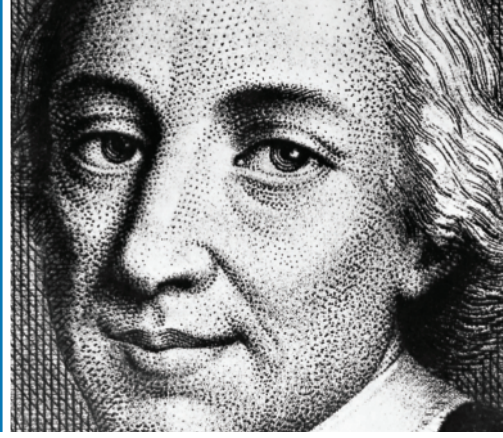


# *De La Salle* TODAY

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

SPRING 2022



To Dream is Our  
Way Forward



# letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

To dream is our way forward. This issue of *De La Salle Today* is inspired by these words of the Lasallian theme for the 2021-2022 liturgical year and its accompanying reflection. Referencing Pope Francis' address to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America on February 28, 2014, Lasallian Reflection 7 reminds us, "Utopia looks to the future, memory looks to the past, and the present is discerned" (page 21).

We begin with a look at the 46th General Chapter, which takes place May 1-22 at the Generalate in Rome. Themed "Building new paths to transform lives"—and after being postponed for one year because of the pandemic—you will see what to expect at this gathering. We also give an overview of Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education, which looks to reclaim the sacredness of human education. You will learn how the Lasallian mission is contributing and how you can get involved.

Considering a Lasallian ministry as a place of learning, encounter and growth, as noted in Lasallian Reflection 7, we share stories of vocation that highlight the power of invitation and accompaniment. We also introduce you to a grassroots effort, the Lasallian Roundtable on Racial Justice, that began as a conversation and now looks to the future.

Flip to the center of this issue for our Lasallian Essentials on Bulletin 260. The publication shares the story of the Lasallian Region of North America, and Lasallian Essentials gives you an overview and ideas on how to use it.

Finally, as pictured on our cover, we honor Lasallian Volunteers. The program will end on June 30, 2022, after more than 30 years of service. You will hear directly from people who have been impacted by the program and how its legacy will live on.

As you read the stories in this issue, we invite you to consider your role in the future of the mission. How can you help to dream our way forward?



Elizabeth Moors Jodice, Editor

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(Cover) Lasallian Volunteers will come to a close at the end of the 2021-2022 service year. Pictured: The final cohort with LV staff members Kathleen Swain and Michael Phipps (front row) at the Midyear Retreat in March 2022.

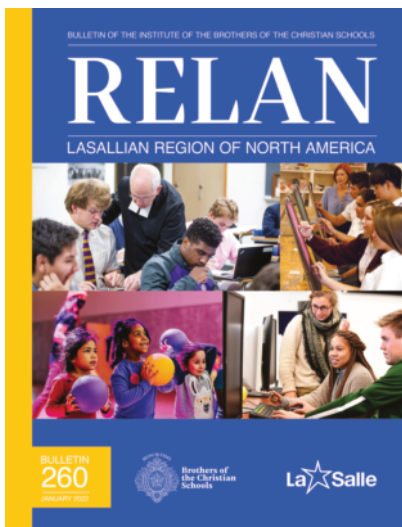


The theme for the final gatherings of Johnston cohort III was "Evangelization and Capstone." *Courtesy Brother Chuck Gregor, FSC*

## Regional Programs Gather Lasallians in Person



After two summers of virtual or postponed sessions, Regional formation programs hosted by the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference will gather Lasallians in person this summer. The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies will take place at Manhattan College June 26 – July 9. The fourth cohort of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice will start in July with gatherings by District. The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) will take place at De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana, June 26 – July 2. In the summer of 2021, Johnston and LSJI held sessions online, while Buttimer participants gathered virtually for informal programming. In-person programming returned in the fall of 2021 with the final gatherings of Johnston cohort III held by District in October and the Huether Lasallian Conference hosted in Baltimore, Maryland, in November. Learn more about formation opportunities at [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info).



## Bulletin 260 Highlights RELAN

The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) is featured in Bulletin 260, a publication of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Created by RELAN and released in January 2022, Bulletin 260 offers insight into the history, current realities and future of the Region. The publication is available in English, French and Spanish at [www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org). Turn to the center of this issue to explore the Lasallian Essentials section on Bulletin 260. It offers an overview, key takeaways, questions for reflection and discussion, and ideas on how to use the Bulletin.

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## New SFNO District Leadership



From left, Brothers Nick Gonzalez and Christopher Brady. *Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans*

The District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) will have a new Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor this summer. Appointed by Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, will serve as Visitor and Brother Christopher Brady, FSC, as Auxiliary Visitor. They will each serve four-year terms that begin on July 1, 2022.

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## Three Brothers to Enter Novitiate



From left, Brothers Matthew Chiantella, Halen Gamino and Carter Powers. *Courtesy Philip De Rita*

Three Brothers from the District of San Francisco New Orleans will start their novitiate experience on July 20, 2022. Brothers Matthew Chiantella, Halen Gamino and Carter Powers will join Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, novitiate director, and Brother Michael French, FSC, novitiate sub-director, for this yearlong initial formation program at the Regional Novitiate in Chicago, Illinois.

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## Secondary School Leaders Reunite in Person

The Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) held its annual conference February 27 – March 2, 2022, in Orlando, Florida, with the theme, “Rejoice, Redefine, Renew: Engaging Our Lasallian Communities.” After canceling the conference in 2021 due to COVID-19, principals, presidents, board members, District and Regional leaders and others gathered for keynote addresses, learning roundtables, prayer, discussion, community building and more. Following Mass on opening night, Justin-Siena High School in Napa, California, was honored with the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence for its Lasallian Education Access Program, which provides tuition assistance and academic and personal support for economically disadvantaged students. During the conference, Matthew Keough, president of Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, New York, was elected as LASSCA vice president. Jim Benson, principal of DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, moved from LASSCA president to immediate past president, and Melinda Lawlor Skrade, Ph.D., president of Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco, California, moved from LASSCA vice president to president. Brother John Kane, FSC, president of Calvert Hall College High School in Baltimore, Maryland, was honored for his years of service as a LASSCA officer, most recently as immediate past president. Visit [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info) for more on the LASSCA Conference.



Secondary school chief administrators gathered in Orlando after the 2021 conference was canceled due to COVID-19.

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## LWH Starts Project in India

Lasallian Women of Hope (LWH) has started a new project in Dindigul, India, which aims to provide menstrual health education and primary health care to children in an orphanage and to the marginalized Dalit populations around Puthu Vasantham Girls Village. Established in 2016, LWH provides grants for grassroots projects that deliver creative, effective and durable solutions to educational inequities for girls and women. LWH is a project of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools' Solidarity and Development Secretariat. Visit [www.Lasallian.info/Lasallian-Women-of-Hope](http://www.Lasallian.info/Lasallian-Women-of-Hope) to learn more.



Puthu Vasantham Girls Village hosted Health Awareness Camps in November 2021 and February 2022 for village girls and boys and their parents that covered menstrual education, the LWH Pad Project, a focus on healthy living, a general medical check-up and mental health counseling. *Courtesy Brother Uvari Antony, FSC, Puthu Vasantham Girls Village Project Coordinator*

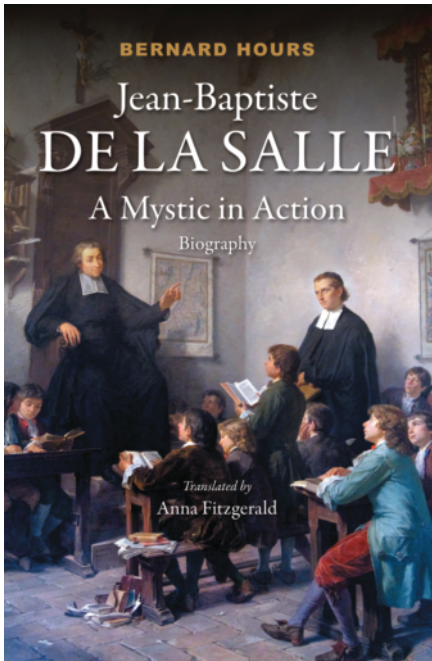
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## Honored as AFSC

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](http://www.Lasallian.info).

### District of Eastern North America

George Bruns Ph.D., AFSC, a 1966 graduate of Manhattan College, received Letters of Affiliation on September 18, 2021. In a ceremony at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York, Bruns was recognized for his continuous support of the Lasallian mission as a president of The Familiares, a group that has offered professional counsel and financial support for the Christian Brothers, for the past 10 years.



## English Translation of De La Salle Biography Available in May

The English translation of a major 2019 biography on the Founder, previously printed in French and Spanish, is scheduled for release in May 2022. *Jean-Baptiste de La Salle: A Mystic in Action* is a translation of the original French text by Bernard Hours, professor of modern history at the University of Lyon who specializes in religious orders of the 17th and 18th centuries. Translated by Anna Fitzgerald, this scholarly publication shines new light on De La Salle's personality and life journey, including his historical and political context, major decisions and challenges, innovations, writings and impact on education. This project of the Lasallian Publications Committee is led by Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, who is also the main editor. Initiated in 2019, this project has included the support and collaboration of Brothers Leonard Marsh, Timothy Coldwell and William Mann, along with Cären Yang and Elizabeth Moors Jodice. *Jean-Baptiste de La Salle: A Mystic in Action* is a Christian Brothers Conference publication and will be made available through Saint Mary's Press at [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org).



# SAVE THE DATE

**HUETHER**  
LASALLIAN CONFERENCE

Baltimore, Maryland  
November 17–19, 2022



The Huether Lasallian Conference provides opportunities for new and veteran educators to come together around various important themes, build community and grow in their Lasallian vocation.

Learn more at  
[www.Lasallian.info/Huether](http://www.Lasallian.info/Huether).



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## La Salle University Introduces New President

La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has announced Daniel J. Allen, Ph.D., as its 30th president, effective April 18, 2022. Prior to coming to La Salle, Allen served as senior vice president of university advancement and external relations at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, where he held several senior leadership roles since joining DePaul in 2015. He previously served for four years as vice president of advancement at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. *(Photo courtesy La Salle University)*



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## appointments

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**Daniel Allen, Ph.D.**, President, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA, effective April 18, 2022

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**Brother Michael Andrejko, FSC**, Principal, Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, PA, effective July 2, 2022

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**David Archer**, Interim President, Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN, effective November 2021

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**Brother Christopher Brady, FSC**, Auxiliary Visitor, District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), effective July 1, 2022

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**Brother David Caretti, FSC**, Director, Office of Vocation Ministry, District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective July 1, 2022

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**Sister Mary Hanah Doak, RSM**, President, Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa, OK, effective December 2021

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**R. Ross Fales**, President, Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, NJ, effective July 2022

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**Rebekah Galucki**, Communications Specialist, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective January 24, 2022

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**Brother Daniel Gardner, FSC**, Interim President, Manhattan College, effective July 1, 2022

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**Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC**, Visitor, District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), effective July 1, 2022

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**Grant Gorman**, Principal, San Miguel School, Chicago, IL, effective July 2022

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**John Harrington**, Principal, Saint Patrick High School, Chicago, IL, effective June 30, 2022

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**John Huelskamp**, President, La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, Milwaukie, OR, effective July 1, 2022

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**James Logan**, Director, Office for Mission and Ministry, District of Eastern North America, effective January 1, 2022

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**Brother Ernest Miller, FSC**, Director, Adrien Nyel Project, District of Eastern North America, effective September 1, 2022

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**Stephanie Nitchals**, Principal, Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park, MN, effective June 30, 2021

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**Matthew Powell**, President, Justin-Siena High School, Napa, CA, effective July 1, 2022

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**Anne Marie Tirpak**, President, De La Salle Institute, Chicago, IL, effective July 2022

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**Timothy Welsh**, Principal, La Salle Academy, Providence, RI, effective July 1, 2022

# 46th General Chapter: Building New Paths to Transform Lives

By Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC

■ De La Salle Christian Brothers from around the world will gather in Rome, Italy, at the Generalate from May 1-22 for the General Chapter, the 46th Chapter in the history of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.



The Chapter has engaged, since the days of the Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, in periodic evaluations of the life of the Institute. In recent history that has been every seven years, though the pandemic forced a one-year postponement of this one. The capitulants, 50 of whom are elected, 11 of whom are by right of office, and 10 of whom are appointed by Brother Superior, come from the Districts and Delegations. Twelve are from the Lasallian Region of North America, including Brother Superior

General Robert Schieler, FSC. Their charge? "To provide for the Institute's continuing adaptation and renewal and to set out main guidelines for future action" (*The Rule*, 112). Also, the Brother Superior General and the Brother General Councilors are elected at the Chapter and entrusted with carrying forward its vision.

## Location and Meaning

The preparatory commission for the Chapter planned for it to be held in Pattaya, Thailand. Though the Chapter will now take place in Rome to minimize the uncertainties related to COVID-19, it's helpful to recall the reasoning for the Chapter's original location: "In more and more societies, we carry out our mission among varied cultures, belief and religious traditions, economic backgrounds and emerging apostolic demands. Locating our discernment in a new physical place challenges us to question the status quo in a new, even radical way, and to read the signs of the times from a vantage point away from the familiar and at the periphery" (Circular 476). Acknowledging the context in which the Lasallian community and mission lives and works will remain an organizing principle for the capitulants.

## Theme: New Paths

The theme for the Chapter is "Building new paths to transform lives." Every Chapter is driven by a desire to respond to the signs and needs that are emerging in the life of the Institute and Lasallian mission. The "new pathways" the Chapter will consider are in the areas of association for mission; leadership, sustainability and governance; and the life of the Brothers. The capitulants will pay special attention to the Report of Brother Superior General. This document, published in February 2022, offers a review of the work of the Institute's central government these past eight years and provides an orientation, in concrete terms, for the pathways the Institute can consider in order to discern how best to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit as expressed through people's needs.

Just imagine what a challenge it is to engage in a discernment that pays attention to the signs and needs of an international body such as this. One might wonder how, in three weeks, a collective discernment could take into account the enormity of the Institute with its plurality of contexts, cultures and countries. Three international gatherings provide critical assistance in meeting this challenge.

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## Informing the Chapter

The 3rd International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL) gathered online to discern the signs and needs in the educational mission and writing proposals for actions that ensure the stability and growth of the mission. The 100 delegates of AIMEL, of whom 14 are from this Region, creatively adapted to the limitations imposed by the pandemic. Each Region wrote proposals, which were then integrated into eight strategic axes. Eight thematic working groups convened online in January and February to develop a proposal for the deliberation of the assembly in March. The assembly will present these proposals to the Chapter to incorporate into its strategic work. The nine proposals, which are being finalized at this writing, cover the following areas: animation and governance, training and accompaniment, association and community, vocational culture, service to the poor and inclusion, evangelization, citizen

formation, and identity of the educational ministry.

The 2nd International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL) have adapted in a similar imaginative and creative way, meeting online since the summer of 2021 to reflect on how to support fraternity, community and mission. In March 2022, delegates from these gatherings were invited to a joint online session to share about the process and proposals for their respective gatherings and build community as a global Young Lasallian family. They will present their proposals to the Chapter as their contribution to promoting the vitality of the Brother's life and the Lasallian movement.

One way to visualize the dynamism of this international discernment is to picture streams feeding into a river. If the Chapter is an expansive river, it is so because of the many tributaries flowing into it. In addition to these three international gatherings, there is the flow of notes

from Brothers, Partners and groups expressing their observations and recommendations. The preparatory commission has designed a process to guide the course of this river. The Chapter will use the "appreciative inquiry" approach, a method that focuses on the assets, the "best," in people and organizations. The capitulants will work to identify what brings "life" to the Institute and Lasallian mission and to focus on means that will enhance its growth.

This method will be supported by prayer, inspirational texts and speakers, and group dynamics throughout the Chapter. The organizational themes of the second week are dreaming, designing and living.

*The 45th General Chapter took place in 2014 in Rome. This photo was taken on the final work day of the General Chapter. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service*

*Le 45e Chapitre général a eu lieu en 2014 à Rome. Cette photo a été prise le dernier jour de travail du Chapitre général. Avec l'aimable autorisation de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes, Service des Communications*



The capitulants will elaborate and concretize the pathways for transformation that we hope for in our vocation and life. Before transitioning into the final week on May 15, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Saint John Baptist de La Salle who was declared Patron of Christian Teachers on May 15, 1950.

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## Outcomes of the Chapter

In the final week the Chapter will reflect on and vote on the proposed pathways. Following a day of retreat the capitulants will proceed to the election of the Brother Superior General and General Councilors. The following day the capitulants will gather with Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican to share their vision and joy for the future of the Institute. Though the audience and elections constitute a peak moment

in the Chapter, the period following the Chapter represents an ongoing call to maintain its impetus and inspiration.

The documents and proceedings of the Chapter are published soon after the Chapter, and the Brother Superior and Council also publish a strategic plan for the coming seven years. Both documents inform the mission assemblies and chapters that are held at Delegation and District levels. In this way, the paths for transformation are blazed at the local level. And, for the first time in Institute history, the three international gatherings outlined earlier will meet, in person, for a second phase later this year. This will allow AIMEL III, IYBA II and ISYL IV to carry forward the impetus of the Chapter into “lines of action” for the educational mission and its communities.

While it is true that the story of a General Chapter is to set the course for the future, its story is larger than strictly legislation or the words in proposals. It is a decisive time where people sharing a faith and a fervor for God’s favored ones come together to celebrate in word, sacrament and celebration. If a Chapter or an assembly were only about articulating strategies, delegates could meet online and stay indoors. But the desire to gather together to give thanks to God for the transforming work being done in us as a global association of educational communities is too compelling at this point in Institute history. ■

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*Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, serves as General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America. He was elected at the General Chapter in 2014.*

## From RELAN / De la RELAN

### Capitulants

Brother Michael Andrejko, FSC  
Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC  
Brother Chris Englert, FSC  
Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC  
Brother Richard Galvin, FSC  
Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC  
Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC  
Brother Donald Johanson, FSC  
Brother Ernest Miller, FSC  
Brother Dylan Perry, FSC  
Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC  
Brother Robert Schieler, FSC

### Invited Consultants and Experts / Consultants et experts invités

Alisa Macksey, CIAMEL President  
/ Présidente du CIAMEL  
Heather Ruple Gilson, Co-Secretary of Association (RELAN/RELEM) / Co-Secrétaire de l'Association  
Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, Secretary of Lasallian Research and Resources / Secrétaire-Coordinateur au service de la recherche et des ressources lasalliennes

### Translators / Traducteurs

Brother Michael French, FSC  
Brother John Blease, FSC  
**Recording Secretary /  
Secrétariat à l'enregistrement**  
Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC

# 46<sup>e</sup> Chapitre général : Construire de nouveaux chemins pour transformer des vies

Par Frère Timothy Coldwell, FÉC

■ Les Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes du monde entier se réuniront à Rome, en Italie, à la Maison généralice du 1<sup>er</sup> au 22 mai 2022 pour le Chapitre général, 46<sup>e</sup> Chapitre de l'histoire de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes. Le Chapitre s'est engagé, depuis l'époque du Fondateur, saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, dans des évaluations périodiques de la vie de l'Institut. Dans l'histoire récente, un Chapitre général fut tenu tous les sept ans, bien que la pandémie ait forcé en 2021 un report d'un an. Les capitulants, dont 50 sont élus, dont 11 de droit de par leur fonction, et 10 nommés par Frère Supérieur, proviennent des districts et des délégations du monde entier. Douze sont originaires de la région lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord, dont le Frère Supérieur général Robert Schieler, FÉC. Leur mandat ? « Assurer l'adaptation et le renouvellement

continuel de l'Institut et définir les principales lignes directrices pour les actions futures » (*La Règle*, 112). En outre, le Frère Supérieur général et les Frères conseillers généraux sont élus à ce même Chapitre et chargés de faire avancer sa vision.

## Emplacement et signification

La commission préparatoire du Chapitre avait, à l'origine, prévu qu'il se tienne à Pattaya (Thaïlande). Bien que le Chapitre ait maintenant

lieu à Rome pour minimiser les incertitudes liées à la COVID-19, il est utile de rappeler le raisonnement de l'emplacement d'origine du Chapitre : « Dans de plus en plus de sociétés, nous accomplissons notre mission parmi des cultures, des croyances et des traditions religieuses variées, des contextes économiques et des demandes apostoliques émergentes. Situer notre discernement dans un nouveau lieu physique nous met au défi de remettre en question le statu quo d'une manière nouvelle, voire radicale, et de lire les signes des

Frères Robert Schieler et Florent Gaudreault se tiennent ensemble après l'élection de Frère Robert comme Supérieur général en 2014. Avec l'aimable autorisation de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes, Service des Communications

Brothers Robert Schieler and Florent Gaudreault stand together after Brother Robert's election as Superior General in 2014. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service





Les Frères de la RELAN au 45<sup>e</sup> Chapitre général en 2014 se sont réunis à la suite de l'élection de Frère Robert Schieler, FSC, comme Supérieur général. Avec l'aimable autorisation de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes, Service des Communications

RELAN Brothers at the 45th General Chapter in 2014 gather following the election of Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, as Superior General. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service

temps d'un point de vue éloigné du familier et à la périphérie » (Circulaire 476). Reconnaître le contexte dans lequel la communauté lasallienne et la mission vivent et travaillent restera un principe organisateur pour les capitulants.

## Thème : Nouveaux chemins

Le thème du chapitre est « Construire de nouveaux chemins pour transformer des vies ». Chaque chapitre est animé par le désir de répondre aux signes et aux besoins qui émergent dans la vie de l'Institut et de la mission lasallienne. Les « nouvelles voies » que le Chapitre examinera se situent dans les domaines d'association pour la mission ; le leadership, la durabilité et la gouvernance; et la vie des Frères. Les capitulants accorderont une attention particulière au Rapport

du Frère Supérieur Général. Ce document, publié en février 2022, offre un examen du travail du gouvernement central de l'Institut au cours des huit dernières années et fournit une orientation, en termes concrets, pour les voies que l'Institut peut envisager afin de discerner la meilleure façon de répondre à l'appel du Saint-Esprit tel qu'exprimé à travers les besoins des gens.

Imaginez quel défi c'est que de s'engager dans un discernement qui prête attention aux signes et aux besoins d'un organisme international comme celui-ci. On peut se demander comment, en trois semaines, un discernement collectif a pu prendre en compte l'immensité de l'Institut avec sa pluralité de contextes, de cultures et de pays. Trois rassemblements internationaux apportent une aide essentielle pour relever ce défi.

## Informer le chapitre

La 3<sup>e</sup> Assemblée Internationale de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne (AIMEL) s'est réunie en ligne pour discerner les signes et les besoins de la mission éducative et rédige des propositions d'actions qui assurent la stabilité et la croissance de la mission. Les 100 délégués de l'AIMEL, dont 14 de cette Région, se sont adaptés de manière créative aux limites imposées par la pandémie. Chaque Région a rédigé des propositions, qui ont ensuite été intégrées en huit axes stratégiques. Huit groupes de travail thématiques se sont réunis en ligne en janvier et février pour élaborer une proposition en vue des délibérations de l'assemblée en mars. L'Assemblée présentera ces propositions au Chapitre pour qu'elles les intègrent dans ses travaux stratégiques. Les neuf propositions, qui sont en cours de finalisation au moment de la rédaction de cet article, couvrent les domaines suivants : animation et gouvernance, formation et accompagnement, association et communauté, culture vocationnelle, service aux pauvres et inclusion, évangélisation, formation à la

citoyenneté et identité du ministère de l'éducation.

La 2<sup>e</sup> Assemblée Internationale des Jeunes Frères (IYBA) et le 4<sup>e</sup> Symposium International des Jeunes Lasalliens (ISYL) se sont adaptés de manière imaginative et créative similaire, en se réunissant en ligne depuis l'été 2021 pour réfléchir à la manière de soutenir la fraternité, la communauté et la mission. En mars 2022, les délégués de ces rassemblements ont été invités à une session conjointe en ligne pour partager le processus et les propositions pour leurs rassemblements respectifs et construire une communauté en tant que jeune famille lasallienne mondiale. Ils présenteront leurs propositions au Chapitre comme leur contribution à la promotion de la vitalité de la vie du Frère et du mouvement lasallien.

Une façon de visualiser le dynamisme de ce discernement international est d'imaginer des ruisseaux qui se jettent dans une rivière. Si le Chapitre est une rivière d'envergure, c'est en raison des nombreux affluents qui s'y jettent. En plus de ces trois rencontres internationales, il y a le flot de notes de Frères, de partenaires et de groupes contribuant de leurs observations et recommandations. La commission préparatoire a conçu un processus pour guider le cours de cette rivière. Le chapitre utilisera l'approche de « l'enquête appréciative », une méthode qui met l'accent sur les atouts, les « meilleurs », chez les personnes et les organisations. Les capitulants s'efforceront d'identifier ce qui apporte « vie » à l'Institut et à la mission lasallienne et de se concentrer par la suite sur les moyens qui favoriseront sa croissance.

Cette méthode sera soutenue par la prière, des textes et des conférenciers inspirants, ainsi que par la dynamique de groupe tout au long du Chapitre. Les thèmes organisationnels de la deuxième semaine sont le rêve, la conception et la vie. Les capitulants élaboreront et concrétiseront les voies de transformation que nous espérons dans notre vocation et notre vie. Avant de passer à la dernière semaine du 15 mai, nous célébrerons la solennité de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, qui a été déclaré patron des enseignants chrétiens le 15 mai 1950.

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## Résultats du chapitre

Au cours de la dernière semaine, le Chapitre réfléchira et votera sur les avenues proposées. Après une journée de retraite, les capitulants procéderont à l'élection du Frère Supérieur général et des Conseillers généraux. Le lendemain, les capitulants se réuniront avec le pape François en audience privée au Vatican pour partager sa vision et sa joie pour l'avenir de l'Institut. Bien que le public et les élections constituent un moment culminant dans le Chapitre, la période qui suit le Chapitre représente un appel continu à maintenir son élan et son inspiration.

Les documents et les actes du Chapitre seront publiés peu après le Chapitre. Le Frère Supérieur et son Conseil publieront également un plan stratégique pour les sept prochaines années. Les deux documents ont pour but d'informer les assemblées de mission et les chapitres qui se tiennent au niveau des délégations et des districts. De cette façon, les voies de la

transformation sont tracées au niveau local. Et, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Institut, les trois rassemblements internationaux décrits précédemment se réuniront, en personne, pour une deuxième phase plus tard cette année. Cela permettra à 3<sup>e</sup> AIMEL, 2<sup>e</sup> IYBA et 4<sup>e</sup> ISYL de poursuivre l'élan du Chapitre dans des « lignes d'action » pour la mission éducative et ses communautés.

S'il est vrai que l'histoire d'un Chapitre général doit fixer le cap pour l'avenir, son histoire est plus vaste que la législation stricte ou les mots dans les propositions. C'est un moment décisif où les gens qui partagent une foi et un fervent pour les favorisés de Dieu se réunissent pour célébrer en parole, en sacrement et en célébration. Si un chapitre ou une assemblée ne visait qu'à articuler des stratégies, les délégués pourraient se réunir en ligne et rester chacun chez soi. Mais le désir de se rassembler pour rendre grâce à Dieu pour le travail de transformation accompli en nous en tant qu'association mondiale de communautés éducatives est trop convaincant à ce stade de l'histoire de l'Institut. ■

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*Frère Timothy Coldwell, FÉC, est Conseiller général de la région lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord. Il a été élu au Chapitre général en 2014.*

# For the Sake of a More Fraternal Humanity

By Bob Carrejo

Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education is looking to reclaim the sacredness of human education, and the Lasallian family is preparing to join.



■ It will come as no surprise to anyone associated with the Lasallian mission that as leaders around the world contemplate our divided, discordant times, many are realizing that preserving the heart of humanity that is community very much depends on the *veritas et virtus* of how we educate our young. Among those who know this and is determined to act is His Holiness, Pope Francis.

On September 12, 2019, Pope Francis announced a Vatican-led worldwide initiative that he calls a Global Compact on Education (GCE). It is an ambitious movement that asks nations to pursue a renewed model of education rooted in a “dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet and the need to employ the talents of all, since all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society.” (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Launch of the Global Compact on Education, September 2019.)

The Pope has specifically invited the participation of the Church’s teaching religious orders and educational ministries. In response, 20 Brothers and Partners from throughout the Lasallian family were gathered via Zoom to form a GCE ad hoc planning committee tasked with designing both a process and guidelines that will foster

Read *Intercom* 153 to learn more about the Global Compact on Education at [www.Lasallian.info/global](http://www.Lasallian.info/global).





the local implementation of the GCE vision in all Lasallian educational ministries.

The resulting action plan has been published as Intercom 153, *Global Compact on Education*. The document includes general information, project timeline and logo, themes and activities, reflection points and exercises, and resource links. Coordination and communication will take place on the District level by way of local personnel and social media.

To summarize the ad hoc committee's work, the action plan is being implemented in phases between January 2022 and December 2023. It is built around seven thematic areas of educational needs and opportunities and suggests steps for identifying what a local ministry is already doing or might like to do to participate. Once underway, ministries will be able to share reports on both existing and new activities via the Institute website and Lasallian social media platforms.

Spearheading this work has been Brother Nestor Anaya, FSC, Secretary for the Lasallian Mission of the Institute. As the committee's chair, he has been working since May 2021 with its members to design strategies and steps for Lasallian ministries and communities to join in the GCE.

When first introducing the committee to the GCE, Brother Nestor emphasized the Holy Father's vision that world transformation would be its, and by extension the committee's, rationale. A familiar spiritual and pedagogical tenet of Lasallian education, education as transformative activity has remained at the core of the planning around the Institute's engagement with the project.

"Pope Francis calls us to humanize the world by promoting peace, justice, goodness, beauty, mutual acceptance and fraternity," said Brother Nestor, "and to fight against the individualistic culture that provokes indifference and division. To do this, we must change from a vision of

Brother Nestor Anaya, FSC, left, visited a number of ministries and communities in the Lasallian Region of North America, including De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, California, in preparation for work by the Institute's GCE ad hoc committee. Courtesy De Marillac Academy

development that favors individualism and economic privilege to one where the person is at the center and values the person's dignity and uniqueness, relationships with others—especially the most vulnerable—and responsibility for our common home."

A key concern throughout the committee's planning has been how best to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, not only on what amounts of time and energy Lasallian ministries would be able to give to GCE projects, but more so on the everyday realities of their communities and those they serve. The plan was readjusted several times to allow for realistic timeframes, and theme and activity proposals took into account what ministries are experiencing as their "new normal."

“The pandemic has amplified and accelerated many of our emergencies and needs,” Brother Nestor pointed out, “such as children’s access to education, the growing number of people in extreme poverty, the widening gap between poor and rich, and our eroding capacity for dialogue and mutual understanding.”

For Brother Nestor and the committee, it is essential that the role of the Lasallian family in the GCE be seen as that of a partner in a larger apostolic project, as a call to in some ways regift our particular Lasallian charism to the world within the context of the entire Church’s response to the educational needs of humanity in our times. He sees it as a unique opportunity for the Lasallian family to exercise global servant leadership.

“To this end, I believe that our schools and universities have much to contribute because of the expertise and influence that they have developed over their

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**“We form a great community that makes us strong, and we are building new roads that bring us closer to the horizon of the educational service of children and young people, especially the poor.”**

*Lasallian Reflection 7, page 24*

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histories,” Brother Nestor stated. “I know that in many places our educational works exercise very important leadership through administrators, educators, students, parents or alumni who, in various areas and in various ways, influence the educational, cultural, economic, social and political world. The important thing is for us to exercise this educational leadership both as an opportunity and as a responsibility.”

In his words announcing the Global Compact on Education, Pope Francis asserted that people everywhere must “unite

our efforts in a broad educational alliance, to form mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism, and to restore the fabric of relationships for the sake of a more fraternal humanity.” As the Lasallian family readies itself to offer to these efforts its own tradition of giving a human and Christian education to all youth, especially the poor and marginalized, in ministries conducted as places of salvation, there is great hope for the success of the Holy Father’s bold undertaking for the sake of a more fraternal and, indeed, redeemed humanity. ■



*Bob Carrejo is director of communications for the District of San Francisco New Orleans. He serves on the Lasallian ad hoc committee for the Global Compact on Education.*

The Lasallian family is a partner in Pope Francis’ Global Compact on Education. Courtesy Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento

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.

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## 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](http://www.lasalle.org).

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*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.*

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## 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.

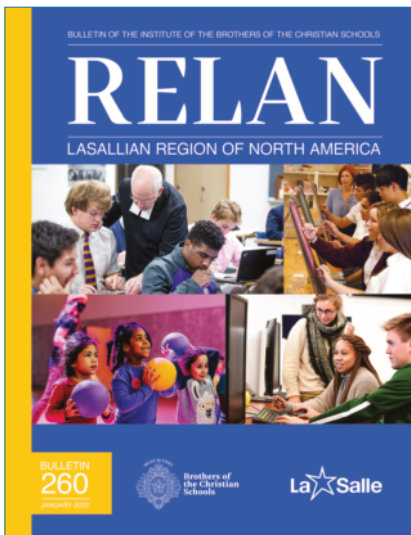
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**“The vocational narratives we share are of the innumerable Brothers and Partners living the story with extraordinary faith and zeal.” (Page 29)**

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## 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](http://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](http://www.lasalle.org/en/publications/bulletin) to explore their stories and see how our realities in RELAN are similar and different.

# Lasallian Volunteers: Leaving a Legacy

Written by Kathleen Swain  
Edited by Elizabeth Moors Jodice

## ■ Faith. Service. Community.

For more than 30 years, those three values have guided Lasallian Volunteers (LVs), transforming the lives of young people through service and finding themselves transformed in the process. Those values will stay with the many who have been impacted by the program, long after the program ends on June 30, 2022. In early 2022, the Brother Visitors announced the decision to close the program, following a period of conversation, study and deliberation.

When it began in the 1980s, Lasallian Volunteers was called the "Lasallian Volunteer Movement," highlighting the energy of the grassroots effort as an expression of the Young Lasallians movement that would blossom over the next few decades.

The program grew in numbers of volunteers serving each year. A focus on inviting young people from Lasallian colleges and universities was a priority and an opportunity for them to grow more deeply invested and engaged in the mission, many of whom think of themselves as "forever Lasallians."

Upon exiting the program after one to three years of service, many LVs continued in educational fields that walked alongside students, families and clients most in need, inside and outside of the Lasallian family. Others went on to different professions and took with them a deep commitment for caring for those in need. Many discerned a vocation to married life, priesthood or consecrated life, including as De La Salle Christian Brothers. In this light, the program has been an enduring investment in the vitality and future of the Institute, Lasallian family and Church.

In each case, their formative experience as Lasallian Volunteers encouraged them to explore their vocation. The LV experience was not simply a year or two of waiting to enter the "real world," rather it was the jumping off point for many who more deeply connected to who God was calling them to be and what they would do with their calling.

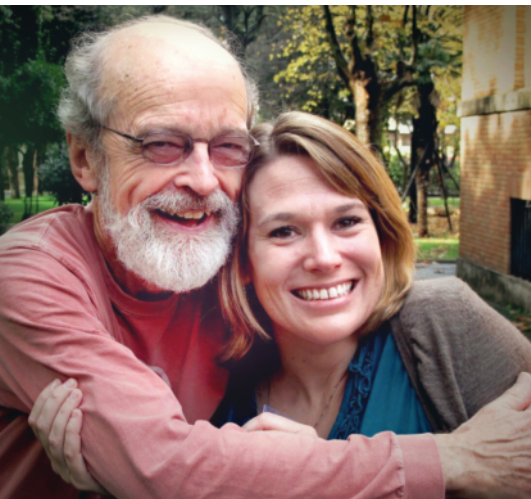


The 1996-1997 Lasallian Volunteers prepare for their service year at orientation.



The experience of living in community with the De La Salle Christian Brothers and other volunteers offered an opportunity for one to explore what it meant to live intentionally with one another. Many LV alums who have gotten married say that their experience of community has deeply informed how they live out their family life.

Lasallian Volunteers has touched the lives of countless students, clients, educators, Brothers—and the LVs themselves, along with their family and friends. To capture some of the diverse impacts of the LV program, we invited a few people who are closest to it to share reflections as we prepare to say goodbye to the program and look to the future of new possibilities.



Brother Ed Phelan, FSC, and  
Heather Ruple Gilson, LV 01-03.  
*Courtesy Brother Ed Phelan, FSC*

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## Count Me In

### Brother Ed Phelan, FSC, Longtime LV Supporter

On December 3, 1982, I was part of a band of Brothers gathered in the board room at Manhattan College. Together, we gave birth to an extraordinary offspring—a movement enabling young women and men to discover their vocational call as they served vulnerable families in the Lasallian tradition. Subsequently, I welcomed them into my home, caught their enthusiasm, and endlessly admired their courage in coming to the South Bronx. Any limits in teaching skills were more than compensated for through love, care and concern for children. I myself loved the Lasallian Volunteers. Many met lifelong partners and are their own Lasallian families today.

Fast forward 40 years to 2022, a time of pandemic and confusion—a time of even greater needs for vulnerable families. As Lasallian Volunteers comes to a close, it's a time to dream anew. Lasallians across the world are participating in a new International Mission Assembly and General Chapter in Rome. This modern band of Lasallians needs to dream into being a new offspring—intentional communities of young and old women and men who discover their vocational call as they serve vulnerable families in the Lasallian tradition. Count me in.

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## In God's Holy Presence

### Yolanda Franco, LV 14-16, Vice Chair, Lasallian Volunteers Advisory Board

During my service years as a Lasallian Volunteer, I loved what I did and the communities I lived in because it was easy to pinpoint the ways in which my life was touched by the Lasallian charism. Prayer was built in and started with “let us remember” and ended with “forever!” Our Lasallian community was comprised of like-minded volunteers and Brothers who were propelled by the same mission.



When I shifted to work at an institution that wasn't Lasallian, my definition of experiencing the Lasallian spirit in action changed. At a public school, the day no longer starts with the Lasallian prayer. Instead, it's sustaining an internal awareness that I am in the holy presence of God, regardless of the institution I work for. The Lasallian spirit is relational to me, and therefore I started noticing the holy presence of God in everyday conversations. The "hellos" in the hallway. The restorative conversations with a Spanish-speaking parent who believes their scholar needs more aid. The collaborative time spent with colleagues who want to ensure the growth of a student.

My connectedness to the Lasallian mission remains because it allows me to see past what some may consider *la vida cotidiana* or day-to-day tasks as something more profound. Instead redirecting my sense of fulfillment in realizing that God is present and alive *en la vida cotidiana*.

## Discovery, Patience, Joy

### John Wolf, Executive Director, The San Miguel School of Providence, Rhode Island / LV Site Director

Lasallian Volunteers has been a vital part of the mission at San Miguel for the past 29 years. In the leanest, nascent days of the early mission, the school's founder, Brother Lawrence Goyette, FSC, relied heavily on the talent of young, energetic and mission-driven volunteers. What they lacked in experience, they made up for with a spirit of love, youthful determination and optimism.

That amazing LV connection continued happily throughout the 28 years here, with volunteers providing such a positive impact that they were then hired as staff upon completion of their volunteer years. At our 25th anniversary celebration, we witnessed alumni reunite with LVs who were their teachers 20 years earlier. The joy in the reconnecting was palpable and spoke volumes about the quality and care of the service provided by the young Lasallians years earlier.

It is not hyperbole to say that the early mission here would not have been possible without the support of these incredible young people and the program they represented. For that, and for the countless moments of discovery, patience, laughter and joy they helped to make possible here, we will always be deeply grateful.



Yolanda Franco, first row, third from right, served as an LV for two years, concluding her service with the 2015-2016 cohort.

Mariesa Jozwiak was one of two Lasallian Volunteers who served at The San Miguel School of Providence when it opened in 1993. Courtesy Brother Lawrence Goyette, FSC





Selena Berry, LV 20-22, serves at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York. Courtesy Selena Berry

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## Power Through Education

### Selena Berry, LV 20-22

I am currently in my second year of the Lasallian Volunteers program serving in Brooklyn, New York, as a tutor. My experience as a volunteer has been challenging and rewarding during this unusual time. Helping students achieve their academic goals helps them overcome their challenges. As I prepare to exit the LV program, the conversations that I have had with students are what will stick with me because of how much I learned from them. The students helped me grow as a person as I helped them understand how to serve others daily. Growing up in a low-income environment, I learned that there is always room to lend a helping hand, which led me to find beauty and laughter during challenging times. Lasallian Volunteers fostered the opportunity for me to realize my dream of helping and teaching others. In my next steps as an LV Scholar, I want to keep things positive and show how education impacts my life path. I plan to continue to encourage people to see their power through education.

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## Paying It Forward

### Tom Darnowski, Longtime LV Supporter

After several jobs left him unfulfilled and longing for more, my nephew, a recent college graduate wanted real personal fulfillment. "I'll even try being a Lasallian Volunteer," he voiced to me. What began as a year or two commitment at The San Miguel School of Providence in Rhode Island led to five years of involvement with the Lasallian mission at that very special middle school. He found not only himself, while unearthing his tremendous hidden skills and talents, but also a real appreciation for each of the young men he taught, mentored and led in sports programs, a robotics club and varied summer programs. He also married another Lasallian Volunteer this past summer, and so congrats to Tom and Carly! What a win-win on all fronts!

As a former Christian Brother myself, I saw the Lasallian Volunteers program as my personal way to pay it forward for all the benefits I've gained over the past 60 years. I served on the LV Advisory Board for six years, Friends of Lasallian Volunteers for two years and continued to be a staunch financial supporter of Lasallian Volunteers over several decades as added ways for me to pay it forward. Over the decades, the Lasallian Volunteers program brought hundreds, if not thousands, of dreamers and doers into the Lasallian service world, into a community of like-minded souls all focused on the good in others as well as expanding the Lasallian reach in a direct and vibrant manner in service with the poor. A win-win on all fronts.

Though the legacy of such a vibrant Lasallian ministry will undoubtedly continue in new and possibly even more responsive ways, the closing of this discreet program will leave a void for those who won't have the opportunity to have their lives touched by Lasallian Volunteers and for those of us who have.

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## Answering the Call

### Brother Paul Avvento, FSC, LV 07-09

God called me to be a Brother of the Christian Schools, and he entrusted my discernment and formation to Lasallian Volunteers. My experience teaching at De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, California, as an LV was my first direct experience with the Lasallian mission as a teacher. I used to tell prospective LVs that I would not have remained in education had I not joined Lasallian Volunteers. The support I received from the staff, the Brothers, and the volunteers allowed me to flourish as a teacher and ultimately as an administrator.

Experiencing fully the communal life of the Brothers inspired my service and engaged my heart in ways I could not have anticipated. I grew as the person God had called in our prayer together in the chapel, sharing my difficulties at dinner, receiving advice on lessons, and learning first-hand what it means to serve God through education.

Although it took over a decade for me to say "yes" to God to enter the Brothers, it was this experience that sustained me on my journey. This small oasis in San Francisco's Tenderloin and the beauty of community was a gift, and I dedicate each day to thanking God for the call to serve as a Lasallian Volunteer.



Brother Paul Avvento, FSC, LV 07-09, engages with students at De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, California, during his service years.

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## A Life Lesson

**Dan Laskero, LV 89-90**

One truth is that there are unavoidable truths. Once they bite, you live with their sting. John Garry, who preceded me in the Lasallian Volunteers Movement by a year, told me one of those at my orientation to Lasallian Volunteers a year after the program's founding. He said, "Even in the difficult moments, and the work is hard, there is a certainty that this is the right use of my talents and gifts." It is perhaps, the most enduring thing I learned during my volunteer experience. That life's peak moments are comprised of days when, as you rest your head at night, you are filled with the peace and strength of knowing with certainty that you may not have done enough, but you've done what you could. The volunteer program has now year after year provided these moments, and I will be forever grateful. I am sure I am not alone among my fellow volunteers to gain this benchmark to carry with me, to measure my choices against and weigh other investments of my time and talents. I'll also be forever grateful to the Brothers who courageously embraced our newbie exuberance and opened their hearts and homes to welcome us in community. They adapted their spiritual discipline to those of us wanting to find some. And most importantly there are my students, like the students of my fellow volunteers, who never told me that other great truth: that I would learn much more from them than I could ever hope to teach.

Many Lasallian Volunteers, like Zac Ufnar, LV 07-09, pictured below serving at San Miguel School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, continued to serve as educators after their time as LVs.

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## Looking to the Future

As the Lasallian Volunteers program ends this summer, its legacy will continue to be an influential part of the history of the Lasallian charism and mission.

It's hard for it not to with so many LV alums continuing to serve in the mission and by recognizing the impact the program had on the more than 775 LV alums who continue to carry with them the incredible experiences and opportunities they had as LVs. Not without its challenges, serving as a Lasallian Volunteer was for many the pivotal point in their journey and how they spend their time, energy and focus in their daily life after their time as LVs.

We would not have thrived and grown for the past 32 years had it not been for a significant amount of support from the Brothers. They said "yes" to young people living in their communities, growing with them, being wisdom figures and challenging them to be better people. This experience certainly challenged the Brothers, who when they said "yes" to their own vocational call did not know that it





would also include living with and accompanying young adults. Lasallian Partners throughout the Region have also found themselves more deeply connected to the mission by accompanying LVs during their experience. Partners have seen first-hand how the LV experience of living in community and growing in faith so positively influenced the volunteers in their ministry. LVs brought with them a deep zeal for the mission and animated ministries with their desire to teach minds and touch hearts.

While our hearts are broken that this program will no longer concretely exist, we have hope that Young Lasallians throughout the Region will continue to be invited to explore more deeply their commitment to the mission and that one day, children of LV alums will have an opportunity to serve within the Lasallian mission with those who so deeply need support.

We are confident past generations of Lasallian Volunteers will continue to leave an indelible impact on the world around them, and we hope this next generation of young people will be invited into creative opportunities to explore their vocation, become engaged in the Lasallian mission and keep the legacy of Lasallian Volunteers alive through faith, service and community. ■

The Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers was held in two sessions at the start of the final service year. Picture above, the 2021-2022 LVs serving in the District of Eastern North America.

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*Kathleen Swain, LV 09-11, has served as LV director since 2015, after joining the LV staff as recruitment coordinator in 2013. Read the letters from the Brother Visitors on the decision to end the LV program at [www.LasallianVolunteers.org](http://www.LasallianVolunteers.org).*

# An Act of Hope: Creating Spaces for Invitation and Encounter

By Chris Swain

■ Each person has numerous touch points that have given direction to the pathway of their life. In the Lasallian context, each person has a unique journey in how they identify and engage with our Lasallian charism and mission.

Lasallian Reflection 7 identifies the Lasallian educational community as a privileged place of affective encounter favorable for human growth. Recognizing this, how is space created for everyone in the community to be encouraged and affirmed in one's journey, and in doing so, embrace a future filled with hope?

In the following stories, the shared experience of Brother and Partner vocation journeys reveal the power of invitation and accompaniment, as well as point us toward practical ways we can walk with one another and young people in our vocation journeys.

## Intangible and Inspirational

Margaret Martinez started her Lasallian journey at De La Salle Institute in Chicago, Illinois, as part of the first graduating class that included women. She continued on to Lewis University as an undergraduate and returned to De La Salle as a professional before making her way back to Lewis, where she currently serves.

"I felt the intangibles as a student," said Martinez, "but when I started to recruit students, I really felt how remarkable the mission is and what makes our charism special."

Martinez points to many who invited her, got her involved, and inspired her.

"Nothing as a young person makes you feel more important than someone who recognizes you, knows your name, and authentically and genuinely cares," said Martinez, noting how the Brothers at Lewis have been a special source of companionship and prayer.

Now associate director of Lewis University's Office of Mission and Identity, she collaborates on programs that serve the campus community by focusing on vocation and mission.

Vocation is woven across the curriculum for students, starting with the first-year student convocation, which includes experiencing the Encounter, a monument



Margaret Martinez attended De La Salle Institute in Chicago and now serves at Lewis University. Courtesy Lewis University

on campus that commemorates the beginning of De La Salle's involvement in Christian education and evangelization.

For the adult community, faculty members are publishing *The DISCOVER Stories Project: Journey to Purpose, Vol. 2*, which shares stories of their vocation journey. It will be included on the reading list for students' capstone senior course. Lewis is also sponsoring the second annual *Vocare Dialogue* on how to further support undergraduates as they explore their callings, in addition to offering mini-grants to faculty who wish to revise their curriculum to integrate the themes of vocation and calling.

## Intentional Identity

Meghan Dillon remembers being a new teacher at La Salle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, in need of support. Fortunately for her, La Salle offered both a new teacher induction program and Lasallian formation sessions to support those first years. Now,

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**“[T]he school as a physical space, besides being a privileged place of teaching and learning, is also a place of affective encounter ... an integral environment favorable for growth and for the expansion of human qualities.”**

*Lasallian Reflection 7, page 6*

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coming full circle, she heads the teacher induction program and is grateful for the accompaniment received and that she can now offer. Those intentional offerings, first spearheaded by Brother Fred Mueller, FSC, have formed many educators.

“Being able to embrace Lasallian ideals and see dedicated lay leadership living out those values is significant,” said Dillon.

She points to not only her experience at La Salle, but the connection of the diverse Lasallian ministries in Rhode Island, as well as her participation in VEGA (a

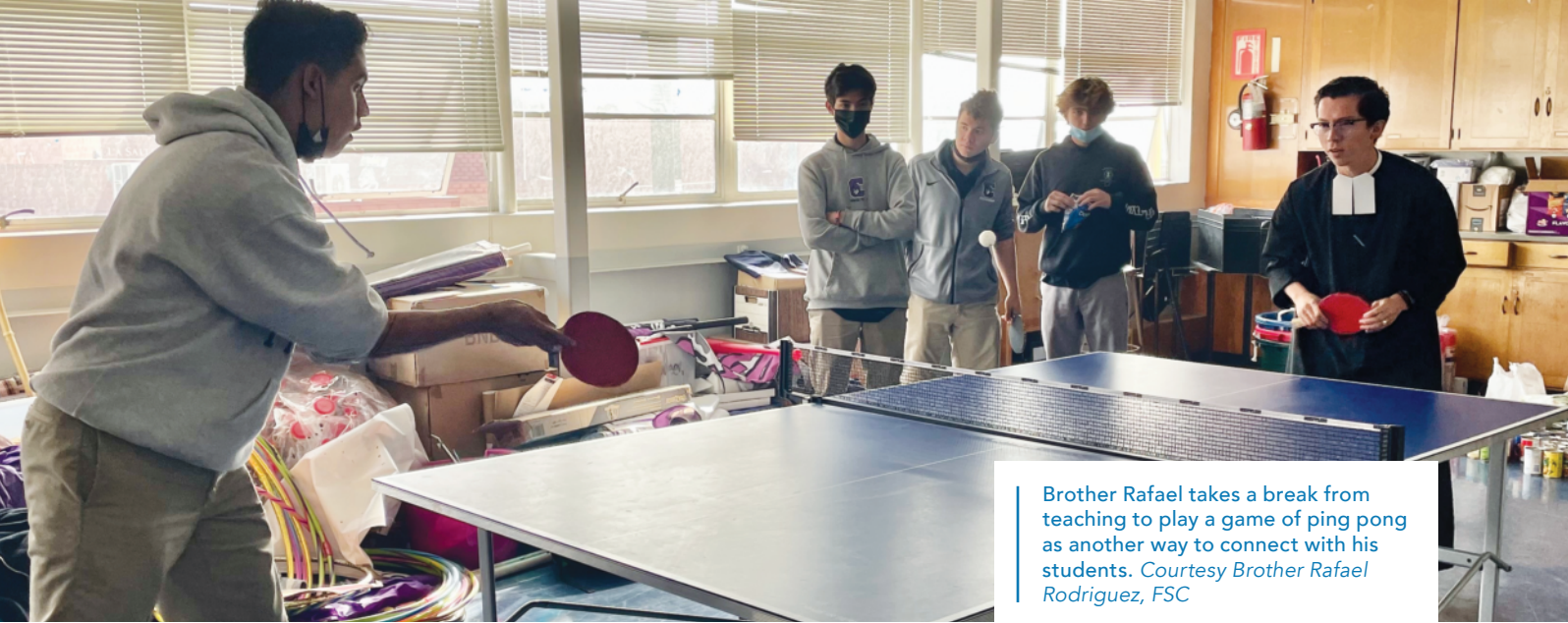
formation experience for Young Lasallians), the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian practice (a Regional formation program), and other formative experiences.

“To connect with others who share this mission, even during the pandemic, to do so virtually, being able to support one another is a key element of accompaniment,” said Dillon.

Dillon sees the invitation to embrace the charism brought to life at La Salle through intentional formation, especially in the writings of De La Salle. The opportunities extend to students through a senior course in which they explore the 12 Virtues of a Good Teacher and how they can apply them to their own lives. As Dillon explained, “No matter where they end up, how are they going to be good Lasallians?”



Meghan Dillon once benefited from the new teacher induction program at La Salle Academy in Providence, and now she leads the initiative. *Courtesy Brian Ciccone*



Brother Rafael takes a break from teaching to play a game of ping pong as another way to connect with his students. Courtesy Brother Rafael Rodriguez, FSC

## Invitation to Accompaniment

Brother Rafael Rodriguez, FSC, credits being in an environment where he experienced the faith being lived out as a type of invitation. “Because of that opportunity and openness, I was able to find the language I needed to develop my own adult faith,” says Brother Rafael.

That invitation was supported by his parents in their encouragement “to go,” first across the country to La Salle University as an undergraduate, then to go to Haiti and the Philippines on service trips. The relationships and encounters Brother Rafael had during those experiences allowed him “to see the spirit of the Institute,” which led him to discern the Brothers’ vocation.

“I am very blessed to have the support of my parents, friends and the Brothers,” said Brother Rafael. “One by one they encouraged me and affirmed my decision.”

Now at his alma mater, Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, California, Brother Rafael sees

his vocation as Brother as one of modeling and accompaniment.

“We have to be able to meet, not only the students, but our colleagues where they are in their religious and faith journeys,” said Brother Rafael. “We need to listen, to have conversations, to balance the expectations of academic work and understanding the reality of where they are.”

## Being Present and Practical

Circular 475, *From Hope to Commitment: Understanding Lasallian Vocations*, points toward the recognition and development of a “culture of vocation” in the educational community that “creates the conditions that enables each person to discover how God desires them to love” (page 28) and offers an “invitation to develop life according to the Lasallian tenets of faith, service, and community” (page 41).

“The concept from Springtide [Research Institute], to be noticed, named and known, is true on campus,” said Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, director

of Vocation Ministry for the Midwest District, who resides at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona. “I find that young people respond if you are authentically yourself and try to listen without an agenda.”

Circular 475 reinforces the notion that no matter the role or work assigned in the educational community, all are called to accompany one another within the adult community as well as with young people.

“The need for accompaniment is crucial,” said Brother Larry. “Many young people experience vocational anxiety or pressure, ‘What are you going to do?’ There’s a sense that lifetime decisions need to be made here and now. The more we can listen, be present, and say, ‘I’m here for you,’ and do so honestly, then hopefully those who are searching can come around to the dream God planted inside of them.”

According to Springtide, nearly a third of young people asked said they do not have a trusted adult in their lives.



“We underestimate the impact we have on young people,” said Brother Larry. “Show up, get to know people. There’s no magic. It’s not difficult, but it does potentially take you out of your comfort zone.”

With the emphasis on accompaniment, Brother Larry points to reflecting on one’s own journey as a place to begin. “Who has been the person there for you? Who has been a guiding lantern? Who has been there to help you sort things out?”

As Lasallian Reflection 7 indicates, Lasallians “believe that we can live a life worth living” (page 26) personally and communally, and it invites us to embrace attitudes and behaviors that witness this as “we walk many more steps” (page 31). ■

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*Chris Swain is director of the Office of Lasallian Vocation Ministry, which aims to foster a culture of vocation in the Lasallian Region of North America and promote the Lasallian vocation in its diversity of expressions, especially to the Brothers of the Christian Schools.*

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*Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, accompanied Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota students on a spring break immersion where they took part in service activities and visited Lasallian ministries, including Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota, home of the Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC Chapel. Courtesy Brother Larry Schatz, FSC*



# Lasallian Roundtable on Racial Justice

By Elizabeth Moors Jodice

“We can make our utopia a mission possible because we believe that it means ... To stand up for the right dialogue between justice and charity, without remaining silent in the face of unspeakable violence caused by discrimination and racism.”

– Lasallian Reflection 7, page 25

■ It began as a conversation in 2018 between a small group of Lasallians about diversity and racial justice. The informal discussion focused on lived experiences and hopes of greater diversity in Lasallian ministries and leadership.

Original group members Michele Beauboeuf, Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, and Brother Brian Henderson, FSC, continued their conversations with a greater sense of urgency following the killing of George Floyd in May 2020. The discussions evolved into a more formalized grassroots effort, taking the name the Lasallian Roundtable on Racial Justice.

“My hope for forming the Lasallian Roundtable on Racial Justice was to create a safe space where Lasallians who are committed to racial justice and anti-racist work could speak honestly and freely about our issues and concerns with regard to systemic racism within the Lasallian community,” said Beauboeuf, group founder. “The expected outcomes were to identify ways to dismantle this behavior through listening, dialogue and education.”

“The roundtable serves as a listening post, a dialogue space for participants,” said Brother Ernest. “It is from listening, from dialogue, from rounds of conversation that we want to imagine the Lasallian educational communities in North America striving to witness Martin Luther King, Jr.’s vision of the ‘beloved community,’ that is, living the reign of God—justice, peace, inclusivity, equity, diversity—in our times. Indeed, Saint La Salle reminds us that the

Christian Schools are to be a sign of God’s reign as communities of faith.”

The group has added members since those initial conversations. Members do not represent their institutions, instead speaking as individuals. They have discussed areas where they want to see change, including diversity representation in ministry leadership, school curriculum and assessments, and formation programming for educators in schools, Districts and the Region.

They took their ideas to the June 2021 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) meeting, where they shared their hopes and invited the RCCB into the conversation.

“Catholic Social Teaching states that human dignity must always be preserved from conception to death,” said Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Midwest District Visitor and RCCB moderator. “Justice, equality and respect for all persons is a cornerstone of our Catholic faith and consistent with the message of the Gospel. Racial justice requires our commitment because every person has the right to demand and expect the dignity which is their God-given birthright. The sense of community we Lasallians share impels us to be united to all people.”

Since the presentation at RCCB, the group has had multiple conversations and welcomed new members. The group helped offer input to the planning committee of the 2021 Huether Lasallian Conference and led a



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What concrete steps can you take to spread hope?

What motivates you to see a brighter future, and how can you encourage people to see the same?

How can you fight against the status quo and enact change?

What signs do you see of God's support in your life?

In what ways can you break barriers and advocate for justice?

How can you be a voice for the vulnerable, not only in your community but around the world?



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Comment comptez-vous ouvrir de nouveaux chemins et transformer des vies pendant la pandémie et au-delà?

Quelles mesures concrètes pouvez-vous prendre pour répandre l'espoir?

De quelles façons pouvez-vous aider à plaider en faveur d'une éducation de qualité pour les plus vulnérables?

Qu'est-ce qui vous motive à percevoir un avenir meilleur et comment pouvez-vous encourager les gens à voir la même chose?

Comment pouvez-vous lutter contre le statu quo et initier le changement?

Quels signes percez-vous du soutien de Dieu dans votre vie?

De quelles façons pouvez-vous briser les barrières et plaider en faveur de la justice?

Comment pouvez-vous être une voix pour les personnes vulnérables, non seulement dans votre communauté, mais partout dans le monde?



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# calendar of events ■

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## MAY 2022

- 1–22 46th General Chapter, Rome, Italy
- 27–30 Lasallian Volunteers Debriefing Retreat, Plano, IL

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## JUNE 2022

- 20–22 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD
- 20–23 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD
- 26–  
July 2 Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), Browning, MT
- 26–  
July 9 Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, Riverdale, NY

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## JULY 2022

- 11–14 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America), Riverdale, NY
- 16–19 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest District), Romeoville, IL
- 20 Novitiate Begins, Chicago, IL
- 21–24 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Napa, CA

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## SEPTEMBER 2022

- 27–30 Regional Formation Programs Advisory Committee (RFPAC) Meeting, Washington, DC

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## OCTOBER 2022

- 7–10 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Ocean City, NJ
- 13–15 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Loranger, LA
- 19–20 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Ocean City, NJ
- 20–22 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest District), Plano, IL
- 25 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting (Online)
- 27–29 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America), Stroudsburg, PA
- 28–  
Nov. 4 3rd International Assembly on the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL), Rome, Italy

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## NOVEMBER 2022

- 8–20 2nd International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA), Rome, Italy
- 13–20 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL, Phase II), Rome, Italy
- 15–17 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 17–19 Huether Lasallian Conference, Baltimore, MD

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

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