

INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we make this Bulletin of the Region of Europe and the Mediterranean (RELEM) available to you. As you may be aware, over the last year, from November 2017 to May 2018, Brother Superior made his Pastoral Visit to our Region and this Bulletin is offered as a commemoration of that visit. However, rather than present a chronicle of the visit, we hope that this Bulletin will offer the Lasallian world a “snap-shot” of the current Lasallian reality of RELEM. In the process, we hope it will also offer you some insights as to how the “cradle of the Institute”, in true Lasallian fashion, continues today to adapt creatively to emerging new needs.

As some of you may be aware, according to the most updated statistics, the Lasallian mission in RELEM reaches 331,787 students in 474 educational establishments. It is present in 23 countries and finds expression through 20 different

languages. Given the complexity of the Region, the outreach of the Lasallian mission in Europe and the Mediterranean is a remarkable achievement. It represents a tremendous richness and a remarkable potential for good, for promoting the Lasallian vision of human and Christian education, for opening new pathways to the transcendent in a world progressively more secularized. It offers children and young people throughout the Region quality education and the opportunity to fulfil their potential in an inclusive, tolerant, peaceful, multi-religious, and multi-cultural environment, which continues to honor the Christian inspiration and intuition of our Founder, John Baptist de La Salle, and the early Brothers.

The vitality of the Lasallian mission in RELEM today certainly owes much to the legacy that countless numbers of Brothers and their colleagues, responding to the inspiration of St La Salle, have

INTRODUCTION

handed down over three hundred years. The narrative of that mission continues to be written today in the Region thanks, in large measure, to the commitment and dedication of the 28,472 Lasallian partners who work alongside almost 1,500 in ministering to the thousands of children and young people throughout the Region.

The Pastoral Visit of Brother Superior was a privileged moment for Lasallians in the Region to demonstrate something of the vitality and vibrancy that characterizes the Lasallian mission in our Region today. Our hope is that this publication will open a window for a wider audience to appreciate and celebrate the creative response of the Lasallian mission in RELEM today.

Brother Aidan Kilty
General Councillor
with responsibility for RELEM





District of France

In 1771, the Institute in France was divided into three provinces: eastern (Maréville), southern (Avignon), western (Paris).

After the Revolution of 1789, the Institute was reborn in Lyon in 1804. The growing number of Brothers and schools lead to the creation of five provinces, called Districts, beginning in 1818.

In the 1850's, the big boom: 27 districts in the country, some would last about 15 years before merging with others. Territorial boundaries changed. On January 1st, 1904, before the anti-congregational laws, France possessed 24 Districts – excluding the three French colonial districts, 1,157 houses, 10,561 Brothers and 201,521 students not including scholastics (665), novices (529), and junior novices (1,442). In 1914 there was the same number of Districts but with much smaller numbers: 147 houses, 4,459 Brothers and 19,080 students.

During the 20th century, the districts underwent a major restructuring, first in 1946 and then in the years 1960-1970. In 1989, there were only 8 Districts with 206 houses and 1,499 Brothers. In 1991, all the Districts became one: the District of France.

Today, the District of France includes France of which, Guyana and the Island of Réunion are a part, Switzerland and Greece with 35 communities and 361 Brothers.

For some fifty years, the Brothers have been the architects of an apostolic and spiritual renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council. This generation has undergone great upheavals on the direction which the educational mission should take, and it has worked with steadfastness to keep course for a single purpose, to perpetuate, to update the Lasallian educational mission.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

For five decades, religious alone have promoted then shared with lay people the direction of institutions; over the years classes have welcomed girls and boys and lastly, educational staffs have become mostly feminine. Even if there are fewer and fewer religious vocations, our network is growing. Public opinion realizes that our schools and our educational project, according to the intuitions of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, purposefully responds to social needs and the different needs of poverty.

1991^(*)

www.lasallefrance.fr

- 1680 France
- 1750 Switzerland
- 1817 Réunion
- 1823 Guyana
- 1858 Greece



317



33



155



6,253



3,564



144,699

(*) Year of the foundation of today's District





The intention is to stabilize and perpetuate a “body” of Brothers and lay persons who promote and guarantee the authenticity and recognition of the Lasallian ecclesial mission. The support of our educational network is the La Salle Educational Fraternity. This is led by the Brother Visitor of France assisted by the Trustees of the La Salle network. Its members are: the Brother Visitor’s assistants, the District bursar, delegates of the Trustees and Directors of Fraternities, but also members of the La Salle Educational Fraternity called upon by the Brother Visitor. Presently it also includes four heads of school and the President of the OGEC (Organisme de Gestion de l’Enseignement Catholique [Catholic Teaching Management Organization]). Supervisory authority is exercised by the Brother Visitor of France assisted by this council. Since May 2016 some members of the Fraternity have made a formal commitment in response to the Brother Visitor’s call. They constitute a body of educators, Brothers and laypersons, carrying on the work of human and Christian education in the Church so desired by John Baptist de La Salle.

The Fraternities constitute a unit in their own right and have as their mission the animation and coordination of the local fraternities. The Fraternity Director maintains regular links with local fraternity animators and takes care of the training, the information and the accompaniment of fraternity members. He is also responsible for preparing and implementing national gatherings. The La Salle Educational Fraternity relies on the local fraternities. There are 45 of them distributed in all the

FROM SHOULDERING TO SHARING THE LASALLIAN MISSION

delegations, which bring together members of several educational communities to talk about the educational mission and to pray. They meet several times a year. The referent is the link between each member and with the national coordination. The mission team and the inter-delegation working group ensure the coordination of the fraternities. They also work on animation tools and on the preparation of national meetings. The local fraternity is a place of spiritual growth; an individual and community journey on the meaning of what we experience on a daily basis illuminated by the light of faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospels. This path can lead to a commitment of bringing the educational mission to the Church.

The last tool available to our 150 educational works is the Course of Educating for Justice (PEJ - Parcours d’Education à la Justice), proposed by the network’s Animation Training Unit. It is about making young people aware of the situations of injustice that the poor are victims of. Focused on the 12 values of kindness, confidence, courage, discernment, listening, fraternity, humility, liberty, forgiveness, respect, responsibility and truth, it is a way of promoting a more just world working for inclusion by converting these values into virtues.

The governance team located in the heart of Paris is composed of Brother Provincial Visitor Jean-René Gentric, two Brother Auxiliaries Daniel Elzière and Claude Reinhardt and a lay assistant Jean-Marie Ballenghien. Different administrative, financial, formative, educational, communication and fraternal units, all based in Paris, work together with institutions such as Catholic education, state ministries, the media, businesses and schools. Intense field work by eight supervisory delegates in the region accompany heads of schools and teaching teams on a daily basis.

Some Brothers' communities are embedded in the heart of the network's institutions, the involvement of religious is such that they assure the mission as head of schools, as teachers/educators. For example, the La Salle Igny school complex located in the Paris region is directed by a Brother. This institution has a boarding section (the network has 48 in 2018) to accommodate learners whose parents, among other things, have intense professional lives and cannot ensure daily monitoring. Brothers and lay persons work together providing homework help, self-help learning, peer tutoring. Another example is ADOS (Association pour le Dialogue et l'Orientation Scolaire - Association for Dialogue and Scholastic Orientation) which has been in existence for 30 years and welcomes 50 young people a day. From the 'sixième' [first form in the British system, sixth/seventh grade in the American system], students can confide in Brothers and lay persons the problems they face in school during the day.

Focus on educational teams and training offerings

Our teaching colleagues come mainly from National Education [the state education system] but many of our staff worked in areas far from that of education (military veterans, former corporate executives...). Our mission is one of great dignity, "*the educator, who gives the best of his/her life for children who are not their own...*"

We go beyond a transmission of knowledge and open a real "*path of meaning*" to the professional and personal journey of the network's members. The 13,000 personnel who make up the Lasallian teaching and educational body, are offered training courses, specific pedagogical accompaniments and the possibility of joining the La Salle Educational Fraternity in the region.

The French educational works welcome children from 2 ½ years of age (nursery schools). They have the possibility of continuing their studies in our institutions until BAC+6 (engineering schools, teacher training schools). Our offer of more than 100 training possibilities in all activity sectors makes it possible to accompany the young person in growth and fulfillment until adulthood, and can last longer if the wish is to become an educator/teacher. Today, the profession of teacher/educator struggles to entice young generations, but once invested in the mission, our teams are faithful to our institutions because they offer a fulfilling and balanced professional life.

The commitment of the Brothers in the educational mission is intense, and even if communities are not mainly located in the heart of institutions, the religious provide unwavering support in terms of finances and human resources. This is the case for the Saint Laurent du Maroni School in French Guyana or the Oscar Romero School for children in great difficulty located in a northern suburb of Paris. We can also touch on the involvement of Brothers in literacy centers and charitable associations working with migrants and homeless people.

The Brothers are also present in formation programs tied to spirituality and pedagogy based on the intuitions of John Baptist de La Salle such as the CLF [Centre Lasallien Français - French Lasallian Center] and the CORELA [Comité pour la Recherche Lasallienne - Committee for Lasallian Research]. Many thousands of lay people have attended CLF courses since 1986.

Lasallian institutions welcome all young people, whatever their origins, their itineraries, their religious convictions. Some French regions are more historically

of the Christian Schools

notable, let us mention Roubaix, Wattrelos, Saint Denis, Nancy, Marseille, and many others. Brothers and laypersons work to humanize this youth focusing on an 'entirely different good news!' It is also at Saint Felix La Salle in Nantes that the specificity of our schools is revealed in the welcome given to migrants in great distress, as evidenced by the young adults from Guinea, Pakistan and Cameroon, who have known street-life, violence, fear and have found in our

schools a form of Salvation, and a partaking in humanity.

For three centuries, the conduct of schools and educational centers initiated by Saint John Baptist de La Salle passes from hand to hand, his cherished intuitions guide our steps daily, and we have not only the duty to transmit but also to enliven his writings so that they meet the needs of young people and the expectations of families. This reflective work is conducted every

four years by the Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AMEL) which brings together Brothers and laity for five days to give new directions to the project. It is inspired by the directions given every seven years by the International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL).

Lionel Fauthoux
*Responsible for Communication
for the District of France*





***District
of ARLEP***

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

In January, 1878, Brother Superior Irlide sent four French Brothers to Madrid. The Brothers arrived in Barcelona the following year. From that moment, foundations were begun. In 1878, the District of Spain was established and in 1892 two districts: Madrid with 22 houses and Barcelona with 11.

Because of the 'anti-congregational' laws of 1904, which were the end result of a process for secularization by civil power and social institutions, French Brothers set up numerous establishments in Spain. In 1923, as a result of the development experienced, the District of Valladolid was established, with 32 houses,

separated from the District of Madrid.

In 1929 the houses that depended on the 7 French Districts were united to the Districts of Spain. In 1939, after the Civil War, the District of Valladolid was divided and gave rise to the District of Bilbao. In 1955, two other districts were created: the Central and that of Valencia-Palma. The Central District was created with personnel assigned by the other Districts for common services and without a designated territory. In 1967, the District of Madrid was divided and the District of Seville (Andalucia) was set up.

For about 40 years of existence the 7 districts have been converging thanks to Regional Assemblies, Visitors conferences, coordinators, commissions, teams and work groups. This made it possible for a restructuring process to be formally begun, giving rise on September 1st, 2010, to the District of ARLEP.

The District has found in the persons of its martyrs, recognized by the Church as saints, models of self-giving and unconditional fidelity. The rich depth of their dedication, at times lived by entire communities, together as one man, without doubt manifests the vitality of the Lasallian mission.

2010^(*)

www.lasalle.es

1878 *Spain*
1933 *Portugal*
2012 *Andorra*

La Salle
Distrito ARLEP



(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

12/31/2018

Bulletin of the Brothers of the





The ARLEP District is characterized by a great cultural richness and various sensitive situations within the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands and the autonomous city of Melilla, located in North Africa. It comprises three countries: Spain, Portugal and Andorra. Distinctive languages exist: Basque, Catalan, Galician and Portuguese.

Since September, 2017, by decision of the 2nd District Chapter, the Lasallian reality of the ARLEP District is set up in two complimentary networks: the Network of Lasallian Communities and the Network of La Salle Educational Works do not coincide in their configuration and animation. They are interdependent and have strong connections.

In what refers to the Network of Lasallian Communities, its organization and animation is novel. It is set up in 15 community areas [zones]. Each area is assigned one of the Auxiliary Visitors and an Area Animator, whose responsibility is mainly to assume coordination of the communities.

There are 102 communities. Some are formed by Brothers only, others are mixed (they have Brothers, Associates, other Lasallians, and

other congregations); you also have communities formed by Associates or other lay Lasallians only, recognized as belonging to the district Network of Communities.

The educational mission of the District is organized into 6 sectors. Thus, we have 6 networks of educational works with their respective Sector Animation Teams, Mission Education Councils and other commissions, teams and groups that energize them.

The financing of educational works is fundamentally obtained through some of the following means: educational concerts and public financing subsidies (59%), the interest from funds constituted for that purpose, contributions of families through voluntary donations, the use of facilities by third parties and, in minor ways, through the financing by companies, individuals or other private entities.

All of this is in close connection with the District Animation Team, coordinated by the Brothers Visitors, the Delegates (Educational Mission, Pastoral Mission and Lasallian Identity and Formation), the Bursar and Secretary General, who follow the guidelines set by the Assemblies for the District's Educational Mission.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT SIGNIFICATIVAS

4.1. NEW ANIMATION STRUCTURE OF LASALLIAN COMMUNITIES

The District, by Chapter decision and responding to the challenges of animating communities, is structured into 15 areas that intend to be:

- Models of facile and sustainable animation, which starts with community and personal needs, from close relationships and that facilitates fraternal fellowship.
- Models that facilitate linkage and coordination with the Network of Works.
- Creative ways to respond to the needs of government and animation to promote charismatic vitality of the District individually and communally.
- Particularly attentive to the accompaniment and animation of the older Brothers. Each of the 8 communities of older Brothers with an infirmary is integrated at the same time in an area of communities geographically nearby and in a pastoral area of communities of older Brothers of the District's geographical extension.

4.2. NEW COMMUNITY STYLES

In tune with the object of the District's new reality and structure – “to promote the charismatic vitality of individuals and of communities” – it is decided to favor and promote:

- The opening of communities to the new realities: welcoming communities of educators and young volunteers, strengthening the associative fabric and making it possible to share the Lasallian charism.
- The creation of communities prioritizing dedication to evangelizing and pastoral mission, with presence, welcoming and accompaniment as the key, also paying attention to the formation and accompaniment of different educational and evangelizing agents.
- The possibility of living experiences of community and pioneering inclusive communities in order to become better acquainted with them, to approach that reality and to realize a temporary volunteer in them.
- The inter-congregational relationship and its acceptance in ecclesial reality in line with a “Church on the rise” that builds a “culture of encounter”.

4.3. PASTORAL

The very *Character* of Lasallian educational works in the ARLEP District begins with remembering that our family exists to evangelize; that is, to continue the work of the Kingdom of God, the center of which is the person, and the end point that guides us is Jesus and his Gospel.

In close relation with all the pedagogical and social proposals, Lasallian educators are truly pastoral agents who, through different projects and methodologies, announce Jesus of

Nazareth among the children and youth of our environment. There exists a *Framework Document of Evangelization* that inspires us in this work.

In the school environment, the subject of religion is followed: catechesis of Christian initiation, liturgical celebrations, daily reflection (through the website: www.reflexiondeldia.eu), Justice, Peace and Solidarity education (in collaboration with ONGD [NGO] and socio-educational works) and, with special emphasis, “education for interiority”, through the Hara Project, which proposes an opening to transcendence through body work, the expression of emotions, the learning of relaxation and breathing techniques, etc.

The Lasallian Youth Movement is very present in the District, with more than 13,000 children and young people and more than 1,000 animators, Brothers and laypersons, involved in SalleJoven, Joves La Salle, Izartxo, Gente Pequeña, Tandanacui and other groups. This large movement, in full development, is coordinated by a team of youth representatives from each Sector.

In addition to many activities and projects, a major effort is being made, together with other institutions and congregations, for the promotion of a ‘vocational culture’. The end result of all this pastoral activity is to try and help all children, youth and educators discover God’s call for them in their daily life. In the year 2017 an international Congress was held on this theme entitled “Looking beyond.”

All pastoral work is facilitated by different teams and by networking groups, where the “pastoral communities” of the District offer a

Brothers of the Christian Schools

space for welcoming, meeting and reflection with young people that tries to be a concrete witness of faith, service and community.

4.4. BEYOND THE BORDERS.

Socio-educational Works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW-s-QKoykl>

The set of La Salle social works in the District of ARLEP responds to the needs of the impoverished and vulnerable persons of our society.

There is a District coordination made up of representatives from the Sectors and Social Action Associations and Foundations. We have 13 socio-educational works. Their areas of work include

socio-educational intervention, school and family support; socio-labor training and integration and the residential educational intervention (Homes). Cross-over areas deal with equality, human rights, awareness, inter-culturalism and the promotion of volunteering.

4.5. LASALLIAN ONGD [NGO]'S

The ARLEP District relies on various Lasallian ONGD's: PROYDE (Promotion and Development) PROIDE, PROIDEBA PROYDE-PROEGA, EDIFICANDO y SOPRO. The priority social objective is the promotion and development of peoples in impoverished countries. It assumes a double social commitment:

- To be a witness that it is possible to build a world in which all people live with dignity.
- To be a channel of participation for all those who wish to live in solidarity with reality and commitments.

They carry out different kinds of projects:

- Socio-economic development, training monitors, literacy for young people and adults, sending of prepared personnel, etc.
- Education in justice and in development.



Bulletin of the Brothers

- Establishing structures for achieving these objectives.

Most of the work is in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The projects they support are mostly educational. It should be noted that help is given to Romania and the Middle East, collaborating in shared commitments with RELEM NGO's.

Funding comes from companies and private foundations (57.67%); public entities: municipalities and autonomous communities (16.95%) and social bases: partners (6.84%), Fair Trade (4.24%), local delegations (12.35%).

International Volunteering / Local Volunteering

The NGO's have local delegations in the District's schools, which remain active thanks to the volunteer work of teachers, students and parents of the schools.

These groups of volunteers in addition to managing the local delegation, participate in the educational programs for development, Fair Trade, social impact actions in the environment, etc.

Each year more than 100 international volunteers participate in two programs: one for young people 18-20 years old and another for those over 21. The young people prepare themselves during two school courses as do the adults in face-to-face meetings and through an online course.

Watch the video:





4.5. ASSOCIATES

The Lasallian identity in the District has been strengthened through a long journey of institutional formation which has revitalized the associative dynamism. As a result of this process we have a group of 181 Associates who have publically expressed their commitment to the Lasallian educational mission. At present there are about 30 secular Lasallians who are in the process of initial formation willing to accept the commitment to Association.

The Associates participate in the life of the communities and in the

mission projects of different performance settings: pedagogical and pastoral projects, training and accompaniment, etc. They also participate actively in decision-making, governing and training bodies.

So far, five Assemblies of Associates have been held. Since the beginning, these meetings have strengthened the progressive autonomy of the Associates in decision-making and in the organization of their activities, always in communion with the Brothers' communities and educational works.

There is a Coordinator of Associates, which includes a representation of the District's Associates and whose function is to animate and coordinate all matters that have to do with animating the life of the Associates. The Coordinator regularly publishes a digital newsletter (<http://asociados.lasalle.es/?cat=3>) that shares the daily life of Associates and serves to establish a sharing of experiences that favor the identity, sense of belonging and cohesion of all Associates.



4.6. TRAINING AND IDENTITY

The framework that sustains all this new look is the formative effort that, with Brothers and Lasallians, has been carried out these past years, following the itineraries of the District's "Integral Plan of basic and permanent institutional Formation" (Institutional Training Programs, Lasallian Weeks, Lasallian Formators Program, Welcome-Follow-Up-Accompaniment Plan, Ad-hoc itineraries...). Among the objectives are the proposal and development of the Lasallian identity and the sense of belonging among the rich plurality of vocational options.

4.7. SOME CHALLENGES

"Looking farther than..." This is the *tagline*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij kG-4cfnVg> that we have adopted as District ARLEP, because we are convinced that in it are condensed 300 years of history, a tradition that opts for pedagogical and pastoral innovation, leadership in shared mission, the greatness of more than 115 educational works and the firm commitment of 9,000 educators who insist on looking ahead.

- We Brothers have a high average age, but we want to continue being involved in the Lasallian mission with creativity and vision.

- We want our communities to be places that generate fraternit, which are open to young people and partners in the mission that promote commitment and embody spirituality.
- Since the last District Chapter we have been using the expression "Lasallian Community", aware that Brothers, Associates and other Lasallians are invited to build a charismatic Lasallian family from complementary vocations.
- We take on the commitment to enhance vocational culture, as the way to accompany all persons who find their place and the

of the Christian Schools

- concrete way of answering to God's call.
- We want to continue developing inter-congregational relationships with concrete commitments: to share mission projects, create new communities and reflect together on lay religious life.

- We want a New Contract for Learning (NCA) that answers to the needs of children, adolescents and young people, so that they can be builders of a more just and fraternal world. It is a proposal for 21st century educational based on Lasallian values, with a new

pedagogical framework that integrally develops the curriculum, new evangelization, education for interiority, Justice, Peace and Solidarity education, creativity...based upon a cooperative culture of learning and a good use of technology.





***Delegation
North Belgium***

FIRST STEPS

At the end of the 18th century the pedagogical writings of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle had already acquired a good reputation in Belgium. The Walloon and Flemish authorities were in favor of introducing “Lasallian pedagogy” in their schools.

Due also to the fact that the French revolution had forced the Brothers to move outside France, the first

school was started in Saint-Hubert in 1791. In 1815 Lasallian schools were established in the Dioceses of Namur, Liège and Tournai, and after Belgium became independent in 1830, new schools were also opened in Flanders. The Belgian District was officially founded in 1834. In 1840 there were 124 Brothers, who were active in 31 schools with a total of 7,091 pupils.

1834^(*)

www.vlp-scholennetwerk.be

Belgium 1791



44



4



1,584



584^(**)



31



17,921^(**)

La Salle
Delegatie
Noord-België

12/31/2018

(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

(**) 12/31/2017

THE LASALLIAN INSTITUTIONS IN FLANDERS

The first seven schools in Flanders were founded between 1832 and 1862. The original Belgian Province was split in 1893. The Provincialate and formation house of North Belgium were established, in 1897, in the former abbey of Sint-Wivina in Groot-Bijgaarden. In the early fifties of the 20th century, each of the Provinces counted more than 600 Brothers. Many of them spent their lives in the Congo and other mission countries. In 1930 there were 103 communities in Belgium.

In the second half of the 20th century the “crisis of religious vocations” badly affected the District. In the 21st century, North Belgium is an aged community. It is now a Delegation. The economic and financial management is entrusted to a private foundation. The Lasallian mission in 30 schools is run by a staff of lay people.





The issue of becoming an “aged” District was studied by a representative group of Brothers from Holland, North and South Belgium (from 2009 till 2011). An agreed report was drawn up for the RELEM Council and the General Council in Rome. In 2014 the Brothers submitted to Brother Superior General and his Council the conclusion of the District Chapter that it was impossible to continue as an autonomous District. After careful discernment Brother Superior decided to set up North Belgium as a Delegation, and in 2015 he appointed Brother Alberto Gómez, former General Councillor, as Delegate to the

Already in the 1980’s, it became obvious that by the year 2000 the Brothers would no longer be able to administer the schools. In 1993, the District Chapter, with as many Brothers as lay people, decided to set up a Coordinating Board (CORA) to take care of the continuity of the network of 66 schools and 10 apostolic initiatives. In December 1995 the “*Vlaams Lasalliaans Perspective*” (VLP) was established. Under the canonical authority of the Brothers, the VLP, a juridically non-profit organization, is responsible for the educational and pastoral management of the Lasallian schools. Mr. Geert Mortier is at present the Director of the VLP. Every school is managed by an independent juridical structure, with its own Board of Governors, and subsidised by the Government. The VLP has no juridical authority over the schools. Its main concern

THE DELEGATION OF NORTH BELGIUM

Superior General. The Delegation counts at present 47 Brothers, whose average age is 84. There are no longer any Brothers in teaching or other positions in the schools. A group of dedicated and professional nurses and administrative staff take care of the well-being of the Brothers in their communities and public residences.

THE CONTINUITY OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION

is to work with the Boards as well as with the principals and the educational and administrative staffs to support their loyal commitment to the Institute of the Brothers and to the educational project, inspired by Saint Jean-Baptist De La Salle. Since 2005 the VLP also represents the Lasallian schools to the Catholic Education Office in Flanders. Although part of the Delegation, VLP is legally an entity which is separate from the government structure set up for the Brothers. At the moment, one Brother, Herman Lombaerts, is still actively involved in the VLP mission.

THE FOUNDATION DE LA SALLE.. NOORD-BELGIË

The District Chapter of 2008 decided to set up a supervisory commission to assist the District in its economic business, financial management and general government. Besides,

four Brothers from the District, the General Bursar of the Institute, the RELEM Councillor, and two lay people were invited to be part of it. In 2011 this initiative led to the installation of the Private Foundation North Belgium. Brother Jacques D’Huitema was invited to be the president of the Board of Governors. At present, three Brothers of the Delegation act as administrators, besides 4 Brothers representing the Institute, and two

lay people. Its major goals are: to support the administrative tasks of the Delegation, to guarantee the quality of the material, physical and spiritual life of the Brothers, to provide the resources for staffing, the material and administrative infrastructure of the VLP, and to financially support the projects or needs of the Institute. Very professional financial work is carried out and monitored by the Board of Governors.



Brothers of the Christian Schools

“Brothers, you are good and faithful servants. Your contribution to human and Christian education has been truly a sacrament of God’s presence and means of salvation for countless children here in Belgium and in the African continent. We are proud of you and I express the gratitude of the Institute for all you have done. Congratulations for the efforts you have made to adapt to the new reality of a Delegation with creativity and good will. The Delegation, the Foundation, and the VLP are well-organized. Let’s give thanks to God together for our call to serve him as Brothers of the Christian Schools to the end of our lives”. (Message from Br. Robert Schieler to the Brothers)

“I invite you to continue being women and men who think, reflect, integrate and imagine. Thanks for your hard work and your commitment to the schools and all those entrusted to your care. Thank you for your leadership and for being Partners in the Lasallian mission of human and Christian education of the new generations in Belgium”. (Message from Br. Robert Schieler to VLP)



CHALLENGES

Looking to the future, Brother Robert Schieler, Superior General, said to us: *The future is already here.* We believe, as De La Salle said, that this Institute continues to be of great need. Nevertheless, it is a fact that in a very few years the number of Brothers in Belgium will be symbolic or none at all. The Institute needs to start facing this fact and make the appropriate decisions.

In the field of mission, new initiatives have been taken to stimulate a dynamic and co-operative school management. The Lasallian spirituality is explored in response to the contemporary context. The “Kapel van de Ontluiting” (Chapel of Disclosure) sets a new context for the revaluation of the sacral meaning of educational teaching, including the architectural design of the school. A thorough investigation of the “Catholic identity” and the specific charisma of the Lasallian schools

aims at further strengthening an authentic culture of dialogue.

Catholic schools of different traditions and networks are merging. Staffs and students in our schools represent the religious, social cultural, ethnic and philosophical pluralism of our society. It is our task to re-invent the original Lasallian charism with today’s young generations.

Taking a look at the present situation, we are aware that the immense efforts of so many Brothers and lay educators during more than two centuries were only possible because of a humble and generous dedication to an extraordinary project: the work of God.

Brothers and Lay Lasallians of North Belgium deeply appreciate the pastoral visit of Brothers Robert and Aidan. We thank them for their support and their words of encouragement.



District of South Belgium

DISTRICT

There are only about thirty Brothers left. The youngest is 75 years old. The average age is about 85. The Brother Visitor is Brother Patrick Vandeputte. The district headquarters is located in

Malonne near Namur not far from the sanctuary of Saint Mutien-Marie. However, most of the Brothers live in Bouge (also near Namur). There are no longer any active Brothers in the schools.

1834^(*)

Belgium 1791

ANIMATION

Animation of the schools is overseen by lay people within the Association of Lasallian Schools (AEL). It is a non-profit association whose main purpose is to pursue the Lasallian Educational Mission in our schools. It obviously received this mission from the Congregation.

It is managed by a senior inspector. Since September, it has been France Goossens. She is assisted in her task by a core team (led by Alain Nicolas). This team provides support to schools in pedagogical matters (through support and formation) and at the pastoral level. The referent for pastoral care is Brother Jean-Pierre Berger.

At the secondary level, there is a pastoral worker who animates the pastoral leaders of our various schools. We also have a small team of pedagogical guides who work in schools by creating tools with teachers to cover the different subjects.

Secondary and elementary school principals meet three or four times a year. There is a joint meeting at both levels in January.



30



5



2,516



1,198



70



31,209



(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

12/31/2018





With regard to the religion course, it is Brother Jean-Pierre who is empowered to give his consent (or refusal) when appointing a religion teacher. It is the AEL that accompanies and inspects religion courses.

Finally, the AEL is recognized by the Catholic education office and sits on its various decision-making bodies.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Our strengths: the number of establishments and the clearly expressed desire to pursue the Lasallian Educational Mission; the recognized quality of our services.

Our weaknesses: a certain financial fragility, the small number of Brothers and the general context of secularization of society.





District of Poland

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The history of the Brothers' presence in Poland goes back to the year 1857 when brothers came to Vienna. In 1903 a few of them were invited to Lviv, today in Ukraine, to lead a boarding school for a German minority. The invitation came from Saint Zygmunt Gorazdowski. At that time, until it stopped functioning in 1939, the school belonged to the District of Czechoslovakia. In 1922 the Novitiate was opened in Częstochowa. Soon after, despite difficult interwar conditions, another boarding school was established in Lisków. During the Second World War, some of the brothers were shot in public executions. Responding to the needs of post-war children, the

brothers ran orphanages for orphans of war.

After the war, when the Communists rose to power in Poland, the authorities hindered the functioning of the Church and the Institute in the country. From 4 July 1952 to the early 80s, the house in Częstochowa was taken over by Communists and it was turned into a hotel for workers. Despite harsh conditions brothers decided to reopen the Novitiate in the attic of the building.

At that time, there was hardly any contact with the Generalate due to the political situation. To sustain the existence of the Institute in such isolation, the Primate Stefan Wyszyński appointed Brother

Stanisław Rybicki as the Brother Visitor of Poland. At that time, there were 14 brothers in two communities who taught foreign languages and Religious Education. There was no permission from the Communist authorities for any kind of activity of the brothers except for working with the disabled. For this reason, in the 70s the brothers took over centers for people with physical and mental disabilities, thus developing a completely new form of the Institute's activity. The centers established at that time in Zawadzkie, Przytocko and Uszyce are still operating today.

After the fall of Communism, in 1991 a new law was introduced allowing brothers to open schools in Gdańsk and in Częstochowa.

1964^(*)

www.braciaszkolni.com

1903 Poland

La  Polaka



50



11



11



264



118



3,348

(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

12/31/2018





PRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT

The District of Poland, established in 1964, includes 7 centers of various kinds, with over 40 brothers living in 11 communities.

Most of the work in the District is aimed at answering the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. The existing forms of activity vary depending on the degree of disability and the age of the persons for whom they are intended. The primary school, the school of work training and the boarding school in Uszyce educate students with mild, moderate and significant intellectual disabilities. There are nursing homes in Przytocko and Zawadzkie for boys and men with moderate and significant intellectual disabilities. Their purpose is to satisfy the living and personal needs of their residents, ensuring that they are treated with dignity. Occupational therapy workshops in the homes provide the disabled who cannot take up employment with the opportunity of social and vocational rehabilitation. Those who are unable to participate in occupational therapy are provided with daily care, healthcare and various types of therapies and rehabilitation.

The Special Educational Centre in Częstochowa for children with difficulties, behavioral disorders and intellectual disabilities ensures the development of students in the physical, mental, social and spiritual spheres, shapes their creative attitudes and prepares them for adult life.

Schools and kindergartens in Gdańsk and Częstochowa provide high quality private education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 16. Special emphasis is put on language learning and sports education. In order to develop the spirit of service in the children, schools cooperate with centers for the disabled. Together they prepare festivities and charity events, as well as visit each other willingly.

The Brothers in Laski, Lublin and Piotrków Trybunalski teach catechesis and other subjects in public and private schools. They also prepare children and young people to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Some Polish brothers also work in France, Lebanon, Cameroon, Italy and Slovakia.

VISIT OF BROTHER SUPERIOR

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler and Brother Councillor for RELEM, Aidan Kilty visited the District of Poland

from April 23 - 28, 2018. They visited centers and communities in Gdańsk, Przytocko, Uszyce, Zawadzkie, Kopiec and Częstochowa.

Pupils and teachers from the school in Gdańsk asked a lot of questions about the Lasallian charism and the Lasallian mission in the world. They were curious to know if there are teacher exchanges between

Lasallian schools, and if a brother can be a minister of education. Teachers of the kindergarten were captivated by the General's openness to the youngest children and easiness in contact with them, as well as by the warm response from the children.

For the community of the Social Care Home for boys and men with mental disabilities in Przytocko, it



Brothers of the Christian Schools

was the first visit of a Brother Superior General in their history. In words addressed to the employees of the center, Brother Superior emphasized the unique character of their work. He also drew attention to the fact that answering to the needs of the most vulnerable is at the heart of the Lasallian mission.

The visit to the Social Welfare Home in Zawadzkie and Special

Education Center in Uszyce were perceived by the brothers and lay partners as a sign of recognition of their work. The guests walked around the centers and met with pupils, teachers and educators. During the meetings and meals, the brothers learned about everyday successes and challenges of service for people with intellectual disabilities in Poland.

In Częstochowa Brother Robert Schieler visited the Special Educational Center for difficulties, behavioral disorders and intellectual disabilities. Afterwards, the guests took part in a mass and a gala

celebrating the 20th anniversary of the De La Salle School.

Apart from visits in each center, Brother Superior met with brothers teaching catechesis in public schools in various parts of Poland, as well as with the team responsible for formation and animating the Lasallian identity in the District and the District Council.

The visit was an opportunity to show the brothers the realities of the Polish District and exchange experiences between the guests and the visited centers, which reinvigorated the District and strengthened Polish Lasallians.



Brother Franciszek Taranek, Servant of God

Brother Franciszek (Feliiks) Taranek was born on June 1, 1915 in Dworszowice Kościelne in an agricultural family.

At the age of 16, he joined the Brothers of Christian Schools in Częstochowa. When he took the habit, he received the names of Franciszek Marian. He took his first vows in 1933, and perpetual vows in 1943. He graduated in Pedagogical Studies at the University of Łódź in 1952, as well as in Classical Philology in 1958 at the Catholic University of Lublin. In the community he had the duties of Gardener, Educator, Teacher, Treasurer, Director of Centers, Director of Communities and Master of the Novitiate. He was the one who was active the longest in Duszniki Zdrój, Lublin, and Częstochowa. He was the Brother Visitor of the District of Poland through the years 1973-82.

He zealously strived for a high standard of spiritual life of his confreres, emphasizing poverty, community life, apostolic zeal and authentic piety. Despite numerous duties, he had time for everyone. He was known for his ability to listen, advise and cheer others up. With his sense of humor, he often made people smile and eased the tension. He loved the Holy Bible and the rosary very much. His whole life consisted in service for the good of children, young people and brothers.

He was a model of piety, self-denial and sacrifice for everyone. Weakened by cancer, he died in Częstochowa on December 15, 1982, in the opinion of sanctity. He rests in the Brothers' tomb at the Częstochowa cemetery at St. Roch's Street.



***District of Ireland,
Great Britain and
Malta***

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta, comprising 109 Brothers, is one of the youngest in the Institute, and yet it has a long and rich legacy. There has been a Brothers' presence in Ireland since 1880, in Great Britain since 1855 and in Malta since 1903. The District was formed on September 1st, 2015. The District is under the leadership of a Brother Visitor, a Brother Auxiliary Visitor and is currently organised in 3 Sectors: Ireland with 15 Lasallian Schools and 3 Pastoral Centers, GB with 10 Lasallian Schools (6 Trust Schools & 4 Associate Schools) and 1 Pastoral Center, and Malta with 2 Lasallian Colleges and 1 Pastoral Center.

The five pastoral centers provide a richness of ministry in the District. They play a crucial role in the Lasallian mission. For many students this is their experience of a caring Church. The style and variety of work carried out in the pastoral centers varies.

While each Sector of the District has its own unique reality, one thing that unites the District is the dedication of Brothers and Partners working *Together and by Association* to ensure the mission is strong and vibrant. The various structures of committees and councils serving the mission highlight the dedication of Lasallians in the District to meet the needs at the local and District levels. As well as the District Council, there is a District Executive Mission Council. This Council includes representatives from each Sector to support, promote and strengthen the network of Lasallian educators and institutions in Ireland, Great Britain and Malta, which aims to move the Lasallian mission and vocation into the future with creative fidelity to its founding story.

Each Sector has a Council, comprising Brothers and partners, to support the work of the District Mission Executive Council and attend to local programming. These

structures exemplify the lived reality and commitment to the association for mission and play an important role. The District Young Lasallian Council exists to serve the Lasallian mission in the District by mobilizing the potential and richness of adolescents and young adults in the Lasallian network. All these groups illustrate the commitment of Lasallians, Brothers and Partners, to work together to reflect on reality, solve problems and plan for the future.

Lasallian formation for mission in the District is comprehensive. Yearly mission induction programs help to introduce new teachers and staff to the Lasallian story, to the Founder and to the Lasallian Family.

2015^(*)

www.delasalle.org.uk

1880 Ireland
1855 Great Britain
1903 Malta



(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

Bulletin of the Brothers

A three year follow-up program allows Lasallians a chance to deepen their understanding of the founding story, to consider and to build an understanding of Lasallian association and Lasallian spirituality. Gatherings of Lasallian Animation Teams in Ireland and District school leaders help to build a network of support, collaboration

and community among these groups. Local gatherings in each of the Sectors throughout the year help to further build the sense of association around the District. There is a chapter of Signum Fidei in Malta. There are several annual gatherings of students for the Lasallian Competition in Ireland, and the Lasallian Camp. The

Lasallian Camp is a District event that brings together young people to build community, share prayer and liturgy and enjoy the outdoors. The District has a well-established strategy for the care of the elderly and frail Brothers. The three Care Communities are staffed with professionals who are responsible for seeing that the health needs are



of the Christian Schools

attended to around the clock. The spiritual life of the Brothers in the Care Communities is geared to the needs of the Brothers at every stage of their journey. There are two outreach personnel who attend to the health needs of the Brothers living in all Communities.

The District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta continues the legacy of

the first Brothers who arrived so many years ago. Young people continue to be blessed with quality Lasallian education and retreat experiences because of the dedication and hard work of Lasallians, Brothers and Partners, today. The diversity across the five educational systems in the District is a challenge and an asset, as it

pushes us to constantly reflect on that which is at the core of our identity and mission as Lasallians. There is an intentional effort to plan for the future and create a vision to ensure that the mission will continue for many years to come, and that the Lasallian vocation will grow in Ireland, Great Britain and Malta.





***District of
Proche Orient***

The District was founded in 1995. It is made up of several countries divided up as follows: Lebanon Sector, Holy Land/Jordan Sector (Palestine, Israel, Jordan), Egypt Sector and Turkey Sector. In 2004 Sudan was added to the Egypt Sector with the creation of a community in Khartoum. The first Brother Visitor was Régis Claude Robbe who began his term August 1st, 1995. The Brother Visitor's term is 4 years. He was also appointed for a second term in 1998. The Provincialate is

located at Sacré-Coeur (Gemmayzé). A Brother Bursar and a Brother Secretary were also added to the District team. In 2003, Brother Georges Absi succeeded Brother Régis for a period of 8 years (2 terms). During this time, the Khartoum community was closed by the authorities and the District pressed the Center of the Institute for the opening of an international community in South Sudan. In 2015, Brother Fadi Sfeir was appointed Visitor for 4 years, in the same year that the Center of

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

the Institute opened an inter-congregational community of Brothers of the Christian Schools and Marist Brothers in Rmeily, south Lebanon, to serve Syrian refugees.

PRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT

The District groups together 7 countries into Sectors: Turkey, Lebanon, Holy Land/Jordan, Egypt/Sudan.

There are 11 communities and 20 institutions.

French is taught in all the institutions and certain subjects are also done in French: especially

Math and the Sciences. Three institutions prepare for the French baccalaureate; three institutions prepare for the English diplomas: the GCE, which means certain courses are taught in English.

Except for Turkey, which uses the Turkish language, all the other institutions use Arabic in teaching.

1995^(*)

www.lasalle-po.org

1841 Turkey

1847 Egypt

1878 Jordan

Palestine

1882 Israel

1886 Lebanon

2007 South Sudan



33^(**)



11^(**)



20



1,978



1,422



24,354

(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

(**) 12/31/2017

12/31/2018





South Sudan

One Sudanese Brother of the District is at the service of the mission under the direct responsibility of the Center of the Institute.

Egypt

(2 communities, 6 Brothers, we are responsible for 6 institutions):

One community (Bayadeya – Upper Egypt) is an institution at the service of an association participating in the animation of two schools, for which we are not responsible, as well as for a teacher's resource center. In addition, the Brothers animate youth movements, literacy and an alternative school. They also participate in parish activities.

Two centers, Saint Mark's School (Alexandria) and De La Salle (Daher-Cairo), welcome and integrate physically challenged students. There are a large number of groups and youth movements in all the schools. The Brothers carry out functions as animators, directors or persons in charge of class cycles.

Holy Land/Jordan

(3 communities, 7 Brothers, 4 institutions):

All the communities are involved in the institutions. The Brothers animate youth movements. They function as directors or teachers, or as class leaders. The physically challenged have a place set aside for them in the Amman school.

Lebanon

(4 communities, 18 Brothers, 7 institutions)

This Sector hosts the Community of Senior Brothers (7 Brothers).

The other communities are linked to academic institutions in which the Brothers provide direction or are responsible for teaching cycles. They animate catechesis and youth movements there.

A primary school (belonging to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) is animated by the Brothers.

Two schools prepare for the French baccalaureate as well as the Lebanese baccalaureate.

Turkey

(2 communities, 3 Brothers, 3 institutions)

The communities (one of 2 Brothers, the other...1 Brother) are linked to the institutions. The Brothers, all of retirement age, provide different services in the institutions: one Brother coordinates the Sector's MEL. Direct catechesis is forbidden by the state's secularity. A Brother is engaged at the diocesan level within its framework which provides coverage for the accompaniment of catechumens.

- French is taught in all the institutions; similarly English is reinforced in the establishments of the Holy Land / Jordan to prepare the English diploma: GCE. One institution in Egypt ensures the teaching of English as a second language after Arabic and two establishments – one in Lebanon and the other in Egypt – have an English Section.



District of Italy

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The Italian Province of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is an organization of recent origins. In fact it was born at the beginning of the new millennium, unifying two bodies of an older history: the Province of Turin and the Province of Rome. Lasallian presence within the peninsula is long standing. Already in 1702, with the arrival of Brother Gabriel Drolin in the Holy City, launched the origin of the Province

of Rome, which embraced central-southern Italy. In northern Italy, on the other hand, the Brothers arrived in 1829: from a first nucleus in the city of Turin, the Lasallian presence slowly expanded to the North-East and to Emilia.

Until the mid-point of the 20th century, the two Provinces developed independently. After World War II, the first forms of collaboration began, crowned in 1976 by the creation of an Italian

Region, aimed at defining common lines of action for the two Provinces. At the end of the 20th century, with fewer vocations and fewer Brothers, the two Provinces opted for a merger which became effective June 14th, 2003, with the appointment of a single Visitor. Since then, the Province of Italy, based in Rome, continues its activities, operating 27 communities on national territory.

2003^(*)

www.lasalleitalia.net

1702 Italy



(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

12/31/2018

PRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT

On June 14, 2003, the nascent District of Italy counted 259 Brothers who, living in 33 communities, educated about

9,000 students. Fifteen years later, the District has 149 Brothers: a clear numerical diminution that reflects the global aging of religious communities following a vocational decline that is generalized in Italy.

The decrease in the number of Brothers does not mean, however, a decrease in the number of activities they manage. If some schools have been closed over the years, other

experiences have begun (i.e. the La Salle immersion community located in a disadvantaged neighborhood of Naples, which takes young people in difficulty off the streets and away from the Mafia). This is possible thanks to the massive presence of lay persons who participate in the educational activities of the Brothers. There are numerous lay groups of the



Brothers of the Christian Schools

“Signum Fidei” Fraternity in the country, as is the presence of laypersons associated in the Institute involved in Lasallian schools as teachers and collaborators. The number of young people involved with the Lasallian Youth Movement involved in volunteering both in Italy and abroad is noteworthy. We also have a particularly cordial

relationship with the Catechetical Union of the Most Holy Cross and Mary Immaculate, a secular institute founded in Turin at the beginning of the 19th century by the Venerable Christian Brother Teodoreto. To date, in collaboration with the Brothers and through the Casa di Carità Foundation the Catechetical Union manages numerous professional formation training organizations mainly in the north of Italy.

As for traditional education, the Brothers are present in 20 educational institutions in Italy (from kindergarten to higher education), a boarding school, two university student residences and various ‘new beginning opportunity’ schools. Around 1,000 employees work side by side with the Brothers, caring for 7,000 young people who benefit from this educational proposal.





***District of
Central Europe***

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The District of Central Europe was established on the 1st of September 1994. In the 25 years of its existence, the organisational and territorial structure of the District have undergone certain changes. The countries that formed the District at the time of its establishment were: Austria (together with Hungary and the Czech Republic), Germany, Romania, and Slovakia. On the 1st of September 2006, the former Province of Holland became a sector of the District of Central Europe and on the 1st of December 2011, the German sector was disbanded, with the four German Brothers moving to communities in Austria.

Reviewing this first quarter of the century, we can highlight the resumption of Lasallian educational activities in the countries of the former communist bloc: Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, where the activity of the Brothers was interrupted in the 40 years of Communism. During this difficult time, many Brothers suffered enormously in prisons or in forced labor centers. As much as they suffered, so great was their joy on seeing how, after the political changes that had occurred with the fall of Communism in 1989, their educational and pastoral activities could be resumed.

A decisive contribution to the revival of the Lasallian mission in these countries was made by the generosity, solidarity, and spirit of fraternity manifested by the Brothers from the Districts of Austria, ARLEP (Spain and Portugal) and Poland. The assistance received from the two Districts in human and financial resources made it possible to continue the Lasallian educational mission in our District. We believe it is a good time to offer a word of thanks to the two Districts for the support we have received over all these years.

1994^(*)

www.delasalle.at

- 1857 Austria
- 1861 Romania
- Slovakia
- 1894 Czech Republic
- Hungary
- 1908 Netherlands



43



8



8



488



200



4,088

(*) Year of the foundation of today's District

12/31/2018

PRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT

The District of Central Europe extends geographically from the North Sea to the Black Sea, comprising the following countries from West to East: the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech

Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. They are organized in four sectors: Austria (with Czech Republic and Hungary), the Netherlands, Romania, and Slovakia. Linguistic and territorial diversity exist, as is characteristic in RELEM, and this represents a challenge for the current situation in the District.

Half of the Brothers in the District and educational works are in the Austrian Sector. Four educational

centers are in Vienna and the fifth educational center is in Budapest in Hungary. The Brothers live in two communities: Vienna (Strebersdorf) and Maria Laubegg.

In the Netherlands, there are 12 Brothers who are in the twilight of their lives and are organized in two communities: Cujik and Voorhout. There is currently no educational center. Until two to three decades ago, a hundred Dutch Brothers were missionaries in Egypt,



Brothers of the Christian Schools

Palestine, Lebanon, Zaire, Rwanda, Aruba (Antilles) and Cameroon. Their generosity made it possible for the Lasallian educational mission in those places to develop and flourish.

In the Sector of Romania, the Lasallian educational mission takes place in two educational centers: a technological high school in Pildești and a social-educational center in Iași. Internationality is a specific feature of the Sector. There are four

Brothers of Spanish nationality, one Maltese Brother, and three Romanian Brothers. In Romania, there is also a group of associates belonging to the Signum Fidei Fraternity. They work closely with the Pildești Community of Brothers.

In the Slovakia Sector, the Lasallian educational activity takes place in the educational center in the capital of the country, Bratislava. In this Sector, internationality is also an important feature. There are five Brothers who form the community: four are Polish and one is of Slovak nationality.

Although the German Sector ceased to exist in 2011, the two educational centers, currently part of the school network of the Catholic Diocese of Augsburg and located in Illertissen, have shown their desire to continue liaising with our District.

In 2008, the Lasallian Academy of Central Europe (LAACCE) was established in order to ensure a Lasallian training as a guarantee for the preservation and perpetuation of the Lasallian charism in the District.



Brothers who suffered during the Communist regime behind the “Iron Curtain”

We think it is good to remember the numerous Brothers from the countries in the “Communist Camp” who suffered years of forced labor and imprisonment because of the fact that they were Brothers, consecrated persons, and because they taught children and young people about the truths of faith, catechesis, and religion.

In his book **Brothers to One Another: The Brothers Behind the Iron Curtain: Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia**, published in 2011, Brother Gerard Rummery presents a brief overview of the Brothers' experiences in Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. It includes their accounts of being abused, imprisoned, separated, spied on and restricted in their ability to work as Brothers for many years. It also details the fresh start to their work after the fall of Communism.

Vicentiu Ghiurca, F.S.C.
Brother Visitor, Central Europe

La
Salle

Final Declaration

First RELEM MEL Assembly

Message to all Brothers and Lay Partners in the Region of RELEM.

2018

Final Declaration

First RELEM MEL Assembly

The 70 Lasallians who have gathered at the Casa Generalizia to celebrate the First RELEM MEL Assembly send you fraternal greetings.

During these days together, we have faced the challenge of how to maintain and strengthen the Lasallian Mission and Vocation in our Region. We realise that we share hopes, difficulties and challenges as well as a vision for the future. We recognise that our evident diversity is a treasure and an opportunity through which we can mutually enrich each other.

It is everyone's responsibility to contribute to the vitality of the Lasallian network so that all the institutions of RELEM live the spirit of John Baptist de La Salle. We recognise the strategic importance of the three themes considered by the Assembly: the need to strengthen the identity of our educational works and of each one of their members, the urgent need to offer formation that helps to acquire and develop that identity, and the need to have appropriate structures in place that facilitate the support and development of the Lasallian Mission.

We have confidence in you, **educators**, as the protagonists of the Lasallian mission in each of our educational works. We want to support your personal growth so as to create educational communities that understand, assume and commit to the Lasallian identity.

We have confidence in you, **young people**. You are a constant reminder of our need to be attentive to your situation and to offer you the most appropriate responses to your concerns. We want to offer you the best means for your development as persons in a world in constant evolution. We see the present Youth Synod as an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to you.

We thank you, **families**, for your confidence in choosing one of our educational centres to collaborate with you in the exciting adventure of educating your sons and daughters.

With you, **De La Salle Brothers**, we continue to see ourselves as your brothers and sisters in the different ways of responding to the Lasallian Mission. We are inspired with joy by your lives of fidelity to the dream of John Baptist de La Salle: involved



in the creation of the Reign of God, in community, through the education of children and young people.

We invite all Lasallians, through reflection but especially through action, to be particularly sensitive to the poorest and most vulnerable in Europe and the Mediterranean today. As heirs to the vision and work of De La Salle, we must continue to offer a human and spiritual education that provides dignity and salvation to those most in need, such as the migrants who knock at the doors of our societies.

Like John Baptist de La Salle, the first Brothers and all Lasallians who have built on their memory over these 300 years, we are committed to our society and to our history. Like them, we are aware of the positive opportunities that the present historical moment offers and we are committed to building a future for humanity based on our vision of life, of the human person, and of the world.

A **Heart** that beats in sympathy with the world,
A **Commitment** with the Church, the young and the vulnerable,
A **Life** shared in each of our educational and religious communities.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

Rome, 19th October 2018





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