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FIFTY YEARS OF THE "RIVISTA LASALLIANA"

At fifty years of age a man's life reaches its highest point of maturity. For a review, fifty years represent the work of four generations of editors. This is the case with "Rivista Lasalliana", a quarterly review of pedagogical formation and information published by the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Italy.

ITS ORIGINS

Brother Goffredo Savoré founded the "Rivista Lasalliana" in Turin in 1934. He was then fifty years of age and at the height of his activities as educator, writer and scholar. He gathered round him a group of Brothers in their thirties as collaborators and editors of the review. The "Rivista Lasalliana" should, therefore, be considered in the context of the District which produced it. Seen thus, it was a communal effort and a high point in the cultural history of the Province.

ITS AIMS

The basic plan which set out the aims of the "Rivista Lasalliana" and directed it on its way, not always without difficulties and obstacles, served as a guide in the choice of subjects treated and gave pride of place to Lasallian studies and articles of a pedagogic and educative nature.

You can read the guiding principles in the articles of foundation of 1934. "The aim of the 'Rivista Lasalliana' is to serve as a review of religious and professional formation for the Brothers. This objective is to be attained by a thorough study of the life and teaching of St. John Baptist de La Salle, of the life and work of the Institute and of the teaching of the Church, especially in the field of asceticism. Among the means to be employed is a deeper study, in the light of modern experience, of the principles, methods and factors which influenced the pedagogy of de La Salle and his disciples with a view to avoiding being trapped in an unthinking routine."

ITS CONTENT

It has always specialised in Lasallian themes, treated in their broadest sense. Consequently it publishes articles on pedagogy, philosophy, moral theology and asceticism under their historical, theoretical and practical aspects. It pays particular attention to the study of the traditions and methods, both organizational and didactic, of our Institute with a view to their formative value.

Studies and articles fall under the following general headings:

- Lasallian Studies.
- Lasallian Literature.
- Lasallian Texts.
- Ascetical and Mystical Writings.
- Catechetics.

- Methodology and Teaching.
- Pedagogy and Philosophy.
- Review of books published in the Institute or works relating to it.

COLLABORATION

At first collaboration was limited to what the Brothers themselves could provide but was gradually extended to the Lasallian educative community by inviting contributions from lay teachers, parents and university professors who shared the Lasallian outlook. This collaboration produced richer and deeper insights into Lasallian culture and the review became the "property" of the entire educative community.

This collaboration should not be limited to the review but should become an integral part of the professional responsibility of teachers and educators in all our institutions.

DIFFUSION

Very soon the "Rivista Lasalliana" went beyond the confines of Lasallian institutions and found its way into religious, pedagogic and educative centres as well as into the faculties of religious studies and pedagogy of Italian and foreign universities, libraries and the publishing houses of similar reviews (Approximately fifty, thanks to the exchange system between reviews).

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

In recent years the need has become acute to keep pace with contemporary realities which speak a new language and talk in terms of a new culture produced and conditioned by modern technological progress. This "aggiornamento" must be achieved without betraying the principles on which the review was founded. With this in mind the review, formerly reserved to the Brothers, has enlarged the circle of its readers to include lay teachers, lay educationalists and pedagogical research workers. It tries to present the pedagogical insights and spiritual teaching of de La Salle in a manner which appeals to modern readers.

The language used has, consequently, to be adapted to the experience of modern society without regard to distinctions of class or culture. Basing itself on this principle the review has taken on a more flexible character, better adapted to concrete reality.

In keeping with this new outlook it invites competent contributors to write on.

★ Different experiments in the religious and educational fields as lived at various levels within the framework of the Institute.

★ Education today examined in the light of the teaching of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

★ The creativity shown in educational experiments which requires theoretical structuring.

★ Recent thinking on the organization of teaching within the framework of current pedagogical development.

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