RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

The Spirit of Faith as Foundational to Lasallian Education

In the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the opening line of the introduction refers to the spirit of the Institute as the spirit of faith. As Lasallians continue to explore and deepen our understanding of the spirituality of the Founder and our charism, the spirit of faith described in the Rule provides a foundation for framing pedagogy, mission and ongoing formation.

Gery Short, AFSC, in his acceptance speech for the 2017 Brother John Johnston, FSC Award, reflects on a series of historical critical questions from his experiences at the local, District and international levels of the Lasallian family. Short proposes a new challenge concerning the spirit of faith. His words call us to address the question of integrating faith and spirituality into all we do as ministers to those entrusted to our care. Highlighting prayer as the avenue for this, Short offers questions for reflection that remain as relevant today as they did in 2017.

Short, a former member of the leadership team of the District of San Francisco New Orleans, was honored with the Brother John Johnston, FSC Award in recognition of his significant service to the Lasallian educational mission. He served as a lay consultant to both the 1993 and 2000 General Chapters of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, as a member of the International Council on Association, and as co-chair of the 1st International Mission Assembly of 2006. He was affiliated to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (AFSC) on Sept. 16, 2017, at Mont La Salle in Napa, California. He earned a master of divinity degree from the Franciscan School of Theology, master of arts degree from the Graduate Theological Union, and master of science degree from Golden State University.

Read *The Spirit of Faith as Foundational to Lasallian Education*

The reflection questions below cater to the personal, introspective journey, providing direction for interior prayer and meditation. The dialogue prompts below offer questions, inspired by the three parts of "Announcing the Gospel to the Poor," designed for small and large group discussions.

Reflection Questions

- What resonates with me from this document?
- What challenges me from this document?
- What questions do I have from reading this document?
- How am I being called to respond?

Dialogue Prompts

What does authentic and meaningful prayer and spirituality mean or look like to you?

What practices might this interpretation of prayer and spirituality encourage for you?

How do we make prayer and spirituality real for ourselves as educators and for our students in an authentic, understandable and deeply significant way?

For more on Lasallian Spirituality, visit

www.lasallian.info/spirituality

This resource is provided by Christian Brothers Conference, the office for the Lasallian Region of North America.