



Lasallian Reflections

No. 17b

Brothers of the Christian Schools

December 2004

The Pastoral Ministry of Vocations to the Brothers of the Christian Schools

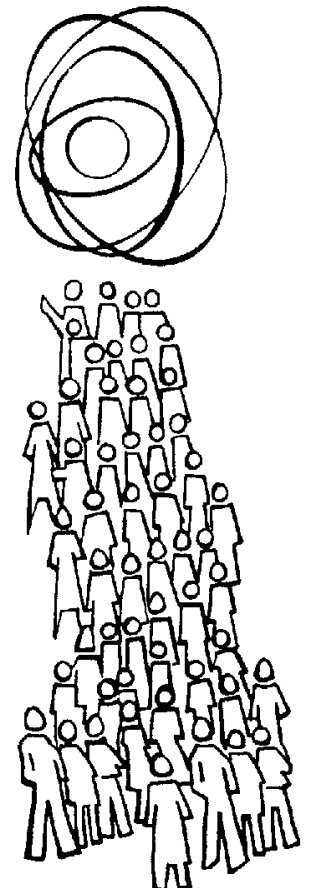
*Brother Aidan Kilty, FSC
Secretary of Formation*

An Introduction

The article entitled “Vocations Are Born from the Needs of the Young: Our Lasallian Tradition” was presented as a conference by Brother General Councilor Claude Reinhardt at the July 2004 Vocation Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico (for the Regions of Canada Francophone, Latin America, and USA/Toronto). What follows are some suggestions for its use in encouraging personal, communal, or District-wide reflection on the important topic of the pastoral ministry of vocations to the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Personal reflection... followed by Community reflection... leading to action.

1. One of the first points of this talk is that “God is among us” (pp. 1-2).
 - At this moment of my life, has this been my experience (when... where... who...)?
 - In my recent experience, what have been some of the moments that, in the words of Brother Claude, have “destabilized you, troubled you, disorientated you, re-orientated you...” (p.2)?
2. When presenting the needs of young people today, four scenarios are provided (pp.2-5). Who are the persons in your own life today who are like Yussef, Pedro, Günther, and Tanguy? Name these persons, and be prepared to share your reflection with others.
3. Based on your experience in the community to which you belong, in what way would you be able to address the needs expressed by Tanguy (p.5)?
 - Prayer and contemplation, and also social and professional commitment.
 - Identity and visibility of the community, and also closeness to the people.



- Mobility and availability for service, and also a community where life is truly shared like brothers [and sisters].
- A true service of society, and also a true mission of the Church.

4. At this stage of my life and in this community to which I belong, how am I challenged (a) to love in a different way and (b) to encounter and live true brotherhood [Lasallian fraternity] (p.6)?

5. Quoting a French psychologist, Brother Claude suggests that consecrated religious life has many countercultural values to offer to today's world (pp. 6-7). Among these are:

- Religious Brotherhood with attention to others including older people.
- Community as a challenge to individualism.
- A focus on God as the source of peace in a world of war and social exclusion.
- A Rule of life in the face of the meaninglessness of so many.
- Accompaniment as compared to the isolation of many.
- The Word of God as the source of life.

How accurate are these descriptions of the lived reality in the community to which I belong?

6. In responding to the needs of young people, Brother Claude insists that “our mission is education, our way of serving the poor is education...” (p. 8). In what way does this insistence influence vocation promotion in the community and in the District of which I am a part?

7. How does our “educational community” and/or my “religious community” actually promote the Christian vocation and, in particular, complementary Lasallian vocations?

8. “Should we invite candidates to consider life as a De La Salle Brother?” Claude answers this question with an unhesitating “yes” (p.10). How and why would you (your community) answer the same question?

9. How can the involvement of lay colleagues and other Lasallian partners be encouraged in the promotion of vocations and, in particular, in the promotion of vocations to the De La Salle Brothers?

10. What practical action might you (your community) take in response to Brother Claude's presentation or your own reflection and discussion?

