



A “new” Intercom

Intercom has been a vehicle for communicating news to the whole Institute and to the Lasallian Family throughout its long history. With the arrival of electronic media, especially the Internet and email, the diffusion of news has accelerated at an incredible rate. The Institute, the majority of the Regions and Districts, and even many of our educational centers, have their own web pages where news can be transmitted quickly and efficiently. Because of this fact, Intercom no longer functions as a transmitter of news.

The General Council in Circular 456 (*“Toward the Year 2014”*) proposes as a line of action over the next years *“to publish Intercom with a new design and structure with a focus on its graphical presentation. It will report quarterly on events relevant to the Institute and give reflections from each Secretariat and Service, in accord with the areas and activities highlighted by the 44th General Chapter.”*

This is the purpose the Intercom we present today, and which, with the collaboration of all, we hope will be successful in its service to the Institute.



Dear Lasallians,

We, the members of the General Council, take advantage of this issue of Intercom, with its innovative and dynamic presentation, to greet the entire Lasallian Family. We would like, by means of this graphical media, to present a little of the rich variety and enormous creativity with which we Lasallians, from the world over, are responding to the demands of the educational mission in service of the poor.

As a result of the *“International Assembly on Mission and Association”* and the *“44th General Chapter”* we have been witnesses of important changes in all areas of our mission. Intercom will show us, starting with this issue, the way in which Lasallians from throughout the world are responding to the challenges that these two events have presented to us: there are plenty of tasks as regards the needs for the formation of all Lasallians, but there is also much energy and originality to attend to this; there is concern for understanding better our identity in the Church, but, also, there is the conviction that the authenticity of our lives will be the best response; there is the urgency that we see in the needs of the poor, but there is also an ever stronger movement towards committed solidarity.

The fact of being an Institute which is so diverse gives us the opportunity to expand our vision and our horizons to create valid and effective options that are adapted to the different contexts in which we find ourselves. In the same way, fraternity which characterizes us assures the unity of hearts in this rich diversity. Intercom tries to be a window through which we can see what is happening in the vast, Lasallian world; but, at the same time, it is a window in which each one is invited to share their own experience of mission: a great window that shows this unity in the rich variety of its different expressions.

We on the General Council also want to give witness to this union in diversity. We want to journey together with all Lasallians *“with open eyes and burning hearts,”* along the path of faith towards an authentic living out of our commitment to educational service. We would like, then, for Intercom to be a graphical means to express our journey regarding this commitment.

Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría
Superior General

Immediate access to information and/or intellectual formation

In the course of recent gatherings and congresses of Lasallian educators, we have had occasion to reflect on the dimensions of our mission and to recall that we have a cultural, social and spiritual mission.

In this brief article let us concentrate on the cultural mission and share some ideas.

We Lasallians, heirs of the *Conduct of Schools*, should write our own page in the *Conduct of Schools* and we should maintain firm convictions concerning the intellectual formation of the young and education in general. We should highly value knowledge, teaching and study.

Teachers are well aware of what teaching means: to have young people acquire skills and good social behaviour so that they can have a "good life" and find a job... This was one of the objectives of the first gratuitous schools opened by De La Salle...

We, teachers and educators, are convinced that the study and acquisition of knowledge nourishes and builds the person, and that that demands effort and interiorization. "There is a humanizing by means of knowledge"¹ But study has been somewhat forgotten in certain places due to the fact that there is immediate access to certain knowledge by means of the Internet.

At the APLEC7 Congress (Asia-Pacific Lasallian Educators) in Hong Kong in December last, Br. John D'Cruz (Penang District) used the following expression: "Lasallian values can sometimes be in contradiction with the culture of the young".

In fact, we should sometimes allow ourselves to call into question the use and even the permanent use of the new technologies to the detriment of continuous personal study.

The new technologies can be good and useful, but what is their effect **on the construction of self.**

We are seduced by the new technologies, in particular by the immediate

communication which the Internet allows, but this carries with it risks for the structuring of thought, if it is not accompanied by personal study which takes the time necessary. The new technologies are "an amazing virtual potential, but the benefit of what knowledge of self and of others?"²

How are things with the new technologies and their relation with **time**? We live in "the fascinating immediacy of accessibility to sources, but with what psychological relationship with temporality?"³

And what can we say about **social communication and the social link**? What is the real quality of the relationship?

We also need to transmit the richest elements of each culture (cultural heritage, traditions, languages...). This means what has been written and thought... the works of art of our countries, the local languages and their literature, etc.

Philosophers, pedagogues and sociologists today draw our attention to the fact that the young are cut off from their roots and their intellectual and spiritual heritage. And, one of the problems, they say, is that adults (the school, the media, art) no longer teach or no longer transmit the rich heritage of the past in knowledge and wisdom.

As the French philosopher, Marcel Gauchet says: "one of the major ferments of the crisis of our culture is the effacing of the will of individuals to perpetuate what they believe in, what they hold to. Our societies are profoundly affected in their capacity for continuation."⁴

Parents and teachers are invited to think on this seriously.

Br. Claude Reinhardt



Secretariat for the MEL

Bro. **Jorge Enrique Fonseca Sánchez**, Coordinating Secretary of the Lasallian Educational Mission and Ms. **Carmelita Quebengco**, Co-Secretary



Huether 2008 Invigorates Lasallian Educators



The last Huether Lasallian Conference gave Lasallian educators a powerful surge of the Lasallian mission as hundreds gathered in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 20-22, to discuss "Global Learning and Social Responsibility through Lasallian Education." In his opening remarks, Superior General, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, set the stage for the three-day dialogue with his powerful message on. "Globalization is not only a phenomenon of integration into markets but also of knowledge," he said.

The participation of members of the global Lasallian family in Kenya, Mexico, Palestine, and the Philippines who joined the assembly in prayer via live synchronous video conferencing was a significant highlight of the event.

Now on its 35th year, the Huether Lasallian Conference has become the cornerstone of Lasallian educational formation, bringing together the largest gathering of educators from 100 Lasallian institutions in the United States to explore emerging educational issues and themes related to formation for mission and Lasallian spirituality. This annual gathering is sponsored by the Regional Office of the Brothers of the Christian Schools which is based in Washington, DC.



Jenny Solomon

¹ GAUCHET Marcel, in "La Croix", 7 November 2008, p. 11.

² PODVIN Mgr. Bernard, in "Documents Episcopales" n°10/2008. *Quand la communauté chrétienne communique*. P. 3

³ id.

⁴ GAUCHET Marcel, "Le Point" n° 1834, 8 November 2007, p. 122

The Bamboo School

While working with the National Catholic Commission for Migrants, I visited a school built with bamboo only. This schools are located about 2 km from the Burmese border, East of Thailand. The area is known as "The Three Pagodas Pass", East side of Thailand in the province of Kanchanaburi, District of Sangklaburi. The distance from Bangkok is about 300km and it takes 5 hours drive: the road is good, even though it has to go through a lot of hills. The scenery is beautiful.

The school is located in a corner of big rubber plantation. A lady that went visiting the families of the workers of the plantation saw that the children of the workers did not have a school to go to and tried to do some teaching in the open air under the trees. Later an organization said it would help her; so they put up the above "bamboo building" but then that organization disappeared. The school is made of 4 classrooms, each classroom 3x3 m. It has about 80 students aged from 5-15. There are no toilets (in the month of September 2 temporary toilets were built).

The kids come from different ethnic groups in the area: Thai, Burmese, Karen, Mon so at home they speak their ethnic language. In school they are taught in Thai by 5 Burmese ladies living in Thailand.

The owner of the rubber plantation provides the equivalent of US \$12 for the 80 kids/day to help with the midday meal. The teachers had not been paid until the Thai Delegation started supporting them temporarily in the month of August. The students study Thai language 3 days a week and mathematics 2 days a week. Only one of the "teachers" has a degree; the other four teachers have finished grade 12.

The kids are divided into groups more or less by age even though the content of the learning is the same (some of them will go faster). For most of the kids (even those who are 14-15 years old) this is their first year of schooling. The kids use no books. Each student has an exercise book where they do all their exercises of Thai language and mathematics.

There are no benches (desks) or chairs as the kids sit and write on the floor.

Some of the students live on the Thai side of the border while a certain number cross the border from the Burmese, Karen or Mon areas of Burma and come to study in this school, as they have no schools in their area.

The border between Thailand and Burma at "The Three Pagodas Pass" could be a tourist area and trading center but the border has been closed for the last two years due to diffi-



culties between the Thai and Burmese military. So there is little economic activity in this area besides the rubber plantations.

I have learned that the workers in the rubber plantation area paid 1,500 baht/month, i.e. US\$ 50 /month.

Bro. Victor Gil
Responsible for the project
"The Bamboo school"

Bamboo school...

As a **first stage** of commitment: The Brothers have assumed the responsibility until December 2008.

The Brothers go to visit the school at least once a month. Pay each teacher US \$100/month; help with the midday meal with US \$80/month; provide educational materials; build 2 toilets; provide guidance for the teachers; provide guidance to the teachers.

The **second stage** will be from January 2009-December 2009: Details of the commitment are to be discussed soon in the Delegation Council meeting. The main items of the commitment would be:

- Build a store room
- Provide better salaries for the teachers
- Build 6 classrooms
- Provide educational materials
- Build 8 toilets
- Help with the midday meal
- Provide training for the teachers
- Organize and develop a suitable syllabus
- Bring electricity to the school

The **third stage** of the commitment: beyond 2009: to be decided in the month of April 2009. Will it be the responsibility of the Brothers of Thailand ?or would it be a PARC project? Or do we drop the project ?These are the questions to be decided by April 2009.

...our commitment



ARLEP: 2nd Congress on Effective Reading

Campus La Salle-Madrid, February 12-14, 2009

The Congress offered a present-day vision of reading in Spain and Europe based on the PISA and PIRLS reports and reflected on the importance of The Reading Project for an education centre, as a tool for the reading process at all educational stages and presented experiences from different educational environments of the treatment of reading (immigration, information and communication technology, activities, etc.).

More than 250 teachers and education experts from Spain and Latin American countries participated in this Congress. The work-sessions took place in monographic workshops and the plenary sessions were led by qualified speakers.

A Reading Project has been elaborated with a series of tools to train in the reading practice throughout all the schooling. There was also a memory of Br. Alain Défalque, who promoted this didactics in Spain



Losevsky Pavel

Hey! Who's the new guy?

An interview with Brother Charles Kitson, Secretary for the Lasallian Family & Association



Sieger Koder, The Good Shepherd

Brother Charles, could you tell us a little bit about your background and how you came to be the new Secretary for the Lasallian Family & Association (LF&A)?

The short answer is that I received a phone call on January 31st from the Superior General and the Vicar General inviting me to consider the position. A call of that nature is not taken lightly! On February 9th, the feast of San Miguel Febres Cordero, FSC, I called the Generalate to say "YES." Since that day my life has changed drastically. Prior to being in Rome I was ministering in two different centers. I was doing clinical social work in the area of Latino Outreach for a Lasallian social service agency, Tides Family Services, in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. My focus was organizing parent support groups for Latino adults who were experiencing family problems ranging from domestic violence to having children incarcerated in the state juvenile detention center. Also in that capacity, I provided clinical therapy to the Latino youths who were serving sentences in that state run facility. My other ministry was at the San Miguel School, also in Providence. I had the privilege of serving as school social worker and Lasallian animator in the first of the San Miguel Schools.

Since the Lasallian Family is International by definition, have you had any experience outside the United States?

Yes! After having been Director of Campus Ministry at La Salle Academy in Providence from 1983-1990, I asked to go to Central America to learn more about the Latino culture, customs, faith development, struggle for peace and justice, and of course, to become more fluent in the language. It was in Guatemala that I was exposed to all of these areas and I



became a student once again. A generous, humble and faith filled people opened their hearts, arms and homes to me and provided me with a transformative experience that still echoes in my heart, whispers in my prayer and colors the way I see the world. How is that for a life changing experience!

If asked to choose an icon that best represented the Lasallian Family as you see it now, what would that icon be?

It's an icon of the Good Shepherd painted by a German priest named Sieger Koder. The icon portrays Jesus in the center of a jubilant crowd of people smiling, playing instruments and dancing. He lovingly carries a sheep on his shoulders. The wayward one rests secure while Jesus' face beams with the joy of having recovered what was lost. I use it for meditation now and then. Sometimes I am the crowd, and at other moments of my life I am the sheep. There are also days when I know the joy and responsibility of being called to carry the one who went astray. As for the Lasallian Family... I believe that our center must be Christ. We must rally around Him in times of joy, times of sadness, times of great challenge and even in those times when we are not even sure why we are part of the crowd – the family. As Lasallians we need to be open to being the one who carries as well as being the one who is carried. The Lasallian Family has life and will grow to the extent that this sacred dynamism is danced in our classrooms and agencies, in our communities and formation programs and in the silence of our time alone with God. One of De La Salle's favorite images of the Brother has always been the Good Shepherd. Maybe we can raise this icon up as a new image for the Lasallian Family. The icon explodes with the good news that "salvation" comes together and by association.

My Guatemalan experience

Bro. Alvaro, then Visitor of Central America, assigned me to *Instituto MMS-La Salle* in the tiny town of El Estor nestled in the Northeast Department of Guatemala known as Izabal. The Lasallian ministry there is vibrant and directed toward the neediest... indigenous Mayan children. I joined two Guatemalan Brothers in this very isolated yet beautiful region in animating a "basico" (middle school) for about 150 Mayan boys and girls. Ironically, I was assigned to teach English (a government requirement) to all four grades. The challenge was that I had to teach English, in Spanish, to kids who spoke mostly a Mayan dialect called *Q'eqchi!* I remember I had 65 students in the 5th grade and we met in a large "champa" (hut) with lizards running around and leaks in the roof. Only God knows why, but I loved it! The Mayan people taught me so much about life; sacrifice and struggle are to be embraced, gentleness and humility are so much more powerful than arrogance and force, the gospel comes alive everyday all around us if we know how to see. Yes, my three years in El Estor was a life changing experience. Little did I know then how much it would ground me for my future accompaniment of the Latino community in my own district, and also prepare me for the challenge that faces me today in this new international position.

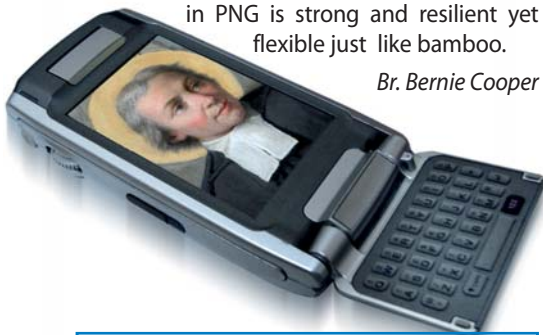
Papua-New Guinea Would JBDLS have used a mobile phone?

Twenty five Papua New Guinean Lasallian's from all sectors of this diverse country met for a week's gathering to plan for the next stage of the Lasallian Family. The tropical city of Lae, where the rain and humidity of the wet season quenched the dry season, mirrored the refreshing time we all enjoyed in rich growth personally and as a Lasallian Family Community.

Br. Ignatius presented from behind the icon of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the bamboo candle. These symbols reminded us about the 'Spirit of Faith:' the presence of God in our lives and our growth as Lasallians throughout PNG.

Br. Ambrose Payne challenged us to find ways to make our Lasallian Family strong even though it is scattered across the widespread and farflung archipelago. Would John Baptist De La Salle have used a mobile phone? Of course! The importance of self reliance and regional meetings complimented the discussion on communication by mobile phone, newsletter and magazine. The growth of ITC and possibility of larger centres with computers supporting the isolated and more remote schools is surely also of interest. Being Lasallian in PNG is strong and resilient yet flexible just like bamboo.

Br. Bernie Cooper



The International Council for the Lasallian Family and Association (Rome, November 2008).
Standing: Mr. Sergio Casas, Mr. Joseph Gilson, Ms. Montse Nieto, Br. Stefano D'Agostini, Br. Thomas Johnson, Mr. Luis Wong.
Seating: Bro. Charles Kitson, Ms. Mary Carmen Casas, Br. Carlos Albornoz, Ms. Trish Carroll, Mr. Gregory Kopra.

A Lasallian at the Court of King Abdullah II



His face reflects sympathy, peace and friendship as soon as you look at him. He is small in stature but the size of his heart is immeasurable. I got to know him in Amman during a meeting of more than 80 members of the Signum Fidei Fraternity, most of them teachers. The participants came from Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt. I am talking about Mr. Musa J. Hihazin, member of the Signum Fidei Fraternity in Amman.

There is something about this person which came into my mind as I was listening to his experiences in the educational service of the poor: Someone who has made so many people happy, who has surely provoked tears of laughter, cannot restrain his tears while telling us about his work looking after blind children. I dared to ask him for some information about his life. This is what I offer, the testimony of a life that has

been and continues to be, a gift for others:

"I was born in the town of Smakieh, in southern Jordan on February 2nd 1955. The inhabitants of Smakieh are all Christians but we maintain excellent relations with our Muslim fellow-citizens from nearby villages. I am married and have a daughter, Hazar, and two sons: Khalil and Khaldaus. Me eduqué en Egipto, donde saqué la licenciatura en música. Después me hice actor, humorista. Hasta este momento he participado en más de quinientos programas de la Televisión y en ocho obras de teatro como actor principal."

At the Signum Fidei meeting he presented the project "House of Hope" (Bayt al-Raja):

"I make an effort each day to live my faith within my family, at work and in society. When I was studying in Cairo I got to know the "House of Hope" and I dreamt of one day building a similar centre in Jordan. I thought that, with the collaboration of my brothers and sisters of the Signum Fidei Fraternity and along with them, I could achieve this dream. We were helped a lot by Br. Emile, who was Director of La Salle College in Amman."

He is the supervisor and director of a choir of blind children which he had formed. It is called "Sho3a3" (Shines). The choir is made up of 30 blind children who sing like the angels with their innocent voices. Providentially, the King of Jordan Abdullah II was watching the TV program in which he presented this choir and when the King got to know of this humanitarian initiative, felt moved and gave a donation of 10,000 square metres of land and seven million dollars to build a modern school for blind students. The project is going forward but its needs are greater than the means at the disposal.

The King Abdullah II of Jordan also decorated Musa with the "Award of Independence", a prize at national level, in recognition and esteem for his work in the cultural and artistic fields.

"Being a Signum Fidei means a lot to me. I see it as a form of living the Gospel in our world of today. As the Apostle James says in his letter, "Show me your faith in your works". One of the keys for living our faith is to serve God by serving His sons and daughters, especially the poor and the sick. A Signum Fidei is like a bridge of solidarity which unites persons who are in need with others who can help them, even if it means making great sacrifices."

Br. Alberto Gómez Barruso



Together and by association the Lord has entrusted to us a beautiful mission – to make his face visible to children, youth and all those with whom we work... As Lasallians we have a common commitment: to defend the rights of children and to construct a world in which all persons can feel themselves, beyond our differences, as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters among ourselves. Brothers and Lasallians, let us all be faithful to the Spirit.

Br. Álvaro Rodríguez, Message to the 44th General Chapter



Signum Fidei – Asia



As we all know, recent General Chapters have formally recognized the Signum Fidei Fraternity as a form of association in organic relationship with the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. It is about a path of spirituality and com-

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a lovely country which at the present time is going through a very difficult political situation. La Salle has been present in these parts for more than 140 years. The first group of Signum Fidei started in the city of Colombo in 1999. Two years later twelve members made their consecration.

There are other Brothers and lay collaborators who collaborate closely in all the activities which are going on. Apart from their mission as teachers, they have taken on various educational projects for children from the poorer quarters of the city, including those who were victims of the tsunami. The children who benefit from these activities are Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim. The work of this group of Signum Fidei and their dedication and creativity in developing their mission is admirable. Also here we see good collaboration and understanding between the Brothers and the members of the Fraternity.

New Zealand

John Paul College in memory of Pope John Paul II, is found in Rotorua. It is a diocesan college, but the keys of Lasallian pedagogy and spirituality can be noticed immediately: Faith, Community, Service.

Since the end of the nineties a community of Brothers has lived here. Last year the community withdrew but the Centre remains fully Lasallian. You can see this in the decoration of the college but above all in the spirit in the teachers' staff-room. A group of these expressed their wish to begin a process of association as members of Signum Fidei. They can count on the support of the Visitor, Br. **Ambrose Payne** and on being accompanied by Br. **Raymond Khan**, who will support them in their formation, traveling frequently from the city of Auckland. We welcome them to the Fraternity and promise them our prayers. It is quite possible that something similar will begin soon in Papua New Guinea.

Malaysia

The city of Kuala Lumpur is the HQ of a group of Signum Fidei composed of 12 members who have been faithful to their consecration since 1988. The founder and animator of this group is Br. **Michael Jacques**, former Assistant, who, at 92, continues to be a fount of inspiration for many Brothers and Lasallians. The majority of the members of the group are former teachers who understood that a Lasallian educator never retires because there is always a mission to be fulfilled. In one way or another they all continue to be involved in educational or catechetical activities.

The group meets once a month and have an annual spiritual retreat. The majority of teachers in the La Salle colleges in this country are not Christians. A large number of them have a strong feeling of belonging to the Lasallian Mission. The question which arose in the meeting with Br. Alberto and in the presence of Br. **Tom Lavin**, Visitor, was: What institutional response can be given to those expressing a desire for being associated who belong to another religion? We took on the responsibility of offering in the near future some reflection which will open new paths.

As a group they take on the financial support of some poor children in India who are boarders in the "Reaching the unreached" Centre run by Br. **James Kimpton**.

mitment very suitable for Lay Lasallians who take Saint John Baptist de la Salle as the inspiration of their lives. This is what is being lived quite naturally in various Districts and Delegations of Asia, where the presence of Signum Fidei is found well implanted and producing many fruits of fidelity and commitment to the Lasallian Mission.

During the month of March various meetings took place in Malaysia, the Philippines, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, with the participation on this occasion of Br. **Alberto Gómez Barruso**.



The Philippines

The Signum Fidei Fraternity in the Philippines has celebrated its Silver Jubilee. It is, without doubt, one of the places in the Institute where there are the greatest number of Signum Fidei groups. Perfectly organized and coordinated, the different groups show a great unity and vitality.

Under the motto "Associated for the Mission", there were three meetings of the members of the fraternity on three different islands: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The first took place at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, at which there were more than a hundred participants. The second was in La Salle Academy with about 50 participants and the third in the University of St. La Salle with about 40. After the presentation of the theme by Br. Alberto Gómez, each of the meetings ended with a Eucharistic celebration, a renewal of consecration, new consecrations and the welcoming of new aspirants.

The members of the groups follow well drawn-up formation programs. All the groups develop some type of apostolate, catechesis, or activities in the educational service of needy children and young people. The Signum Fidei Fraternity is also the manager of a Foundation of the same name, which allows them to finance the various projects and activities which the group run.

The good coordination work of the national president, Mrs. **Myra A. Patambang** and the animation work of Br. **Antonio Servando** guarantee the vitality of the groups, which are an example to be followed by the whole Lasallian world. The support of Br. **Edmundo Fernandez**, Visitor, and of all the Brothers means that the Brothers and the Signum Fidei are a true Lasallian Family in the District of the Philippines.

I.C.Y.L.

Easter 2009 in Parménie

Flash



lasalle-fec.org

An enriching experience which makes us grow and which we try – not without difficulty – to recount to those around us!

Actually, I think that we all want to communicate to the whole world, to our friends in Galilee, to what extent celebrating Easter in Parménie, marks souls and embalms the heart!

“Walk in confidence, carry the man of tomorrow. Go forth in hope, in the Lord”

Jennifer Sarcelles

Porto Alegre: Pastoral Plan for Young Lasallian Students



decepeee

The plan presents a short outline of the process leading up to the PYLS in the District of Porto Alegre, the foundations of the PYLS and its new program.

The new program is based on the concept of passage in which the young people who participate in these groups will be invited to experience of process in stages called **“pathways:”** Pathway of the **Air** (Being a young person), the Pathway of the **Earth** (Living as a young person), Pathway of **Water** (the Life Program of a young persons), the Pathway of **Fire** (the young person who lives his life as a Project), the Pathway of Love (new foundations for the young persons Life).



naernypictures

Young Lasallians’ Activities



The International Council of Young Lasallians: Br. Charles Kitson, Joseph Gilson (Malta), Tina Bonacci (USA), Br. Moisés Matamoros (Mexico), Vanessa Abella (Philippines) y Lucas De Villiers (Canada)

The International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL) had its twelfth meeting in Rome from 5th to 8th March 2009. The Secretary for the Lasallian Family and Association, Br. Charles Kitson, accompanied them for the duration of the meeting.

Young Lasallians (YL) worldwide have three major things to look forward to in the coming months. First, preparations are in full swing for the **VEGA Formation Program** for Young Lasallian Leaders in RELEM, happening at the Generalate from 11th to 19th July 2009. This is the pilot program of ICYL in response to the call to have “better formation for YL on a worldwide level.” One participant from every Region outside of RELEM is invited to attend VEGA, in order to make it an international experience. It is envisioned that s/he would play an important role in replicating the program in his/her home Region, although the content may change depending on the culture and other factors particular to each Region.

The experience will be making “Lasallian History” as the first regional formation program for Young Lasallian leaders. The International Council of Young Lasallians selected the RELEM (Europe-Mediterranean) region for this pilot project. Every participant will leave with a “tool-kit” of practical, hands-on resources to assist in the implementation of the program on the local level. The coordinator of the program is Joseph Gilson, from Malta. He is being assisted by Claudio Mennini, Nicola Chirilli, Lorenzo Cutore, Bro. John Cantwell and Bro. Charles Kitson.

Also, ICYL will soon be launching **Lumen**, the electronic newsletter for and by YL. It will include International Lasallian Family happenings of interest to YL, highlights of past and upcoming YL events within the various Regions and Districts, as well as volunteering opportunities. Watch out for its first issue this July!

Lastly, ICYL is already gearing up for this year’s **International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDPP)**. This is the Council’s direct response to the call for “uniting activities for YL from around the world.” As early as now, ICYL is inviting and encouraging all Lasallian communities to be in solidarity with peace and take part in this initiative from 21 September, which is the UN-declared International Day of Peace, through October 21st. ICYL welcomes suggestions or recommendations on specific projects or activities, so feel free to email your ideas to icyl@lasalle.org.

Vanessa Abella

De La Salle New Zealand: <http://lasallians.com/>





Cil 2008–2009: More than a formation program – an experience of life

It was on Monday October 27th 2008 that the new CIL session began. (CIL is celebrating its 40th birthday this year!) This year's session was a double one. First of all there were 33 Brothers (15 Spanish-speaking, 11 French-speaking and 7 English-speaking) from 20 countries, to which would be added 29 Lay Lasallians coming for a four-week module on the *Declaration*, in January-February 2009 (it is also the 40th anniversary of the *Declaration*).

The first week was devoted to getting to know each other and drawing up the Community Program centred on the spiritual life and fraternal life. The following weeks would be centred on Lasallian Spirituality and the Mission, in the context of globalization.

The other weeks led us to deepen and share our local missions and our commitments. We shared biblical prayer and we learnt hymns in different languages and discovered cultural and linguistic expressions.

We studied several themes: transitions and changes, Christians faced with exclusion, being Brothers and Lasallians today...

We then reflected on the difference between Brothers and Lay Lasallians. Our sharing was based on the "*Declaration*" and on the "*Reflection at the opening of the International Assembly 2006*" written by Br. Alvaro.

Apart from Br. Alvaro Rodriguez, Superior General, who presented a deep and rich reflection on "*Religious Life in the Church of Today*", we welcomed several specialists – Brothers, Religious and priests – who developed themes which opened us up to the world of today.

We took some time to discover Rome, both religious and Lasallian. Our meeting with the Superior General and his Council gave us an opportunity to pose some questions on the life

of the Institute.

We prepared with great enthusiasm for the arrival of the Lay Lasallians. When they arrived we used different means to get to know each other and quickly a spirit of warm fraternity drew us closer together. They brought with them lots of life, a spirit of festival and dance.

During those four weeks, we learned a lot about the Lasallian Family, Association, collaboration, intentional groups, communities, complementarity, Association and the Shared mission.

Several evenings were devoted to the sharing by Brothers and Lay Lasallians of their local experiences through the use of videos or CDs. On these occasions there were striking and moving examples of witness.

The Lasallians were all delighted to be able to live this unique experience of diversity and fraternity.

We then continued our formation along with the 8 Lay Lasallians who remained with us, preparing us for the pilgrimage to France by talking about the context of the time of De La Salle.

Br. René Gosselin

Our convictions

Before their departure, at the end of our fraternal meetings, we wished to share the following convictions, the fruit of our work, reflections, prayers and shared time:

- We are convinced that the Lasallian Education Mission in favour of needy children and young people continues to be at the heart of our evangelic commitment.
- Starting out from our diverse vocations and complementary identities, we discern how to respond together and by association to the new educational needs of the present world.
- With hope we see arising new ways of living in a community manner evangelical fraternity. This shows a desire to be associated for the same mission.



Team of Initial Formation Secretaries

The General Council responded to the priorities of the 44th General Chapter by giving a new structure to the services of the Generalate and by organizing a new **secretariat "Being Brothers Today."** This secretariat includes the CIL Staff and the secretaries for Initial Formation who have the responsibility of accompanying the Regions, Districts and Delegations in the areas of Vocation Ministry and Initial Formation.

They are:

Br. **José Manuel Agirrezabalaga** from the District of Bilbao. Prior to the Chapter he had already been secretary for formation for French-speaking Africa for three years at the same time he was working in SECOLI. Before that he had also been Visitor of the District of Bilbao and of the Central District in Spain.

Br. **Joseph Fernando** from the Delegation of India. Prior to the Chapter he had already spent the major part of his apostolic life in houses of formation in the Pacific-Asia Region (PARC), especially accompanying young Brothers in the delegation of India.

Br. **Jesús Rubio**, from the District of North Mexico. He joined the Generalate staff in September of 2007 having worked in the area of formation in his District, primarily as Director of Scholastics.

jmagirrezabalaga@lasalle.org
jfernando@lasalle.org
jrubio@lasalle.org



"Together for a Possible Dream"

"Together for a Possible Dream" is the slogan that encouraged the Vocational and Pastoral Ministry Team (PJV) of the District of Ecuador. The slogan summarizes the priority of the community dimension and the vitality that converts us into living signs of the ideal Kingdom of God.

The process of pastoral ministry tries to integrate *three elements*: The community of young people, accompaniment (mentoring) and the community of pastoral ministers.

The community of young people

Based on our pastoral ministry reflection/action, community is our "best-kept secret" to be authentic Christians. The group of young people strengthens its identity through the use it makes of "community" and "Lasallian" discourse (from working on the values of *faith, fraternity and service*) and since that use is translated spontaneously into daily speech, in ritual practices, esthetic expressions, communicative actions and in signs of the transcendent.

Accompaniment

Inspired by the icons of the Gospel guiding principles are developed for the integral accompaniment of young people on the part of community advisors. Accompaniment, based on pastoral youth ministry, is made visible in regular meetings with the young individually, such as when spontaneously sharing space with them. Our language and manner tries to cause a culture of accompaniment in which the building up of the vocational option is done within an ongoing group relationship and dialogue with the advisor.

The community of pastoral ministers

We lay persons, men and women former students, De La Salle Brothers, Lasallian Guadalupanas Sisters, and other collaborators share the ministry of accompaniment and consultancy and at the same time we make up a reference community of witness for the communities of young people. Pastoral ministers (AP) from around the District maintain regular meetings where a formation process is followed (FLAP), designed in such a way that will allow for sharing experience, organizing initiatives and undertaking innovative projects for the young. In the different District works the pastoral ministers work together with young male and female volunteers.

These three elements are integrated especially in two key processes:



Process of Initiation to the Christian Community

The process attempts to place the communities of the young and the pastoral ministry practices along a utopian horizon of social transformation and Christian commitment to life. It integrates spaces for Christian formation, celebration of the faith and service to the needy. Among the main activities of the process are: The School for Lasallian Leadership that deals with themes of Ecology, Gender, Policy, Family and Communication, the Lasallian Mission and the Vocation Retreat.

The process culminates with the Lasallian Youth Volunteer Program in which young people who wish to commit themselves for nine months in a Lasallian mission participate. These young people also want to share life in an ongoing way with the different communities of the District at the same time as they are accompanied in the process of the vocational option.

Lasallian Formation Program for Pastoral Ministers (FLAP)

The FLAP program is an experience in which District pastoral ministers of the combine reading and reflection about themes of interest for them (the youth culture, spirituality, methods for pastoral ministry, accompaniment) with the organizing of experiences in pedagogical innovation that are being done in youth communities. The main formative element continues to be the maturity that the AP community earns at the end of each stage of the program. Young people are experts in the formation program carried out by the AP and in the pedagogical formation that is being done with the participation of the youth communities.

Together for a Possible Dream,

Vocational and Pastoral Ministry Team
Lasallian District of Ecuador
pedroabr@hotmail.com

La Salle Arpana Nivas Bangalore, India

La Salle Arpana Nivas (La Salle Novitiate), in Bangalore, India, was started in June 2004 to cater to the growing formation needs of the Delegation of India. So far twelve Novices (two batches) have been accompanied by devoted staff of three Brothers with Bro. **Heldon Fernando** as the Novice Master. Of the twelve novices at present, six are expected to pronounce their First Vows in April 2009.

The Novitiate staff is assisted by well qualified visiting lecturers from the nearby Theologates. Apart from the different inter related topics of the Novitiate, the Novices go through various experiences of Indian spirituality. They include Indian forms of prayer such as singing of *Bhajans* (chanting of Mantras enabling an intense experience of God's presence), offering *Aarathi* (offering of flowers, incense and light), and a variety of *Dhyanas* (meditations) advocated by the great Masters of Indian Spirituality. They spent ten days in an *Ashram* (Indian form of hermitage) under a *Guru* (religious head) in the tradition of *Sanyasin* to assimilate the Indian understanding of Renunciation.



Time is provided for live-in experience with the city slum dwellers, HIV victims, Street Children and the migrant youth exploited by the urban society. The Novices are accompanied through personal reflection of such individual experiences, share with others, and interiorize the outcome in view of future mission in the Delegation. While the morning praise is usually from the Prayer of the Church, the evening praise is adaptable to Indian spirituality. The inculturation processes enable the Novice to develop an inter-religious dimension and appreciate better the traditions of Lasallian spirituality. In view of the mission in the Delegation, each Novice is made to live in a specified community of the Brothers. He actively engages in the different activities of the community and tries to understand the daily challenges faced by the Brothers.

The role of the Novitiate staff in all these is to accompany the novices in the process of appropriate interiorisation. Bro. **Arokiados** (President) and Bro. **David Hawke** (Delegate) are in constant touch with the Staff and the Novices, ensuring a qualitative formation at La Salle Arpana Nivas.

Solidarity with South Sudan

Project progress report



Andrew Heavens



At the time of the Congress on Consecrated Life, 'Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity' (2004), Bishop Gassi of Yambio visited the office of the Justice and Peace Commission (USG/UISG) in the Generalate in the via Aurelia. What could the Commission set in motion to help the rebuilding of the Church and of civil society after the destructive influences of 40 years of civil war in Southern Sudan? The overture was given impetus by a letter from the Sudan Conference of Catholic Bishops (Southern Secretariat) inviting the Commission to send a delegation to the region to see the needs and to report back to the religious superiors in Rome. Moved by the report the unions took over the general supervision of the developing mission pending the establishment of a stable organisation.

The implementation of the project *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* involves the coordinated participation of several religious institutes with their diverse traditions and charisms, cooperating with the local Church under the leadership of the Archbishop of Juba together with the Bishops of the suffragan dioceses of Yei, Torit, Yambio, Rumbek, Wau, Malakal and el Obeid, in the promotion of human capacity development. By agreement between these parties this human capacity development is promoted through the setting up of training institutions in education, and in health care and by the support of agreed pastoral services. The Brothers of the Christian Schools came forward to offer service as 'Lead institute' in the training of teachers: the Comboni Sisters (Negrizia) have accepted the lead role in the training of health workers. Membership of the project is open to all Institutes which commit personnel and other resources. The project is directed by a

Governing Board which acts for the Assembly of project members.

The scope of the project is macro. There will be a single training centre for nurses and medical assistants at Wau. Malakal will be the hub of a system of interconnected teacher training facilities, working to a distance learning model. We hope to have a facility in each diocese. 'Pastoral services' acknowledge the achievement of catechists and community leaders during the civil war when the clergy were dispersed. Training for this service is being worked on.

Much has been achieved so far. Br. **Amilcare Boccuccia**, FSC., is working on the planning and organising of the contracting for the development of the infrastructure. The staff house at Malakal is complete. The first group of 30 serving teachers completed the course in English language in July. The community is working closely with the civil administration so as to implement the national syllabus for teachers in training. It is hoped to have the teacher training building completed by February 2010. Until then courses are being held in classrooms of the diocesan secondary school. The house for the community at Rimenze in the diocese of Yambio has been restored. The sisters are now waiting on the rehabilitation of the teacher training facilities. At Wau the Comboni sisters are looking at the challenge of setting up a hospital where the students of the training centre might enjoy quality supervision. The cost of these developments is daunting. The international financial perturbation will not make things easier. The project is 'a work in progress?'

Br. Anton de Roepers



For the last 60 years, the **International Catholic Child Bureau** (Bice), a Catholic network of organizations for the dignity and the rights of the child, has been carrying out field operations as well as international advocacy and research on childhood.

In Geneva, on 4 June 2009, Bice will launch the World Appeal to a New Mobilization for Childhood in order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Who is called to endorse the Appeal and what does this endorsement commit to?

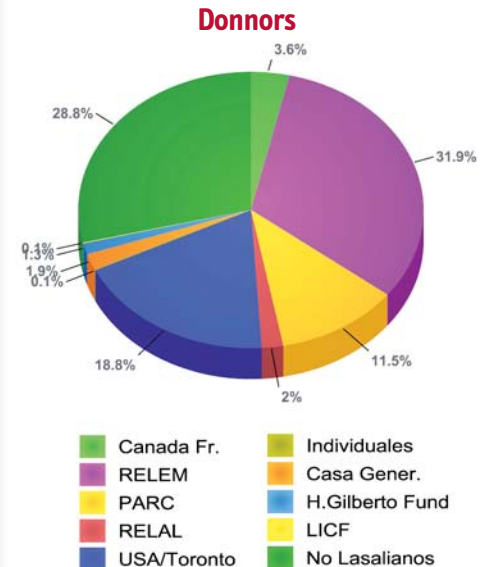
The Appeal's endorsement is widely opened to NGOs, educational institutions, youth organizations, social institutions, moral and religious organizations and leaders, committed personalities, larger public. This endorsement means the promotion of a culture based on the respect of the child in order to ensure the integral development of each child and all children. Through the Appeal dissemination, its subscribers also indicate their commitment to defend the dignity and the rights of the child wherever they are violated.

To read the Appeal and endorse it go to:

http://www.biceinternational.org/ewb_pages/w/world-appeal-to-a-new-mobilization-for-childhood-geneva-june-2009.php

Endorsements are due by May 15, 2009.

Solidarity: Projects 2008



20 Years of Lasallian Volunteering

Hearing about a chance to teach poor kids in the West Indies, **Mike Culligan** jumped at the opportunity. Before he could connect however, Br. **Bill Clarey** already had the two volunteers he needed for the Brothers' mission school. But Mike was a natural for the work, young, gifted, committed and confident. He rebutted each reason why two was enough, winning acceptance and even opening the door for a fourth. In August, 1987 all four headed to the Caribbean to teach for a year at St. Martin's School.

Through the 1980's, in ways similar to the West Indies, innovative Brothers in New York City, the Midwest, and Africa welcomed volunteers into their work with the poor and into their communities.

Not long after his return, Mike was invited to organize these initiatives into a volunteer program. Beginning in September, 1988, his first recruits came for orientation the next summer and went off to serve in the Caribbean, New York and Mississippi.

Spawned from these grass-roots efforts, Mike's first nine Lasallian Volunteers launched a national movement that today approaches 500 LVs and Alums.

Together and with the Brothers for over 20 years, Lasallian Volunteers have carried the spirit of Saint La Salle to tens of thousands of children and adults in

poor communities across the United States and beyond. The unique facet of the program has been from its beginning LVs not only working with the Brothers but also sharing their community and prayer.

Mike recently commented on its transforming impact:

"The volunteer program opens an entirely unique window for young people (and not so young people) to gain valuable formation in the Lasallian values of Faith, Service and Community. These values form a foundation upon which volunteers can pull throughout their lives regardless of their ultimate vocation."

www.lasallianvolunteers.org



REGIONS

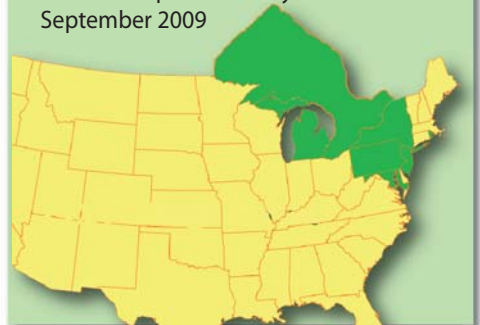
USA-Toronto

The New District of Eastern North America

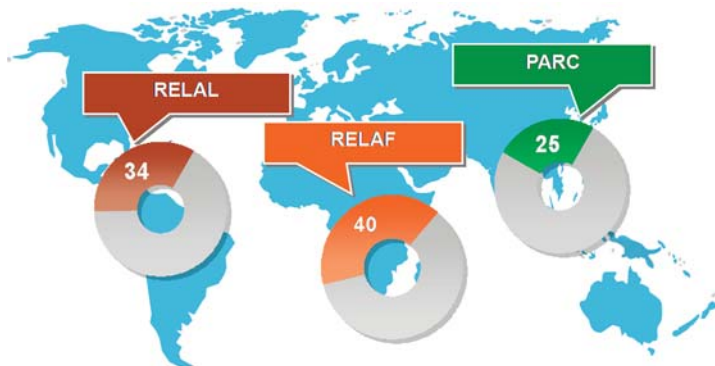
Brother **Dennis Malloy** has been appointed the Visitor of the new District of Eastern North America (formed by LINE + Baltimore + New York-Toronto). Br. Dennis is currently Visitor of the Baltimore District.



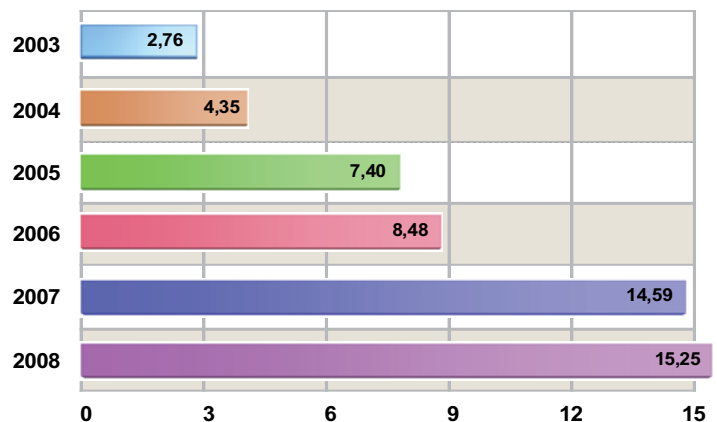
The other positions in the new District's leadership team will be filled in the next few months leading to the Constitutive Assembly in August 2009. At the assembly, details of establishing the District will be defined and submitted to the Superior General for approval. The District of Eastern North America is expected to be operational by the middle of September 2009



Twining Projects (in %)



Solidaridad within the Lasallian Family 2003-2008 (in millions of US\$)



RELEM Panorama

“What you dream alone remains only a dream, what you dream with others can become reality.”
Edward Schillebeeckx

We have begun the new Lasallian Project in 5 Regions of the world, which came about as a result of the General Chapter of May 2007 and now, for many, the acronym is undecipherable. Our Region is called RELEM. This report will offer some concise information about the life that we continue to discover in our family in the **Lasallian Region of Europe and the Mediterranean**, made up of 16 current Districts of Europe and the Middle East.

- **Objectives of the RELEM:** To facilitate reciprocal knowledge, share our experiences, avoid isolation, form ourselves and involve ourselves in the dynamics and in the quality of our educational mission, with a European, Lasallian and Church view. To feel that we are in solidarity and committed to the same educational task which responds to the needs and challenges which our society today offers us. To help especially in the more fragile areas of the Region. RELEM should serve as a kind of *“obervatory”* and disseminator of *“good practices.”*
- **Targets:** All Districts, educational institutions, all Brothers, lay educators and families that are linked to the educational mission of RELEM.
- **RELEM headquarters:** The current site is at La Salle Centre: 78 Rue de Sèvres, Paris.

How we are organized

Since January 2008, the date of the first RELEM Conference during which the Brothers Visitors and Brother Jacques d’Huiteau gave form and structure to the organization of RELEM, the following has been in effect: A General Councilor, the Conference of Brothers Visitors, five Services for the Region and an Executive Secretary. All of this is coordinated by a permanent Council of 10 members. It is now essential that the Services get down to work, as the Jerusalem Conference, held in January 2009, approved the guidelines.

The RELEM Services in action

The different teams that make up the servies will be organizing some priority projects and they will try to take advantage of the resources that we will need in times of crisis. Moreover, they will try to involve the Districts and see to it that the Districts are aware of this new Lasallian life. The Service Commissions meet three times per year. Below is a brief sketch of the



principal initiatives of each working team:

- Service: *“Life of the Brothers”*: Contribute some guidelines for the revision of the Rule, the Guide for Formation and Communities that are aging. Redefine the European Novitiate by 2010. Organize the meeting of young Brothers from RELEM in 2010. Prepare a team of potential formation personnel for the novitiate.
- Service: *“Pastoral Ministry”*: Organize the participation of Young Lasallians in the World Youth Day, due to take place in Madrid in 2011. Train and animate pastoral activities and volunteer programs in RELEM, in all its pastoral ministry and evangelizing dimensions.
- Service: *“Lasallian Family and Association”*: Draw up a document that describes the stages of the process of association in RELEM. Make a listing of Lasallian Groups and Groups of Associates that will allow for each of them to be accompanied.



Students of the the School in Bethlehem

- Service: *“Lasallian Educational Mission” - MEL*: Present to the ASSEDIL Congress (March 28 – 31) the study on *“The profile of the Lasallian educator in RELEM.”* It is up to this group to create and energize formative activities, interchanges and educational innovation for RELEM.
- Service: *“Economy and Finances”*: Agree on the criteria for mutual aid. Hold a 2009 meeting of all RELEM Bursars. Follow up on aid to Romania for the next two years. Monitor the budget of the RELEM services.

Regional Council

The RELEM Council meets three times per year. It follows up on the decisions of the Conference of Brothers Visitors, puts them into practice, and prepares the next meeting of the Conference.



Lasallian Educational Observatory



The Lasallian Educational Observatory for the rights of the child and of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean is seen as a strategy for observing, informing, learning, formation and coordination of perspectives, missions, goals and processes having to do with education and educational practices within the perspective of rights. The perspective of rights implies a re-thinking of the whole conceptualization of education in order to integrate an ethical-political dimension within the curricula and culture of the educational centers.

Using the perspective of rights requires a reflection about how we orient educational management, relationships, school regulations, pedagogical programs, curriculum, criteria and mechanisms for evaluation, to mention a few areas. This reflection will be animated by formation programs, systematization, research, which can establish what is happening in present practice, in knowledge and in Lasallian ethical-political thought.

We observe so that we can reflect, interpret, understand, improve and transform our reality.

Brother Superior, doctor honoris causa from the ULSA



Last March 12th, the Government Board of the La Salle University of Mexico (ULSA) conferred the doctorate honoris causa to Br Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Superior General. *“To know how to welcome, respect and value the differences”* was the central thesis of Br. Álvaro’s lecture.

PARC

Pakistan: 50 Years of Lasallian Heritage



La Salle community has been the lucky beneficiary of seeds planted in 1959 when the brave group of pioneers arrived in Multan at the invitation of Bishop Benedict Cialeo to take charge of a school in his diocese. Through the dedication and efforts of many over the years, the schools – La Salle Higher Secondary School, Multan; La Salle High School, Faisalabad; St. Miguel’s Formation House, Faisalabad; National Catechists Training Centre, Khushpur; La Salle Urdu High School, Faisalabad, Albans Academy High School, Multan; St. Vincent’s High School, Mianchennue; Don Bosco’s Hostel, Karachi; La Salle High School, Khushpur; School of Culinary Arts, Khushpur; Literacy Centre, Khushpur; Drug Rehabilitation for substance abusers, Sinjero; Hostels for boys in Khushpur, Multan, Faisalabad and a chain of schools – Railway Colony Primary School; St. Catherine’s Primary School; Gokwal La Salle High School; Sant Singh wala La Salle High School; Malkwala La Salle High School; all located in Faisalabad. Many seeds have been planted along the path since those early years, and Lasallian Educational establishments con-



tinue to benefit from its pioneering leaders. During the 50th Anniversary Celebrations that took place last December, La Salle Brothers in Pakistan also will celebrate their long history with some prominent old boys, - the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Yousaf Raza Gilani, some Cabinet Ministers and Past pupils who were instrumental in the development of La Salle Higher Secondary School when in December of 1959 the school opened its doors to the first twelve students. These students were similar to La Salle students today as they represented a wide cultural cross-section of the society. This multicultural mix is still a hallmark of a La Salle education where the current student body represents. The 50th anniversary is an important time to reflect on La Salle Brothers educational establishment’s history and simultaneously prepare for its future. With its tradition of internationalism – La Salle Brothers working in 85 countries, the Brothers look forward not only to celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, but also hope to contribute to and support Pakistan’s major steps toward internationalism.

The Lasallian Spirit today is a torch that has been handed down from each succeeding generation of Lasallians to the next. It burns ever bright and illuminates our future, driving away the shadows of despair and disillusionment that may at times encroach upon our souls. It is our common identity, the symbol of our oneness, the bond that unites all Lasallins as we advance through life true to St. John Baptist De La Salle, our Father and Founder.

Bro. Herman Nanayakkara

Put yourself to the test in Mainohana



Lead a life less ordinary on the Papuan Coast

Ready for a life less ordinary as well as the chance to make a real difference?

Put your skills and positive attitude to work by signing up for this inspiring adventure on the Papuan coast. Travel to remote Mainohana and experience the extraordinary impact the Brothers have been making on marginalised local youths through education. Then take 3 days to reflect on this unique, valuable and eye opening experience.

Why the Brothers work in Mainohana

In Mainohana, the Papua-New Guinea Government provides no schooling whatsoever. In 1958, the Brothers opened a secondary school. It provides more than 600 children (the majority which are boarders) with access to a certified high-school education.

Through the school, the Brothers provide students with better living standards than they have at home, where they’re often without electricity and running water.

Many students are also coping with drug and alcohol abuse, truancy, relationship issues and neglect by parents. The Brothers role here is to provide each student with education, stability, spiritual role models and a positive vision for the future.

Through this program you will:

- Contribute to breaking the poverty cycle in Mainohana
- Work with the Mekeo and Roro people who are removed from the city centre
- Challenge your comfort zone in the demanding environment that is Mainohana
- Provide support to struggling youth in PNG
- Challenge your thinking on personal sacrifice for the greater good
- See day to day what life is like in a third world country from a Brother’s perspective
- Open up your world to the culturally rich life in PNG

RELAF

Visitors Conference of the RELAF

Participants to the Conference held from March 29th to April 4th, 2009 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast: *(from the left)* Bros. Esayas Tzegay (Lwanga), José Manuel Saurus (Golfe du Benin), Aloys Ndimukihe (Rwanda), Marius Boya, Secretary of the RELAF, José M. Agirrezabalaga, Secretary for the formation, Roger Masamba (Congo-Kinshasa), Gabriel Somé, General Coulsilor for the RELAF, Janvier Dembele (West Africa), Georges Absi (Proche-Orient, guest), Ismael Beltrán (Central of Spain).





The Archives of the Institute in Rome

The "Lasallian Research and Resources" Service (see Circ.456) is run by a Coordinating Secretary, a post which is alas, vacant since the recent death of Br. Mario Presciuttini, who occupied this post since last September. It is within the framework of this Service that the **Archives and the Library** form together what we call a Department.

Four persons share the tasks which make up the function "Resources": Br. **Francis Ricousse**, Sr. **Margareth Avellar**, Br. **Jaime Dalumpines** and Br. **Pierre Petitjean**. Among these tasks, numerous and varied, stress is at present being placed on the transformation of the paper indices into digital indices, a work still incomplete, the cataloguing and sometimes the numbering of certain documentary material: photographic collections, maps and plans, works of art...

For the "Archives and Library" Department, priority remains, of course, the work of archiving which demands continuity, but favouring digital procedures which make our resources more and more accessible by Internet. As for the Library created half a century ago by the student Brothers who were then working in the Mother House, we plan a reorganizing and the gathering together of a more structured Lasallian collection. But resources for Lasallian research are not just in Rome. This is why the *International Council for Lasallian Research and Resources* (CIRRL) expects us to develop a network, with the Districts of course, but also with places of higher education which can integrate into their programs elements of Lasallian research.

With all this we have to take into account here, the announced departures in the summer of Br. Jaime Dalumpines for the Philippines and Sr. Margareth Avellar for Brasil: an experience which others, not yet known, will have to acquire.

But we already know that two posts, not yet filled, will be filled in September: that of Coordinating Secretary of the Service and that of the person in charge of the Research Department.

F. Francis Ricousse



International Council for Lasallian Research and Resources

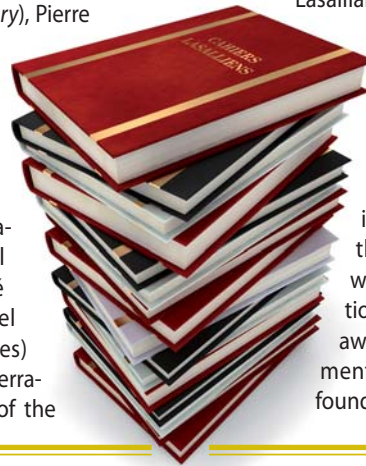


On Feb. 23rd to 25th, the International Council for Lasallian Research and Resources met in Rome. It is composed of 3 permanent members of the Service "Lasallian Research and Resources", of a member of the Service "Being Brothers Today" and of 7 Brothers from the 5 Regions of the Institute: Bros. Jacques d'Huitemau, General Councilor, Jaime Dalumpines (*Department of Museum, Rome*), Edgard Hengemüle (*Department Research, Rome* [sept. 2009]), Francis Ricousse (*Department Archives and Library*), Pierre Petitjean (*Department Editions*). Jesús Rubio Nacer (*Secretary Formation, Rome*), Robert Berger (USA/Toronto, New York), Juan González (RELEM, Andalucía), Santiago Rodríguez (RELAL, Argentina-Paraguay), Dominique Rustuel (RELEM, France), Marc Somé (RELAF, West Africa), Michael Valenzuela (PARC, Philippines) and Mr. Juan Manuel Torres Serrano (RELAL, Bogotá). Because of the

death of the Coordinating Secretary, Br. Mario Presciuttini, Br. Jacques d'Huitemau had to chair the meeting.

There were three phases to the meeting:

1. The drawing up of a Charter in order to make clear the roles of the Council and consequently the work of the Council members. Three tasks appeared useful; orientating and evaluating the work accomplished by the service; transmitting the concerns of the Regions and serving as their intermediaries; circulating and optimizing information between the service and the Regions.
2. The drawing up of a work plan, short term (1 year) and medium term (3 years). This work plan allowed us to pick out for each department (Research, Archives and Library, Museum, Publications) aims and projects which are to be carried out by those in charge of the service and which will be evaluated once the time limit has been reached.
3. Some information and exchanges on specific questions: the work of Br. Paul Aubin on school text books written by the Brothers, links with



Lasallians universities, SIEL, conservation of the Lasallian patrimony in the Districts.

Research and the conservation of our historic patrimony do not often appear as priority preoccupations. Nevertheless it is pertinent to our reflection on the educational and religious world, to the quality of the formation which we propose and to our awareness of the fundamental elements on which our identity is founded.

LAST APPOINTMENTS

Brother	District/Delegation	Function	Term
Jorge E. Molina Valencia	Bogotá	Visitor	21.11.2012
Paulo Petry	São Paulo	Visitor	31.12.2011
Carmelo Santamaría Urizar	Ecuador	Visitor	07.01.2012
Mark Gerard McKeon	Australia/NZ/PNG	Aux. Visitor	01.01.2013
Rodolfo Andaur Zamora	Chile	President	31.12.2011
Denzil Perera	Colombo	Visitor	01.01.2012
Iván Pinchevsky Vergara	Ecuador	Aux. Visitor	07.01.2012
Paul Piron	Belgique Nord	Visitor	31.12.2013
Ambrose Payne	Australia/NZ/PNG	Visitor	01.01.2013
Arockia Doss Soosai	India	President	02.04.2012
Denis Malloy	Easter North America	Visitor	09.2013
Alfonso Castillo Trujillo	Venezuela	Visitor	15.04.2012



**Bro. Paul
Griéger
(1916-2009)**

Paul Griéger was born on January 3rd, 1916 at Pavlany, in Slovakia: at the time it was in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and then in Czecho-

slovakia, when this new state was created at the end of the First World War. It was on July 20th, 1930 that Paul Griéger arrived at the Junior Novitiate of Saint-Maurice-l'Exil. Three years later he was admitted to the Novitiate and after that to the Scholasticate at Moulins.

Then he began a career of teaching and research in the Middle East: in Egypt, then in Lebanon. The year 1950 was to be a year of important changes for him: he was called to the three month Second Novitiate at Bordighera, obtained French nationality and defended his doctoral thesis at the Sorbonne. He published the essential points under the title: *L'intelligence et l'éducation intellectuelle*.

He belonged to the spiritualist psychology current of the time, whose main representatives were Louis Lavelle, René Le Senne, Emmanuel Mounire and Maurice Blondel. He found there the key elements of Lasallian pedagogy and oriented his university work in three directions: the psychology of the person based on characterology; interpersonal relations and group-dynamics; the aim of values and the discovery of the absolute value of God.

In 1954, he was named secretary of the International Bureau of Differential Anthropology with its seat in Geneva; under the patronage of UNESCO, he participated in a vast survey (it took in 54 countries) with a view to a collective and community psychology. His work was also concerned with discerning vocations, *Caractérologie pastorale*, community relations,...

In 1957 he arrived at the Mother House and was to remain in Rome until 2001. He was appointed professor at the Lateran University and gave courses in applied characterology in several Roman Colleges or at foreign universities.

In 2001 he left Rome and went first to Paris (Igny) and later to the Retirement House at Caluire, France, where he died on February 10th, 2009.

Br. Alain Houry

**Beatification of
Br. Rafael-Luis Rafiringa
First Lasallian in Madagascar**

On Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009, Br. Raphaël-Louis Rafiringa, the first Brother of the Christian Schools from Madagascar to achieve the glory of Beatification. He was born in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in 1856, son of a civil servant of the queen. Then the country had but few contacts with the outside world. At the time of his death in 1919, having become a French colony 20 years earlier, Madagascar was open to Christian civilization.

The context in which he had to evolve, projected onto him a special light which made him a very significant interpreter of what was happening in his country. Br. Raphaël-Louis Rafiringa thus appears as the new Malgache situated on the crest of two epochs. And he arouses yet more interest because he evolves in different surroundings: pagan, Christian, school, literary, political and finally judiciary.

It is mainly in the spiritual domain that the personality of Br. Raphaël-Louis Rafiringa acquires its full significance. He was, above all, a man of God led by circumstances to come out of the restricted domain of a small school in order to respond to a demand whose full repercussions he himself probably did not fully understand.

He was the first disciple of St. John Baptist de La Salle in Madagascar. Endowed with great intelligence and a strong will he defied the ambitions of his family and asked to join these "strange" missionaries, non-priests, who had arrived on the island a short time earlier.

The Brother in charge of accompanying him during his formation kept him

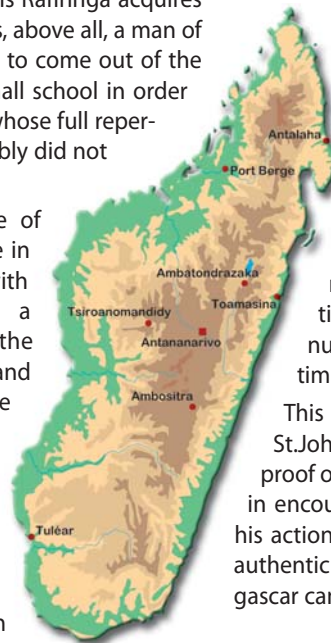


as an 'apprentice' for 7 years! During this time he had matured humanly, culturally and spiritually in a surprising way. The school, translating French works into Malgache, writing school text-books, occupied him constantly up to the expulsion of foreign missionaries provoked by the independence movements which had broken out in the island. He was then elected by the people as head of the

Catholics. In these unforeseen circumstances he gave admirable proof of his extraordinary capabilities by training catechists, organizing meetings and paraliturgies all over the island, while writing booklets and summaries of Catholic doctrine, hymns and poetry. When the missionaries were again able to return, they noted with admiration that the Christian communities had become more numerous and more fervent than at the time of their departure.

This pagan who became a worthy son of St. John Baptist de La Salle is a magnificent proof of what the grace of God can do when in encounters fertile soil. By his intelligence, his actions, his sanctity he is one of the most authentic glories of which the island of Madagascar can now be proud.

Br. Rodolfo Meoli



In Memoriam: Br. Mario Presciuttini

Br. Mario Presciuttini died in Rome on February 15, 2009. The Superior General had named him as Coordinating Secretary of the new Service "Lasallian Research and Resources" in the Gener- alate. He was barely able to begin this activity.

He was born in Montefiascone, Italy in 1942. After many years as formator, Catechetical animator and Vocation Minister, he served both as Auxiliary Visitor and Titular Visitor for the District of Rome between the years 1993 – 2003. After the creation of the new District of Italy, Br. Mario was named Provincial Secretary, which post he held until 2008.



Lasallian Publications

In this section we will present periodical publications from the Regions or Districts. Some of these publications already have their own web pages.

“Rivista Lasalliana” celebrates 75 years

Rivista Lasalliana began in Turin, Italy in 1934 under the guidance of Br. Goffredo (Luigi Savoré), and was published quarterly, as it still is today. It is a publication about culture and pedagogical formation inspired in the educational tradition of S. John Baptist de La Salle and the schools he founded. It faces the educational problem from a fundamentally school-oriented perspective, especially for the areas of Italy and Europe. It is edited by a committee of Lasallians and other experts in human, pedagogical and religious sciences.

The present editor of the *Rivista Lasalliana* is Br. Flavio Pajer.



Integração

was created to attend to the need for communication among the institutions for Basic Education within the La Salle Network in the Lasallian District of Porto Alegre, in Brazil. Founded in 1978, it has been reformulated so as to be more attractive to its readers. It combines the depth of the central articles in each edition with the communication and information about the situations of the centers within the Network.

Copies in PDF can be downloaded from: www.lasalle.edu.br

New Technologies, New Relationships. Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship

“The new digital technologies are, indeed, bringing about fundamental shifts in patterns of communication and human relationships. These changes are particularly evident among those young people who have grown up with the new technologies and are at home in a digital world that often seems quite foreign to those of us who, as adults, have had to learn to understand and appreciate the opportunities it has to offer for communications.

These technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable. (...) We must, therefore, strive to ensure that the digital world, where such networks can be established, is a world that is truly open to all. It would be a tragedy for the future of humanity if the new instruments of communication, which permit the sharing of

knowledge and information in a more rapid and effective manner, were not made accessible to those who are already economically and socially marginalized, or if it should contribute only to increasing the gap separating the poor from the new networks that are developing at the service of human socialization and information.”

(from the Message of the Pope for the 43rd World Day of Communications - May 24th, 2009)



Diaspora: site of textbooks produced by the Brothers around the world

The production of school text-books as basic tools in the accomplishment of our pedagogical mission goes back to the very beginnings of our Institute: our Founder edited and published a syllabary of which, unfortunately, no copy remains. Not only did we produce thousands of them but the dynamism of the Institute which resulted in its expansion throughout the world facilitated the transfer of a large number of these school textbooks from one country to another by means of simply reprinting, adapting or translating.



The 11,300+ titles which are inventoried there up to now come mainly from the production of Canada (Quebec), France and Belgium, that is to say the three countries whose collections have been the object of a systematic breakdown and analysis. To these are added references to textbooks from other countries, copies of which have been found in the collections of these three countries. The information gathered recently in the library of the Mother House and in the Archives of the Brothers of Italy (Turin) is at present being processed.

This work is intended to be the essential first step towards a much wider project – an evaluation of our contribution to the history of pedagogy in the world over the last 300 years. I would like to thank in advance, those Brothers who would like to let me have their comments on the production already on line and/or who would like to offer me their help in continuing the project.

To visit the web site:

<http://www.bibl.ulaval.ca/ress/manscol>

Br. Paul Aubin

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