

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CIRCULAR 456
February 19th, 2008

Towards the Year 2014

General Council
Via Aurelia – Rome, Italy



Introduction

Dear Brothers,

Fraternal greetings to you along with our very best wishes for your personal well-being, spiritual progress, and for apostolic success in your ministry and witness. We are writing this circular at the beginning of this time of Lent, which has placed us on the road towards Easter, hoping that it will be for all of you and for all whom you serve, as Saint Paul suggests at the beginning of this liturgical season, an *acceptable time, a day of salvation* (2 Corinthians 6: 2).

Eight months have already passed since we concluded our 44th General Chapter and we are happy to see that the outcomes were abundant. We give thanks to God for the presence of the Spirit who has propelled us and for the new horizons that have been opened to us. During these months we have approved many excellent District Chapter results that are putting into place the lines of action, which, as a body of the society, we have taken on and which we are certain will greatly help us to be Brothers today, *with open eyes and burning hearts*.

In this Circular we want to give you an overall view of the way in which the Superior and the members of the General Council plan to set in motion the lines of action that have been entrusted to us by the last General Chapter. It is about a plan of action, whose success will be the result of the interest and effort of all, aware that the life of the Institute is played out in Regions, Districts, Sub-Districts, Delegations, and in the heart of each Brother.

During the two sessions that we have had as a General Council we reflected on the current situation of the Institute and on the most pressing needs that require our mission, in light of the last General Chapter and the International Assembly for Lasallian Mission and Association. Starting from this vantage point, we present some of the organizational lines of our plan of action for the next seven years. Naturally many things will be fleshed out year by year and there will still be need for discussion on some of the great themes that emerged during our Chapter, such as the Brother's identity, the Lasallian Family, Association, Restructuring, and the revision of the Rule

You will find here in this Circular, therefore, but in a more complete way, what we already shared with the Brother Visitors in the letter of October 1st, 2007, as regards the mission of the General Council and the new structure of government set in place by the Chapter. We also offer you an explanation of how the Secretariats and Services will function, and a brief description of each of them, their objectives, and their lines of action. You will find on the following pages the calendar for the principal international events that we will have over the course of these seven years, as well as the calendar for the visit of the Brother Superior General to the Districts, the meetings of the Superior and the Council in each one of the Regions of the Institute, and the visit of the Brother Vicar General to various Lasallian groups. Finally, there will be a section which describes the approval of the modification of our formula of vows, which was requested by the General Chapter.

Brothers, united in prayer and in the common effort so that our 44th General Chapter and the new phase that we have begun might be for us a saving event, we ask the Spirit for the grace to interiorize it and to embrace it as a personal/community experience and as a vital transforming impetus, rather than a simple reading of texts or of structural

changes. Let us allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit to discover better God's plan for our Institute and for our mission, his will for us, and the responses which we need to give today, along with all Lasallians, to continue being instruments of salvation and witnesses of hope for the young, starting from those who are *poor, abandoned or disorientated* (Prayer for the 44th General Chapter).

Two more events should enlighten and motivate us over the course of this year. In October the Synod on the Word of God will be held and from June 28th of this year until June 29th, 2009, the Church is devoting a year to Saint Paul the Apostle. We all know very well the primary role that Scripture plays in our spirituality and we all know that Saint Paul was the principal spiritual master of the Founder, especially in his Meditations for the Time of Retreat. May the Scriptures become more and more an indispensable food in our lives and may we all be so engaged in the thinking of Saint Paul that, like him, we might feel that our life is Christ who loved us and gave himself up for us.

Fraternally in De La Salle,

Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría,
Superior General

and the members of the General Council,

Brother Thomas Johnson, Vicar General

Brother Jacques d'Huitemau

Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba

Brother Alberto Gómez Barruso

Brother David Hawke

Brother Edgar Genuino Nicodem

Brother Claude Reinhardt

Brother Robert Schieler

Brother Gabriel Somé



The overall mission of the General Council is defined by the Rule (art.116, 116a, 117,117a, 117b).

Nevertheless, the 44th General Chapter has introduced modifications into the organization of the Government of the Institute which has led us to redefine the special missions of the General Council. They can be defined in the following manner:

Mission of government

The role of the General Council is to assist the Superior General in those decisions which require:

- the government of the Institute in the different domains of its life:
 - its organization,
 - its economic functioning,
 - managing dossiers dealing with important questions of present-day situations,
 - the pursuit of restructuring,
 - putting into practice the decisions of the General Chapter.
- the life of the Districts: important financial dossiers, appointing Visitors, examining and approving District Chapter decisions, opening and closing communities.

- the personal lives of the Brothers: admission to Perpetual Vows, examining requests for exlaustration, leaving the Institute, and other canonical matters.

All the General Councilors, whether *resident* or *for a Region* participate equally in this mission of government.

Mission of accompanying

This mission includes two essential aspects: the accompanying of the Secretariats and Services situated at the Centre of the Institute and the accompanying of the Visitors, Districts and Regions.

Mission of animation

The mission of animation is accomplished by different procedures: Circulars, meetings in the Regions and Districts, visits, talks.

It is carried out by all the General Councilors within the framework of their respective special responsibilities.

Mission of representation and relationship

Through delegation by the Superior General, the General Councilors ensure the representation of the Centre of the Institute with various authorities: ecclesiastical, civil and with various Lasallian groups.

Mission of brotherhood

More than just a work team the General Council is constituted as a fraternal community. In fact *Constituted as a community at the Centre of the Institute, the Brother Superior and his Councilors symbolize its unity and work to ensure the fidelity*

of the entire body of the Institute to the faith of the Church, to the directives of the Holy See and to the living charism of the Founder. (R.116)

The physical permanence of a community around the Superior General is ensured by the Resident Councilors.

In spite of the geographical dispersion of the Councilors for the Regions, there exist permanent links between all the General Councilors:

- a link of fraternal confidence and friendship
- a link of the permanent sharing of information
- a link of mutual aid and collaboration when faced with certain situations or questions
- a spiritual link by means of signs such as common daily prayer, and a statue of the Good Shepherd which constitute a common reminder of our mission.

Three times a year the General Councilors convene in Rome for a meeting lasting several weeks. These meetings allow for faith sharing, studying together questions of Institute concern, the evaluation of the work accomplished both in Rome and in the Regions, and the orientations and actions to be taken, whether short, medium or long term.



Structure of government

One of the missions of the General Chapter was to take into account the needs of the Institute today with regard to its government and leadership, and where necessary, to modify certain existing structures or change them radically (Circular 455, p. 46). Consequently the General Chapter adopted a new model of government making significant changes in the shape and composition of the General Council.

The Council is now comprised of the Superior General, the Vicar General, three General Councilors with residence in Rome and five General Councilors for the Regions.

Role of the General Councilors Resident in Rome

1. They constitute a permanent community and life of prayer, together with the Superior General and Vicar General;
 - They share the concerns and joys of the Institute and offer timely responses to the needs of the Institute that are presented to them.
 - They participate in the discernment and decision-making on the subjects presented at the formal regular meetings of the Council.
 - They participate in the life of the Community of the Generalate.

2. They ensure good communication between the Generalate and the General Councilors for the Regions when they are absent from Rome.
3. They put into action the work of the entire General Council by planning meetings and preparing the publication of the documents coming from the Council.
4. They accompany the various Secretariats, Services, groups and Lasallian communities:
 - They are the liaison between the General Council and the Secretariats, Services, Groups or Lasallian Communities that the Superior General has entrusted to them, for example, the *Signum Fidei Fraternity*, the *Union of Catechists of Jesus Crucified and Mary Immaculate*, the *World Union of Lasallian Former Students (UMAEL)* and *International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL)*.
 - They advise those responsible for the Secretariats and Services and their International Councils with the intention of ensuring adequate understanding of the *Horizons* and to accomplish the *Lines of Action* from the 44th General Chapter as well as the First International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission and Association.
5. They support the work of the Councilors for the Regions when the Superior or the Councilors ask for their help.
6. In Coordination with the General Councilor for the Region, they respond to requests to attend Institute events and activities to which they are invited. Such events can be of a formal nature (such as Chapters, Assemblies, Colloquiums, or Visitors Conferences) or informal (such as retreats and meetings of the Brothers and other Lasallians).

7. They represent the Superior General and the Institute in activities and events with the Holy See, Religious Congregations and civil organizations in Rome.
8. They welcome Brothers and other Lasallians who visit the Generalate for work reasons relating to the Institute or for personal matters.

Role of the General Councilor for the Regions

The role of the General Councilor for the Region is:

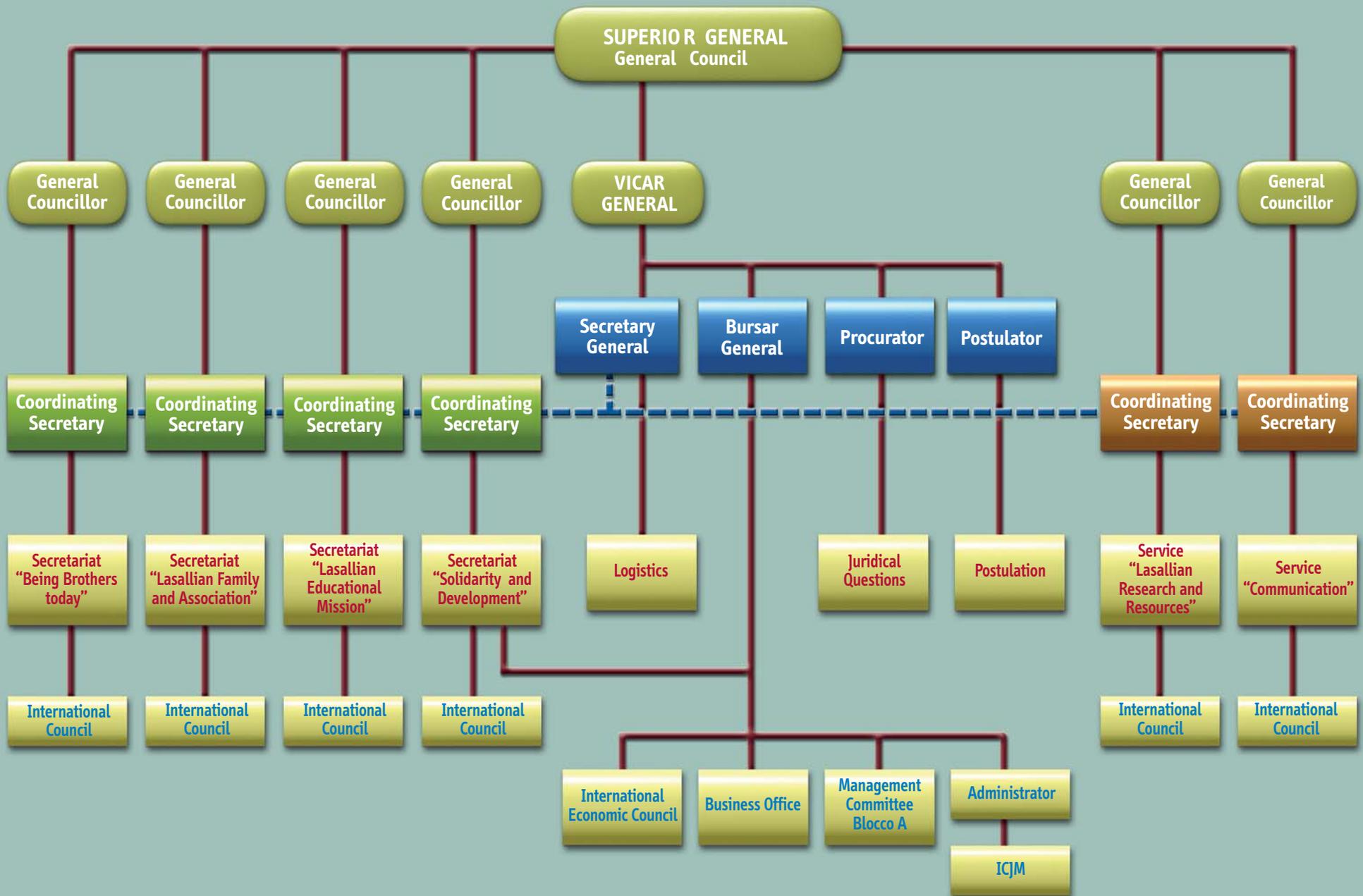
- To assure the linkage of the Region with the Center of the Institute.
- To assure respect for the principle of subsidiarity and concern for interdependence with regard to other Regions.
- To respond to the particular needs of the Region.
- To assist in the governance of a District if necessary.
- To help the Districts in their choice of those who will assume leadership roles.
- To assist the Districts, in collaboration with the Visitors, in implementing the orientations and lines of action of the General Chapter
- To accompany the Brothers Visitor of the Region for which he is responsible and exercise authority by delegation of the Brother Superior in a case of necessity.
- If there is a Delegation, the General Councilor for the Region is the Delegate (Circular 455, 49).

In addition to the role of the General Councilor for the Region specified by the 44th General Chapter he also fulfills responsibilities as outlined in the statutes of the Region which are approved by Brother Superior and General Council. One

of the General Councilors for the Region accompanies a service of the Institute.

Secretariats and Services

In keeping with the recommendations of the 44th General Chapter, there are Secretariats, Councils, and Services organized to help Brother Superior and his Council in the government and animation of the Institute. In the new structure of government it is envisioned that the Secretariats, Councils and Services collaborate with one another in the coordination of their respective programs and projects. The description of the Secretariats, Services and Councils can be found in the next chapter. The following organizational chart outlines the structure at the center of the Institute.



Secretariats, Councils and Services established by Brother Superior General and the Council

Introduction

In the new organization there are four Secretariats, two Services and six International Councils advisory to the Secretariats and Services.

- Secretariats assist the Brother Superior and General Council in the development of policy and in the animation of the Institute.
- Services provide expertise in specific areas for the General Council and Institute.
- The International Councils are comprised of persons from the various Regions of the Institute who advise a Secretariat or service.
- A feature of this new structure is the coordination and collaboration among the Secretariats, Services and Councils in assisting the Superior General and his Council in accomplishing their mandate given by the 44th General Chapter.
- The Secretary General organizes regular joint meetings of the Secretariats and Services to ensure effective coordination and collaboration.

Each Secretariat and Service is led by a Coordinating Secre-

tary who works with a team and is assisted by an international Council.

- The Coordinating Secretary is responsible for the good functioning of his Secretariat or Service. He also animates and coordinates the work, meetings and workshops of his Council.
- The members of the Secretariats and Services assist the Coordinating Secretary in the day to day work of implementing the goals and lines of action of the Secretariat or Service.
- A General Councilor is appointed as liaison with each Secretariat and Service to ensure clear and consistent communication.

Membership on Councils is for three years, renewable. Councils normally meet once a year.



Secretariat Being Brothers Today

General Orientation

The Secretariat *Being Brothers Today* collaborates with Brother Superior General and his Council in the reflection on the identity of the Brother, as well as on the areas of leadership and accompaniment that respectively concern Vocation Ministry, Initial Formation and Continuing Formation of Brothers and other Lasallians.

This secretariat will work in particularly close relationship with the Secretariats for *Lasallian Family and Association*, *Lasallian Educational Mission*, and the *Service of Lasallian Research and Resources*.

Objectives

1. To continue the reflection of the 44th General Chapter on the significance of “Being Brothers Today”.
2. To promote processes of conversion which help us respond to what God is asking of us today on the personal, community, District and Regional levels throughout the Institute.
3. To support the Pastoral Ministry of Vocations for the life of Brothers and other Lasallians.
4. To encourage the development and accompaniment of the

continuing formation of Brothers and other Lasallians.

5. To create and support formation programs and gatherings which help us to renew our lifestyle and to serve the cause of the poor.

Lines of action

Vocation Ministry

1. Accompany and support the Districts vocation ministry plans according to the orientations of the 44th General Chapter.
2. Propose reflection on the vocation ministry within youth ministry and in the formation programs of Brothers and other Lasallians.

Initial Formation

1. Accompany and support the processes of Brothers’ formation in the Initial Formation communities in the Districts.
2. Promote a progressive sequence of gatherings of young Brothers at the District and Regional levels throughout the Institute.
3. Promote Regional and International gatherings for the leaders of Lasallian groups and communities of Initial Formation.

Continuing Formation

1. Plan and carry out International sessions for continuing formation (CIL).
2. Support Regional gatherings on the “Interior Life”.
3. Be attentive to major events in the Church and Religious

Life in order to offer to the Institute an updated reflection on themes relevant to us.

4. Collaborate with those who are responsible for Regional gatherings for Directors of Brothers' Communities.
5. Collaborate with the Regions in the organization of formation sessions for those who exercise leadership of communities of senior Brothers.
6. Plan and carry out three meetings for new Visitors at two-year intervals.
7. Collaborate with the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources and the Secretariat for *Lasallian Family and Association* in carrying out Lasallian Study Sessions (SIEL) for Brothers and other Lasallians.
8. Support the establishment of the program of Lasallian formation for young people.
9. Promote the Continuing Formation of formators and leaders of Lasallian groups and intentional communities, and develop a formative session, especially addressed to Brothers and lay formators and leaders of these groups and communities.
10. Encourage exchange and collaboration between formators in District and Regional Centres for Lasallian Formation.

Other Lines of Action

1. Promote the study of current developments in such areas as ecclesiology, theology of religious life, Association for Mission, with a view to updating the *Guide for Formation*.
2. In collaboration with the secretariats for *Lasallian Educational Mission*, and for *Solidarity and Development*, plan a

program for those responsible for implementing the lines of action related to the educational service of the poor from both the 44th General Chapter and the 1st International Assembly for the Mission.

3. Make periodic contact with other religious congregations, particularly of Brothers' congregations, to discuss matters of formation.

Membership

The Secretariat consists of a Coordinating Secretary, three Brothers who accompany the Pastoral Ministry of Vocations and Initial Formation, and the Staff of the International Lasallian Centre (CIL), which has responsibility for the continuing formation of Brothers and other Lasallians:

Br. **John Cantwell**, Coordinating Secretary (CIL Staff)

Br. **José Manuel Agirrezabalaga**, (Secretary for Initial Formation, French-speaking Africa and RELEM)

Br. **Joseph Fernando**, (Secretary for Initial Formation, PARC and English-speaking Regions of the world)

Br. **Michael French**, (Director of CIL)

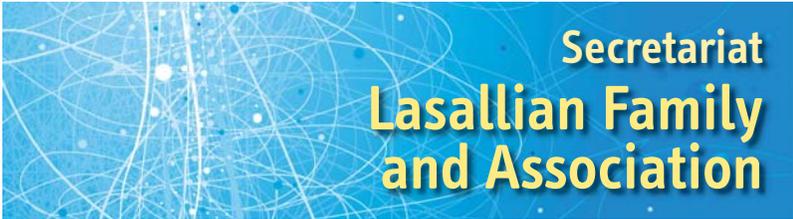
Br. **Jean-François Morlier**, (CIL Staff)

Br. **Alfonso Novillo**, (CIL Staff)

Br. **Jesús Rubio**, (Secretary for Initial Formation, RELAL)

The Secretariat will work in close cooperation with other Lasallians, and will invite one or more other Lasallians to the meetings of the **International Council**.

Br. **Alberto Gómez Barruso**, General Councillor, accompanies this Secretariat.



Secretariat Lasallian Family and Association

General Orientation

The Secretariat *Lasallian Family and Association* will assist the Superior and General Council in the development of policy and animation of the Institute as related to the Lasallian Family and Association. The Secretariat will accompany Lasallian groups on the road to a deeper understanding of their roles in the Lasallian Mission. The Secretariat will also study the Vow of Association in collaboration with other Secretariats to enhance the Brothers' understanding of the Vow.

Objectives

1. In cooperation with the Being Brothers Today Secretariat and Lasallian Research and Resources Service, to reflect on the place of the vow of Association in the identity of the Brother.
2. To reflect on and evaluate the diverse forms of Association in the Institute in order to understand and articulate the meaning of Association among partners in our times.
3. To accompany existing and emerging Lasallian groups on the International level.
4. To foster forms of Association and structures for Association at all levels of the Institute.

Lines of Action

1. To participate with other Secretariats and Services, and other experts in a reflection on the Vow of Association, its relationship to the other vows and the identity of the Brother.
2. To analyze and evaluate the diverse experiences of association at every level in order to highlight the essential elements and processes of Association.
3. To set up a working group to prepare a report to the Superior and the Council with regard to juridical and canonical questions related to new structures and the possible establishment of an International Council of Lasallian Association for Mission.
4. To prepare with the MEL Secretariat for the Second International Assembly on Mission and Association.
5. To accompany existing Lasallian groups such as Signum Fidei, Catechists and UMAEL and give attention to new movements including Young Lasallians and Lasallian Volunteers.
6. To create and animate formation sessions for Brothers and Partners in cooperation with the Secretariat for Being Brothers Today, the Service for Lasallian Research and Resources and the CIL team.
7. To take the initiative to construct in the next two years a possible model for the Lasallian Family as the General Chapter proposed (Chapter 3, 3.3).
8. To decide on the proposal to publish a collection of writings on the Lasallian Family.

Membership

The Secretariat for *Lasallian Family and Association* is directed by a Coordinating Secretary who works with and an international Council.

Br. **Charles Kitson**, Coordinating Secretary for *Lasallian Family and Association*

Miss **Montserrat Nieto Álvarez**, Co-Secretary for *Lasallian Family and Association*

The Secretariat for *Lasallian Family and Association* is assisted by an **International Council** composed of the Coordinating Secretary, the Co-Secretary and of members named from each Region of the Institute.

Br. **Thomas Johnson**, Vicar General, accompanies the Secretariat.



General Orientation

The Secretariat for the *Lasallian Educational Mission* assists the Brother Superior General and his Council in the implementation of the orientations and actions recommended by the International Assembly for Mission and Association (October-November, 2006) and the 44th General Chapter (May-June, 2007).

The Secretariat makes known the Lasallian international education network. It promotes communication and the formation of the members of the network, and takes steps to support all the initiatives to put into practice the Lasallian Educational project.

Objectives

1. To understand the reality of the Lasallian educational network.
2. To ensure communication and the sharing of educational information among the Districts and Regions.
3. To promote educational research.
4. To promote evangelization and initiation in the spiritual life.
5. To utilize the services of Lasallian Universities.

6. To assist and collaborate with other Secretariats and Services in initial and on-going formation.
7. To produce relevant publications on Lasallian themes such as service to the poor, the rights of the child, and education for justice and current educational trends.
8. To assist and collaborate with other Secretariats and Services in the planning of the next International Assembly (May 2013) for the Lasallian educational mission.

Lines of Action

1. To annually gather current educational statistics.
2. To visit when necessary educational projects in the International Lasallian network.
3. To promote the exchange of educational publications among Districts and Regions.
4. To undertake with universities, research on educational projects and themes from the International Assembly.
5. To stimulate reflection and action on the explicit announcement of the Gospel and pastoral Christian education in general.
6. To reflect on spiritual education within an ecumenical and inter-faith context.
7. To participate in the assemblies of the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) in order to promote unity within the university network.
8. To develop collaboration with education departments in Lasallian universities.
9. To promote initiatives in Lasallian universities at the service of the educational mission in Districts and Regions.

10. To promote and support Districts and Regions in the development of programs for the initial and on-going formation of educators.
11. To participate in liaison with the Service of Lasallian Research and Resources and with Regions and Districts in the development of a guide that articulates the essential elements of Lasallian Formation.
12. To promote enterprising action and on the central themes of recent years, particularly the educational service of the poor, the rights of the child and education for justice.
13. To make known to the wider educational community Lasallian research on education.

Membership

The Secretariat for the *Lasallian Education Mission* is directed by a Coordinating Secretary who works with an international Council.

Br. **Jorge Enrique Fonseca Sánchez**, Coordinating Secretary for the *Lasallian Educational Mission*

Ms. **Carmelita Quebengco**, Co-Secretary for the *Lasallian Educational Mission*

The Secretariat for the *Lasallian Educational Mission* is assisted by an **international Council** composed of the Coordinating Secretary, the Co-Secretary and of members named from each Region of the Institute.

Br. **Claude Reinhardt**, General Councilor, accompanies the Secretariat.



Secretariat Solidarity and Development

General Orientation

In line with the 44th General Chapter's invitation to intensify our efforts to promote education for justice and to strengthen our actions for the direct service of the poor, this new Secretariat helps Brother Superior and his General Council with the fourfold responsibility of encouraging the ongoing process of conversion to the poor; promoting actions of solidarity in finances and personnel among the different Sectors of the Institute; accompanying the progress of policies that lead each Sector of the Institute to economic self-sufficiency; and, providing an answer to the problems related to the migratory movements in the world.

Objectives

The Secretariat for *Solidarity and Development* involves reflection and action.

Reflects upon:

- The role of the Institute in “Mission Countries” and posture towards the *Missio ad Gentes*
- Missionary policy in programs of sharing and exchange of human and economic resources.
- Implication of our global Institute in the promotion of human and healthy relations between North and South.

- How to sensitize the better-endowed Lasallian institutions towards their commitment to the poor.
- Response of our Institute to the migration phenomenon.
- Issues of Justice and Peace.

Acts towards:

- Development and funding of concrete projects.
- Formation of needy sectors towards self-sufficiency.
- Promotion and empowerment of SECOLI and similar organizations.
- Promotion and empowerment of the already existing Sharing Fund and similar initiatives.
- Promotion and coordination of particular initiatives or programs of solidarity in different areas of the Institute.
- Promotion and coordination of volunteer initiatives involving Brothers and other Lasallians.

Lines of Action

General

1. To elaborate the guidelines and structures of an International Lasallian Development Network (ILDN) for the purpose of securing funds for sectors in need.
2. To empower and coordinate the existing Lasallian network of foundations and NGO's.
3. To define the working structures and tasks within the Solidarity and Development Secretariat.
4. To prepare a database of the most significant projects
5. To develop a plan of action for information about our commitment with the poor: Web site, publications ...

6. To sensitize and empower the needy administrative units about economic management in solidarity and self-sufficiency.
7. To enhance relationships with present donors and search for new ones.
8. To continue to develop relationships with International donor agencies.
9. To review the functions of “twinning” and “endowments” and make recommendations to the General Council.
10. To continue and foster relationships with various International organizations such as OIEC (Catholic International Education Office), CCIC (International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO), BICE (International Catholic Child Bureau), JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation), SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission).

SECOLI

1. To gather information on needs from sectors and make recommendations to the General Council for the distributions of the Sharing Fund
2. To determine needs and raise funds for scholarships for student Brothers.
3. To study request for SECOLI projects, seek funds, and assure transparency and accountability.

Development Office

1. To write projects, supervise their implementation and evaluate their performance.

2. To seek private and public funding for development office projects.
3. To continue to develop relationships and collaborate with International Lasallian Development Network.

Membership

Secretariat for *Solidarity and Development* is directed by a Coordinating Secretary who works with an international Council.

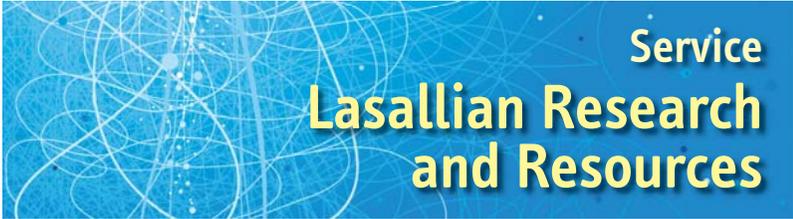
Br. **Pedro Arrambide**, Coordinating Secretary of Solidarity and Development

Br. **Amicare Boccuccia**, Director of Development

Br. **Stephen Tuohy**, Director of SECOLI

The Secretariat for the *Solidarity and Development* is assisted by an **international Council** composed of the Coordinating Secretary, the Director of Development, the Director of SECOLI and of members named from each Region of the Institute.

Br. **Jorge Gallardo de Alba**, General Councilor, accompanies the Secretariat.

A blue banner with a white network of lines and dots. The text "Service Lasallian Research and Resources" is written in white and yellow. "Service" is in white, "Lasallian Research" is in yellow, and "and Resources" is in white.

Service Lasallian Research and Resources

General Orientation

To contribute to a better understanding and awareness of Lasallian identity in order to serve better the Lasallian mission.

Objectives

The service involves two dimensions which can be distinguished without being separated:

Research

1. To deepen knowledge of the Lasallian tradition in its diverse dimensions: historic, theological, spiritual and pedagogical.
2. To establish links and further relationships with Lasallian researchers and places of research.
3. To promote new research and identify and form future researchers, both Brothers and other Lasallians, especially with regard to the origins of the Institute.
4. To create occasions for the exchange of viewpoints and ideas between researchers.
5. To promote the publication and circulation of the work of the researchers.

Resources

1. To preserve, restore, and enhance the historic patrimony situated at the Center of the Institute: Archives, Museum, and Library.
2. To ensure the availability of resources to better serve the understanding of the Lasallian heritage.
3. To take responsibility for spreading the Lasallian heritage.

Lines of Action

1. To produce new works on the different dimensions of the Lasallian heritage by both members of the service and the expertise of outside researchers.
2. To identify future researchers, Brothers and other Lasallians, with particular attention to young Brothers.
3. To organize seminars and workshops to promote exchanges of ideas and viewpoints among researchers on specific subjects.
4. To establish contacts and maintain links with Lasallian and other university centers.
5. To publish the researchers' work in various formats: books and DVD's and giving it as wide a distribution as possible.
6. With regard to archived documents or collected Lasallian works:
 - to continue to look after their classification
 - to facilitate access to them
 - to make known their existence and their contents: circulating information, writing letters, organizing visits and meetings

- to work on the reorganization of the Archives and the Library of the Generalate
7. To organize or participate in the formation of Brothers and other Lasallians such as an International Session of Lasallian Studies (SIEL).

Membership

The tasks of this service are ensured by a team led by a Coordinating Secretary. The Coordinating Secretary is assisted by the members of the Service and an International Council.

Br. **Mario Presciuttini**, Coordinating Secretary

Br. **Jean Louis Schneider**, Head of the Research Department and assisted by a Council made up of experts

Br. **Alain Houry** (*until August 2008*) – Br. **Francis Ricousse** (*from Sept. 2008*), Head of the Resources Department

Sister **Margareth Avellar**, Assistant in the Archives and Library Department

Br. **Jaime Dalumpines**, Assistant in the Archives and Library Department

Miss **Larisa González Martínez** (*until December 2008*), Assistant in the Archives and Library Department

Br. **Francisco Martin**, Assistant in the Archives and Library Department

Br. **Jaime Dalumpines**, Head of the Museum Department.

Br. **Pierre Petitjean**, Head of the Editing of the Research and Resources Department

The Service of Lasallian Research and Resources is assisted by an **International Council** made up of the Coordinating Secretary, the Head of the Research Department, the Head of the Resources Department and of members named from each Region of the Institute

Br. **Jacques D’Huiteau**, General Councilor for RELEM, accompanies this Service.



General Orientation

The *Communications Service* promotes the development of the educational and evangelizing mission of the Institute by responding to the challenges of communicating information among the different areas of the Institute in an efficient way.

Objectives

1. To ensure the flow of communication between the Center of the Institute and the various Sectors (Regions, Districts, Delegations).
2. To promote communication between the Regions of the Institute.
3. To promote communication networks at the center of the Institute.
4. To ensure access to Institute information to all, especially the poor.
5. To optimize the use of communication media at the service of the Mission of the Institute.
6. To promote the formation of Lasallians in communication.

Lines of Action

1. To ensure that a Department of Communications exists in each Region and District with a person or a team that heads internal and external communications. The communications team at the Center of the Institute will create an ongoing Network with those in charge.
2. To appoint an Institute contact person with public and private mass media organizations. This person will also maintain ongoing relationships with communications Services of other religious congregations, for the purpose of exchanging experiences and combining efforts.
3. To redesign and re-structure the Institute's web site, adapting it to new needs and requests of our educational mission.
4. 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.
5. To assess at regular intervals the publications and information emanating from the Center of the Institute.
6. To provide the staff with professional development to broaden their current field of activity and to improve their effectiveness.
7. To ascertain the need of employing a person with expertise in the fields of multimedia and cybernetics.
8. To undertake a professional study on the Corporate Visual Communication of the Institute (its corporate image, logo, "brand name"), utilizing the expertise of the network of Lasallian Universities.

9. To use, in accord with the Secretariat for *Solidarity and Development*, the web site of the Institute, as a vehicle to make known the projects of this Service, and to gather support and donations via the Internet.
10. To draw up a list of Lasallian centers that specializes in communication (Universities, technical schools, radio stations) and to use their experience to strengthen efforts in this regard.
11. To foster training in communication among Lasallian Partners and especially those in District communication for effective use of communication in service of the mission.
12. To draw up an official Institute document on Communication, giving both the theory and practical side for proper communication in the Institute, at its different levels.

Membership

The *Communications* Service is directed by a Coordinating Secretary who works with an international Council.

Br. **José Antonio Warletta**, Coordinating Secretary of *Communications*

Mr. **Luigi Cerchi**, Assistant in the *Communications* Service

Mr. **Fabio Parente**, Assistant in the *Communications* Service

The *Communications* Service is assisted by an **international Council** composed of the Coordinating Secretary and of members named from each Region of the Institute.

Bro. **Jorge Gallardo de Alba**, General Councilor, accompanies this Service.



International Economic Council

General Orientation

The function of the *International Economic Council* is to help Brother Superior General and the General Council and the Brother Bursar General in implementing the economic and financial *Lines of action* from the 44th General Chapter. In addition to the on-going work and initiatives of the Bursar General and the International Economic Council particular attention is given to the following:

- To work for economic self-sufficiency at the Institute level.
- To reduce, as far as possible, the contributions of the Districts to the center of the Institute.
- To ensure that Districts clearly separate goods and resources belonging to the mission and those which belong to the patrimony of the District, such as a Brothers' residence
- That the financing of every initiative and permanent or temporary structures in relation to the Lasallian educational mission be the object of reflection and prior decisions. This applies to every level of the Institute.
- To ensure professional, accurate and complete accounting in the Districts.

Membership

Br. Francisco López, Bursar General
Br. Amilcare Boccuccia
Br. Ramón Gómez
Br. Javier Haya
Br. Jean Rafflegeau
Mr. Jean-Yves Ricouard
Br. Joseph Saurbier
Mr. Steve Taylor

Ad hoc commission on the Rule

The Brother Superior General and the Council will establish an ad hoc commission that will study, in dialogue with the Institute, a revision of the Rule. The commission will make recommendations to the Superior and the Council that will include whether an Extraordinary General Chapter or a special session of the next General Chapter in 2014 will be needed to submit a proposed revision of Rule. (cf. *Circular 455*, Ch. 8, Art. 4)

Calendar of Pastoral Visits of Brother Superior and his Council, International Events and Formation Sessions 2007 – 2014

2007

September 1-28	Plenary Meeting of General Council
Oct. 20-March 8, 2008	CIL

2008

January 21-25	International Economic Council (CEI)
January 21-February 20	Plenary Meeting of General Council
February 4-9	International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL)
February 27-29	International Council of Lasallian Research and Resources (CIRRL)
March-April	Visit of Superior General to RELAF (First part)
May 18-June 22	New Visitors Meeting (Rome)
May 26-June 21	Plenary Meeting of General Council
June 23-27	International Economic Council (CEI)
August 30-Sept.26	Plenary Meeting of General Council
September 5-9	International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL)
October-November	Visit of Superior General to RELAF (Second part)
Oct.27-March 20, 2009	CIL (21 Weeks)
November 10-16	Meeting of Brother Superior and General Council with RELAF

2009

January 26-February 21	Plenary Meeting of General Council
March-April	Visit of Superior General to RELAF (First part)
May 25-June 20	Plenary Meeting of General Council
July 8-18	Formation Session for Young Lasallian Leaders from Europe (Rome)
August 31-Sept.28	Plenary Meeting of General Council
Sept.29-October 3	Meeting of Religious Superiors and Lasallian Groups Leaders of the Lasallian Family

17 Oct.-March 19, 2010	International Session of Lasallian Studies (SIEL) (22 Weeks)
October-November	Visit of Superior General to RELAL (Second part)
9-14 November	Meeting of Brother Superior and General Council with RELAL
16-21 November	Meeting of Brother Superior and General Council with USA-Toronto and Canada

2010

January 18-February 13	Plenary Meeting of General Council
February 15-19	Meeting of Brother Superior and General Council with RELEM
March-April	Visit of Superior General to PARC (First part)
May 9-23	New Visitors Meeting (Rome)
May 17-June 19	Plenary Meeting of General Council
July 26-30	II Symposium International of Lasallian Youth (Rome)
August 30-2 Octobre	Plenary Meeting of General Council
17 Oct.-Jan. 31, 2011	CIL (15 Weeks)
October-November	Visit of Superior General to PARC (Second part)
15-19 November	Meeting of Brother Superior and General Council with PARC

2011

January 24-February 19	Plenary Meeting of General Council
March 20-April 3	Inter-Chapter Meeting
March-April	Visit of Superior General to USA-Toronto and Canada (First part)
May 30-June 25	Plenary Meeting of General Council
August 29-Sept.30	Plenary Meeting of General Council
October-November	Visit of Superior General to USA-Toronto and Canada (Second part)
26-30 October	UMAEL (Philippines)
18 Oct.-March 17, 2012	CIL (22 weeks)

2012

January 30-February 25	Plenary Meeting of General Council
March-April	Visit of Superior General to RELEM (First part)
May 7-19	New Visitors Meeting (Rome)
14 Mayo-June 16	Plenary Meeting of General Council

August 28-Sept.29 .	Plenary Meeting of General Council
October-November	Visit of Superior General to RELEM (Second part)
15-27 October	II Assembly of Fraternity Signum Fidei
5 Nov.-1 March, 2013	CIL (17 weeks)

2013

January 28-February 23	Plenary Meeting of General Council
March-April	Visit of Superior General to RELEM (Third part)
May 5-19	2 nd International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission
20 Mayo-June 15	Plenary Meeting of General Council
July 22-28	International Meeting of Young Brothers
Sept.2-October 5	Plenary Meeting of General Council
1 Oct.-January 31, 2014	CIL (18 weeks)

2014

January 27-February 22	Plenary Meeting of General Council
April 22-June 8	45 th General Chapter

Notice

- The Visits of the Vicar General related to the Lasallian Family will be announced after consultation with the General Councilor for the Region.
- The dates for the Regional Conferences of Visitors as well as the Regional Assemblies of Association for the Mission are proposed by the General Councilor for the Region. Once the dates are decided, will communicate them to the center of the Institute.



Approval of the modifications in the formula of vows for the Brothers

As is our custom, we sent a copy of the Documents of our 44th General Chapter to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Cardinal Rode, the Prefect of that Congregation, for his part, responded to us in a letter in which he told us that *with the 44th Chapter, the Institute has begun a new page in history. The Chapter has called for a new effort. The Biblical icon of the Exodus, in which the Chapter was inspired, expresses this very well: "Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes, Burning Hearts"... and he added: It is our hope that the Chapter decisions constitute an excellent premise for looking at the future of the Institute with hope, building its continuity with the active collaboration of all the Brothers of the Institute, Partners, and Associates in the Lasallian Family. With that end in mind, I accompany you in my prayer and I reiterate the esteem and gratitude that this Dicastery has for you.*

We later presented the request for approval of the changes decided by the General Chapter as regards Constitution 25 of the *Rule* concerning the formula of vows through the person of Brother Leonardo Tejeiro, Procurator General. As Brother Leonardo has announced to the Brother Visitors, the Congregation responded favorably to said request on January 9, 2008.

Therefore, the new wording of the formula of vows, effective

immediately, is the following, which modifies what appears in the *Rule*:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, prostrate with the most profound respect before your infinite and adorable majesty, I consecrate myself entirely to you to procure your glory as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me.

For this purpose I, ... promise and vow to unite myself, and to remain in society, with the Brothers of the Christian Schools who are associated to conduct, together and by association, schools for the service of the poor. I promise to go wherever I may be sent and to do whatever I may be assigned by the body of the Society or its superiors.

Wherefore, I promise and vow association for the educational service of the poor, chastity, poverty, obedience and stability in the Institute according to the Bull of Approbation and the Rule of the Institute.

I promise to keep these vows faithfully (for a period of ... years) all my life.

In testimony thereof, I have signed. Done at ... on ...

Signature ...

We all know the importance that both the heroic Vow of 1691 and the first perpetual profession of 1694 have had in our history, and the power that they represent for the vitality of the Institute and its mission. God willing, the new formulation will give us new impetus and energy to live our consecration to the Trinity in community for the educational service of young people, especially the poor. *The missionary communion that characterizes the Trinitarian life is the fountain*

of a fraternal ministry which characterizes the life of the Brothers. By our consecration to the glory of God, we Brothers are a constant reminder in the Lasallian Family of the love of God which unites us, and of his special interest for "the children of artisans and the poor" (Circular 455, chapter 1, 1.2.2)

Our religious consecration is enriched from the perspective of the vow of association for the educational service of the poor, and in this sense we are invited to take an in-depth look at the meaning of that vow and to take special care so that in initial and continuing formation, this vow is an integrative element in the identity of the Brother (Circular 455, chapter 3 1.3.1)

The new writing of the formula of vows cannot be understood as the culmination of a process, but as another phase in the journey of fidelity to God the Trinity which consecrates us in a community of Brothers, with a view to making his Gospel of love a reality. This approval invites us to continue to appreciate our religious life as Brothers of the Christian Schools.



Brothers, in a text we have all no doubt meditated on many times, the *Rule* tells us that *the life and development of the Institute depend primarily on the mystery of and the power of grace. By the gift of freedom, however, the Lord has willed to place the destiny of the Institute into the hands of the Brothers so that it will prosper and remain faithful to its mission (Rule 142).* We are, therefore, invited to be faithful above all to Jesus Christ, to the Gospel, and to the Spirit and to commit our talents to the service of God's work, which is our Institute.

This is what we would like to do, starting from our poverty and our limits as those in charge of the leadership of the Institute, aware at the same time that every Brother in his own life, witness, and mission makes it possible for us to continue being instruments of salvation for children and young people, responding to their needs, being attentive to their fragile lives, being sensitive to their poverty, discovering in them the very face of Jesus, as the Founder recommended to us.

May Saint John Baptist de La Salle, whom we remember today on the 120th anniversary of his beatification, inspire and support us in *responding with ardent zeal to the appeals of the lord, the Church and the world, in order to procure the glory of God (Rule 149).*

Rome, February 19th, 2008

February 2008

Brothers of the Christian Schools

Generalate
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Lay-out:

José A. Warletta, fsc