



Conference Track Descriptions

Academic, School and College Counselors

All sessions in this track are designed for those who work in academic, school and college counseling offices serving as counselors, social workers and deans. Track leaders are Michelle Gould, director of school counseling at St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C., and Brother Michael Phipps, FSC, school counselor at Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Friday, November 22

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

An Invisible Centering of School Culture: The Transformational Impact of Counseling Staff

Michelle Gould, Director of School Counseling, St. John's College High School, Washington, DC
Brother Michael Phipps, FSC, School Counselor, Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul, MN, and Spirituality Project Manager, Christian Brothers Conference, Romeoville, IL

The first session of this track will allow participants an opportunity to experience an open forum focused on the needs of those in counseling. Grounded in current educational pedagogy, discussion groups divided by role will explore topics including educational and social-emotional trends, parent engagement, faculty development, school culture and discipline. This session is designed to start the conversation surrounding best practices that transform our educational communities.

Friday, November 22

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Exploring the Data to Support Lasallian Students – A, H

Dr. Jaclyn Doherty, Research Associate, Springtide Research Institute, Winona, MN

For the past two years, Springtide Research Institute has surveyed Lasallian students across RELAN, collecting over 25,000 responses. Overall, we find that Lasallian students are thriving, feel supported and observe the Lasallian principles in action. This session will explore Lasallian students' perspectives on the support they receive at school, including academic, spiritual and mental health support. The session will also review students' encounters with religion/spirituality and the Lasallian Core Principles. We will discuss correlations between these variables and student outcomes (e.g., sense of meaning/purpose, thriving, belonging, etc.). Further, the presentation will draw on Springtide's datasets to contextualize these Lasallian experiences within those of young people across the country. From our national datasets, we will discuss young peoples' experiences of the sacred, religion/spirituality and support in school. Attendees

will have opportunities to discuss how these findings relate to their own schools and how they can continue to support students.

Saturday, November 23

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Caritas for Others Begins With You!

Timothy Sember, Relationship Manager, Christian Brothers Services, Romeoville, IL

This session will draw out best practices for living a life of service to others. Recognizing that each of us is only as “good as we can be” depends on who we are at our core. The doing that consists of educating, witnessing, caring, leading, etc., and starts with being – our spirit of faith, zeal for service, communion in mission and reverence for life following in the spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The session will be interactive and engaging. **WARNING:** Participants may enjoy themselves as well. Participants will leave with a customized wellness plan of reflection and action that supports the vocation to which each is called.

Association for Mission

All sessions are designed for those who have graduated from a significant Lasallian formation program, such as the Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies or the Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice. This track will be led by: Kate Ward Gaus, steering committee member for Philadelphia-area Lasallian Ministries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, former Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools; and Tom Southard, executive director of Christian Brothers Conference in Romeoville, Illinois.

Friday, November 22

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Association: A Pathway to Transformation for the Future of the Lasallian Family

Kate Ward Gaus, Steering Committee Member, Philadelphia Area Lasallian Ministries, Philadelphia, PA

This session will provide participants with an overview of the findings and synodal conversations from the October 2024 International Lasallian Research Seminar on Lasallian Association as experienced by a seminar attendee. Participants will be asked to engage in individual, small group and full group reflections on how the findings from the International Lasallian Research Seminar might be integrated into current Ministry, District and RELAN initiatives in order to achieve what is the fifth of seven pathways of transformation identified by the 46th General Chapter - “Association for Mission guarantees a bold and prophetic Lasallian Family.”

Friday, November 22

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

“The Seed Which Becomes a Tree”: The Lasallian Charismatic Family

Tom Southard, Executive Director, Christian Brothers Conference, Romeoville, IL

This session will explore the charismatic family belonging to the Lasallian charism. By describing our charism, discussing our various connections to it, and exploring how we live it in the world, participants will consider their journey of Association and how to deepen their own connection to the Lasallian family.

Saturday, November 23

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

A Charism Ever New

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, former Superior General, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

This session will delve into the insights raised by Lasallian scholar Brother Antonio Botana in his MEL Bulletin monograph, *The Transmission of the Charism to the Laity*. Like other authors in recent years, Brother Antonio invites members of religious congregations to move from a narrative of diminishment to a narrative of communion. Using imagery from the prophet Isaiah's words to the remnant Hebrew people returning from exile, where Yahweh urged them to see new signs and wonders, so to today, the Holy Spirit invites us to see new signs and movements, such as charismatic families, as a new birth for the Church. While in the past, Brothers shared their mission and charism with the laity, increasingly today, the transmission occurs from laity to laity. This session will touch on how a charism ever new is not a copy of an inheritance by the laity, but the laity "enriching it with their own originality and creativity."