Director, St. Gabriel's Hall, Norristown, NJ, effective December 2019

DAVID HOTEK, AFSC, Principal, St. Joseph High School, Westchester, IL, effective March 4, 2020

MARI JOHN, CMP, Event Planner, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective October 28, 2019

BROTHER KENNETH KALINOWSKI, FSC, Interim Principal, De La Salle Collegiate High School, Warren, MI, effective August 18, 2020

MATT KEOUGH, President, Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, NY, effective July 1, 2020

LESLIE ROMERO KILMER, Interim President, St. Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM, effective July 1, 2020

DR. CRYSTAL LEROY, President, Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento, CA, effective July 1, 2020

PERRY MARTIN, President, La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA, effective July 1, 2020

JUSTIN MARTINEAU, Associate Director of the Office of Mission and Ministry, District of Eastern North America, effective August 3, 2020

STEPHEN MURPHY, President, Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School, Oakland, CA, effective May 1, 2020

ALANNA O'BRIEN, Interim Principal, La Salle Catholic College High School, Milwaukie, OR, effective August 10, 2020

THOMAS J. SCHERGEN, Principal, De La Salle Institute, Chicago, IL, effective July 1, 2020

GENEVIEVE TORRES, Principal, West Catholic Preparatory High School, Philadelphia, PA, effective August 3, 2020

DR. DANIEL ZEPP, Interim President, Resurrection College Prep High School, Chicago, IL, effective August 28, 2020

HONORED AS AFSC, BFSC

Lasallians recognized with Letters of Affiliation (AFSC) have been formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served the Lasallian mission in an extraordinary way. Lasallians who receive Letters of Benefaction (BFSC) have been formally honored by the Institute for important services rendered to the Lasallian mission. Read more about these individuals and their contributions to the Lasallian mission at www.Lasallian.info.

DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

GABRIEL MORAN, AFSC, former Brother, longtime Lasallian educator, Christian Brothers Center, Narragansett, RI

MIDWEST DISTRICT

PAT '53 AND SANDY BALDWIN, BFSC, longtime supporters of DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN

BARBARA "BABS" KOCH, BFSC, longtime supporter of DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN



ON A MISSION TO SERVE THE YOUNG THROUGH EDUCATION



DeLaSalle
BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

As De La Salle Christian Brothers, we are called to educate and evangelize in community. Today, the Brothers & Lasallian Partners serve more than 1 million young people.

TEACHING MINDS * TOUCHING HEARTS * TRANSFORMING LIVES

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RESPONDING TO THE TIMES: THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN A PANDEMIC

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

COVID-19 HAS CHANGED THE LASALLIAN MISSION.

In March 2020, the pandemic forced most Lasallian ministries to close their doors and all to make unprecedented changes. Educators and students quickly pivoted to online learning.

Youth and family service agencies devised creative ways to continue to serve youth, including keeping those in residential programs healthy. Brothers' communities adapted everyday life to keep vulnerable Brothers safe. In-person formation programs ground to a halt.

Despite these swift, drastic changes, something remarkable—and perhaps, expected—happened: The Lasallian mission responded to the needs of the day, as it has done since the days of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Brothers and Lasallian Partners took a step back, assessed the situation and came up with new ways to support young people and each other—and continued to adapt as the situation continued to change. Young people stepped up, embracing their new online learning, showing appreciation for their teachers and helping their communities.

FROM CLASSROOMS TO COMPUTERS

As school doors closed in the spring, laptops opened. For some schools, the transition to

online learning was easier than others since they already had the platforms in place. For all, maintaining their personal connections called for creativity.

Justin-Siena High School in Napa, California, was one that relied on technology to keep up connections. In addition to online learning, the school moved a number of activities online, such as prayer services and a talent show, and held Wellness Fridays to provide opportunities for rest and to connect with counselors.

“People wonder what the best aspect of Justin-Siena is, and one of my first responses is always that the teachers care so so much about their students,” Eleanor Meyers, Justin-Siena student, wrote in the District of San Francisco New Orleans Dateline District, Spring-Summer 2020 issue. “I believe COVID-19 didn’t change that, but rather, proved it to the fullest extent. All of my teachers put in unimaginable time and effort into our learning, from daily check-ins to flexible schedules that accommodated our stress. But most importantly, they did it out of love.”



Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York, hosted a postponed graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 in August. Courtesy Tony Correa

That sense of care was central to the shift made at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. The college made decisions with student input and worked to keep personal relationships strong as everything moved to virtual.

"The pivot was successful because we remembered who we are and how we are. Lasallians. A community committed to staying connected and serving our students the best way we can," recalled Frances M. Sweeney, Ph.D., Saint Mary's vice president for mission. "There have been moments of great challenges, new discoveries about our resiliency and flexibility, grief and uncertainty, and amazing connections of transformation and grace. The transition was anything but easy, and it involved every area of the campus community. Our Lasallian underpinning of personal connection has liberated us to stay

grounded and inspired in our humanity, which allows for moments of fear, sadness, humor and success."

Some of the wide-ranging transition efforts Dr. Sweeney shared include allowing temporary pass/fail grading policies, revising student fees, extending athletics eligibility, and focusing on humanizing remote teaching and learning.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

As the pandemic continued, plans for graduation ceremonies changed. From online to socially distant in-person to drive-thru, schools found innovative ways to celebrate the class of 2020.

RESPONDING TO THE TIMES: THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN A PANDEMIC CONTINUED

Educators at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, California, took a number of creative steps to make graduation memorable. They delivered gift boxes to students, which included their cap and gown, yearbook, a class t-shirt, 2020 items and a yard sign. With the help of alumni, the school created videos featuring the commencement ceremony and Baccalaureate Mass, which were filmed in a socially distant way on campus over several days and released on the originally planned dates of the events. Then, Saint Mary's hosted a graduation car parade for students and their families, complete with cheering educators and a chance for students to individually walk across campus to receive their diplomas.

HIGHLIGHTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

An important part of bringing a school year to a close is recognizing accomplishments. From academics, sports, music and clubs to teacher appreciation and retirements, educators and students made the best of the situation. They moved those celebrations online with video messages and concerts, social media graphics celebrating scholarships and college choices, and giving educators the recognition they deserve, from students making videos of thanks to the District of Eastern North America's (DENA) #ShoutOutLasallianEducators push on social media.

Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, California, offers some educational opportunities in an outdoor learning environment. Courtesy Saint Mary's College High School



“When the pandemic hit, it was inspiring how Lasallians responded to the needs of their students and clients,” said Maryann Donohue-Lynch, associate executive director of DENA’s Office for Mission and Ministry. “Seemingly overnight, teachers switched to online learning, child care workers created safe spaces in which to continue their work, administrators and board members realigned resources and adjusted budgets all to provide a continuity of learning and care. We wanted to celebrate those efforts, and #ShoutOutLasallianEducators received more than 330,000 individual hits over eight weeks! A tribute to all involved.”

CAMPS AND RETREAT CENTERS

As camps and retreat centers closed to gatherings, they worked to connect with young people from afar. After Villa des Jeunes in Saint-Augustin de Desmaures, Québec, closed its doors for programs and formation activities, the staff decided to offer a social media challenge to stay connected and boost spirits. They called it “One Step at a Time: Because Being Alone is Something We Do Together.” Challenges included disconnecting from technology for a few hours and then sharing what you learned about yourself in that time, posting about a local business, and finding the beauty in nature. Other Francophone Canada ministries were able to offer small in-person sessions to continue to serve young people, including summer camps for families who needed child care at Saint-Michel Lasallian Center in Montréal, Québec, and socially distant camp sessions at Camp De-La-Salle in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, Québec.

While La Salle Retreat Center in Glencoe, Missouri, had to close its doors in the spring, the center kept the grounds open to the community, and staff looked for creative ways to connect with and educate community members. So, they focused on developing their garden program, Grow and Learn, which was just getting started when the pandemic hit and highlights organic gardening, sustainability, composting, beekeeping and farm animals. While program plans had to change, staff used a Lasallian Mission Opportunities Fund grant from the Midwest District to start a Kids’ Garden Club, a free program that included a pollinator or plant, tips, compost and weekly gardening projects.

“Over 200 kids participated in the Kids’ Garden Club,” said La Salle Retreat Center President Michelle Cook. “We really enjoyed seeing pictures and hearing about the progress from our little gardeners throughout the summer. The education didn’t stop there! We trained our kitchen staff to save all food waste for our garden and chickens/ducks. We provided weekly tips and lessons learned through social media. We hosted a workshop with our beekeeper.”

Cook says the center is planning more events to educate community members about composting and farming. She hopes to expand and grow the program in the future.

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Youth and family services agencies could not close their doors—at least not fully—when the pandemic hit. They faced new challenges of helping at-risk youth cope with new fears and anxieties, while trying to provide continuity in care and education. For those providing



COVID-19 claimed the lives of 10 Francophone Canada Brothers. Top row, from left, Brothers Roland Desfossés, Antoine Beausoleil, Henri Perron, Fernand Caya and Jean Laperrière. Bottom row, from left, Brothers Paul-Émile Legault, Clément Maheu, Paul-Émile Drolet, Gérard Mailhot and Rosaire Rivard. Courtesy District of Francophone Canada

residential care, like at St. Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, Pennsylvania, this meant additional sanitizing and safety measures, while helping young people understand and cope with the pandemic. For those providing in-person classes and outpatient care, like Tides Family Services in Rhode Island, this meant a shift to tele-health and socially distant home visits to check on young clients and provide learning materials and food, in some cases.

CHANGES IN COMMUNITY

While ministries adapted to how they served students, life for Brothers in community changed as well, especially in communities that house Brothers who are elderly or suffer from underlying conditions. Sadly, COVID-19 took a devastating toll on Résidence De La Salle in Laval, Québec, which is home to Brothers and members of other religious congregations. In all, 32 members of the 74-member community died from COVID-19, including 10 Brothers, despite strict safety measures.

Like at Résidence De La Salle, staff members at communities housing high-risk Brothers throughout the Region have been diligent in following the ever-changing recommendations, which often meant Brothers found themselves confined to their rooms. In some cases, efforts to help them feel connected came from

outside their community walls. Legacy Lasallians in the District of Eastern North America wrote letters to Brothers, and DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis organized a letter-writing campaign to send cards to every resident

at an eldercare home that is home to several Brothers, organized by Lasallian Volunteer Joseph Rogers.

Communities with Brothers in active ministry have faced a different set of challenges. Brothers, and, in some cases, Lasallian Volunteers, transitioned from serving in their ministry setting to developing and learning new ways to serve from the community setting. In addition to the strains of missing students, using technology to educate, quick transitions in plans and coping with stress, communities face an additional challenge of finding a new daily rhythm, especially in communities with less space.

“Overall, it’s given us a hunger to be Brother to one another,” shared Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, Assistant Visitor for the District of San Francisco New Orleans. “We offered three virtual District retreats this summer and experienced a good deal more participation. The virtual format also facilitated more honest responses in small group discussions. Brothers were elated to see each other. It’s also provided all Brothers with more time to pray, to read and to connect with loved ones. We all have a deep appreciation of how blessed we are despite the challenges. Many reflect that it’s a blessing in disguise; a chance to pause, reset and remember what is of true importance.”

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

In considering what is most important, Lasallian educators and students responded to needs created by the pandemic through countless examples. Making and donating face masks and shields, providing lunches for healthcare workers and those in need, organizing fundraisers and food collections for food banks—the list goes on. Alumni also answered the call for help, from donating food and supplies, to services that would not typically come to mind. Among the examples shared on social media, JP Pladek, a 2001 graduate of Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft, New Jersey, partnered his company, ACA Computers, with another company to build a free e-commerce website for a local farm so that it could continue to sell its produce, and Joe Masek, a 2011 graduate of Totino-Grace in Fridley, Minnesota, brought his Impact Entertainment mobile DJ truck to neighborhoods for socially distant dance parties.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED

From reaching out to local communities to embracing their school community, ministries

quickly rallied around students in need, providing food, creating emergency funds and seeking donations to help families pay tuition.

“All of our schools are showing remarkable awareness and generosity,” observed Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, District of San Francisco New Orleans Visitor. “What impresses me most—but doesn’t surprise me—is how proactive they’ve been from the very beginning. No one had to ask or remind them about responding to all of the different needs. From administrators to the students themselves, they were already there, doing whatever they could.”



Brother Joel McGraw, FSC, took part in the May 2020 Senior Salute at Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee. Courtesy Christian Brothers High School

Internationally, the Lasallian family came together through the La Salle COVID-19 fundraiser. The Institute’s Solidarity and Development Secretariat organized the Lasallian response for emergency and humanitarian needs to support individuals in undeveloped areas of the world, which

(Below) Bands and singers at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota have implemented new safety precautions, which include wearing special masks, using bell covers and often practicing outdoors. While no public performances are planned, all university music ensembles will record performances in November. Courtesy Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

(Right) Saint Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, adapted its spaces to allow for social distance. Courtesy Saint Raphael Academy

brought in \$11 million USD and helped more than 70,000 people. Also as an awareness campaign, the effort encouraged Lasallians to use #LaSalleCOVID19 on social media to highlight Lasallian responses to the pandemic.

RESPONDING WITH RESOURCES

Some of those responses include resources, like those offered by Christian Brothers Services and Lasallian Educational and Research Initiatives through Saint Mary's Press and Springtide Research Institute. Christian Brothers Services, through its Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust, waived, and continues to waive, cost-sharing, including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19 at all in-network facilities and treatment for out-of-network emergencies. It also shared resources, such as tips on work-from-home wellness and cyber scam protection, along with webinars on various topics to serve schools. Saint Mary's Press offered free activities and faith formation resources for young people. Springtide Research Institute continued its research on loneliness, isolation and stress that teens and young adults experience, and offered online resources for young people to express themselves and advice for how trusted adults can support young people during these times.

REGIONS AND DISTRICTS ADAPT TO CHANGE

As ministries and communities adapted to changes, so did the Region and

Districts. As the pandemic began to spread in the United States, the spring portion of the Superior General's pastoral visit to RELAN was just getting underway and was quickly canceled as conditions became more concerning (see page 23). At the same time, spring formation and professional development programs offered by the Region and Districts were canceled or swiftly moved online. This trend continued into summer and then into the fall.

In place of those in-person gatherings, the Districts and Region transitioned to supporting educators and providing resources online. DENA hosted LET'S Talk, a Lasallian Education Teaching Series, featuring topics including racism and classroom equity, along with its Brother Luke Salm Religious Education Workshop, which typically takes place in person in the fall. DENA also hosted a Digital Learning Series, through which educators led webinars on adapting to online and hybrid learning, and provided space for Lasallians to connect in prayer with its Monday Night Centering Prayer and Global Lasallian Prayers.





The District of San Francisco New Orleans focused on providing pastoral support, fostering innovation, promoting co-responsibility for mission and developing resources. This included holding virtual meetings with various school leadership groups, emailing reflection resources to board leaders, chief administrators and District staff, hosting online events for Young Lasallians and moving formation and training programs online, such as board governance training, mission formation orientation and the fall gathering of student activities/campus ministry/service learning directors. The District also worked to capture the realities of living through a pandemic by creating a video series on student experiences and publishing “Pandemic Stirrings,” a compilation of reflections from educators.

The Midwest District used the pandemic as an opportunity to explore ways to connect with educators and young people virtually. In the past, the District had gathered various groups of Lasallians once a year. Now, using video calls and other digital tools, the District is able to offer those same groups more frequent check-ins to share experiences and offer support. This has allowed educators to share practical experience of belonging to a larger network of Lasallian leaders and learn from each other to better serve students.

“The pandemic has invited us to look at the human connection piece that our students say has been missing from our online presence,”

shared Scott Kier, Midwest District superintendent of Lasallian education. “We are now asking ourselves, ‘What can we do to touch the hearts of our students in a way that is meaningful to them and exhibits our care for them.’ The sensitivity and care that our Lasallian schools have shown is intentional. And it’s not only around our schools’ reopening plans to protect students. I now hear our principals wrestling with the big questions like, ‘How do we care for the health and well-being of our faculty and staff as we all cope with the effects of the pandemic in our personal and professional lives?’ This is great. This is what association for ministry is about.”

As we moved into summer, traditional Regional formation programs were not held in person. The Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference had planned to host the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, a Regional gathering of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, the Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), and the Regional Formation Institute. While all were postponed, online socials were organized for existing Buttimer classes in order to continue their connections and build community, and Johnston participants transitioned to online gatherings. LSJI’s planned 2020 program, OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA “Come and See” at De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana, will now take place in July 2021.

RESPONDING TO THE TIMES: THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN A PANDEMIC CONTINUED

Additionally, the Office for Lasallian Education organized a free Lasallian Summer Webinar series, which offered opportunities for professional development and addressed issues complicated by coronavirus, including relationships, legal considerations and trauma-informed care.

Mark Freund, executive director of the Office for Lasallian Education, noted, “As our schools, higher education institutions, and youth and family services ministries had to adapt to continue to support those entrusted to their care, we were able to learn from their efforts and provide opportunities that helped to meet needs that had been identified by those ministries. Moving forward, together and by association, is different in this time of pandemic, and Lasallians across the Region have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership and flexibility.”

Traditional fall programming hosted by the Region and Districts is not happening as normally scheduled. Instead, District and Regional leaders continue to build upon their experiences in the spring in order to offer quality programming from a distance. This includes the Johnston Institute, where participants engaged in an online seminar in October instead of gathering in person, with opportunities for prayer and a social. The Huether Lasallian Conference will also take place as an online event (see page 2).

Lasallian Volunteers (LV) adjusted to changes and continued to serve in ministries and live in communities during the spring. The program’s 30th Anniversary Mass and Gala, which was scheduled for April, was postponed, with an online event held to commemorate the occasion. LV also moved its May Debriefing

Retreat and July Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers online. Adapting to an unusual service year, 30 LVs are serving in 16 ministries and 11 communities across the Region (see page 3).

THE HERE AND NOW, FOR NOW

As this academic year continues to take shape, educators and young people are adapting to a “new normal”—until that “normal” changes again. Schools opened with a variety of plans, from full in-person to full virtual learning to a hybrid approach. Higher education faced the added consideration of on-campus living, many adapting their plans as the academic year grew closer. Retreat centers worked to offer socially distant gatherings. All are ready to shift plans as needed.

For many schools, like Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, California, reopening plans shifted as the school year approached. Principal Brother John Montgomery, FSC, said they had planned to welcome students back in a hybrid model but switched to all virtual. Orientation took place outdoors in person, with small groups of students socially distanced. They walked around the field where teachers and administrators were stationed on the track to greet students and hand out materials.

In a Catholic School Matters podcast with Dr. Tim Uhl, Brother John discussed the stress educators face, including worrying about the health of faculty, staff, students and their families, uncertainty in receiving a Paycheck Protection Program grant, not knowing if



The De La Salle School in Freeport, New York, started the academic year with a hybrid model, with classes alternating gathering on campus and learning remotely. Courtesy The De La Salle School

families will be able to pay tuition, how to help struggling families, and how to creatively provide a Lasallian education from a distance.

“I want to provide a rich and meaningful school experience,” said Brother John. “How do you provide that without having a good relationship with people? And good relationships are fostered between faculty member to faculty member, and faculty member to student by touching their hearts, by getting to know people. And my belief is that is it through their heart that you get to their brain. Unless you touch their heart, the education you provide is meaningless.”

Colleges and universities are dealing with similar issues of developing relationships and providing education when some or all of the instruction is online. Some higher education institutions opened with a mix of in-person and virtual classes, while others delayed in-person instruction.

Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota welcomed students back with a hybrid approach, allowing for in-person instruction

and a modified on-campus experience on its Winona Campus. In addition to asking students to pledge to keep the community safe and offering a COVID-19 dashboard to track cases, the university implemented a number of changes, including limiting occupancy in classrooms and moving furniture to allow for social distancing, installing sanitizing stations, floor markings and dividers, doing frequent cleaning and requiring masks inside buildings. Saint Mary’s also installed purification systems in each sleeping room of its residence halls and various larger community spaces on its Winona and Twin Cities campuses.

“Our students’ health and well-being are at the center of all we do, now more than ever before,” noted the Rev. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D., president of Saint Mary’s, in an announcement about the systems. “We’re excited to integrate these systems to help take our health and safety protocols to the next level, especially as we prepare to welcome students back to campus this fall.”

RESPONDING TO THE TIMES: THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN A PANDEMIC CONTINUED

(Right) A mural remembering George Floyd and highlighting the names of other Black men and women covers a wall in Minneapolis. Courtesy Peg Hodapp

Meanwhile, La Salle University designed a return-to-campus plan with fluidity, in order to adapt it as needed and dependent upon evolving local circumstances and guidance from public health officials. The university decided to offer most of the fall semester online with limited exceptions and on-campus housing only permitted for certain students, such as international students and those with academic requirements or special personal circumstances.

“We are a family, whether we are on campus or online,” La Salle President Dr. Colleen Hanycz reminded the school community in an August 20 update. “We provide transformational experiences with life-changing professional outcomes. We are committed to helping the students whom we serve to develop into successful, high-impact citizens who will go on to enhance the world around them, just as we have done here since 1863.”

Youth and family services agencies are also showing their commitment to helping students. A new partnership aims to provide academic resources, tutoring and other educational services online. Ocean Tides and Tides Family Services, both in Rhode Island, launched TidesLearning (www.TidesLearning.org) in September for students and parents to find academic resources, individual tutoring with an educator or a Lasallian high school or higher education student, mini-lessons to supplement learning from their school and one-on-one support for parents trying to teach their children at home.

“We hope it meets the needs of families struggling with whatever school is going to be for them, especially those most in need of care and support at this time, including the families and children involved in our child

welfare programs and other children and families as we grow our network of teachers and tutors,” said Brother James Martino, FSC, president of Ocean Tides School in Narragansett.

TidesLearning is one of many examples of how the Lasallian mission is working to meet the needs of young people and their families during this unprecedented time. As we prepare to print this issue, COVID-19 continues to challenge Lasallians to provide a quality education while keeping students, educators and families healthy. While no one knows what the future will bring, Lasallians continue to adapt and look for innovative ways to educate, support and build relationships.

“Richard Rohr has a quote that says, ‘We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking,’” reflected Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Midwest District Visitor. “The pandemic has forced us into new ways of living. Now we must commit ourselves to vibrant ways of thinking that keep the mission and values of De La Salle alive and relevant for generations to come. It will be hard work. But worth it.” •

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference.



TIDES LEARNING

To support TidesLearning or get involved by sharing resources or serving as a tutor, teacher or parent coach, please email tideslearning@oceantides.org. Courtesy TidesLearning



LASALLIANS RESPOND TO RACISM

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

“I CAN’T BREATHE.”

The last words of George Floyd reverberated throughout the world after his killing on May 25, 2020. The outrage and sadness that followed continues to be expressed in impassioned calls for justice and for change.

Floyd’s death in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has sparked renewed attention on systemic racism and racial injustice. His death amplified the names and circumstances surrounding the deaths of other Black men and women, including the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, in addition to Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland and Tamir Rice. The most recent tragedies have led to protests, demonstrations, discussions, personal reflection and voices from all walks of life saying, “Enough is enough.”

Ministries in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) are responding to the call for racial justice, including initiating critical conversations about systemic racism, racial injustice and inherent biases not only in the larger society but also within our own walls. As part of this response, many ministries are taking a hard look at their own policies and curricula, while some BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students and alumni are sharing their own unique experiences and needed perspectives in those

LASALLIANS RESPOND TO RACISM CONTINUED

areas. There is an acknowledgment that more needs to be done for real change to happen.

In the spring, many ministry leaders released messages, speaking to the work ahead, such as the one from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco, California, in which Melinda Lawlor Skrade, Ph.D., president, and Gary J. Cannon, Ed.D., principal, wrote, “Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group has been meeting weekly to discuss matters of inclusivity at SHC and a process to move forward. This team will help guide professional development for all staff next year. They will partner with school administration to promote equity and inclusion in academic, cocurricular and spiritual life. From these ongoing efforts, future goals and action steps will emerge, along with resources, to promote a culture of inclusion and respect throughout our entire campus and community.”

In his message, Brother James Butler, FSC, president of La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, acknowledged the task ahead, writing, “You really do have to work at it. But we will have to work even harder at understanding. We can use abstract nouns like diversity and inclusivity—and even brotherhood—rather glibly then pat ourselves on the back and go away self-satisfied. Or we can do the hard, earnest work of trying to understand the experience of other people, despite the blinders race, culture, class, age, and education (too little or too much) may have slipped on us over time.”

An example of that work can be found at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis. Between 2015-2018, DeLaSalle worked with consultants to hold staff trainings on

racial equity and how to incorporate more diversity into the school’s curriculum to reflect experiences of students. Dr. Roy Kay, English teacher, felt that the sessions fell short of expectations and that led him to create a Racial Equity Reading Group in 2018 for Black faculty and staff, which later expanded to all faculty and staff, with the goal of creating space for honest conversation. While the group has seen limited success, Dr. Kay plans to continue the effort and keep the conversation going.

“Fundamentally, we have to make a simple choice: either submit to and live the grand narrative of white supremacy and its perverse values that are deleterious to all or we must submit to and live the prophetic tradition that hears the cries of the oppressed and attends to repairing the world,” said Dr. Kay. “The reading group provides an opportunity for us to acquire the equipment we need to walk the talk and in so doing, the strength to repair ourselves and the world.”

Dr. Kay will discuss the reading group as one of four breakout sessions that will focus on racial justice at the virtual Huether Lasallian Conference, November 19-21. In another, Fred Trainer, retired counselor from De La Salle Vocational in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, will draw on his more than 40 years as a counselor to at-risk youth to help educators complement their instruction with character development training for their students. His session will focus on four areas that tie in today’s social justice actions with the Lasallian response. Trainer will lead a discussion that will challenge educators to help their students develop a critical consciousness, learn how to see and work with people within the context of



Top row, from left, Hayden Greene, M.A. (Manhattan College), Kristi J. Kelly, Ed.D. (Lewis University), Maureen O’Connell, Ph.D. (La Salle University) and, bottom row, from left, Luisa Marcela Ossa, Ph.D. (La Salle University), served as panelists for the LACU livestream, with Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, D.Min. (La Salle University) and Frances Sweeney, Ph.D. (Saint Mary’s College of California) as the moderators.

their group identities, grow the use of critical thinking skills with integrity to create community, and assist students to form their identities in a way that allows them to see social inequities as part of the process of enacting constructive change.

“What are the specific tools that may link our students preparing them to engage the world in moving our whole community toward a more just society? Such ‘character building’ can only happen in authentic relationships with adults who understand their mission and who are not afraid to get their hands dirty,” shared Trainer. “If not us, who?”

Also inviting educators to action are initiatives put into place by the District of Eastern North America (DENA). Commissioned by Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, DENA Visitor, the District initiated a Racial Justice Coalition with the mission of inviting people to prayer, self-education and action regarding racial justice. The District has also hosted online “book conversation circles,” developed a comprehensive listing of resources, and relaunched its LET’S Talk series focused on

contemporary social justice and advocacy.

Efforts to open worldwide Lasallian conversations came in the form of two livestream events: the June 25th Responding to Racism: A Lasallian Dialogue, hosted by the Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU) in collaboration with the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference, the District of Eastern North America, the Midwest District and the District of San Francisco New Orleans, followed by the September 24th Lasallian Dialogue on Racism: A Global Pandemic, hosted by the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) in partnership with the World Union of Lasallian Former Students (UMAEL), the Secretariat of Solidarity and Development, and Young Lasallians. The dialogues aimed to discuss racism and how to act in response to systemic and institutional racism.

“My hope is that these dialogues and calls to prophetic action are crucial steps toward Lasallian schools, universities and other centers of education generating a sustained,

LASALLIANS RESPOND TO RACISM CONTINUED

critical conversation about transforming curriculum and the overall ethos of the educational community with an anti-racist critical pedagogy,” said Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, moderator for both dialogues, who serves as vice president for mission, diversity and inclusion at La Salle University. “Lasallians must undertake a critical inventory of self and institutions—the unexamined life is not worth living—to recollect how we perpetuate racial inequities and other systemic, interlocking injustices, and give witness to what the biblical vision of justice looks like.”

The dialogues continue the work of the annual Lasallian Higher Education Colloquy on Racial Justice, co-founded in 2017 by Brother Ernest and Brother Jack Curran, FSC, vice president for mission at Manhattan College. This annual gathering provides faculty and administrators opportunities to explore intersections of the struggle for racial justice and equity within the Lasallian heritage and mission and Catholic social teaching. The dialogues produced the Mission Mandated Lasallian Vision for Racial Justice, which offers recommendations for action and contemplation.

At Christian Brothers Conference, staff members have engaged in several discussions surrounding racism and discrimination by watching a series of films, followed by opportunities to talk about injustice. In addition, Lasallian Volunteers (LV) has committed to anti-racism training for staff and LVs. For the 2020-2021 service year, the program has hired an anti-racism facilitator to gather all LVs monthly to honor the program and staff’s commitment to working toward a more just society.

Working toward a more just world is one effort Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, encouraged Lasallians to undertake in his June 5 letter to RELAN, written in response to the killing of George Floyd. “We know that racism, poverty and injustice are endemic in society,” he wrote. “These evils are not easily eradicated. Therefore, we persevere in our educational mission to bring about systemic change for more just and peaceful world for everyone.”

The many Lasallian responses to racism and injustice all share the common foundation of the charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the mission of Lasallian education. Just as opening schools to give a human and Christian education to all was a radical and concrete response to inequity in 17th century France, today’s initiatives are seeking not simply to make a statement, but to make a difference in a way that addresses human dignity and justice. As Lasallians, we are called to make changes of heart and of living within ourselves, our ministries and our world.

To learn more about the Lasallian response to racism, visit to www.Lasallian.info/Responding-to-Racism. •

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference.



Brother Robert talks with a Manhattan College student in the O'Malley Library during his pastoral visit. Courtesy Brian Hatton/Manhattan College

BROTHER SUPERIOR VISITS THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

When Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, was elected as the 27th Superior of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools at the 45th General Chapter in May 2014, his mandate included making a canonical and pastoral visit to each of the five Regions in the Institute and to the global Lasallian family.

During each of the past five years he has traveled to nearly each and every District and Delegation, accompanied by the General Councilor for the Region, to engage with Brothers and Partners; communities and ministries; and District and Regional

structures and leadership. He has set foot in 70 countries in order to take the pulse of this living international mission and community, both to offer encouragement and to provide direction for the future.



Brother Robert shares a laugh with Francophone Canada District Visitor Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, Brother Michel Lepage, FSC, art educator, and young people during his visit to the Saint-Michel Lasallian Center in Montréal, Québec. Courtesy Arian Salarian

Frère Robert partage du bon temps avec le Visiteur du district du Canada francophone, Frère Florent Gaudreault, le professeur d'arts plastiques, Frère Michel Lepage, et des jeunes rencontrés lors de sa visite au Centre lasallien Saint-Michel à Montréal. Photo gracieuseté d'Arian Salarian

In October and November 2019 Brother Bob visited the Districts of Francophone Canada and Eastern North America (DENA). The visit to the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) was very much a homecoming for Brother Bob, so his Philadelphia visits to West Catholic Preparatory High School, his high school alma mater, and La Salle University, his undergraduate alma mater, were warm and inspiring. Unexpectedly, the March 2020 visits to the Districts of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) and Midwest were interrupted in response to the advisories related to the coronavirus pandemic. Naturally, Brother shared the disappointment of the many educational centers and communities that were anticipating the visit.

Fortunately, prior to his mandate as Superior General, he served as General Councilor for the Region, so he has a deep understanding of its history. He appreciates that many movements and trends that began during or

preceding that term are maturing. He sees that the Lasallian mission continues to unfold as a sharing of the charism and a sharing of responsibility for its future. He sat down with hundreds of educators who have integrated the core

principles in their personal and ministerial activity. The Lasallian Education Council continues to mature in its service to fortify the charism by developing the next generation of Partners for the mission, developing an advocacy approach for young people, and promoting the Lasallian legacy. He sees that the annual theme and reflection offered by the Superior and Council are touchstones for ongoing growth. The Lasallian movement is being nourished by young participants as well—students are introduced to the Lasallian story and principles for personal and community integrity; Lasallian Volunteers experience first-hand faith, service and community, leading many to move into positions of animation and leadership at local, District and Regional levels; and new teachers and social service professionals are accompanied as they exercise their ministry.

Brother Bob enjoyed many encounters with Brothers, both in ministry and community. Though his visits were typically short, he relished participation in the everyday life of the community. He witnessed the tangible and inspirational contribution of Brothers in youth and family services, schools and support services. The living witness to the vow of association for the educational service of the poor was inspiring. In his conversations

(Below) The pastoral visit includes time spent in Brothers' communities, such as the Saint-Michel Lasallian Center community in Montréal, Québec. Courtesy Denis de Villers

(Ci-dessous) La visite pastorale comprend des moments de rencontre avec la communauté des Frères et, en l'occurrence, celle du Centre lasallien Saint-Michel à Montréal, Québec. Photo gracieuseté de Denis de Villers

with the Brothers he said, “While young people may lack belief in civil and ecclesial institutions, I truly believe that they have faith in you.” It is a message he wishes to send to the many communities he was not able to visit. He found his fraternal visits with elder Brothers—for him icons of whole-hearted fidelity—to be rewarding. He was encouraged by the creative energy of vocation promotion efforts, and met with Brothers in initial formation in the postulancy and in their apostolic communities.

The conversations he was able to have with faculty, administration and students on higher education campuses made clear the powerful contribution Lasallian higher education makes to Church and society. One of the contributions he appreciates is the annual Lasallian Research Symposium initiated by Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, which brings together Lasallian researchers from around the world. It is, in his view, a sign of vitality that Lasallians are sharing “pedagogical innovations for the 21st century as well as programs and policies for a more

healthy environment for all who share our common home.”

He was encouraged by the Region’s solidarity with other parts of the Institute and Lasallian family: the twinning program with students and ministries in the Lwanga District in Africa, personnel and financial support for Ethiopian Catholic University-La Salle and Bethlehem University, support for international Brothers pursuing advanced degrees, and the international participation in the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies. There is also mutuality between Districts in the human and Christian education of teenagers and young adults through immersion programs, particularly the Beyond the Borders initiatives of El Otro Lado (El Paso, Texas, and Tucson, Arizona) and OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA immersion at De La Salle Blackfeet (Browning, Montana). That these programs receive significant personnel and financial support and are carried out with full-bodied zeal was heartening for the Superior and Council.



BROTHER SUPERIOR VISITS THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA

CONTINUED

He is acutely aware that though there are forces marginalizing God in the “public square,” the Lasallian response is robust. The retreat and pastoral centers are hubs of constant activity for students and adults. In Francophone Canada two centers offer programs dedicated to human, spiritual and Christian growth; in the Midwest the Springtide Research Institute for Religion and Young People, part of Lasallian Educational and Research Initiatives, is generating candid conversations on how new generations experience and express community, identity and meaning; in SFNO an Office for Evangelization and Catechesis has been established to support an integrated approach to young people’s spiritual hungers.

Sustainability and vitality in community and mission is a perennial concern, so Brother Bob was gratified to see forward-looking actions. He regularly observes that board trustees play a critical role in a Lasallian work’s fidelity to its historical and spiritual roots, and he finds it encouraging to see regular and special events in RELAN to help them fulfill their roles. He commended initiatives “that extend the reach of formation programs to meet their ambitious goal of ‘formation for all’ to help sustain the mission.” He saw evidence of a trend to include a more proportionate representation of women’s voices, influence and leadership, and he encourages the ongoing support of this direction. He took note of the variety of ways association for the mission is growing: in DENA there are many associative groups, in

Students at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, welcomed Brother Robert (center) and Brother Timothy (back, right) in early March. Courtesy Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC



Francophone Canada men and women have made formal commitments as associates, and SFNO and Midwest hold convocations that bring Lasallians together to deepen their unity. These efforts and more left Brother Bob inspired “by both the everyday commitment and the lifelong commitment of these Lasallians to grow spiritually together.”



As part of his pastoral visit, Brother Robert delivered keynote addresses at the Huether Lasallian Conference and the 7th World Congress of the Association of Lasallian Alumni (UMAEL), both held November 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In the past six years, there has been a striking increase in spiritual and educational formation events and encounters at the ministry, District and Regional levels. Brother Bob was encouraged to see that approaches are continually refreshed. For instance, the Regional Formation Institute and Buttimer 2.0 conversations are paying attention to adult learning needs and succession planning for presenters and facilitators. The Regional Lasallian Publications Committee, the SFNO Lasallian Resource Center, the *AXIS Journal of Lasallian Higher Education* and the Midwest online formation for mission program are examples that reinforced his observation of a consistent theme: that in the face of significant challenges, creative responses have emerged.

Brother Bob’s visit to the Region, though incomplete, affirmed for him that there are signs of emerging strengths: an association for mission grounded in vocation and community, and a living Lasallian tradition focused on the needs of young people and young adults. He amplified these strengths during the visit saying, “Each one of us is invited to hear the cries of those who are poor, marginalized, addicted, illiterate or hungry for knowledge. They are calling us to be beacons of hope and purveyors of well-being. Our association for the Lasallian mission of human and Christian education is a concrete response to those who are calling us.” •

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, is General Councilor for RELAN and accompanied the Superior General on his visit. To see more, visit www.Lasallian.info and search “pastoral visit.”

CAMP DE-LA-SALLE: FROM THE FIRST DREAM TO A SECOND LIFE

BY DENIS DE VILLERS

Brother Laurent Hamel, FSC, had a dream, which was to invite young people from urban settings to experience the joy of nature during the summer. In 1952, when Catholic scouting was in full swing and its development was openly supported by ecclesial and political authorities, Camp De-La-Salle had a successful first year in Vaudreuil, Québec.

THE HISTORY OF CAMP DE-LA-SALLE

THE BEGINNING OF A DREAM

Without wasting time, the De La Salle Christian Brothers bought a 35-acre estate with about 15 cottages on the shore of Lake Rouge in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez in Lanaudière, Québec. In 1954, 140 young campers took part in the first summer at the permanent site. Recruitment was easy as the vast majority of young people came from schools where the Brothers taught during the year.

For many, the camps were an extension of boarding school. Stays were meant to be for a long time (three weeks or the entire summer). The lifestyle and organization were reminiscent of those of the residential school. The daily routine included hygiene, activities, meals and group sports. Morning prayer and

Mass were important parts of the experience. The children were happy and made friendships to last a lifetime.

In short order, the camp grounds were expanded in order to welcome more campers and a chapel was built. These young people came from cities, especially from the underprivileged neighborhoods of Montréal and the surrounding areas where the Brothers were present in primary schools, high schools and pre-university institutions. Every Brother who led the camp improved and developed the camp's facilities. The staff members were all Brothers who taught in schools in Longueuil and Montréal.



Students attending camp in 1995 play on the beach at Camp De-La-Salle. Courtesy District of Francophone Canada Archives

Des jeunes inscrits au Camp De-La-Salle en 1995, profitent de la plage. Photo gracieuseté du service des archives du district du Canada francophone

THE WAVE OF 1968 BROTHERS, AN ERA OF EDUCATIONAL ADVANCES

In 1968, a cohort of about 20 Brothers who were in teacher training took over the animation of young people. They gave decisive direction for the continuation of Camp De-La-Salle: a mission statement was developed where the camper was at the heart of the camp and their relationships with camp counselors were a priority. “The camper first” became the camp’s motto.

In the wake of the 1970s, with the development of educational psychology and the understanding of group dynamics, innovations were introduced that would later become the trademark of the Brothers’ camp. These included: training counselors in child psychology, organizing cabins in modules and by age group, admitting girls, allowing children to choose their activities, offering camps to prepare students for high school, including pastoral activities, and offering weekend camp retreats during the school year to complement religion class.

Staff recruitment and training took place in schools where the Brothers served. Many

lay people committed to the camp in an increasingly sustainable way, while the Brothers started to gradually withdraw.

Brother Robert Lavallée, FSC, was part of the 1968 cohort. In 1978, he was appointed camp director, a role he held for more than 35 years. Over time, and under his leadership, lay people played an important part in the decisions and organization of the camp. They helped to evolve the latter by listening to the needs of young people and parents and by relying on the creativity of their staff. New programs were developed. A foundation, called Fondation du Camp De-La-Salle, was created and managed by former camp counselors, and the first project they set up was a free week of summer camp and two weekends in winter for underprivileged children. A Lasallian team arose while its members learned about the life of the Founder from whom the camp got its name.

Learn more about Camp De-La-Salle



www.campdelasalle.qc.ca



[@campdelasalleqc.ca](https://www.facebook.com/campdelasalleqc.ca)



[@campdelasalle](https://twitter.com/campdelasalle)



[@campdelasalle](https://www.instagram.com/campdelasalle)

(Right) While summer 2020 was not a typical year at Camp De-La-Salle, the camp was able to host 75 young people for sessions with social distancing measures and mask requirements in place. Courtesy Camp De-La-Salle

(Droite) Alors que le Camp De-La-Salle a connu une saison estivale atypique, il fut néanmoins possible d'accueillir 75 jeunes aux camps de jour et ce, en tout respect des mesures sanitaires imposées. Photo gracieuseté du Camp De-La-Salle

RECURRING CHALLENGES

The camp encountered many challenges. Since the Brothers no longer served in schools after 2008, plans to recruit young people and camp counselors needed to change. Given the seasonal nature of the work, the funding depended very much on generous yearly grants of the Brothers to pay salaries and upkeep of the property, buildings and vehicles. Young people seemed to be less and less attracted to this kind of summer camp; they were less inclined to leave home. Parents seemed to want to keep their children with them during time off from school. For counselors, the seasonal work was not as rewarding as a summer job in the city, and it was far from friends. Doing this work required passion and vocation.

COLLAPSE AND REBIRTH

In the fall of 2014, the Francophone Canada District Council made the difficult decision to close Camp De-La-Salle for financial reasons. The decision was met with dismay, anger, grief and misunderstanding. The camp was evolving, so many did not understand the decision. The District was abuzz with discussions and opinions.

Several former and new educators were determined to give the camp another chance. They had only nine months to make the 63rd season of the camp possible. In that time, they received the Brothers' permission to use the land and buildings for one year; appointed a director (Martin Lapointe, who had worked at the camp since 1996); created a new legal entity, a corporation named Centre de La Salle; formed a board of directors; advertised; reassured partners and campers' parents; and hired staff.

The summer 2015 season went well thanks to the dedication of the staff, even though it was a smaller staff than in previous years. Despite that, the young generation demonstrated that the camp could survive—the dream was still possible.

THE NEW CAMP DE-LA-SALLE AND ITS MISSION STATEMENT

While the Brothers agreed to let the camp use the land and facilities free of charge while still paying for maintenance, the new administration had to reflect on the Lasallian character of the organization. In its mission statement, Camp De-La-Salle states that Lasallian culture is THE preferred way of doing things in its educational approach with young people. This is why it is the goal of the team to know and value each young person; encourage developing friendships; promote educational initiatives; support team members; build relationships with parents; partner with schools, social services, community organizations, neighborhood businesses, regional summer camps and the entire Lasallian family of the Francophone Canada District; and promote a human and Lasallian education that includes group life, community, sharing, respect, love of oneself and others, harmonious interaction with nature and social justice. Despite financial concerns, the Lasallian work for poor children continues and has expanded.

In addition, the team wants to: provide young people with the opportunity for a variety of experiences based on their interests; immerse young people in an environment of values where they will experience friendship, solidarity, environmental protection and the search for peace and justice; provide young people with a broad scope to find the space and time to



challenge themselves; and give young people opportunities to interact with adults and other young people who will listen to them and teach them a sense of discernment.

DREAMING NEW DREAMS

After four successful summer camp seasons and a balanced budget, time has highlighted five practices that have made the camp's dream of survival possible: effective use of social media; marketing at local events and opening the camp grounds for hiking, skiing, etc., in the winter; developing new partnerships with the city, local schools and businesses; responding to current needs, such as offering university students quiet weekends to write and hosting two-day mini-camps for young people who are anxious about living away from home; and creative fundraising.

As one can imagine, Brother Laurent's dream has changed in many ways. It was necessary to dust it off and dare to move forward with it, always keeping in mind the good of the young who are entrusted to our care. As Lasallian Reflection 5 states, "Lasallians do not close

their doors to dreaming and believing. We want to think big, to get rid of old dreams and give God the opportunity to shape His dream for humanity through us."

For almost five years now, the reinvigorated Camp-De-La-Salle has continued to make children's eyes shine and to ignite the passion of educators to serve the young, especially the needy.

Of course, nothing can be taken for granted. Money is a constant concern and will remain so. These valiant hearts, these pioneers of the second chance, faced a situation that required conviction, courage and a good dose of passion and creativity. Quite a challenge for a strong team, inspired by Saint John Baptist de La Salle's dream of education. These Lasallians are convinced that together we can overcome everything. •

Denis de Villers is a former camp counselor and educator at Camp De-La-Salle, former foundation administrator and formal Associate with public vows. He is currently the communications adviser for the District of Francophone Canada.

CAMP DE-LA-SALLE : DU PREMIER RÊVE À UNE SECONDE VIE

PAR DENIS DE VILLERS

Frère Laurent Hamel a un rêve : celui de permettre aux jeunes des villes de vivre une expérience de fraternité en pleine nature, l'été. Nous sommes en 1952, le scoutisme catholique a le vent dans les voiles et cet essor est ouvertement appuyé par les autorités ecclésiastiques et politiques. Une première mouture du projet-pilote de camp se vivra à la dure sur un terrain à Vaudreuil. Ce premier camp fut un succès.

HISTORIQUE DU CAMP

LE DÉBUT DU RÊVE

Sans perdre de temps, les Frères des Écoles chrétiennes décidèrent donc d'acheter un domaine de 35 acres comptant une quinzaine de chalets à Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez dans Lanaudière. L'idée de Frère Hamel était d'en faire un camp vocationnel. En 1954, ce sont 140 jeunes campeurs qui vivront cette première édition sur le site permanent entièrement géré par les Frères. Le recrutement est facile puisque les jeunes proviennent en grande majorité d'écoles où oeuvrent les Frères durant l'année.

Pour plusieurs, les camps sont le prolongement du pensionnat. En effet, séjours sont de longue durée (3 semaines quand ce n'est pas l'été au complet). Le style de vie et l'organisation rappellent ceux du pensionnat. On retrouve un horaire routinier qui inclut l'hygiène, les activités, les repas et les sports de groupe. La prière du matin et la messe

à intervalles réguliers constituent une part importante de l'expérience. Les enfants sont heureux et repartent chez eux avec des amitiés nouvelles qui dureront toute la vie. messe à intervalles réguliers constituent une part importante de l'expérience. Les enfants sont heureux et repartent chez eux avec des amitiés nouvelles qui dureront toute la vie.

Rapidement, le terrain du Camp est agrandi et une chapelle est construite. On veut accueillir davantage de campeurs. Ces jeunes viennent des villes, surtout des quartiers défavorisés de Montréal et des environs, où sont les Frères dans les écoles primaires, secondaires et des Cegeps. Des Frères se succèdent à la direction générale et chacun se fera un point d'honneur d'améliorer et de développer les installations du Camp. Tous les membres du personnel sont des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes qui, pour la plupart, enseignent ou offrent leurs services dans des écoles des districts de Longueuil et de Montréal.



Les Frères ont fondé le Camp De-La-Salle en 1952 pour offrir des activités de plein-air aux jeunes. Photo gracieuseté du service des archives du district du Canada francophone

The Brothers opened Camp De-La-Salle in 1952 to provide summer experiences for young people. Courtesy District of Francophone Canada Archives

LA VAGUE DE FRÈRES DE 1968, ÈRE DES AVANCÉES PÉDAGOGIQUES

En 1968, une cohorte d'une vingtaine de Frères scholastiques (formation des maîtres) prend la relève pour l'animation des jeunes. Ces derniers donneront une orientation déterminante pour la suite du Camp De-La-Salle : un projet éducatif se vit où le campeur est au cœur de la vie du Camp et la qualité des liens avec les moniteurs, une priorité : « Le campeur avant tout » est la devise du Camp.

Dans la foulée des années 1970, du développement de la psychopédagogie et de la compréhension de la dynamique des groupes, une préoccupation éducative s'installe et donne lieu à des innovations qui feront la marque de commerce du Camp. Mentionnons entre autres : une solide formation en psychologie de l'enfant pour les moniteurs lors d'un pré-camp d'une durée d'une semaine, l'organisation des

chalets en modules (maisons) et par groupes d'âge, l'admission des filles, le choix des activités par les jeunes eux-mêmes tous les jours, l'organisation de camps d'accueil pour les jeunes qui se préparent à entrer au secondaire, la pastorale incluse dans la vie du Camp et des camps de fin de semaine de pastorale pendant l'année scolaire qui sont offerts comme complément aux cours d'enseignement religieux.

Le recrutement et la formation des moniteurs se font dans les écoles où les Frères travaillent encore. Plusieurs laïcs sont en lien avec le Camp d'une façon de plus en plus durable tandis que les Frères, autrefois actifs, se retirent progressivement.

Frère Robert Lavallée faisait partie de la cohorte de 1968. En 1978, il est nommé directeur du Camp. Il le restera pendant plus de 35 ans. Avec le temps, et sous sa direction, des laïcs ont pris une part importante aux décisions et à l'organisation du Camp. Ils contribuèrent à faire évoluer ce dernier en se mettant à l'écoute des besoins des jeunes, des parents et de la créativité de leur personnel. De nouveaux programmes sont alors élaborés. Une fondation est créée leur personnel. De nouveaux programmes sont alors élaborés. Une fondation est créée et administrée par d'anciens moniteurs du Camp, ce qui permet d'offrir gratuitement aux enfants défavorisés de Montréal une semaine lasallienne l'été et deux fins de semaine l'hiver. Une équipe lasallienne voit le jour tout en s'initiant à la vie du Fondateur d'où le Camp tire son nom.

DES DÉFIS RÉCURRENTS

Mais les défis sont nombreux. Les Frères n'étant plus dans les écoles depuis 2008, le

recrutement des jeunes et des moniteurs est à repenser. Étant donné le caractère saisonnier de l'œuvre, le financement des opérations dépend beaucoup de la généreuse subvention des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes année après année; ce sont eux qui assument l'entretien des lieux et bâtiments dont ils sont les propriétaires. Les jeunes semblent être de moins en moins attirés par cette formule de camps d'été, ils sont moins enclins à quitter la maison. Les parents semblent vouloir garder leurs enfants avec eux pour vivre ensemble leurs moments de vacances. Du côté des moniteurs, ce travail saisonnier n'est pas aussi rémunérateur qu'un emploi d'été en ville, loin des amis de surcroît. Il faut avoir la piqûre pour l'emploi, ce que d'autres appelleraient la passion ou encore la vocation.

Le Camp De-La-Salle reçoit chaque année plus de 1,651 jeunes. Photo gracieuseté du Denis de Villers

Camp De-La-Salle serves approximately 1,651 young people each year in its summer camps. Courtesy Denis de Villers

LA FERMETURE ET LA RENAISSANCE

À L'automne de 2014, malheureusement, le Conseil de District prendra la difficile décision de fermer le Camp De-La-Salle pour des raisons financières.

C'est la consternation. Puis la colère. Puis la peine. Puis l'incompréhension chez tous ceux qui sont en lien avec le Camp.

Alors que le Camp était en pleine évolution, personne ne comprend cet abandon. Dans le monde lasallien du Québec, les discussions sont nombreuses et les avis partagés.

Plusieurs anciens et nouveaux moniteurs se mobilisent et font tout pour que les camps se poursuivent. Il y a beaucoup à faire, car, pour rendre une 63e saison possible, il n'y a que 9 mois pour tout organiser : La permission des Frères est obtenue pour utiliser le terrain et les bâtiments pour un an, un directeur est



nommé. Il s'agira de M. Martin Lapointe qui est à l'emploi du Camp depuis 1996, une nouvelle entité juridique est créée et porte le nom de Centre De La Salle, un conseil d'administration est constitué, la publicité est organisée, et les détails techniques réglés, les partenaires et les parents des campeurs sont contactés et rassurés et le personnel est recruté et embauché.

La saison de l'été 2015 se déroulera bien même si le personnel est moins nombreux qu'autrefois. La détermination de survie du projet compensera pour le manque de bras.

Malgré un léger déficit, cette jeune relève a fait la preuve que le projet peut encore tenir la route, le rêve est encore possible. Et en dépit du casse-tête financier que représente l'administration du Camp, la semaine lasallienne subsiste.

LE NOUVEAU CAMP DE-LA-SALLE ET SON PROJET ÉDUCATIF

Bien que les Frères aient accepté de prêter gratuitement les terrains et les installations du Camp tout en en assumant les frais majeurs d'entretien, la nouvelle administration eut à réfléchir sur le caractère lasallien de l'organisme. Dans son projet éducatif, le Camp De-La-Salle précise que la culture lasallienne est LA façon de faire privilégiée dans son approche éducative auprès des jeunes. C'est pourquoi on souligne que l'équipe du Centre : s'emploie à connaître et à valoriser chaque jeune, encourage des attitudes fraternelles, favorise des interventions éducatives, s'applique à prendre soin de l'équipe rapprochée qui est constituée des moniteurs, des décideurs

municipaux, de la gestion, des anciens moniteurs, de la Fondation du Camp, du conseil d'administration et du personnel de soutien, cultive avec bienveillance des liens avec la famille élargie du Centre de La Salle à savoir : les parents, les écoles partenaires, les services sociaux, les organismes communautaires, les commerces et entreprises avoisinants, les camps de vacances de la région et toute la famille lasallienne du district du Canada francophone et promeut une éducation humaine et lasallienne qui met de l'avant la vie de groupe, la communauté, le partage, le respect de toute personne, l'amour de soi et des autres, le contact harmonieux avec la nature, la justice sociale.

De plus, dans son action directe auprès des jeunes, l'équipe éducative veut: offrir aux jeunes la possibilité d'engagements divers, répondant à leurs aspirations et à leurs goûts, plonger les jeunes dans un milieu de valeurs vives et cohérentes où ils feront l'expérience de la fraternité, de la solidarité, de la protection de l'environnement, de la recherche de la paix et de la justice, fournir aux jeunes un champ d'action suffisamment large pour qu'ils trouvent l'espace et le temps de se mesurer à eux-mêmes et de tester les valeurs qu'ils entendent poursuivre comme personne et donner aux jeunes l'occasion de côtoyer des adultes et d'autres jeunes qui sauront les écouter et leur apprendre le sens du discernement.

Pour en découvrir davantage :



www.campdelasalle.qc.ca



[@campdelasalleqc.ca](https://www.facebook.com/campdelasalleqc.ca)



[@campdelasalle](https://twitter.com/campdelasalle)



[@campdelasalle](https://www.instagram.com/campdelasalle)

(Ci-dessous) Suite à l'annonce en 2014 que le Camp De-La-Salle cesserait ses activités, les moniteurs ont prouvé que le rêve était toujours possible. Photo gracieuseté d'Amélie Brunet

(Below) Following a 2014 announcement that Camp De-La-Salle would close, educators stepped in to show the dream of the camp was still possible. Courtesy Amélie Brunet

DÉVELOPPER DE NOUVELLES FAÇONS DE FAIRE

Après 4 saisons de camps d'été couronnées de succès, et une administration qui s'approche de l'équilibre budgétaire, le temps a mis en lumière 5 pratiques qui ont donné du fruit et rendent le rêve de survie du Camp possible par: une utilisation judicieuse des médias sociaux, un rayonnement soutenu dans la région (que ce soit au sein de l'Association des Camps du Québec ou dans les événements locaux, on peut voir le stand du Camp. L'hiver, le Camp ouvre ses terrains pour de la randonnée pédestre, du ski de fond et du vélo dodu.), de nouveaux partenariats (école primaire de Saint-Alphonse, Municipalité, commerces), une Créativité dans l'approche client et développement de nouveaux programmes et dans la Recherche de financement efficace.

Comme on peut le constater, le rêve de Frère Laurent Hamel s'est transformé de bien des façons. Il aura fallu le dépoussiérer et oser aller de l'avant avec, toujours en tête, le bien des jeunes. Nous les Lasalliens ne fermons

pas nos portes pour rêver et croire. Nous voulons visualiser de grands projets, nous débarrasser de nos vieux rêves et donner à Dieu l'occasion de façonner son rêve pour l'humanité grâce à nous.

Depuis bientôt 5 ans, le Camp De-La-Salle 2.0 continue de faire briller les yeux des enfants et d'allumer la passion des moniteurs pour le service des plus jeunes, spécialement les démunis.

Rien n'est gagné d'avance. L'argent est un souci constant et le restera. Ces cœurs vaillants, ces pionniers de la 2^e chance ont affronté avec courage une situation qui exigeait de la conviction, du courage, une bonne dose de passion et de créativité. Tout un défi pour une équipe solide, associée aux rêves d'éducation de Jean-Baptiste De La Salle! Ces Lasalliens sont convaincus que, ensemble, on vient à bout de tout. •

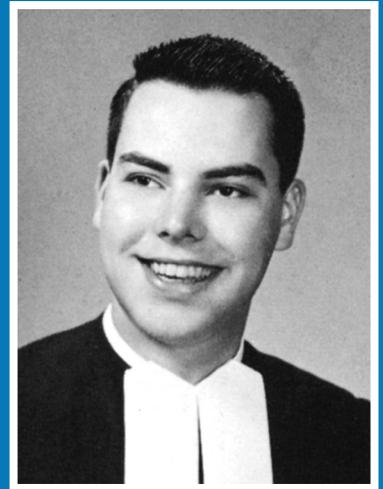
Denis de Villers est un ancien moniteur du Camp, ancien administrateur de la Fondation et un associé formel. Il occupe actuellement le poste de responsable des communications pour le district du Canada francophone.



HONORING THE LEGACY OF BLESSED BROTHER JAMES MILLER, FSC

BY LOU ANNE M. TIGHE

Brother James Miller, FSC, pictured in a yearbook photo, graduated from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in 1966. Courtesy Saint Mary's University of Minnesota



On December 7, 2019, thousands gathered in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, for the beatification of Brother James “Santiago” Miller, FSC. Before this crowd of witnesses, Cardinal José Luis Lacunza Maestrojuán pronounced the Decree of Beatification from Pope Francis.

It was a profound declaration born of years of stories, testimonials, research and documentation. With singers and saxophone, guitars, trap set and tambourine, the atmosphere lifted the hearts of all assembled with gratitude and joy. In this experience, one could sense the wisdom of Pope Francis. He encouraged that beatifications take place, not in Rome, but at the mission location of the beatified.

Among those who gathered were current students and faculty of the Colegio De La Salle, James’ sister and brother-in-law, Brothers, Partners, priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals. Perhaps the most revered guests were the Mayan people, that is, the faithful of Huehuetenango, who lived through the civil war. There were (now adult) students who were educated by the Brothers and families who had lost loved ones. Everyone present was moved with both tears and joy.

During the opening ceremony, Brothers Paul Joslin, Dale Mooney, Julio Herrera and Juan

Carlos Canales (president of Colegio De La Salle) carried the relic of Brother James on their shoulders to the altar. Brothers Paul and Dale, who lived in community with Brother James at the time of his death, were both solemn and filled with emotion. These men were not simply transporting a relic; they were carrying the memories of those days before, weeks after and 37 years since Brother James’ death.

On February 10, 1982, the Brothers in Huehuetenango heard from a reliable source that members of the G-2 (a section of the Guatemalan army rumored to be a “death squad”) were looking for the sub-director, a title held by Brother James for Casa Indígena De La Salle, the boarding school, and two other Brothers for Colegio De La Salle. The Brothers discussed what they should do: leave the country, move to a school in another part of Guatemala, or remain at Colegio De La Salle. After individual and community reflection they made the prayerful decision to stay with the 150 boys for as long as possible.¹

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BLESSED BROTHER JAMES MILLER, FSC

CONTINUED

Brother James was a teacher, a steward of the earth and an incredible handyman. Wrought iron lamps were affixed to the wall of Casa Indígena. These lamps provided an opportunity for some of the more “curious” boys to sneak out at night by swinging from the second floor to the street, which was very dangerous because young boys were being abducted into the army. On February 13, Brother James was removing a lamp and plastering the hole in the wall when he was killed.

His death was one of over 200,000 deaths of innocent victims in Guatemala. It was part of the violence and war that began in 1954 when the United States overthrew the democratically elected government.² These facts and impressions help contextualize the martyrdom and beatification of Brother James Miller, and as profound and interesting as they might be, Brother James would not want this attention.

He would prefer we look beyond him toward the people for whom he was willing to risk his life. In his heart, he felt called to work with the very poor, and to provide an education that would not only benefit them, but also potentially change an unjust social system. Cardinal José Luis had it right when he said: “There is nothing that bothers totalitarian regimes, of left or right, of yesterday or today, more than education.”³

A Lasallian education has always meant more than imparting knowledge. A human and Christian education involves accompaniment and the development of the whole person: increasing one’s faith, serving others and forming the conscience for leadership in community. It is reminding students and one another that God is always present and that God will always provide grace, that is God’s Providence.





Inspired through, and yet looking beyond, the example of Blessed James, the option for the poor is clear. As Lasallians, the treatment of the lost, the least and the last remains a part of who we are. It is a defining mark of Catholic social teaching and the Lasallian educational legacy offered to the world. In every context of the educational ministry, those who are poor, however they are poor, come first.

Like Blessed James, as Lasallian Reflection 5 encourages us, “Our task is to keep our feet on the ground, to be in direct contact with those who suffer, to be in communion with those who want to change the world, and in dialogue with those who think differently. Only in this way will we have a deeper knowledge of reality and our answers be meaningful.” For we offer an education that earns a student more than a degree; ultimately they, like Blessed James and the martyrs of Central America, will “graduate” when they rise from the dead. •

Lou Anne M. Tighe has long been involved in the research and story-telling of Brother James Miller's life, death and legacy. Her research has resulted in several resources that served as a foundation for not only telling the story of the martyr's life, but also proved instrumental in the formal documents supporting his beatification. She is currently director of campus ministry at Cretin-Derham Hall in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Brother James' alma mater. To learn more about Brother James, visit www.Lasallian.info and search “Brother James.”

¹ Joslin, FSC, Paul. “My Co-Worker, Blessed Brother James A. Miller (1944-1982): De La Salle Christian Brother Who Might Become A Saint.” November 28, 2019: page 3.

² *Ibid.* page 4.

³ Maestrojuán, Cardinal José Luis Lacunza. Homily at the Beatification of Hermano Santiago Miller, FSC: December 7, 2019.

(Left) A man holds an image of Brother James at the December 7, 2019, beatification ceremony. Courtesy Peter Gleich

LASALLIAN WOMEN OF HOPE: REMOVING OBSTACLES TO EDUCATION

BY MARYANN DONOHUE-LYNCH

It was a simple question with an answer that inspired change: “What obstacles must you overcome in order to attend this college?” The obstacles are many for female students attending Mwangaza College, a Lasallian school in Nakuru, Kenya.

Even more challenging are the complexities of living in the fastest developing city in Kenya. While Nakuru is growing its commercial and professional reputation, it is also growing one of the largest human trafficking and prostitution industries in East Africa. Fortunately, for some women living there, a post-secondary education provides a path away from the harsh realities that many young women experience.

The question regarding obstacles to education surfaced during a 2016 visit by Lasallians from the District of Eastern North America (DNA). The students began to answer. “Funds to pay the tuition.” “Transportation. Just

getting here can be very difficult.” “A safe place to live and study.” And then, a young woman, speaking in almost a whisper, shared, “Sometimes I cannot come to class because I cannot afford to purchase hygiene items for my monthly period. But, if it is an important class or an exam, I will go into town and find a man or two just so I have enough money to buy what I need so I can attend class or take the exam.” Silence filled the room. After she spoke, the heads of several other women nodded slowly in agreement. The reality of her very personal testimony—that she had to engage in “situational prostitution” in order to attend classes or sit for exams—made it clear that something had to be done.

PROTECTING THEIR DIGNITY, GIVING THEM HOPE

Following that discussion, conversations were held with Brother Oscar Okoth, FSC,

A Lasallian Women of Hope grant is funding a menstrual hygiene management program and providing a year’s supply of personal hygiene supplies to young women served through the Tumba Community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Courtesy staff of Kunda Dia Zayi Institute, Tumba



Mwangaza principal, and Jane Wambui Mainah, Mwangaza's administrative assistant, about how to accompany young women on their Lasallian educational journey so that their dignity was protected, their right to an education was guaranteed, and equal access to opportunities were provided.

It was decided that a program would be established to educate young women on personal health and hygiene to complement the college's existing efforts to serve female students. Additionally, funds for feminine hygiene items would be made available to the college through private donations. The new project would be called Lasallian Women of Hope (LWH); it would boldly promote the mission of helping girls and women gain full access to Lasallian education.

"Lasallian Women of Hope is a powerful program which has transformed lives of many young women in our college," Brother Oscar reflected. "The program has helped our girls have some basic things which were beyond their reach. We are very grateful to the program and those who contribute toward this life-changing activity."

MOVING BEYOND MWANGAZA

Witnessing the impact LWH had on young women at Mwangaza, steps were taken to expand the project. LWH was a topic of discussion at the 2017 Lasallian Global Women's Symposium in New Zealand. An inspiring delegation of women from Papua New Guinea (PNG) expressed interest in LWH as they had started a small project to meet the needs of female students. With the help of LWH, that project was expanded under the direction of Grace Wrakia, national coordinator

at the Lasallian Family Office PNG.

The momentum continued, and as providence would have it, Jane Wambui Mainah, Grace Wrakia and other women who had attended the symposium in New Zealand were attending the 2018 Buttimer

Institute of Lasallian Studies. A meeting was held to learn about LWH and resulted in a commitment to propose this beneficial work as a project of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Work began and on November 5, 2018, LWH was welcomed as an official project of the Institute through the Solidarity and Development Secretariat.

As Lasallian Reflection 5 states, "Looking at our world, we find great, positive things in committed people and in social movements that fight for rights and equality, and that are consistently committed to the care of creation."

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

As more people become committed to LWH initiatives, energy continues to build. LWH is now led by a committee of women from around the world and offers grants to projects



A girl from Fatima Secondary receives pads. Courtesy Schola Hori



*Women who attended the 2017 Lasallian Women's Symposium from Papua New Guinea expressed interest in Lasallian Women of Hope as they wanted to meet the needs of their female students.
Courtesy Maryann Donohue-Lynch*

in Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Congo, Haiti and South Africa. Under the direction of Brother Joseph Kiely, FSC, one of the projects is being expanded at the Tsholofelo Community in Rustenberg, South Africa, which serves students who live in local “squatter camps.” The LWH grant will provide menstrual health education, a year’s supply of personal hygiene items, sewing machines and training to produce reusable sanitary pads. The project will be self-sustainable and personally empowering.

Students at Hobe Primary in PNG now know that feeling of empowerment. The first LWH-funded sanitary pad distribution took place in July 2019. Teacher Karen Mondo noted that of the 15 young women who received pads, only two had ever used one and only four had underwear. To address such needs, each initial package includes a four-month supply of sanitary pads and two pairs of underwear, along with a toothbrush, toothpaste, body soap and laundry soap.

“Almost everything in the package was new to them so before doing the distribution I showed them everything in the pack and demonstrated how to use those things,” Karen wrote. “It was so emotional during our discussion before the distribution of the pads. The girls were so excited to receive the

gift but most of all they were so proud and happy. I could see that they were thinking and wishing that they could be able to use such things everyday in their lives but they are unable to do that.

That really touched me and I was silently in tears. They didn’t know how to say thank you because they thought that their thank you won’t be enough.”

Life-changing testimonies like this drive the important expansion of LWH. The committee, accompanied by the Solidarity and Development Secretariat, continues to identify additional ministries to help, to engage the support of Lasallians throughout the world, and to collaborate with like-minded organizations in order to continue touching the lives of young women.

Note: COVID-19 has greatly impacted females in developing nations. There have been significant increases in violence against girls and women. Additionally, the fear exists that when schools do reopen, girls and young women will find numerous obstacles to their return. Kindly consider a donation to help female students reengage in their education. To donate to Lasallian Women of Hope, visit www.LaSalleInternational.org. ●

Maryann Donohue-Lynch, associate executive director for DENA’s Office for Mission and Ministry, co-founded Lasallian Women of Hope with Brother Oscar Okoth, FSC, and Jane Wambui Mainah. For more information about the project, contact Maryann at donohuelynch@fscdena.org.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS

BY RYAN WALL



When Ted Kanelopoulos signed up to become a Lasallian Volunteer (LV) in 1993, he was just a recent college graduate looking to find his calling. As a student at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School in San Francisco, California, an immersion trip had introduced him to service, but he wanted to further explore the possibility of service as a vocation.

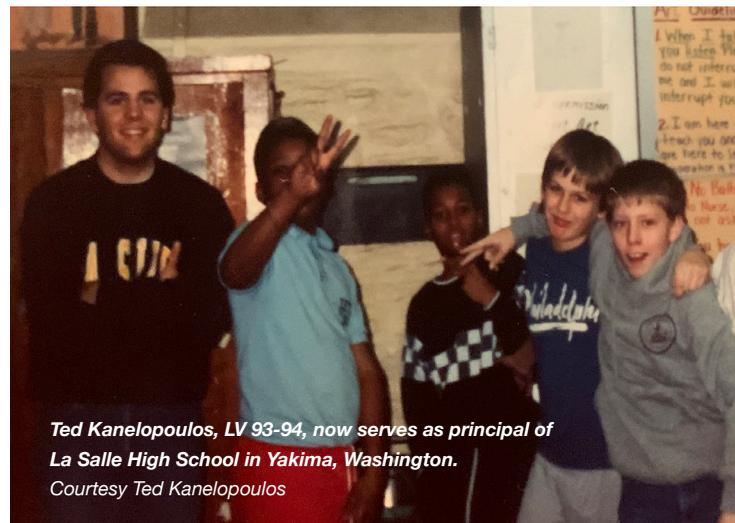
When he arrived at Saint Gabriel's Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a Lasallian Volunteer, something just *clicked*.

"It really changed the trajectory of my life," said Kanelopoulos, LV 93-94, now principal at La Salle High School in Yakima, Washington.

This is a sentiment shared by many of the nearly 780 Lasallian Volunteers, which celebrated its 30th year with the 2019-2020 cohort. What was once a small grassroots effort has blossomed into a national movement, touching the lives of thousands across the country. It has shaped hundreds of educators, both inside and outside of the Lasallian world.

"We've witnessed the birth of a formation program to prepare the minds and hearts of young adults, committed to the Lasallian mission," said Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). "What we find now is that volunteers are able to talk the way they think, identify with core values, and grow their hopes and dreams."

When Lasallian Volunteers first started it was just that—a dream. While the program officially emerged in 1989, it was broached nearly a decade earlier in 1978 when Brother Willie Rhody, FSC, presented the idea of starting a volunteer program to the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers. After many years of testing and fine-tuning, the first orientation was held at La Salle Manor in Plano, Illinois. What began as a dream had become reality.



*Ted Kanelopoulos, LV 93-94, now serves as principal of La Salle High School in Yakima, Washington.
Courtesy Ted Kanelopoulos*

Lasallian Volunteers celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Huether Lasallian Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with an Alumni Panel and Conversation on November 23, 2019.



For many LVs, the program has helped their dream become a reality too. Take Tanya Heifort, LV 99-01, who currently works as a literacy coach at Columbia Academy in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. Heifort said being an LV made her realize her passion and find her calling.

“I majored in human services, and I never thought about working in education. I thought I would work in nonprofits, but I absolutely fell in love with teaching. I connected with so many people and families during my years of service, and it really shaped who I am,” she said.

Working in the St. Gabriel’s System in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Heifort was exposed to inequalities of the school system that she had never encountered firsthand. She said it gave her a deeper, more nuanced understanding of education and formed her viewpoints on what education should be.

“I work to make kids successful, and I am intentional about where I work. LVs taught me that it’s not just a career, it’s a calling, a livelihood. It’s not just a job, it’s who I am.”

For Heifort, that means working with underserved students at a public school to give them the resources to succeed. She believes that by helping create conditions that give all students a fair chance, she can set a child on a path to lead a fulfilling life.

In Lasallian Reflection 5, we are reminded that “great things are possible” through serving others: “Dreaming and believing become, without doubt, two fundamental elements to be able to create ‘great things.’ ... We, the

Lasallians of today, inspired by the story of Joseph, must ask ourselves what the great ‘possible things’ are, so that we can respond to the challenges posed by the world today.”

With so many unique challenges facing the world, the global Lasallian network of educators has provided much-needed support to thousands of students. Many LVs find their calling in the classroom, but many others find their calling elsewhere. Such is the case of Sandra Sanchez, LV 06-08, a guidance counselor at La Salle Academy in New York City.

“When we think of an educator, we usually think of the classroom, but there are so many different ways to help people grow,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez started out wanting to be a classroom teacher, and after a year of service in the South Side of Chicago, she felt the same sense of community and belonging that has become core to the LV experience. After a second year of service took her to La Salle Academy to explore mentoring and tutoring, she began to consider counseling because she enjoyed being one-on-one with students and helping them work through their challenges.

When her year of service was up, she enrolled in Manhattan College’s counseling program, then took jobs at a transfer school and a community college. Even though she was no longer at La Salle Academy, she maintained

Tanya Heifort, LV 99-01, credits her LV experience with helping her find her calling. Courtesy Tanya Heifort

close relationships with the Brothers in her community.

“I enjoyed my job, but I missed being with the kids at the school. In such a big city, it was nice to know I had people I could turn to. When I found out there was an opening, I knew I had to take it,” she said. “It felt like an absolute homecoming once I returned.”

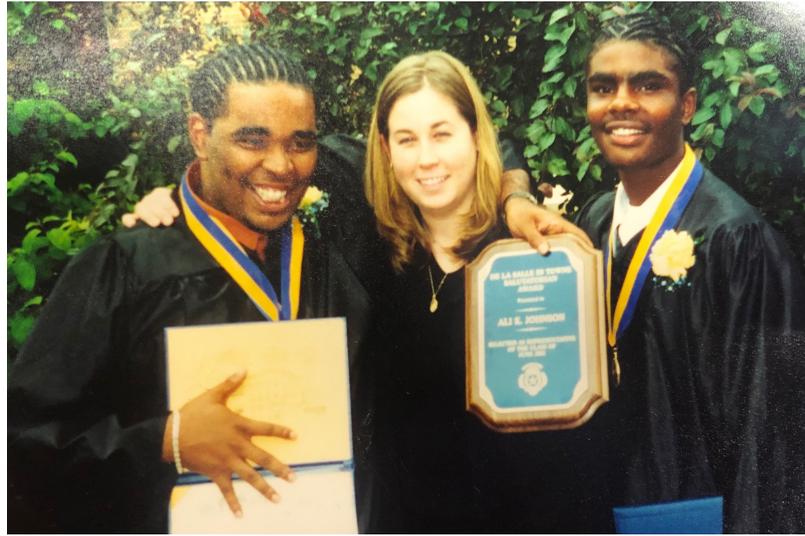
Sanchez, current president of the New York City Catholic Secondary School Counselors Association, now helps families prepare for college. Empowering students with opportunities to achieve their dreams gives her hope and makes her reflect on her own future as a Lasallian.

“I often find myself asking, ‘How are we still Lasallians? How do we remain true to our mission without sacrificing our values?’ The world is changing so rapidly, and the Lasallian world is changing with it. As numbers of Brothers decrease, more people in Lasallian ministries are stepping up to carry on their legacy. More people are getting involved,” Sanchez said.

Brother Ed Phelan, FSC, director for Senior Brothers for the District of Eastern North America and an early advocate of the program, couldn’t agree more.

“It is regenerating, it is resurrecting, it is migrating into something new, something different,” said Brother Ed. “Something that involves a lot of men and women that are not part of a religious order, but who are part of this Lasallian family.”

As Lasallian Volunteers reflects on 30 years of the program, it also looks to the future.



Currently, 85 former LVs serve in the Lasallian educational mission, and many serve in leadership positions at schools as teachers and principals. Others serve in roles at the Regional and District levels.

“Based on this, I have reason for my hope—that they will continue to contribute to the Lasallian community and mission,” Brother Timothy wrote. “Remaining strong as a program will come down to three Fs: fidelity, foresight and flexibility. Fidelity to the call they have received to accompany young adults in their growth as people of love and service; foresight to meet the needs within the church and society; flexibility to adapt to the changes that cannot be easily foreseen.”

As Lasallian Volunteers continues to grow and adapt, Lasallian Reflection 5 succinctly conveys the power of service: “We find great, positive things in committed people and in social movements that fight for rights and equality, and that are consistently committed to the care of creation.”

When the Brothers created Lasallian Volunteers 30 years ago, they dreamed of building an impactful movement rooted in Lasallian tradition. As it enters this new chapter, one can only imagine what “great things” lie ahead. •

Ryan Wall, a 2018 graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a freelance writer for De La Salle Today.

(Right) Brother André Dubuc, FSC, works with students at Saint-Michel Lasallian Center.
Courtesy District of Francophone Canada

(Droite) Frère André Dubuc, travaille avec des élèves au Centre lasallien Saint-Michel.
Gracieuseté du District du Canada francophone

SIMPLICITY, SERVICE, HUMILITY: SENIOR BROTHERS IN THE MISSION

INTRODUCTION BY BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC

COMPILATION BY BOB CARREJO

“All those who have done great things have started on their own, taking steps, small steps. If each of us contributes something to make others happy, however small, the world will improve. Give without expecting anything in return, spread optimism and joy, listen actively, maintain a cooperative attitude, do not judge, put yourself in others’ shoes... Everything starts with something simple that we are capable of doing, because he who is faithful in small things is also faithful in great ones. Simplicity, the attitude of service, and humility are indispensable.” (Lasallian Reflection 5)

“Everything starts with something simple that we are capable of doing, so do what you can do,” could be a mantra for a Brother as he enters his senior years. Limitations of health, sometimes having to literally take small steps, cannot eclipse a spirit and desire to be of service to others, a spirit and desire seasoned and tempered with many years of Lasallian ministry, community and prayer.

A Brother’s consecration is for life. The elder Brothers in former times were called *Les Anciens*, “The Ancients,” a title used with

respect for the wisdom and depth of heritage they called into all they did, the “Yodas” of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Vitality knows no age. Today, Brothers remain as active in ministry as they are able, understanding that the abiding presence of an elder with students and faculty can bring a peace, a security. We are thankful for these Brothers, who witness to the heritage of Saint La Salle through their prayer, their caring smile, their subtle humor and the many other ways they continue to touch hearts.



WHEN THE HEART LEADS TO THE POOR

BROTHER ANDRÉ DUBUC, FSC
DISTRICT OF FRANCOPHONE CANADA

Brother André Dubuc, FSC, 85, lives in the Saint-Michel district, in Montréal, Québec, in the District of Francophone Canada. Four times a week he teaches young adults who are working toward their high school diplomas. The Félix-Antoine school where he works is an institution that relies on volunteers and has no grants. This last-chance school offers young people support in several aspects of their lives including integrating them into the life of their

own school community. And it works. All this good work is done in the shadows because, from the street, there is no indication that such a school exists. No posters, no publicity, no social media, just a screen door, well-known to students as the entry, between two garbage cans. It's the transition to a better life.

Then, in late afternoon, Brother André heads to Saint-Michel Lasallian Center to help primary school children with homework. At one table, he sits with six or seven students with a thousand questions. Brother André teaches them in all their subjects and shows them how to learn. The working atmosphere is calm and concentrated. Students trust him.

SIMPLICITY, SERVICE, HUMILITY: SENIOR BROTHERS IN THE MISSION CONTINUED

“A long time ago, my heart was touched by the poor, I just listen to it,” said Brother André about the beginning of his vocation.

Brother André is not the kind of hero always seeking to do more, he is a faithful religious who has always listened to his heart that leads him again and again, to the poor.

QUAND LE COEUR CONDUIT AUX PAUVRES

FRÈRE ANDRÉ DUBUC, FÉC
DISTRICT DU CANADA FRANCOPHONE

Frère André Dubuc, FÉC, est âgé de 85 ans. Il vit dans le quartier Saint-Michel à Montréal. 4 fois par semaine il se rend enseigner des matières scolaires obligatoires pour la diplomation du cours secondaire à des jeunes adultes décrocheurs. L'école Félix-Antoine où il travaille, est une institution qui « emploie » des bénévoles et ne dispose d'aucune subvention. Cette école de la dernière chance offre à ces écorchés de la vie, un soutien sur plusieurs aspects de leurs vies notamment en les impliquant dans la vie de leur école-communauté. Et ça fonctionne. Tout cela se fait dans l'ombre, car, de la rue, rien ne semble indiquer que pareille école existe. Aucune affiche, aucune publicité. Pour y entrer, une porte grillagée, entre deux poubelles, est

bien connue des « élèves ». C'est le passage vers une vie meilleure.

Puis, en fin d'après-midi, Frère André se rend au Centre lasallien Saint-Michel pour l'aide aux devoirs de jeunes du niveau primaire. À une table, ils sont 6 ou 7 élèves aux mille questions. Frère André leur enseigne les connaissances et les façons d'apprendre. L'atmosphère de travail est calme et concentrée. Les élèves ont confiance.

« Il y a longtemps, mon cœur a été touché par les pauvres, je ne fais que l'écouter. »

Frère André n'est pas un héros qui ambitionne d'en faire toujours d'avantage, c'est un religieux fidèle qui écoute depuis toujours son cœur qui le conduit encore et toujours, vers les pauvres.



Brother André Dubuc, FSC, volunteers teaching young adults and helping younger students with homework. Courtesy District of Francophone Canada

Frère André Dubuc, FÉC, donne de son temps pour enseigner aux jeunes adultes et pour l'aide aux devoirs des plus jeunes. Gracieuseté du District du Canada francophone

STAYING IN TOUCH

BROTHER LOUIS RODEMANN, FSC

MIDWEST DISTRICT

Midwest District Brother Louis Rodemann, FSC, 80, lives in Kansas City, Missouri. He has served in that city for all but four of his 60 years of active ministry, first at the former De La Salle High School, then in the former Catholic Worker ministry at Holy Family House. Recounting those times, Brother Louis shared, “One way of situating these years is to say I spent the second half of my life living out or modeling what I tried to teach in the first half.”

These days, Brother Louis works at being present to people with whom he had contact in both of his former ministries. Interestingly, in both contexts, the presence is connected to a meal. For his former De La Salle students, it is attending the annual alumni banquet and joining graduates of a particular class for lunch.

“From these gatherings,” Brother Louis explains, “I learn about those who have health issues or have died. The follow ups are visiting hospitals or nursing homes or attending funerals.”

As for the people he came to know at the former Catholic Worker, by continuing to live in the neighborhood, Brother Louis often still sees many of them, most frequently where free meals are offered. He makes a point of stopping by eight kitchen locations, sitting and visiting with former Catholic Worker guests. Again, he can learn about those who have health issues or have died, as well as those who have been incarcerated, with whom he keeps in touch by visiting or writing letters.



Brother Louis Rodemann, FSC, keeps in touch with students and clients he served in his ministries. Courtesy Midwest District

“My choice to spend time this way is to be available and facilitate contact with former students and guests, just offering a continuity of friendship, hospitality and solidarity,” he shared. “I feel it offers mutually beneficial opportunities to remember and stay in touch with past meaningful relationships.”

Until recently, there were two Christian Brothers’ communities active in Kansas City. “I am now the only Brother remaining,” Brother Louis reflected. “The face and presence of the Christian Brothers in Kansas City.”

One still-vibrant and vital man carrying on the work of his Brothers, just as he has for well over half a century.

A DESIRE TO SERVE

BROTHER STANISLAUS CAMPBELL, FSC

DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

To see District of San Francisco New Orleans Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC, in action, it is easy to forget that he is 85 years old.

After over 50 years spent working in schools, Brothers' formation, and District leadership, Brother Stan shows no signs of calling it a career. These days, he is director of the Provincialate Community at Mont La Salle in Napa, California, as well as Mont La Salle's liturgist and sacristan, serves on the board of trustees for La Salle Catholic College Preparatory in Portland, Oregon, chairs the Christian Brothers Charitable Trust's board of trustees, and is an active member of the North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL).



“There’s an awful lot that keeps me busy,” Brother Stan said. “It fulfills my desire to be of service to the Brothers, to do things for the benefit of others.”

One of Brother Stan’s favorite interests is Catholic liturgy. It began in his novitiate days, eventually leading to both a master’s and doctorate in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame. He often is invited to give talks on liturgy to novitiate groups and has recently authored a paper on the Liturgy of the Hours that was published in April in *Worship*, a journal for the study of liturgy and liturgical renewal.

While he is clearly enjoying life, Brother Stan also acknowledges the challenges that come with his advancing age.

“It is getting more challenging as the years go on,” he mused. “Almost all of my contemporaries have died. I’m kind of amazed that I’m still able to do what I’m doing.”

Asked what he thought was a key to Brothers finding energy and fulfillment in their retirement years, Brother Stan offered, “It is good to get involved in things earlier on that we can continue to do when we’re no longer in the classroom. I don’t know if I was thinking that way when I was younger, but it has certainly worked out well for me.”

Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC, continues his litany of activities to fulfill his desire to serve. Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans

EVERYTHING IN GOD'S HANDS

BROTHER MARTIN ZEWE, FSC

DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

Brother Martin Zewe, FSC, 79, is director of La Salle Hall, a senior Brothers community in Beltsville, Maryland, in the District of Eastern North America (DENA). He also continues to be involved in secondary education ministries, most often with the nearby St. John's College High School in the formation of educators and students. Whether as a leader at their Winter Recharge Retreat, presenter for the faculty's Theology on Tap series, or host for DENA's vocation summit for young people, Brother Martin lends his wisdom while creating opportunities for association.

Brother Martin led a faculty retreat for La Salle Academy in New York City focused on De La Salle's Meditations for the Time of Retreat, emphasizing the understanding that "the students we have in class have been entrusted to our care. Not assigned to us, but entrusted." Brother Martin encouraged the retreatants to pray for the needs of individual students and reminded them to look for the little miracles that occur each day. "Saying hello to a student in the hallway, or commenting on a student's recent concert or game can really make a difference in their day."

"My knowledge of Brother Martin began 15 years ago when I was assigned to St. John's," said Brother Mark Brown, FSC. "It was a pleasure to live with Brother Martin



Brother Martin Zewe, FSC, first row, second from left, serves as a community director and continues to stay active in secondary education. Courtesy District of Eastern North America

in community and to teach with him. When Brother Martin retired, he anticipated returning to his alma mater, Central Catholic in Pittsburgh, to serve as a tutor and advisor in the writing center. District demands saw him instead taking on the role of director of Ammendale [La Salle Hall]. It is evident that Brother Martin has done an outstanding job in this role. The retired Brothers are happy and well taken care of. There are outings to museums and sporting events, and outside groups, such as the St. John's choir, are invited into the community."

"I have come to realize what St. La Salle meant," reflected Brother Martin, "when he said 'Do not have anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you.' He certainly has over these past years." ●

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2020

- 5 – 6 Lasallian Publications Committee (LPC) Meeting *(Virtual)*
- 19 – 21 Huether Lasallian Conference *(Virtual)*
- 21 LVs Run *(Virtual)*

DECEMBER 2020

- 1 Novitiate Postulancy Committee (NPC) Meeting *(Virtual)*
- 4 – 6 Regional Council of Young Lasallians (RCYL) Meeting *(Virtual)*

JANUARY 2021

- 15 – 18 Lasallian Volunteers (LV) Midyear Retreat *(Virtual)*

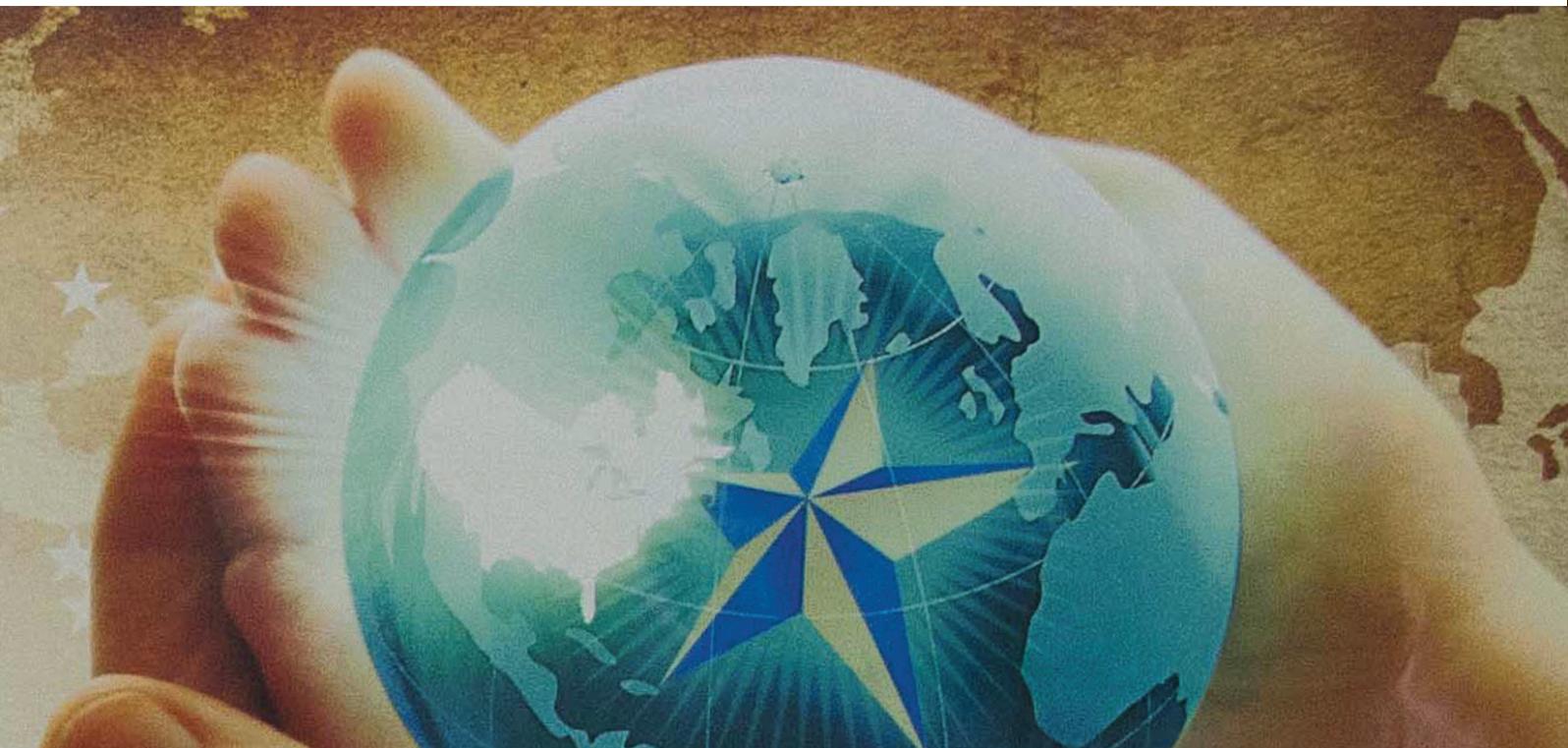
FEBRUARY 2021

- 12 – 15 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering *(Virtual)*

MARCH 2021

- 4 – 6 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Duncans Mills, CA
- 11 – 13 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America and Midwest District), Marriottsville, MD
- 12 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting *(Virtual)*
- 16 – 18 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting *(Virtual)*

**Dates and locations are subject to change due to COVID-19 concerns.*



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