Regional Formation Programs Guide for Chief Administrators
Dear Lasallian Chief Administrators,

Greetings from the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference! Thank you for your support of our shared Lasallian educational mission. Our Regional Lasallian family remains strong as we hold true to our Founder’s vision of providing a human and Christian education to the young people entrusted to our care, especially the poor, through our colleges/universities, secondary schools, Miguel schools, youth/family service agencies, retreat centers and support ministries. Under the leadership of the Lasallian Education Council, the Office for Lasallian Education provides high-level mission formation programs designed to strengthen the Lasallian identity and mission in the hearts and minds of Lasallians through programs such as the Buttmer Institute of Lasallian Studies, the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice and the Lasallian Social Justice Institute. The office also focuses on educational programming, including sponsoring the Huether Lasallian Conference each November and partnering with the Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) and its annual conference each February. We appreciate your support in sending people to these formation and education experiences to deepen their commitment to the Lasallian mission and affirm their vocational calling as a Lasallian educator.

The Regional Formation Programs Advisory Committee was formed in the fall of 2019 to promote and support formation and education programs in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). Through an appointment by the Visitors, we are grateful for the leadership of Justin Martineau, District of Eastern North America; Brother Chuck Gregor, FSC, Midwest District; and Dr. Greg Kopra, District of San Francisco New Orleans, for their assistance in putting together this guide. We hope this guide assists in creating a shared understanding of the Regional formation and education programs by providing detailed program descriptions, participant profiles and outcomes of each program. As you browse this guide, you will notice the programs are listed in order of the length of time commitment required. It begins with the Huether Lasallian Conference, a three-day educational conference, and concludes with the Buttmer Institute of Lasallian Studies, a six-week program completed over three years.

As you consider inviting colleagues to these formation experiences, we recommend you identify and meet with participants PRIOR TO their participation in any of these programs to discuss their motivations, hopes and excitement and to express the expectation that they will engage others on the ministry level following the completion of their program. In each ministry, it will be important to give some preliminary thought to how participants will “share” what they’ve learned and experienced and how it can support you and local formators/animators. In many programs, the participant(s) are charged with “bringing back and sharing” the experiences with their ministries. Your support and active engagement with those you send to these programs, both before and following the programs, will be of tremendous help to each person as he/she “brings back and shares” what they have learned. We appreciate your support and commitment to working with each participant to make this happen.

Thank you for your leadership and support of our Regional formation and education programs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Sarah Laitinen with any questions at slaitinen@cbconf.org or 202-529-0047x109.

Live Jesus in our hearts … Forever!

Sarah Laitinen
Director of Lasallian Programs
Office for Lasallian Education
Christian Brothers Conference
Dear Lasallians,

We have always valued the formation of all Lasallians—Brothers and Partners. It is why we have funded both District and Regional programs that nurture deep connections to charism and mission. It is of vital importance.

The world we live in is not unlike the context that surrounded Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The poor and marginalized continue to be disenfranchised and their humanity continues to be dismissed. Salvation of the young (and not so young)—especially the poor—remains an urgent concern. The mission of salvation is not only about doing a good job, but it is about a vocational call. It is about our core identity. We are not people who put on the charism as we put on a sweater in winter. Our identity must rise from within—from the heart and soul. We are ministers because we realize we are the face of God’s infinite compassion, mercy and love. When a person who has been entrusted to our care is in relationship with us, she or he enters a sacred space. Our work is sacramental. The good news is we do not have to be perfect to be the place of this sacred encounter. In fact, our own imperfections are the vehicle through which God’s work is made real.

The Lasallian mission in RELAN represents a deep partnership between the Brothers of the Christian Schools and our deeply loved and admired Lasallian Partners. This partnership is critical to the continuation of the mission. It is truly a physical and visual manifestation of our treasured understanding of “together and by association,” which emerges out of the Brothers’ primary vow of association for the educational service of the poor. Indeed, we are in this together globally.

Formation nurtures and deepens our understanding of our connections to the 340-year history begun in Reims, France, by a priest who became our brother and who became one with those who so deeply needed to know they were loved by God, whose human dignity needed to be honored, and who needed a way to survive in the world. Formation takes us more deeply into an understanding of our own identity as persons who are the living legacy of the early community of teachers that became the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Together and by association we remain creatively faithful to this original inspiration.

Friends, Partners and Brothers, you bear the joy of carrying the mission into the future. Our world needs faithful, dedicated ministers who continue to help those we serve know they are loved and have value because they are children of a passionate God. We are collaborators with God, and it is a mission of the Spirit that we carry out.

We also encourage our administrators who bear significant responsibility for the life of the mission to continue to support the Lasallian identity and ministry of those who have participated in formation. Engage and partner with them as members of your local formation teams. Nurture their vocation by giving them significant responsibility for the development of your institutional culture and the formation of others in your local ministry. What we encounter through formation is contagious, and it elevates everyone’s purpose and meaning. Put the effects of Regional programming to work for the good of everyone.

We wish all of you comfort in knowing that each of us lives every moment in the Holy Presence of God. We hope you know that when we say Jesus lives in our heart we are speaking of our very identity.

Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC
Visitor, Midwest District

Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC
Visitor, Francophone Canada District

Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC
Visitor, District of San Francisco New Orleans

Brother Bob Schaefer, FSC
Visitor, District of Eastern North America
Huether Lasallian Conference

The Huether Lasallian Conference (three-day program) is an annual gathering of Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners in the Region that focuses on a particular theme related to the Lasallian charism and educational mission.

The location and theme change each year with a focus on innovative educational issues. All members of ministries and Brothers communities are welcome to attend. Through a thoughtful blend of keynote addresses, breakout sessions and prayer services, we call upon scholars from within and outside the Lasallian tradition in matters pertaining to each year’s theme. Huether also offers an extraordinary opportunity to network, socialize and meet Lasallians from across the United States and Canada. The program includes a celebration of Lasallians from across the Region who are recognized for their exemplary contributions to Lasallian education.

Past locations and themes have included “Compassionate Dialogue and Courageous Conversations: Pathways to Equity and Belonging” (2021 – Baltimore, Maryland); “Great Things are Possible:

Our Lasallian Mission Reimagined and Renewed” (2020 – Virtual); “Living the Lasallian Mission: Celebrating with Zeal” (2019 – Minneapolis, Minnesota); “Limitless Potential: Transforming Lasallian Communities” (2018 – Minneapolis, Minnesota); “One Call, Many Voices: Dialogue, Inspire, Transform” (2017 – Denver, Colorado); and “The Good Samaritan: Confronting New Poverties in the 21st Century” (2017 – Chicago, Illinois). The Huether Conference takes place Thursday through Saturday during the week immediately prior to Thanksgiving. The revolving themes of the Huether Conference allow a person to participate in more than one Huether experience.

Click here to learn more.
“One of my biggest takeaways is that I’m seeing a lot of young faculty members here that are bringing the Lasallian vision, Lasallian identity, Lasallian education back to our schools.”

– Brother Jesús Lara, FSC
Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI)

The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) (one-week program) is a formation program for Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners in the Region based on the Gospel and our Lasallian vocation to the promotion of social justice, a constitutive element of the Lasallian charism and educational heritage, and service to the poor. Developed by Lasallians, it is a response to the call from both grassroots efforts of Lasallians and General Chapters of the Brothers for programs that strengthen “association for the educational service of the poor.”

The purpose of LSJI is to provide an experiential, educational, creatively practical, immersive, community experience. LSJI offers an engaging and reflective collective experience focusing on the needs of the world. It embodies the Lasallian commitment to help participants draw closer to the experiences of the poor and stand in solidarity with those suffering from injustice. Over the course of the program, participants will have an opportunity to consider authentic responses in light of the Gospel and the Lasallian vocation.

Past locations and topics have included: OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA (Come and See) Blackfeet Immersion (2022 – Browning, Montana); Environmental Justice (2019 – New Orleans, Louisiana); Community Responses to Urban Challenges (2018 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Immigration (2017 – El Paso, Texas); and Human Trafficking (2016 - Minneapolis, Minnesota). This program takes place for one week in the summer. The revolving themes of LSJI allow a person to participate in more than one LSJI experience.

[Click here to learn more]
PARTICIPANT PROFILE

• A serious interest in the overall program and yearly theme while illustrating a commitment to social justice
• A minimum of 1-2 years’ experience at a Lasallian ministry with a strong desire to learn more about the charism
• A commitment to actively engage in an immersive formation experience and to be present to all aspects of the program (i.e. prayer, service, sessions, discussions, socials, etc.)
• A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of their experience upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team to promote causes of social justice

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian social justice efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.

“LSJI reinforced our continued work for social justice.”

– Shawn Ladda, Ed.D.
Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice

The Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (two-year program) is designed for Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners who exercise mission influence (informing, guiding and leading the mission in one’s context) and/or show potential for such in the future. This program has a commitment to explore the contemporary expressions of Lasallian heritage and is the driving element of this formative experience. Engaging in prayer, study, reflection and dialogue will provide an opportunity for assisting in more deeply animating our shared mission on the local level and within the broader Lasallian family through developing a capstone paper or project while in consultation with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team.

The Johnston Institute focuses on deepening the understanding of Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s story and vision, Lasallian pedagogy, the Lasallian promotion of justice and Lasallian spirituality while utilizing contemporary texts to inform and influence current and future Lasallian practice.

The program is set up in a District cohort model. Lasallians will gather for six (five District and one Regional) in-person sessions and three online sessions. The schedule of cohort dates is distributed as part of the registration materials.

Click here to learn more.
We come together for a shared purpose, to better understand the mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle so that, together and by association, we can live the mission for our students.”

– Lisa Moran
Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies

The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies (three-year program) is designed to inspire Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story through scholarly study, to awaken the basis of their vocation as educators and nurture their personal, professional and spiritual journey. This formation program also seeks to deepen association for the Lasallian mission and provide experiences to empower Lasallians to become catalysts in their own ministries. This is an intense formative experience, both in the workload and community expectations. Lasallians considering this program should come prepared to immerse themselves in the experience for the entire two weeks of the program.

The Buttimer Institute studies the life, work and spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian educational mission and its relevance on contemporary education and spirituality. The first year of the program is devoted to an intense study of De La Salle’s life and the founding of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The second year of the program is devoted to a scholarly study of Lasallian pedagogy—in particular, the pedagogical practice that emerged in the founding that still inspires and informs us today. The third year of the program is a scholarly treatment of Lasallian spirituality, with a focus on the Meditations and Method of Interior Prayer, as well as the historical background for both. Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle in a community cohort model and an analysis of some modern educators, Lasallians will develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education and spirituality through classes, practicum and opportunities for interiority. Lasallians select a practica experience (Lasallian Association, Lasallian Mission Coordinators/Animators, Lasallian Presentation Resources, Lasallian Research and Young Lasallians) that allows for focused facilitated discussions, readings and planning.

Community cohorts gather for three consecutive summers in two-week durations at Manhattan College in New York. The program normally takes place during the last week of June and first week of July.

Click here to learn more.
PARTICIPANT PROFILE

- A serious interest in the overall program and a commitment to the ministry’s mission and Lasallian principles
- A minimum of 3-5 years’ experience at a Lasallian ministry with a strong desire to learn more about the charism
- A commitment to actively engage in this sustained community formation experience and to be present to all aspects of the program (i.e. prayer, class, practica, Mass, socials, class retreat, etc.)
- A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of their experience upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team to share insights gained during program with ministry colleagues

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share class and practica knowledge to continue Lasallian education and formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level. Graduates should be open to further Lasallian experiences.

“The most profound experience for me as a Buttimer I participant was the community connection through prayer and reflection.”

–Dave Miliotis
## Programs at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Huether Lasallian Conference</th>
<th>Lasallian Social Justice Institute</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upcoming Dates</strong></td>
<td>2022: November 17-19</td>
<td>2022: June 26 - July 2</td>
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<td>2023: November 16-18</td>
<td>2023: TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time Commitment</strong></td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>1 week</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>2022: Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>2022: Browning, MT</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Participant Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian education and formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.</td>
<td>After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian social justice efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2022 Cost (Approx.)</strong></td>
<td>The 2022 registration fee will be announced in the fall of 2022. The 2021 Huether fee was $415.00 per person, which did not include travel or hotel accommodations.</td>
<td>The 2022 registration fee was $1,000 per person, which did not include travel to/from Montana. The 2023 details on location, theme and fee will be released in the winter of 2023.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>BROTHER JOHN JOHNSTON INSTITUTE</td>
<td>BUTTTIMER INSTITUTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME COMMITMENT</td>
<td>2 weeklong gatherings in summer and 4 3-day gatherings in fall and spring (TBD)</td>
<td>2 weeks for 3 summers (6 weeks total)</td>
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<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>Cohort IV, 2022: July 11-14, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY (DENA); July 16-19, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL (MW); July 21-24, Mont La Salle, Napa, CA (SFNO); October 13-15, Solomon Episcopal Center, Loranger, LA (SFNO); October 20-22, La Salle Manor Retreat Center, Plano, IL (MW); October 27-29, Shawnee Inn, Shawnee on Delaware, PA (DENA)</td>
<td>2022: Manhattan College, NY 2023: Manhattan College, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES</td>
<td>Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share knowledge through their Capstone paper or project to continue Lasallian education and formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.</td>
<td>Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share class and practica knowledge to continue Lasallian education and formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 COST (APPROX.)</td>
<td>The Cohort IV program registration fee was $2,637.50 for one year of the program. The registration fee covers accommodations, meals and program materials. Ministries and/or participants are responsible for travel arrangements and cost. Registration for Cohort IV is closed.</td>
<td>The 2022 registration fee for one year of the program was $2,895.00 per participant. The fee included accommodations, meals and program materials. Ministries and/or participants are responsible for travel arrangements and cost.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To learn more about these programs, visit Lasallian.info/Programs or contact Sarah Laitinen at 202-529-0047 x109 or slaitinen@cbconf.org.