

Exploring Lasallian documents.

Uncovering Lasallian research.

Sparking engagement to build a deeper understanding of mission and community.



Lasallian Essentials, a recurring feature in *De La Salle Today*, focuses on bringing Lasallian documents to life. This issue highlights Bulletin 260, which features insights into the history, current realities and future of the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). Published in January 2022, Bulletin 260 tells the story of RELAN as the Region lives into the realities of a world altered by the pandemic.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools has periodically issued a Bulletin on a theme of current interest and relevance throughout the Institute and Lasallian mission since 1907.

Bulletin 260: Telling the Story of the Lasallian Region of North America

By Elizabeth Moors Jodice



Bulletin 260, a publication of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, provides a look inside the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). As with the other four Regions of the Institute, RELAN was commissioned to produce a Bulletin following the Superior General's scheduled pastoral visit to the Region in 2019-2020. COVID-19 changed those plans, cutting the visit short and changing the approach of the Bulletin. While the publication was not intended to solely focus on the pastoral visit, the cancellation of the visit and impacts of the pandemic moved the Bulletin in a different direction. It would now highlight the rich history of the Region and offer a snapshot of life at the complicated moment in time during which it was written.

Bulletin 260 Highlights

The 100-page document provides a thorough description of realities in RELAN by focusing on the strengths, innovations and challenges of the Region as a whole and those of its four Districts. It provides insight into the Region's history, from its beginnings in 1819 with Ste. Geneviève Academy in Missouri, the first school operated by the Brothers in the United States, tracing the mission's growth into what is now RELAN.

The Bulletin highlights the Region's vitality, sustainability and resilience by exploring themes that bring the mission to life, including association for mission, shared leadership, evangelization, beyond the borders, culture of vocation, formation, Brothers and Young Lasallians. It provides numerous examples of RELAN's charismatic energy, showing how the Lasallian mission thrives in RELAN to meet the needs and face the challenges of today. Readers will see examples of what it's like to be a Brother in the Region, how shared leadership is lived out in various contexts, what formation opportunities are available for students and educators, creative initiatives that serve those most in need and more.

The publication invites readers to see themselves and their work as contributing to the future vitality of the mission and how they share with so many others throughout the Region in this work on behalf of youth and young adults.

It includes an introduction to the Region (pages 2-5), a timeline (pages 6-11) and highlights from the Region and Districts following the noted themes: RELAN (pages 12-29), Francophone Canada (pages 30-45), DENA (pages 46-61), SFNO (pages 62-77) and Midwest (pages 78-93). It is available in English, French and Spanish at www.lasalle.org.

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications for Christian Brothers Conference and served as executive editor for Bulletin 260. Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, RELAN General Councilor and Bulletin 260 editor, and Bob Carrejo, director of communications for the District of San Francisco New Orleans, contributed to this installment of Lasallian Essentials.

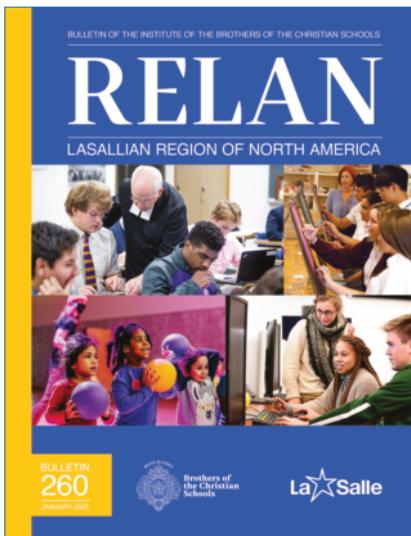
Five Key Takeaways

1. From the start of the mission in RELAN 200 years ago, a key to vitality and sustainability has been a willingness to change with the times. Innovative approaches have been important throughout the history of the mission and of added importance during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to creatively meet new and emerging needs.
2. Shared leadership and association help inspire new approaches to mission and community, responding to changing needs. Shared leadership invites Partners and Brothers into co-responsibility for the mission. This is lived out in various contexts in both the Districts and the Region with, for example, leadership groups comprised of Brothers and Partners.
3. A culture of vocation encourages everyone to respond to God's call, whether as students, Partners or Brothers. Ministries and communities are responsible for creating that culture of vocation, which is strengthened by the power of invitation.
4. Formation of Brothers and Partners is essential to sustaining the mission and developing new leaders. The Region and Districts each have their own complementary approaches to formation to meet the needs of today and respond to emerging formation needs.
5. Young Lasallians and Lasallian Youth bring a rejuvenating energy to the mission. The Region and Districts commit resources, energy and care to supporting young people in their development as Lasallian educators.

“The vocational narratives we share are of the innumerable Brothers and Partners living the story with extraordinary faith and zeal.” (Page 29)

For Reflection and Discussion

1. In reviewing the timeline and information about the history of the Region, what did you learn about how the mission has changed over the past 200 years?
2. In looking to the future of the Lasallian mission in RELAN, what gives you hope? What concerns you?
3. How can you contribute to sustaining the mission in RELAN? What ideas do you have for adapting to changing needs?
4. As you reflect on your own journey, did a certain theme in the Bulletin speak to your experience? How do you relate to what you read about that theme?
5. How can you invite young people to embrace the mission and become part of RELAN's story? Or, as a young Lasallian, how can you deepen your commitment to the mission and help sustain the mission in RELAN?



Visit www.Lasallian.info/LasallianEssentials to read Bulletin 260 and download a printable version of this section. On that page you will also find the Lasallian Essentials from previous issues on Circular 475, *From Hope to Commitment: Understanding Lasallian Vocations* and the *Declaration on the Lasallian Educational Mission*.

Ideas for Using Bulletin 260

1. Explore the history. Use the timeline (pages 6-11) to guide you from the Region's first ministry in 1819 through the next 200 years.
2. Find yourself. Take a broad look at the Regional landscape and see where you can find yourself in topics including formation, vocation, Young Lasallians and others.
3. Focus on your District. Immerse yourself in your District's section to learn your District's history, present realities and hopes for the future.
4. Engage ministry leadership. Use the Bulletin—or parts of it—as formation for your leadership teams and board members to help them develop a greater understanding of the Lasallian mission in RELAN with its diversity of ministries and initiatives.
5. Engage students. Use the examples of Young Lasallians and Lasallian Youth to show students initiatives from around the Region and give them an understanding of the similarities and differences of their lived experiences as young people in the mission. (Pages 9, 25-27, 43, 59, 74-75, 92)
6. Discuss in community. What signs of hope and promise do you see? What emerging needs deserve attention and resources? What contribution can you make to ensure the vitality of community and mission in the Region?
7. Read by theme. Consider the prominent themes in the Bulletin of association for mission, shared leadership, evangelization, beyond the borders, culture of vocation, formation, Brothers and Young Lasallians. Choose a theme that speaks to your experience and read about it in the sections to see where ideas overlap, what is unique and what you can use in your own ministry. Consider sharing a theme and its takeaways with colleagues.
8. Expand your view. The other four Regions each produced a Bulletin, as well. Visit www.lasalle.org/en/publications/bulletin to explore their stories and see how our realities in RELAN are similar and different.