

Lasallian Guide

Compiled for the Lasallian Region of North America



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Lasallian Glossary

This glossary defines many terms used in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) that are unique to the Lasallian family. This is not an exhaustive list and is subject to updates. Some terms may not apply to all RELAN Districts, and some Districts may have additional terms or varied styles of terms listed.

Animator: someone responsible for making known in their ministry the essential elements of the Lasallian tradition.

Apostolate: the kind of work to which the Church through its various agencies sends people and institutions on mission.

Aspirant: a man who is considering, usually in a non-residency program, whether or not he is called by God to become a Brother of the Christian Schools.

Assembly: name for a convention held for Brothers and Partners from the Region, District or more locally.

Association: the central vow of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by which they promise to associate themselves for the service of the poor through education. The term also describes a present-day movement of Lasallians committed to the mission.

Associative Group: Lasallians who gather based on geographic area to deepen their connections as an educational community in order to better serve their ministries and students.

Auxiliary Visitor: a Brother nominated by the Visitor and appointed by the Superior General to assist the Visitor and substitute for him in his absence. Also known as Auxiliary Provincial or Assistant Provincial.

Brother: title given to vowed religious of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Comparable to titles such as "Sister," "Father," "Reverend." Commonly used in other religious orders to denote a vowed religious who is not an ordained priest. The official religious habit worn by Brothers throughout the world, especially on formal occasions, but replaced by other approved apparel in various locales, is a black robe with a white "bib" called a "rabat."

Brother James Miller Guild: Established in 2024, the Brother James Miller Guild promotes the cause for canonization of Blessed James Miller, FSC, who was martyred Feb. 13, 1982 in Guatemala. Pope Francis declared Brother James a martyr of the Church in November 2018 and he was beatified in December 2019. The guild is housed at Christian Brothers Conference.

Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice: a two-year formation program focused on deepening participants' understanding of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's story and vision, Lasallian pedagogy, and the Lasallian promotion of justice and Lasallian spirituality. It utilizes contemporary texts to inform and influence current and future Lasallian practice. This program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference began in 2014 and is named after Brother John Johnston, FSC, (1933-2007), former Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. It replaced the former Lasallian Leadership Institute.

Brothers of the Christian Schools: the English translation of "Fratres Scholarum Christianarum," the official name of the religious institute founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Familiar references to members of this Institute are "De La Salle Christian Brothers" or "Christian Brothers."

Brothers' Formation: the initial formation of a Brother typically consists of a year or two of postulancy, a year of novitiate, and five to eight years of temporary (annual) profession of vows. After he professes perpetual (final) vows, he continues his formation through the entirety of his life.

Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies: an intensive formation program held for two weeks each summer over three consecutive years to study the life, work and spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian mission. Started in 1984, Buttimer is named in honor of Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, (1909-1982), the first American Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. It is a program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference.

Canon Law: the Code of Canon Law (1983) contains some 1680 canons, or official regulations, governing Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, priests, Brothers, Sisters, institutes, laity, parishes, schools, sacraments, etc.

Canonical: an adjective used to describe any person or action that conforms to the requirements of Canon Law, such as a Visitor or a formal visitation.

Capitulant: a person who attends a gathering, such as a General Chapter, not by election, but rather as a representative who was appointed or is attending by right of office. See delegate.

Charism: a grace or spiritual gift given to those in apostolic or missionary work in the service of others; e.g., the gifts of preaching, prophecy and healing are charisms; the term is sometimes applied to entire institutes as well as to individuals.

Christian Brothers Conference (CBC): the office for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). Based in Romeoville, Illinois, CBC collaborates with the Districts, schools and ministries in RELAN to convene and engage Lasallians in mission through formation programs, educational programs, advocacy, and a variety of services and resources designed to promote the Lasallian mission.

Christian Brothers of the Midwest (Midwest District): one of the three Districts in the Lasallian Region of North America. The Midwest District was established 1995 with the combining of the Chicago, St. Louis and Winona Districts. In 2026, it includes three universities, 12 high schools, three San Miguel schools, four retreat centers, and two publishing houses. The ministries are located in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Montana and Ohio.

Christian Brothers Major Superiors (CBMS): a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] civil corporation formed for the purpose of the following: to further and promote the religious, spiritual and educational activities and welfare of the Brothers of the Christian Schools; to further and promote the Lasallian mission; to foster collaboration between Districts and among members of those Districts and corresponding offices of those Districts; to provide Lasallian education and mission formation programs; and to provide a liaison with the general administration of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and with the rest of the Institute.

Community: a religious community is a canonically recognized group of people belonging to a religious institute and living in the same residence according to the rule of that institute. The building or residence is often called the community. Sometimes the word "community" is extended to mean the whole institute.

Contact: a man who indicates an interest in becoming a Brother of the Christian Schools and with whom the Brothers remain in contact as he discerns his life's vocation.

Council (or Councilors): the group or members of the group of Brothers who are elected to or appointed to advise the Brother Superior (General Council) or the Brother Visitor (District Council). Other councils are formed for specific purposes, like a District council or mission council.

Declaration: "The Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration" (Declaration) was published by the 39th General Chapter in 1967 to address in contemporary language the central dimensions of the Brother's vocation, namely, fidelity, vision and mission.

Delegate: the Brother appointed by the Superior General to represent him in governing a Delegation of the Institute. Delegate is also used to describe a person elected to participate in a gathering, such as a General Chapter. See capitulant.

Delegation: a group of Brothers living in a certain geographic area under the authority of the Superior General, who appoints his Delegate to administer the Delegation. There may be a local coordinator known as the President of the Delegation. A Delegation is smaller than a District. There are no Delegations in the Lasallian Region of North America.

Director: the local religious superior of a community with terms limited by Canon Law or by the *Rule*.

District: a geographical area that is an official, canonical, administrative unit in the Institute under the direction of a Visitor. There are three Districts in the Lasallian Region of North America: Eastern North America, Midwest and San Francisco New Orleans.

District Chapter: a policy shaping body of Brothers elected to nominate Visitors and to formulate legislative acts adapting the *Rule* to local conditions; the body normally meets when the Brother Visitor is about to complete his term of office.

District Chapter Acts: legislative acts or directives coming forward from a District Chapter.

District of Eastern North America (DENA): one of the three Districts in the Lasallian Region of North America. Established in 2009, DENA is a combination of the former Districts of Baltimore, Long Island-New England and New York. In January 2026, the former District of Francophone Canada joined DENA as the Quebec Sector. DENA includes more than 30 universities, secondary, middle and San Miguel schools, youth and family services agencies and other ministries located in Florida, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C., and Ontario and Quebec in Canada.

District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO): one of the three Districts in the Lasallian Region of North America. Established in 2014, SFNO combined the former Districts of San Francisco and New Orleans-Santa Fe. In 2026, SFNO includes 21 middle, secondary and post-secondary educational ministries located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Washington, and an education center in Tijuana, Mexico.

Formation: an expression for the training and education by a religious institute of its members and partners.

Formator: a person who is appointed to organize and provide formation.

Founder: Saint John Baptist de La Salle, a priest born in Rheims, France, April 30, 1651, who in 1680 founded Christian schools for the education of poor children and a religious congregation of laymen called the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He died on April 7, 1719, and was canonized a saint of the Catholic Church on May 24, 1900. On May 15, 1950, Saint La Salle was proclaimed Patron of All Teachers of Youth by the Catholic Church.

General Chapter: typically conducted every seven years at the Generalate in Rome, the General Chapter is responsible for the whole Body of the Institute and is held to undertake a periodic evaluation of the life of the Institute, to provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, and to set out the main guidelines for future action. In addition, the Chapter elects the Superior General, Vicar General and the General Councilors. It has the power to take all suitable legislative and administrative measures that concern the establishments and members of the Institute (*Rule*, 112).

General Council: the leadership of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools comprised of the Superior General, the Vicar General and Generals Councilors. In 2026, there are six General Councilors.

General Councilor: a Brother elected or appointed to assist the Superior General and the Vicar General in administering the work of the Institute. At the 46th General Chapter in 2022, Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, was elected General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America.

Generalate: the headquarters of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome, often called the Center of the Institute or by its Italian name, Casa Generalizia.

Huether Lasallian Conference: an annual gathering of educators in the Lasallian Region of North America that focuses on innovative educational issues. It started in 1973 as a workshop organized by Brother Francis Huether, FSC, (1913-2000), and was later given his name. Huether is organized by the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference.

Initial Formation: a time in the formative process of the Brothers' vocation that includes the postulancy, novitiate and a period of temporary vows.

Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and approved by Pope Benedict XIII in 1725, an institute of pontifical right, composed exclusively of lay religious. The term "Institute" is more accurate than the terms "congregation" and "order."

Intercapitular: a meeting of Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors held at the Generalate between two General Chapters, which typically take place every seven years. The meeting provides an opportunity to evaluate how directives from the General Chapter have been implemented throughout the Institute and to make provisional plans for the following chapter.

International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU): a network of Lasallian higher education institutions around the world that supports the Lasallian mission and offers opportunities for collaboration, research and exchange between member institutions.

International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission / Conseil International de l'Association et de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne (CIAMEL): a deliberative and collaborative body of Brothers and Partners representing the worldwide Institute, established for the animation and direction of all existing and future educational programs that embody the Lasallian mission.

International Lasallian Center / Centro Internazionale Lasalliano (CIL): a program of Lasallian formation conducted at the Generalate in Rome, and occasionally in the Regions, in which Brothers, Lasallian Sisters, and Partners from around the world participate. The length of each CIL program varies from one month to nine months.

International Lasallian Cooperation Service / Service de Coopération Lasallienne Internationale (SECOLI): established by the 39th General Chapter (1966-67), SECOLI coordinates the support of Districts to fragile sectors of the Institute. SECOLI's goal is to advance the strategic plans of developing sectors of the Institute as they move toward both responsibly fulfilling their Lasallian mission and achieving self-sufficiency.

International Lasallian Studies Session / Session internationale d'études lasaliennes (SIEL): a program of the Institute's Lasallian Research and Resources Service in which Brothers and/or Partners are accompanied in developing basic competence in Lasallian research, with the goal of producing Lasallian studies and the dissemination of those publications both inside and outside of the Lasallian family.

La Salle International Foundation: a USA-based development foundation that supports global Lasallian needs, particularly in the areas of education, health and human services. In critical times, it also provides emergency support for humanitarian relief.

Lasallian: an adjective that describes the spirituality and the educational approach of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the mission, as well as any ministry or movement associated with the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The word is also used as a noun, singular or plural, to describe those people who are involved in continuing the charism in Lasallian ministries.

Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU): an association of Lasallian colleges and universities in the Lasallian Region of North America that provides a forum for interaction and collaboration between the institutions.

Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA): an association of chief administrators, generally presidents, principals and board chairs, of secondary schools in the Lasallian Region of North America that fosters a cooperative spirit among administrators and provides a forum for discussion.

Lasallian Education Council (LEC): a structure of shared responsibility for the Lasallian mission among the Brothers and Partners in the Lasallian Region of North America. Established by the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers in 2011, the LEC is responsible for the oversight of mission formation and education programs and the expansion of mission-related activities and ministries.

Lasallian family: a term used to refer collectively to those who participate in the Lasallian mission, especially those who follow in the path of sharing the spirit and mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI): a former formation program that educated Lasallians on how to become more effective leaders and catalysts for the furtherance of the Lasallian heritage in their communities. LLI was a program of Christian Brothers Conference that served Lasallians from 1997-2012. It was replaced by the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice in 2014.

Lasallian Partner: see "Partner."

Lasallian Publications Committee (LPC): formed in 2016, the purpose of the LPC is to determine what kind of publications are needed and how to make them accessible to: academic and research efforts; education and evangelization efforts; growth and formation of individuals and educational communities; and external audiences.

Lasallian Region of North America / Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord (RELAN): one of the five Regions in the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Established in 2012, RELAN includes the Districts of Eastern North America, Midwest and San Francisco New Orleans.

Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI): a formation program meant to ground Lasallians experientially, practically and spiritually in the Church's option for the poor and in Lasallian association for the educational service of the poor. LSJI is a program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference.

Lasallian Spirituality Fellows: an advanced, in-depth study in Lasallian spirituality consisting in both virtual and in-person sessions over 18 months. Through readings and discussion on the Gospel journey of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, redemption and salvation, the mystical vision of Saint Paul, 7th-century French spirituality, and the writings of Brothers Michel Sauvage and Miguel Campos and others, participants will deepen their understanding of Lasallian spirituality while considering contemporary opportunities and challenges. This program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference began in 2025.

Lasallian Volunteers (LV): a former program in the Lasallian Region of North America that provided dedicated, well-trained volunteers for one or two years of service in mainly Lasallian schools and agencies, serving some of the neediest communities across the United States. After 32 years, the program ended in 2022.

Lasallian Youth: an international movement that empowers students to be examples of faith, service and community through mission experiences, retreat programs, social justice education and service-learning opportunities.

Letters of Affiliation (AFSC): a person formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served the Lasallian mission in an extraordinary way. The affiliated member may use the initials "AFSC" after his or her name.

Letters of Benefaction (BFSC): a person formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for important services rendered to the Lasallian mission. He or she may use the initials "BFSC" after his or her name.

Midwest District: see Christian Brothers of the Midwest.

Ministry: in general, ministry is the carrying out of an ecclesial mission according to a charism recognized by the Church. In some English-speaking countries, "ministry" is also used to refer to works or educational centers, including the particular functions that people carry out in educational works.

Mission (also Lasallian mission): from the Latin root meaning "send," the term includes the various works or apostolates to which the Church sends people and institutions. The purpose of the Lasallian mission is "to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it."

Novice: a man in the Brothers vocation program who has completed the postulancy phase and enters the novitiate. A novice receives a Brother's robe and undertakes a yearlong formation program prior to taking first (temporary) vows and proceeding with further academic and pedagogical training. The term is used similarly in other institutes of consecrated women and men.

Novitiate: a yearlong experience for men who are discerning their vocation as Brothers of the Christian Schools that gives them a chance to deepen one's formation. The RELAN Novitiate is located in Chicago, Illinois.

Office for Lasallian Education (OLE), Christian Brothers Conference: Guided by the Lasallian Education Council (LEC), the Office for Lasallian Education provides formation and education programs to serve Lasallians in the Lasallian Region of North America. OLE is led by a director, who oversees the work of the OLE in creating, operating and evaluating Regional formation programs, as well as working to implement the strategic priorities established by the LEC.

1 La Salle: a solidarity and fundraising initiative that responds to the call of the 46th General Chapter, aligning with the Institute's renewed vision of co-responsibility, sustainability and accountability. The initiative is a renewal that calls Lasallians to broaden our imagination and to engage more intentionally in the Lasallian mission. The global campaign aims to generate resources for ministries in need by building community, growing in solidarity, and learning about the complex issues that face Lasallians around the world.

Partner: the most common and preferred term used to describe people who are co-workers, associates or colleagues of the Brothers in their ministries.

Perpetual Profession: see vows.

Postulant: a candidate in the first stage of initial formation who discerns his vocation while sharing in the community and apostolic life of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The postulancy stage precedes the novitiate.

Provincial: a title synonymous with the animation and leadership role of Visitor.

Provincialate: the official name of the offices where the Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor and their staffs work. It also refers to the community in which the Provincial (Visitor) resides.

Quebec Sector: Formerly the District of Francophone Canada that was established in 1992 as a combination of the then Districts of Québec, Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Ottawa. In January 2026, the District of Eastern North America incorporated the ministries of this new Sector, which include: Camp De-La-Salle, Centre Lasallien, Centre Notre-Dame de La Rouge, and Villa des Jeunes. All adopt non-formal approaches to education and are located in Québec.

Rabat: (pronounced ruh-bah) the two-piece white collar that is part of the Brothers' habit/robe.

Region: a geographical area officially designated as a union of several Districts in the Institute, generally selected on the basis of contiguity and common languages. In 2026, there are five Regions in the Institute: Pacific-Asia Regional Conference (PARC), Région Lasallienne Afrique (RELAF), Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée (RELEM), Región Latinoamericana Lasallista (RELAL), and Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord / Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). See "Lasallian Region of North America."

Regional Communications Team (RCT): comprised of the communications personnel from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) and District offices. Established in 2012 as a way to strengthen and streamline communications in RELAN, the team works together on communications projects, collaboratively responds to the communications needs of Lasallians, and fosters relationships between communications personnel in the Region.

Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB): comprised of Brother Visitors, Auxiliary Visitors and District mission leaders from the Lasallian Region of North America for collective communication, cooperation and collaboration.

Regional Finance Committee (RFC): serves in an advisory capacity to Christian Brothers Major Superiors and includes representatives from the District of Eastern North America, the Midwest District and the District of San Francisco New Orleans.

Regional Novitiate Postulancy Committee (NPC): an advisory committee to the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB). The NPC advises the Visitors in their determination of policies and curricula for the Regional postulancy and novitiate programs. The NPC keeps the RCCB, the Regional Vocation Formation Committee and the Districts informed on all matters concerning both programs.

Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC): an advisory committee to the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers that provides leadership, programs and mutual support in the Lasallian Region of North America in the areas of vocation ministry, initial formation and continuing formation.

Rule: a canonically approved set of articles (constitutions and statutes) pertaining to the mission, duties and practices that the Brothers throughout the world adapt locally as directives for their communities and Districts. The *Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* was revised in 2015 based on the modifications made to the 1987 version at the 45th General Chapter in 2014 following several years of work by commissions.

Sector: a geographic area within a District that is made up of communities and ministries that share similarities in language, history or culture. There are no Sectors in the Lasallian Region of North America.

Shared Mission: adopted by the 41st General Chapter in 1993 to refer to Brothers and Partners sharing responsibility for the Lasallian mission. Today, "association for mission" refers to those who identify themselves as the sons and daughters of John Baptist de La Salle participating in the saving work of education and evangelization.

Signum Fidei: a Latin expression meaning "Sign of Faith," symbolized by a five-pointed star and incorporated into the seal of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as well as many Lasallian schools and organizations. It is also the name of an organization of lay Lasallian associates that was established in 1976.

Superior General: the highest officer of the Institute with canonical rights and duties. He works and resides at the Generalate in Rome and is assisted by a Vicar and Councilors. At the 46th General Chapter in 2022, Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, former Visitor of the District of East Asia (LEAD) (2019-2022), was elected Superior General.

Twinning: a former Institute initiative that encouraged Districts that were financially able to aid those most in need. In the Lasallian Region of North America, the school-to-school twinning program paired RELAN schools with ministries in the Lwanga District of Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Africa) in order for the RELAN schools to financially assist the Lwanga ministries and to connect students to help them build relationships as members of the Lasallian family. In 2025, Twinning was incorporated into the 1 La Salle initiative.

VEGA: an Italian acronym for the words *Vedere, Giudicare, Agire* meaning "See, Judge, Act." It is the name of gatherings of Young Lasallians that take place throughout the world with the goals of fostering the growth of the Young Lasallian movement, providing formation, and strengthening networking.

Vicar General: the second highest officer of the Institute. At the 46th General Chapter in 2022, Brother Carlos Gómez Restrepo, FSC, was elected Vicar General.

Visitor: the Religious Superior of a District, also called Provincial, and having canonical rights and duties.

Vocation: a call from God that individuals experience to live as a responsible baptized person. An individual's call or vocation may be to a particular expression of that baptism, as a member of a religious institute, to single or married life, and/or to a particular profession.

Vocation Director/Team: the Brother(s) and Partner(s) who lead a District program for fostering a culture of vocations that invites young men and women to properly discern their calling in life. They focus especially on inviting and accompanying men interested in the Brothers' way of life in their discernment process.

Vows: the deliberate, free and public promises to God made by the Brothers. The first and central vow is that of association for the educational service of the poor. They also take a vow of stability in the Institute. The traditional vows of obedience, chastity and poverty flow from association and stability to express their religious consecration for the glory of God. The Brothers express this consecration, first by temporary and then by perpetual profession. First vows and annual (or temporary) vows are terms that respectively describe vows taken for a single year at the end of the novitiate, and vows taken for a single year which are renewable on an annual basis until the time for perpetual profession (generally after five years of annual vows).

World Association of Lasallian Alumni (UMAEL): an international organization that consists of alumni groups from Lasallian schools throughout the world. It unites Lasallian alumni on an international level to foster a sense of belonging and association while promoting the Lasallian mission.

Young Lasallians: an international movement, promoted by the International Council of Young Lasallians, keeping young people (typically ages 16 to 35) engaged in the Lasallian mission through faith sharing, service of the poor through education, and community building. Young professionals, young alumni, young Brothers, Lasallian youth, Lasallian collegians and Lasallian Volunteers are among those who are considered to be young Lasallians.

This glossary is based on an original compilation by Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC, (1919-2018), which was revised by the District of San Francisco New Orleans in April 2017. It was revised by Christian Brothers Conference, in collaboration with RELAN Districts' communications offices, in 2018 and updated in 2020 and 2026.

Lasallian Acronym Guide

This guide defines many acronyms used in RELAN that are unique to the Lasallian family. This is not an exhaustive list and is subject to updates. Some terms may not apply to all RELAN Districts, and some Districts may have additional terms or varied styles of terms listed.

AIMEL	Assemblée Internationale de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne / International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission
AFSC	Affiliated Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)
BFSC	Benefactor Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)
BIF	Brothers in Initial Formation
CBC	Christian Brothers Conference
CBEBT	Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust
CBIS	Christian Brothers Investment Services
CBMS	Christian Brothers Major Superiors
CBS	Christian Brothers Services
CIAMEL	Conseil International de l'Association et de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne / International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission
CIL	Centro Internazionale Lasalliano / International Lasallian Center
CMSM	Conference of Major Superiors of Men
DENA	District of Eastern North America
FÉC	Frères des Écoles chrétiennes (Brothers of the Christian Schools)
FSC	Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)
IALU	International Association of Lasallian Universities
LACU	Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities
LACU-MO	Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities – Mission Officers

LASSCA	Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators
LAYFS	Lasallian Association of Youth and Family Services
LEC	Lasallian Education Council
LPC	Lasallian Publications Committee
LSJI	Lasallian Social Justice Institute
OLE	Office for Lasallian Education, Christian Brothers Conference
MW	Christian Brothers of the Midwest (Midwest District)
NPC	Regional Novitiate Postulancy Committee
PARC	Pacific-Asia Regional Conference
RCCB	Regional Conference of Christian Brothers
RCT	Regional Communications Team
RELAF	Région Lasallienne Afrique (Africa)
RELAL	Región Latinoamericana Lasallista (Latin America)
RELAN	Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord / Lasallian Region of North America
RELEM	Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée (Europe)
RFC	Regional Finance Committee
RVFC	Regional Vocation Formation Committee
SECOLI	Service de Coopération Lasallienne Internationale / International Lasallian Cooperation Service
SFNO	District of San Francisco New Orleans
SIEL	Session internationale d'études lasallienes / International Lasallian Studies Session
UMAEL	World Association of Lasallian Alumni
VEGA	Italian acronym for <i>Vedere, Giudicare, Agire</i> ("See, Judge, Act")

YL

Young Lasallians

Lasallian Style Guide

This style guide details proper use of certain language used in RELAN that is unique to the Lasallian family. This is not an exhaustive list and is subject to updates. Some language may not apply to all RELAN Districts, and some Districts may have additional terms/phrases or varied styles of those listed.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the De La Salle Christian Brothers

Several references are acceptable to what is formally called the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and its members, the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Choice of use often depends on audience. In RELAN, the preferred term for referencing members of the Institute is De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Using De La Salle Christian Brothers is preferred in external use. Christian Brothers or Brothers are more common for internal or informal use, especially after the first reference of De La Salle Christian Brothers, as needed. For example:

The De La Salle Christian Brothers opened a new school.

Four Christian Brothers will teach at the school.

The Brothers led the new faculty in prayer.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is the official name of the religious institute founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. When referring to the Institute, on first reference, the full name is used. If succeeding references are needed, write Institute with a capital "I." On first reference to an external audience that is ecclesial, the preference is to use De La Salle Christian Brothers with Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools or Brothers of the Christian Schools in parentheses, as shown in the example below.

The De La Salle Christian Brothers (Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools) are passionate about carrying on the mission of their founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Founder

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Saint John Baptist de La Salle is correct and is the preferred term when referring to the Founder. The “d” in “de” is never capitalized in this usage. “Saint” is generally spelled out, but if space is limited, “St.” may be used. Consistency should be maintained throughout your materials.

In shortening the Founder’s name, the following uses are acceptable:

- Saint La Salle or St. La Salle
- De La Salle
- La Salle

Note: Some ministries use various styles. In those cases, use the style of the ministry that you are referencing. For example, DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis does not use spaces.

Spell all words in their English form; do not use Jean or Baptiste. If the context calls for the French version, use Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle.

When referring to De La Salle as a founder in a general way, spell “founder” in lowercase. When using “Founder” as a title and as a proper noun, capitalize the first letter. For example:

The founder of the De La Salle Christian Brothers is Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

The Founder is regarded as a model by all Lasallians.

Brothers

Brother

Always capitalize Brother, both for general reference and as the title of a specific Brother. For example:

At the liturgy, three Brothers read the prayers of intercession. The first to speak was Brother John Doe, FSC.

Brother may be spelled out in full or abbreviated as "Bro." or "Br." Christian Brothers Conference uses Brother, but both Bro. and Br. are acceptable depending on the preference of the District. Use "Brother" on first reference before using an abbreviated version.

When writing out a list of Brothers containing three or more names, do what is clearest and least obtrusive according to the style in which you are writing. For example:

Brother Frederick Smith, FSC, Brother Joseph Jones, FSC, and Brother Robert Brown, FSC, were among the guests.

or

Brothers Frederick Smith, Joseph Jones, and Robert Brown were among the guests.

Use a Brother's full name on first reference. In succeeding references to the same Brother, use only the first name. For example:

Brother Robert Jones, FSC, spoke to families. Brother Robert's remarks were well received.

FSC, AFSC, BFSC

FSC, (*Latin*: *Fratres Scholarum Christianarum*) which follows a Brother's name, is written without periods and enclosed in commas. For example:

Brother Joseph Jones, FSC, is the new principal of La Salle High School.

AFSC, which is given to a person who has received Letters of Affiliation from the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, is written without periods and enclosed in commas. For example:

Mr. William Doe, AFSC, spoke to students.

BFSC, which is given to a person who has received Letters of Benefaction from the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, is written without periods and enclosed in commas. For example:

Mrs. Mary Smith, BFSC, visited the school.

Superior General

Superior General refers to the leader of the Institute. Superior General is always capitalized. The following examples are acceptable references. For example:

First reference:

Brother Superior General Armin Luistro, FSC, released a new pastoral letter.

Brother Superior Armin Luistro, FSC, released a new pastoral letter.

Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, Superior General, released a new pastoral letter.

Second reference:

The Brother Superior released the letter on Monday.

Brother Armin released the letter on Monday.

General Councilor, Council

General Councilor refers to a member of the Superior General's General Council. General Councilor and Council are always capitalized. For example:

Brother General Councilor Chris Patiño, FSC, serves on the General Council.

Brother General Councilor Chris Patiño, FSC, serves on the Council.

Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor

Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor reference leadership in Districts. They should be capitalized in all uses. Provincial can be used in place of Visitor for certain audiences as deemed appropriate. For example:

The letter was signed by Brother Visitor Joseph Jones, FSC.

Novitiate, Novice, Postulant, Aspirant, Contact

The novitiate is a yearlong experience for men who are discerning their vocation as Brothers of the Christian Schools. When referencing the novitiate in the Lasallian Region of North America, using "RELAN Novitiate" is acceptable. In general references, novitiate should be lowercase.

The terms novice, postulant, aspirant and contact refer to men in various stages of formation. Each should be lowercase. For example:

Five novices are in the RELAN Novitiate. The novitiate year gives them the opportunity for discernment.

Geography

Region

When used in reference to a particular geographic area of the Institute, the term “Region” is always spelled with an initial capital letter to distinguish it from the generic term “region.”

The Lasallian Region of North America is a dual-language Region. Depending on audience, the Lasallian Region of North America, Région Lasallienne de l’Amérique du Nord, or the Lasallian Region of North America/Région Lasallienne de l’Amérique du Nord are all acceptable. Spell it in full on the first reference. In subsequent uses in English or French, “RELAN” is acceptable.

The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) includes the United States and Canada. RELAN has three Districts. The Region was established in 2012.

District

“District,” in reference to an area of governance in the Institute, is always spelled with a capital “D.” For example:

The Lasallian Region of North America includes three Districts.

Lasallian

Lasallian

Lasallian is an adjective that describes the spirituality and the educational approach of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the mission, as well as any ministry or movement associated with the De La Salle Christian Brothers. The word is also used as a noun, singular or plural, to describe those people who are involved in continuing the charism in Lasallian ministries. Lasallian is correct. LaSallian, La Sallian or other variations are incorrect. For example:

Lasallians gathered to plan for the future of the Lasallian mission.

Lasallian Mission / Lasallian Education

The purpose of the **Lasallian mission** is to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it. References to mission should be in lowercase. The same rule applies for **Lasallian education**. For example:

The students embraced the Lasallian mission.

School leaders gathered to discern their roles in Lasallian education.

Partner

The term “**Partner**” in Lasallian terminology is spelled with an initial capital letter. For example:

There are 200 Partners in the room.

For Prayers

Let Us Remember ...

As Lasallians, we begin and end our prayers by remembering that we are in the holy presence of God. This is usually done in the style of a call from the prayer leader and a response from the participants. Styles vary throughout the Lasallian world. The preferred style in RELAN is:

To begin a prayer:

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God.

**Note: “Let us remember” is often spoken by the prayer leader, with “that we are in the Holy Presence of God” being the response. Another variation is the full sentence being spoken by the prayer leader.*

To end a prayer:

Saint John Baptist de La Salle ... Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts ... Forever!