Pastoral visit of Brother Superior General to Madagascar: a journey of communion and hope

From 19 to 24 November, Brother Armin Luistro, Superior General, made **a memorable pastoral visit to Madagascar, strengthening bonds with the Lasallian Family**. Upon his arrival in Antananarivo, he was warmly welcomed, reflecting the hospitality of the Malagasy Lasallian Brothers and Partners and demonstrating the affection that unites them with those who welcome them.

One of the highlights of this visit was his meeting with the Postulancy community. The Brother Superior General was particularly impressed by the commitment and joy of the young men who are discerning their vocation and seeking to consecrate their lives to God. Their impressive numbers bear witness not only to the interest in religious life among the Brothers, but also to the spiritual richness that is flourishing in the country, supported by the Brothers and Lasallian Partners.

During his stay, Brother Armin had the opportunity to discover several schools and initiatives, in particular the Lasallian educational community of *Sainte Famille*. He praised the unity and enthusiasm that reign there, revealing the unconditional love that is professed to the students. At the Rafiringa High School, **the joyful dancing and singing transcended simple entertainment, embodying a renewed hope**. In addition, the work carried out at the Saint Joseph Workshop bears witness to a deep commitment to young people, offering them dignity and opportunities for employment or the creation of income-generating activities.

The exchanges with educators and administrators were rich and revealing. The District has shown creativity and energy, with a multitude of inspiring projects. The search for united collaboration, under the motto “One La Salle,” resonates with the founding vision of the Institute: **that young people recognise themselves as loved by God**, surrounded by compassionate adults.

160 years of Lasallian presence in Madagascar

The traditional “tso-drano” blessing, offered by Brother Donatien’s family on the occasion of his perpetual profession, left a deep impression on everyone’s hearts. It reminds us how crucial the support of parents is when one makes a definitive commitment to consecrated life. **The celebration of Brother Donatien’s perpetual profession also coincided with 160 years of Lasallian presence in Madagascar**. It was a time of celebration in which numerous awards were presented to Lasallians who have distinguished themselves by their exemplary commitment to their mission.

The visit culminated in a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Brother Raphaël-Louis Rafiringa, where Brother Armin was able to see that his legacy lives on through the daily actions of the Malagasy Lasallians in this place steeped in history and spirituality. Looking to the future, Brother Superior General shared his desire that the Spirit guide the Lasallian educational communities of Madagascar to join forces to create a stronger communion. **The projects in education, sustainable development and youth support are essential and will bear fruit for future generations**.

This pastoral visit has been a true journey of communion, strengthening the bonds between the Lasallians of the Big Island and the Centre of the Institute. Remembering every smile, every song, every prayer and every exchange, we affirm together our faith in God’s faithfulness. **May this faithfulness continue to accompany your mission, renewing your communities and nourishing your dreams**, Brother Armin emphasised to the Lasallians.

May the Spirit blow upon each one of us, inspiring a deeper fraternity and an unshakeable hope in the hearts of the young people we serve. This was Brother Armin’s prayer for all Lasallians in Madagascar.

* *Article written by Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI, General Councillor.*