



## Conference Track Descriptions: New Educators Track

This track is designed for new educators inclusive of those who are new to the charism and are in their first through third year of teaching. There will be an opportunity for both groups to gather together on Friday morning. Subsequent breakout sessions will be held in their respective tracks of **New to the Charism** and **First Through Third Year Teachers**. Track leaders are Angela Christman, Language & Culture Department Chair, Lasallian Animator and New Teaching Training Coordinator, St. Patrick High School, Chicago, IL; Roxanna De Peña-Elder, Executive Director, The De La Salle School, Freeport, NY; Dr. Josh Lewycky, Assistant Principal for Students, Christian Brothers Academy, Albany, NY and Russell Shelton, Teacher and Faculty Liaison, Christian Brothers School, New Orleans, LA.

### **Friday, Nov. 21 (Both New to the Charism and First Through Third Year Teachers)**

#### **De La Salle's Inspirational Journey; Grounding New Lasallian Educators With an Invitation to Vocation 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Kerry Conroy, Director of Formation for Mission, Midwest District, Burr Ridge, IL

Dr. Andrew Kuffner, Director of Formation for Mission, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Napa, CA

Designed for new staff, or those new to the Lasallian mission, in this session, we will explore De La Salle's Gospel journey in education and invite participants to reflect on their own vocation story. Using four central themes: Invitation/Opportunity, Abandonment/Commitment, Resistance/Relationship, and Renewal/Sustaining; we will consider De La Salle's story and the events, challenges, practices and pedagogical approaches he used, inviting participants to reflect on, and share their own journey, vocation and pedagogy.

### **NEW TO THE CHARISM**

This track is designed for new educators (inclusive of teachers, staff, administrators, counselors, etc.) who are new to the Lasallian charism and have been at their ministry for less than four years.

**Friday, Nov. 21**

**2:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**The Global Lasallian Mission: Sustaining the Charism Across the Institute**

James Logan, Director, Office for Mission and Ministry, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ

The educational philosophy and spiritual vision that Saint John Baptist de La Salle began in 17<sup>th</sup>-century France has since become an international educational movement that has touched hearts and changed lives for over 350 years. Today, Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners, provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor in 80 countries. Lasallians serve over 1,000,000 students in 1,132 schools and ministries. The incredible scope of our shared Lasallian mission, therefore, requires highly cohesive, collaborative and fraternal structures at multiple levels. This session will provide an orientation to the organization of the Lasallian mission at the Institute, Regional and District levels and how each of these structures supports, accompanies and sustains our Lasallian charism, the heart of every Lasallian school and ministry across the globe.

**Living the 12 Virtues of a Good Teacher**

Maura Diehl, Associate Director of College Counseling, La Salle College High School, Wyndmoor, PA

This session offers an introduction to the *12 Virtues of a Good Teacher* for those who are new to the Lasallian charism. Together, we will explore the meaning of these virtues and think of practical ways that they can shape and inspire our daily work as educators. Although Saint John Baptist de La Salle first wrote about these virtues over 300 years ago, they remain remarkably relevant and applicable to the challenges and opportunities of education today. During this interactive session participants will be invited to connect the virtues to their own experiences, considering how these timeless principles can guide their relationships with students and colleagues, and deepen their commitment to the Lasallian mission.

**Saturday, Nov. 22**

**12:45 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Lasallian Spirituality: The Basics**

Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, Coordinator, Lasallian Resource Center, Romeoville, IL

Lasallian spirituality offers a distinctive way of seeing teaching and learning as a sacred vocation. This session introduces newcomers to its core dynamics within the context of faith, zeal and community, rooted in the vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the developed practices and priorities that are part of Lasallian schools around the world. Participants will discover how spirituality is both deeply personal and profoundly communal, providing a foundation for prayer and practice in their own Lasallian settings.

**Entering into the Presence of God: The Lasallian Way of Prayer**

Nia White, Coordinator of Peer Ministry and Service, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

The beauty of “the Lasallian way” of prayer is that we can craft to fit the space we are in. With a few key components, it is often a beautiful moment around the world. Whether in a meeting or in a community of Brothers, we are joined together with the reminder that Jesus lives forever in our hearts. Participants will spend this time in practice creating a prayer for our respective communities.

## **FIRST THROUGH THIRD YEAR TEACHERS**

This track is designed for teachers with one to three years' experience in an elementary, middle or secondary school classroom.

**Friday, Nov. 21**

**2:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

### **An Exploration of Teacher Professional Identity and the Lasallian Vocation**

Matt Agan, Vice President for Advancement, Christian Brothers Academy, Albany, NY

Dr. Josh Lewyckj, Assistant Principal for Students, Christian Brothers Academy, Albany, NY

This session explores the intersection between a teacher's professional identity and the call to minister within the Lasallian community. A particular emphasis will be given to drawing from self-reflection and realization as well as life and professional experiences which inform one's practice. Participants will examine internal and external factors of professional identity such as: motivation, self-efficacy, task perception, commitment, and job satisfaction to best interpret how these factors support the call to the Lasallian vocation. Teacher professional identity has seldom been associated with a static definition. Rather, in the education profession, one's identity is largely shaped by factors within the context of lived experiences and their relationship with the field. Lasky (2008) defines teacher identity as "how teachers define themselves to themselves and to others. It is a construct of professional self that evolves over career stages." As Lasallians, we must understand our school community through the lens of the educators within it. A connection between the mission, individual attitudes, opinions and values will be a focus throughout this presentation. Every charism has a story to enter, a language to speak, a group to belong to, a way to pray, a work to undertake, and a face to see God. In this session we will investigate our individual charism as it relates to our Lasallian ministries in hopes of creating a strong identity and a deep sense of belonging and commitment to the Lasallian educational mission.

**Saturday, Nov. 22**

**12:45 – 2:00 p.m.**

### **The Teacher Toolkit**

Angela Christman, Language and Culture Department Chair, Lasallian Animator and New Teaching Training Coordinator, St. Patrick High School, Chicago, IL

Dr. Korinda Walls, Business and Public Service Department Chair and Social Studies Teacher, St. Patrick High School, Chicago, IL

New to the classroom? This interactive session is designed especially for teachers in their first three years who are eager to build a strong foundation for their practice. Participants will explore student learning styles through a mini workshop, discover practical classroom management strategies, and engage with instructional techniques that bring the *12 Virtues of a Good Teacher* to life. Rooted in the Lasallian charism, this session highlights how faith, service and community can shape the daily experience of teaching while equipping educators with resources that reflect the Lasallian core values of respect, quality education, and concern for those entrusted to our care. Participants will leave with a "toolkit" of ready-to-use strategies and materials — practical ideas that can be implemented in their classrooms immediately. Whether it's adapting to diverse learning needs, cultivating a positive and disciplined classroom environment, or weaving the Lasallian spirit into everyday instruction, this session provides both inspiration and concrete resources for beginning educators.