



# REGIONAL FORMATION

## Programs Guide for Chief Administrators

Updated January 2026



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## Dear Lasallian Chief Administrators,

Greetings from Christian Brothers Conference! Thank you for your support of our shared Lasallian educational mission. Our Regional Lasallian family remains strong as we hold true to our Founder's vision of providing a human and Christian education to the young people entrusted to our care, especially the poor, through our colleges/universities, secondary schools, Miguel schools, youth/family service agencies, retreat centers and support ministries. Under the leadership of the Lasallian Education Council, the Office for Lasallian Education provides high-level mission formation programs designed to strengthen the Lasallian identity and mission in the hearts and minds of Lasallians through programs such as the **Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies**, the **Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice** and the **Lasallian Social Justice Institute**. The office also focuses on educational programming, including sponsoring the **Huether Lasallian Conference** each November and partnering with the **Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA)** and its annual conference. We appreciate your support in sending people to these formation and education experiences to deepen their commitment to the Lasallian mission and affirm their vocational calling as a Lasallian educator.

The Regional Formation Programs Advisory Committee was formed in fall 2019 to promote and support formation and education programs in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). We are grateful to this group for their initiative and assistance in putting together this guide. We hope this guide assists in creating a shared understanding of the Regional formation and education programs by providing detailed program descriptions, participant profiles and outcomes of each program. As you browse this guide, you will notice the programs are listed in order of the length of time commitment required. It begins with the Huether Lasallian Conference, a three-day educational conference, and concludes with the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, a six-week program completed over three years.

As you consider inviting colleagues to these formation experiences, we recommend you identify and meet with participants **PRIOR TO** their participation in any of these programs to discuss their motivations, hopes and excitement and to express the expectation that they will engage others on the ministry level following the completion of their program. In each ministry, it will be important to give some preliminary thought to how participants will "share" what they've learned and experienced and how it can support you and local formators/animators. In many programs, the participant(s) are charged with "bringing back and sharing" the experiences with their ministries. Your support and active engagement with those you send to these programs, both before and following the programs, will be of tremendous help to each person as she or he "brings back and shares" what they have learned. We appreciate your support and commitment to working with each participant to make this happen.

Thank you for your leadership and support of our Regional formation and education programs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions at [slaitinen@cbconf.org](mailto:slaitinen@cbconf.org) or (202) 529-0047x109.

Live Jesus in our hearts ... Forever!

**Sarah Laitinen**

Director of Education and Formation  
Christian Brothers Conference



## FROM THE BROTHER VISITORS

We have always valued the formation of all Lasallians — Brothers and Partners. It is why we have funded both District and Regional programs that nurture deep connections to charism and mission. It is of vital importance.

The world we live in is not unlike the context that surrounded Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The poor and marginalized continue to be disenfranchised and their humanity continues to be dismissed. Salvation of the young (and not so young) — especially the poor — remains an urgent concern. The mission of salvation is not only about doing a good job, but it is about a vocational call. It is about our core identity. We are not people who put on the charism as we put on a sweater in winter. Our identity must rise from within — from the heart and soul. We are ministers because we realize we are the face of God's infinite compassion, mercy and

love. When a person who has been entrusted to our care is in relationship with us, she or he enters a sacred space. Our work is sacramental. The good news is we do not have to be perfect to be the place of this sacred encounter. In fact, our own imperfections are the vehicle through which God's work is made real.

The Lasallian mission in RELAN represents a deep partnership between the Brothers of the Christian Schools and our deeply loved and admired Lasallian Partners. This partnership is critical to the continuation of the mission. It is truly a physical and visual manifestation of our treasured understanding of “together and by association,” which emerges out of the Brothers’ primary vow of association for the educational service of the poor. Indeed, we are in this together globally.

Formation nurtures and deepens our understanding of our connections to the 340-year history begun in Reims, France, by a priest who became our brother and who became one with those who so deeply needed to know they were loved by God, whose human dignity needed to be honored, and who needed a way to survive in the world. Formation takes us more deeply into an understanding of our own identity as persons who are the living legacy of the early community of teachers that became the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Together and by association we remain creatively faithful to this original inspiration.

Friends, Partners and Brothers, you bear the joy of carrying the mission into the future. Our world needs faithful, dedicated ministers who continue to help those we serve know they are loved and have value because they are children of a passionate God. We are collaborators with God, and it is a mission of the Spirit that we carry out.

We also encourage our administrators who bear significant responsibility for the life of the mission to continue to support the Lasallian identity and ministry of those who have participated in formation. Engage and partner with them as members of your local formation teams. Nurture their vocation by giving them significant responsibility for the development of your institutional culture and the formation of others in your local ministry. What we encounter through formation is contagious, and it elevates everyone's purpose and meaning. Put the effects of Regional programming to work for the good of everyone.

We wish all of you comfort in knowing that each of us lives every moment in the Holy Presence of God. We hope you know that when we say Jesus lives in our heart we are speaking of our very identity.

**Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC**  
Visitor, Midwest District

**Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC**  
Visitor, District of San Francisco  
New Orleans

**Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC**  
Visitor, District of Eastern North America





## Huether Lasallian Conference

The Huether Lasallian Conference is an annual gathering of Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners in the Region that focuses on a particular theme related to the Lasallian charism and educational mission. The 52nd conference was held in 2025. Visit [lasallian.info/programs-events/huether](https://lasallian.info/programs-events/huether) to learn more.

### COMMUNITY

As Huether is the premier educational conference for Lasallian Partners and Brothers, educators from all ministries and communities are invited to participate.

### CONTENT

The location and theme change each year with a focus on innovative educational issues. Through a thoughtful blend of keynote addresses, breakout sessions and prayer services, we call upon scholars from within and outside the Lasallian tradition in matters pertaining to each year's theme. Huether also offers an extraordinary opportunity to network, socialize and meet Lasallians from across the United States and Canada. The program includes a celebration of Lasallians from across the Region who are recognized for their exemplary contributions to Lasallian education.



**“There’s something so special about getting to see everybody from across the entire Region that’s connected in one mission, and really living it out in very different ways.”**

**Maile Shelley**  
De La Salle High School  
Concord, CA

## COMMITMENT

The Huether Conference takes place Thursday through Saturday during the week immediately prior to Thanksgiving. The program schedule is three days and two nights. The revolving themes of the Huether Conference allow a person to participate in more than one Huether experience.

Participants should exemplify:

- A commitment to actively engage in the formation and education experience by being present to all aspects of the program (i.e., prayer, keynote, breakout sessions, Mass, socials, etc.)
- A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of what they learned upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team

After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians will apply and share the knowledge of what they learned to help continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.





## Lasallian Social Justice Institute

The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) (one-week program) is an immersive formation program for Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners in the Region based on the Gospel and our Lasallian vocation to the promotion of social justice and service to the poor. **In the summer of 2026, LSJI will take place in Syracuse, New York, where participants will explore the realities surrounding child poverty.** Visit [lasallian.info/programs-events/lsji](http://lasallian.info/programs-events/lsji) to learn more.

### COMMUNITY

The purpose of LSJI is to provide an experiential, educational, creatively practical, immersive, community experience. It embodies the Lasallian commitment to help participants draw closer to the experiences of the poor and stand in solidarity with those suffering from injustice. Over the course of the program, participants will have an opportunity to consider authentic responses in light of the Gospel and the Lasallian vocation.

### CONTINUED SERVICE

Past locations and topics have included:

- Immigration, El Otro Lado, El Paso, TX, 2025
- Urban Intersections of Injustice, Br. David Darst Center, Chicago, IL, 2024
- Experience of Migrant Farm Worker, La Salle Educational Center, Homestead, FL, 2023
- OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA (Come and See) Blackfeet Immersion, Browning, MT, 2022





**“Immersive,  
powerful,  
educational.”**

**Ivy Wick**  
Saint Mary's Press  
Winona, MN

## COMMITMENT

This program takes place for one week in the summer. The revolving themes of LSJI allow a person to participate in more than one LSJI experience.

Participants should exemplify:

- A serious interest in the overall program and yearly theme while illustrating a commitment to social justice
- A commitment to actively engage in an immersive formation experience and to be present to all aspects of the program (i.e., prayer, service, sessions, discussions, socials, etc.)
- A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of their experience upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team to promote causes of social justice

After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian social justice efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.





# Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice

The Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (two-year program) is designed for Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners who exercise mission influence (informing, guiding and leading the mission in one's context) and/or show potential for such in the future. Visit [lasallian.info/programs-events/johnston](http://lasallian.info/programs-events/johnston) to learn more.

## CURRICULUM

This program has a commitment to explore the contemporary expressions of Lasallian heritage and is the driving element of this formative experience. Engaging in prayer, study, reflection and dialogue will provide an opportunity for assisting in more deeply animating our shared mission on the local level and within the broader Lasallian family through **developing a capstone paper or project** while in consultation with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team.

The Johnston Institute focuses on deepening the understanding of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's story and vision, Lasallian pedagogy, the Lasallian promotion of justice and Lasallian spirituality while using contemporary texts to inform and influence current and future Lasallian practice.





## COMMITMENT

The program is set up in a District cohort model. Lasallians will gather for six (four District and two Regional) in-person sessions and three online sessions. The schedule of cohort dates is distributed as part of the registration materials.

Participants should exemplify:

- A serious interest in the overall program and a commitment to the ministry's mission and Lasallian principles
- A minimum of 2-3 years' experience at a Lasallian ministry with a demonstrated desire to learn more about the charism
- A commitment to actively engage in a communal and sustained formation experience while being present to all aspects of the program (i.e., prayer, in-person sessions, online sessions, retreat, Mass, socials, etc.)
- A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of the experience upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team to influence mission at the ministry level

Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share knowledge through their capstone paper or project to continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level. Graduates should be open to further Lasallian experiences.



**“Association emerges from a shared mission but is sustained by a shared spirituality. It’s one thing to learn about De La Salle’s vision; it’s another to live it daily in our classrooms and communities.”**

**Randi Butler**  
St. John’s College High School  
Washington, DC



## Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies

The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies (three-year program) is designed to inspire Lasallian educators, Brothers and Partners to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story through scholarly study, to awaken the basis of their vocation as educators and nurture their personal, professional and spiritual journey. This formation program also seeks to deepen association for the Lasallian mission and provide experiences to empower Lasallians to become catalysts in their own ministries. Visit [lasallian.info/programs-events/buttimer](https://lasallian.info/programs-events/buttimer) to learn more.

### CURRICULUM

Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle in a community cohort model and an analysis of some modern educators, Lasallians will develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education and spirituality through classes, community reflections and opportunities for interiority. The Buttimer Institute cohorts study:

- YEAR ONE: De La Salle's life and the founding of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools
- YEAR TWO: Lasallian pedagogy – in particular, the pedagogical practice that emerged in the founding that still inspires and informs us today
- YEAR THREE: Lasallian spirituality, with a focus on the *Meditations and Method of Interior Prayer*

### COMMUNITY

Community cohorts gather for three consecutive summers in two-week durations at Manhattan University in New York. The program normally takes place during the last week of June and first week of July.

**“The community experience at Buttiner was astounding; everyone was full of the Lasallian charism.”**

**Jon Hernández**  
Colegio De La Salle  
Bayamón, Puerto Rico



## COMMITMENT

This is an intense formative experience, both in the workload and community expectations. Lasallians considering this program should come prepared to immerse themselves in the experience for the entire two weeks of the program. The full program is designed to run through three years of formation.

Participants should exemplify:

- A serious interest in the overall program and a commitment to the ministry's mission and Lasallian principles
- A minimum of 3-5 years' experience at a Lasallian ministry with a strong desire to learn more about the charism
- A commitment to actively engage in this sustained community formation experience and to be present to all aspects of the program (i.e., prayer, class, Mass, socials, class retreat, etc.)
- A commitment to apply and share the knowledge of their experience upon return to the ministry while working in collaboration with chief administrator(s) and/or a Lasallian animator or local mission formation team to share insights gained during program with ministry colleagues



Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level. Graduates should be open to further Lasallian experiences.



## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

### Huether Lasallian Conference

 3 days

 **November 19-21, 2026**

Minneapolis, MN

 The 2026 registration fee will be announced in spring 2026. As a frame of reference, the 2025 fee was \$425 for the first participant, \$400 for the second participant and \$375 for each additional participant.

After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.

Learn more at [Lasallian.info/Huether](https://Lasallian.info/Huether).

### Lasallian Social Justice Institute

 1 week

 **July 20-24, 2026**

Child Poverty  
Syracuse, NY

 The 2026 registration fee is \$1,100 per person with a maximum of two from any one ministry. This program is limited to 12 participants in total. Travel to/from Syracuse is the responsibility of the participant and/or ministry.

After attending the program, it is our strong hope that Lasallians apply and share knowledge to continue Lasallian social justice efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.

Learn more at [Lasallian.info/LSJI](https://Lasallian.info/LSJI).

## Johnston Institute

-  2 weeklong Regional gatherings in summer and four 3-day District gatherings in fall and spring.
-  Cohort VI will begin in the summer of 2026 from **July 13-16** at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. *Learn more and see the session dates and locations at <https://bit.ly/4sAiC1m> or [Lasallian.info/Johnston](https://Lasallian.info/Johnston).*
-  The total cost for Cohort VI is \$5,100 per participant with invoices being \$2,550 each year. The registration fee covers accommodations, meals and program materials. Ministries and/or participants are responsible for travel arrangements and cost.  
  
Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share knowledge through their Capstone paper or project to continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.

## Buttimer Institute

-  2 weeks for 3 summers (6 weeks total)
-  **June 28 - July 11, 2026**  
Manhattan University  
Riverdale, NY
-  The 2026 registration fee is \$2,500 per person. The fee includes accommodations, meals and program materials. Ministries and/or participants are responsible for travel arrangements and cost.  
  
Upon completion of the program, it is our strong hope that graduates apply and share class and practica knowledge to continue Lasallian formation efforts on the ministry, District or Regional level.

*Learn more at [Lasallian.info/Buttimer](https://Lasallian.info/Buttimer).*



To learn more about these programs, visit  
[Lasallian.info/Programs](http://Lasallian.info/Programs) or contact Sarah Laitinen at  
202-529-0047 x109 or [slaitinen@cbconf.org](mailto:slaitinen@cbconf.org).

