



**Fratelli  
delle Scuole  
Cristiane**

Ufficio Patrimonio  
Lasalliano e Ricerche

## Lasallian Research Seminar

### Circ. 1/24 Invitation

Brother Superior General

Brother Visitors and Presidents of Delegations

General Council, International Mission Council, Standing Committee of Young Brothers

Directors of Offices, Chairs of Commissions

Presidents of Higher Education Institutions

Presidents of Lasallian NGOs

## Introduction

The latest General Chapter expressed a dream: "We are one Lasallian Family, with diverse vocations; leaven for a more fraternal world, sent forth to encounter God in those who are poor, and to promote justice" (Circular 478, p. 13). To fulfil this dream, it has outlined seven paths of transformation. They respond to God's calls to us from the depths and peripheries of this world.

As a way of helping us to respond to these calls, the Office of Lasallian Heritage and Research aims to open a yearly space which we call "Lasallian Research Seminar". This initiative, approved by Brother Superior General and his Council, will take place at the end of October, on an annual basis, according to this programme:

Year	GC Pathway of Transformation	Research Seminar	Theme/motto Institute
<b>2024, 28 October to 1 November</b>	Commitment 5.2  Tercentenary Year of the Letters Patent (and of the Bull of Approval)	The development of Lasallian Association for mission as experience and structures over the last 50 years	
<b>2025, 20 to 24 October</b>	Commitment 1.5	For a renewal of Lasallian catechesis	

	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of SJBDLS as Patron saint of teachers  Year of Spirituality  Year of Catechesis		
<b>2026, 19 to 23 October</b>	Commitment 4.2; 4.3	An integral ecological awareness for a Lasallian education for justice	
<b>2027, 25 to 29 October</b>	Commitment 1.1; 1.2	Education for justice and public advocacy for human and children's rights	
<b>2028, 23 to 27 October</b>	Commitment 2.4	Lasallian reading of the Word of God	

## A seminar

The research space takes the form of a seminar. We recognise it as an open place in which the key point is the conversation and the way back and forth between life and the theoretical consideration of the problem we face. The conversation we try to create investigates, searches, but always remembers the primacy of reality over the idea, as proposed by Pope Francis (*Evangelii Gaudium* 236). It is a space for conversation that does not seek to reach decisions but to generate ideas with a basis. A place to generate agreements but also to respect dissent.

## Seminar 2024: Lasallian Association for mission, its development for the future

*"As one Lasallian Family, to strengthen Association for Mission in the spirit of creative fidelity, and to work in synodality in order to respond, together and by association, to the needs of a world that cries out from the peripheries, so that our educational ministries are places of salvation"* (Circular 478. Documents of the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, p. 35).

On the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Letters Patent of the King of France (1724) and of the Papal Bull (1725) by which our Institute was approved as a civil and ecclesiastical entity, we wish to open a space which, with a view to the future, investigates the recent history of

Lasallian Association. This time coincides with the closing of the Synod on synodality, a feature of ecclesial life so close to our way of living association for mission.

To initiate this research, we have taken advantage of a work of Brother Pedro Gil Larrañaga who, in 2023, asked several Brothers and Lay Partners from the five Regions of the Institute to narrate what had happened in their Districts concerning Association for mission over the last 50 years. These narratives speak of Association for mission both as a lived experience and as different institutional structures. He has sought to frame these narratives in the context of the history of reflection on Association in the Institute and, on this basis, has designed a series of trends in order to elaborate a system. This system is a pastoral theological approach to Lasallian Association that can serve as a critical instance for the experiences being developed in the different concrete spaces of the Institute at all levels at the present time and those that may occur in the years to come.

As we say, this work is a starting point for our research. What interests us is to open up the space for bringing this contribution and other ecclesiological and pastoral approaches into contact with the concrete experience of the Districts and Regions, of individuals and bodies in the Institute at all levels. It will be up to the participants to be able to devise the relationships between the lived experience, the directions constructed through reflection and other current initiatives such as the Leavening Project, the Regional Plans of Action and Renewal, the District Programs or the proposals of the General Chapter.

## Participants

We invite:

- Brother Superior General
- Members of the General Council
- Members of CIAMEL
- Members of the Commissions and Offices of the Institute
- Lasallians, Brothers and Lay Partners, from all Districts; from all educational levels; from formal, non-formal works, as well as and NGOs.

Profile of the participants:

- They have a lived experience of shared mission and Association for mission that they can reflect on and share with others.
- They can easily communicate in some of the three official languages of the Institute: Spanish, English or French.
- They are willing to undertake the research seminar experience
- Their participation will enrich both the institution that invites them to participate and the District or Region in which they are involved.

**The process will be accompanied by:** Brother Pedro Gil, and the Director of the Office of Lasallian Heritage and Research.

**Date:** 28 October to 1 November 2024. Travel days are 27 October and 2 November. Please let us know your flight details in due course.

**Venue:** Generalate, Rome

## Registration

Please communicate the names and a contact email address of the participants as soon as possible to the Office of Lasallian Heritage and Research: [patrimonioericerche@lasalle.org](mailto:patrimonioericerche@lasalle.org).

Registration will be open until 31 July. Once registered, you will receive further information about the 2024 seminar.

**The cost will be mainly covered by the Generalate. However, we ask for a contribution of 100 euros per person.** Districts, Delegations or institutions requiring financial assistance should apply for it at the same address when registering.

Participants requiring a **visa for Italy** should contact Ms. Carla Trombetta ([segretaria@lasalle.org](mailto:segretaria@lasalle.org)) as soon as possible.

Participants have the option to come before or stay after, always booking their accommodation with the Guesthouse at the Generalate ([reception@lasalle.org](mailto:reception@lasalle.org)).

## Preparatory activity

In September, registered participants will be sent reading material and reflective writing assignments on their own and their District's or organisation's experience.

In the hope that this space will help us to open up new experiences and make the structures of our Association more dynamic, I remain at your disposal.



Br. Santiago Rodríguez Mancini

Director of the Office of Lasallian Heritage and Research.