



# BUTTIMER INSTITUTE

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OF LASALLIAN STUDIES



**Manhattan College**  
**Riverdale, NY**  
**June 26 – July 9, 2022**



*The Buttimer Institute is named for  
Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC,  
(1909-1982), the first American Superior General  
of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.  
Born in Brighton, Massachusetts, he served as  
Superior General from 1966 to 1976.*

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## **NATURE AND PURPOSE**

The Buttimer Institute is an intensive Lasallian formation and education program that studies the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian mission. Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle and an analysis of some modern educators, participants develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education.

A valued dimension of the Buttimer Institute is the gathering of highly motivated adult learners who form a supportive and international community of faith. Since the founding in 1984, over 900 participants from the Lasallian Region of North America and the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools have engaged in this program of personal growth, spiritual renewal, and intellectual challenge.

The Buttimer Institute is designed to inspire participants to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story and discover the basis of their vocation as educators. The program also seeks to deepen the participants' association for the Lasallian mission and provide skills to become catalysts in their own ministries.

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## **COURSE OF STUDIES**

The Buttimer Institute is a three-year program. Courses are conducted for three consecutive summers, in two-week durations.

### **YEAR ONE: THE FOUNDING STORY**

Participants are introduced to a detailed study of the life and person of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the historical and ecclesial context of the time in which he lived. The story of the origins of the Institute is presented through readings and discussions of original biographical and autobiographical texts, and *The Letters*. The course also takes up the theme of the vocational journey of the educator through an examination of the writings of contemporary scholars.

### **YEAR TWO: DE LA SALLE'S EDUCATIONAL VISION**

Participants can expect to examine the educational vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle through a reading of *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* and other primary texts. Participants study the pedagogical and catechetical writings of De La Salle and analyze these writings in terms of the contemporary Lasallian educational mission.

### **YEAR THREE: DE LA SALLE'S SPIRITUAL VISION**

In the final year participants are immersed in the spiritual writings of De La Salle, particularly through an examination of the *Meditations* and *An Introduction to the Method of Interior Prayer*. This session integrates Lasallian spirituality with the themes of the previous two years and invites participants to allow Lasallian spirituality to influence and enhance their own personal spirituality.

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## THE PRACTICUM

Participants are required to enroll in a co-curricular activity that seeks to address the particular needs of Lasallian associates, scholars, formators and accompaniers, presenters and young Lasallians. The practicum provides participants with skills and ideas for furtherance of the Lasallian mission in their own ministries. The practicum meets four times throughout the two weeks of each summer. Participants will remain in the practicum they have selected for each of the three years of Buttimer. Each participant will be asked to select one practicum from among the following:

### A. LASALLIAN MISSION COORDINATORS/ANIMATORS

This practicum is designed for those who currently assist in furthering the Lasallian charism in their ministry or locale (i.e. Lasallian animators, directors of mission, campus ministers, professional development coordinators, etc.). During the three years of the practicum, participants will analyze needs of their communities, share best practices, and encounter and integrate Lasallian resources that can be used to develop a plan/program that will animate the charism in their local community.

### B. LASALLIAN PRESENTATION RESOURCES

As the demand for local Lasallian formation opportunities increases, so too does the demand for effective presenters. This practicum is designed to not only help participants become strong presenters, but to build a practical toolkit of presentation skills and flexible, creative templates that can be adapted to particular needs. Using a variety of mediums, participants will work to create presentations and workshops that not only inform the audience (i.e. students, faculty, staff, board members and the general public), but also touch hearts, engage minds and offer opportunities for reflection and connection. Participants in this practicum will work with the instructor to create three completed presentations that can be used alone or in a sequence to form a workshop or retreat.

### C. LASALLIAN RESEARCH

This practicum is designed for participants to conduct original research into some aspect of Lasallian history, pedagogy or spirituality according to their personal interests or professional goals. They do so with guidance and as part of a supportive group. The results may be focused on a local ministry and most frequently either start or continue a lifelong area of interest. During the first year, a specific topic is discerned and described. During the second year, the topic is developed and given substance. During the third year, the topic is finalized and made ready for presentation. All participants finish with a 15-20-minute public presentation of their work, conclusions and/or ongoing development plans of their topic area.





#### **D. YOUNG LASALLIANS**

The Institute defines Young Lasallians as individuals aged 16 to 35 who connect with the Brothers of the Christian Schools, their ministries, and the mission. This practicum is designed for personnel who have regular, direct and meaningful interactions with Young Lasallians or are Young Lasallians themselves. Throughout this practicum, participants will (a) understand and appreciate whom the Institute considers Young Lasallians, the unique roles Young Lasallians have within both the Institute and the Church, and the conditions needed to enhance and enliven those roles; (b) evaluate their own roles with/as Young Lasallians; (c) analyze current programs and structures from local levels through District, Regional and international levels and develop a needs assessment of Young Lasallians within their ministries; (d) begin and/or (re) evaluate systematic, sustainable programming for Young Lasallians within their ministries and/or within their local area; and (e) encourage and support the voice and networking of Young Lasallians at the local, District, Regional and international levels.

#### **E. LASALLIAN ASSOCIATION**

This practicum addresses a central theme of the Institute today and its crucial role for the vitality and sustainability of the Lasallian mission. The overall goal is to provide the participant with a deeper understanding of association in the Lasallian world today in order to move beyond information and conversation to action in support of the mission. While the practicum is applicable to all Lasallians, it would especially benefit those in leadership, participants in associative groups, members of local and District mission councils/committees and key influencers at the local level. Major association topics over the three years include a brief history since 1967, contemporary experiences, realities and challenges for the 21st century, local best practices, opportunity for self-reflection and contemporary readings.

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## MORE PROGRAM SPECIFICS

The following sections provide additional information regarding the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies.

### PARTICIPANTS

The Buttimer Institute welcomes participants from Lasallian ministries in the Lasallian Region of North America and the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Participants come from elementary, middle and secondary schools, colleges and universities, youth and family services, and other ministries. A diverse group of Lasallian Partners, Brothers, other religious and clergy form the Buttimer community.

In addition, graduates of other Regional and District formation programs are most welcome and will benefit greatly from the Buttimer experience.

### SCHEDULE

Classes are held in the mornings and evenings, with afternoons given to study, recreation and the four meetings of the Practicum. Participants pray together each morning and evening. As community is a very important component of the Buttimer Institute experience, participants are asked to share, pray and socialize with one another.

### CAMPUS

The Buttimer Institute began in 1986 with the first cohort meeting at Manhattan College in New York. Manhattan is one of six Lasallian institutions of higher education in the Lasallian Region of North America. Founded in 1853, Manhattan College offers access to the cultural, educational, business and entertainment opportunities of New York City, as well as a self-contained residential campus environment. You can read more about Manhattan College at [www.manhattan.edu](http://www.manhattan.edu).



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## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

Christian Brothers Conference (CBC), based in Washington, D.C., is the central office of the Lasallian Region of North America/Region Lasallienne de l’Amerique du Nord (RELAN).

In collaboration with the Districts, schools and ministries, CBC convenes and engages Lasallians in mission through formation programs, educational programs, advocacy, and a variety of services and resources designed to promote the Lasallian mission, including:

- Through the Office for Lasallian Education
  - Providing high-level mission formation programs designed to strengthen Lasallian identity and mission in the hearts and minds of the attendees through such programs as the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice and the Lasallian Social Justice Institute
  - Convening the larger Lasallian community for educational programs, including the Huether Lasallian Conference
  - Partnering with the Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) and its annual conference
- Advocating for the sustainability of education of the poor
- Representing the Regional Lasallian education network to the broader educational world
- Creating print and online resources, including [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info), *De La Salle Today* magazine, and presence on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter
- Recruiting, training and accompanying Lasallian Volunteers in ministries through one or two years of service in schools and agencies
- Supporting Brothers recruitment and formation, through the Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) and coordinating Regional Brothers gatherings
- Responding to the calls of the Regional governing bodies of CBC: the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) and the Lasallian Education Council (LEC)
- Collaborating with and accompanying Young Lasallians and the Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU)
- Fostering communication among the Districts
- Maintaining communication and collaboration between RELAN and the other four Regions of the Institute

For more information, visit [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info).

