



THE LASALLIAN STUDY CIRCLE DISTRICT OF OTTAWA

03-B-13

The Lasallian Study Circle (Centre d'Etudes Lasalliennes, C.E.L.) of the District of Ottawa is the result of a resolution proposed at the last district chapter which asked the Brother Visitor and his Council to organise a renewal course for the Brothers, who so wished, based on a rediscovery of the Founder and his letters.

The first year, 1982-83, sixteen Brothers took part in C.E.L. In 1983-84 the number has risen to twenty. Likewise a number of young men who are more or less interested in the religious life joined the circle.

The C.E.L. calendar provides for six meetings during the school year, one Sunday a month from November to May. The Circle terminates its activities usually about the 15th of May when we celebrate the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle over here.

Each session of the Circle follows the following pattern: the explanation of some Lasallian theme, 30 minutes; group discussion for 30 minutes followed sometimes by a plenary session. All the meetings end with a prayer followed by a reflection and a Celebration of the Word, about 20 minutes, and a community meal.

One Brother was responsible for introducing the subject during the first session. Three confreres took on this responsibility during the second.

The following are the subjects studied during the first year:

- 1) The Crises in the Life of De La Salle.
- 2) The Lasallian Vocation: Tending to Perfection through fidelity.
- 3) The Brother's Ministry as De La Salle Saw it.
- 4) The Spirit of Faith according to De La Salle.
- 5) The Founder's Place in my Religious Life Today.

During the discussions, the participants explored the following themes:

★ Discovering De La Salle's attitude when faced with a crisis. What personal application can we derive therefrom?

★ Try to discover what our fidelity should be, based on the "Considerations about our State and Employment".

★ Rediscovering what Saint John Baptist de La Salle says about our ministry in Meditations nos. 93, 193, 195 and 201.

★ Discussion about the Founder's teaching regarding the spirit of faith. How do we practice this today?

This year the members of C.E.L. have all agreed to make a study of the LASALLIAN PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT as the general theme under the following aspects.

- 1) The Place of the School in the Lasallian Project.
- 2) The Specific Object of the Lasallian Project: THE FREE SCHOOL.
- 3) De La Salle as the Trainer of Educators. How De La Salle Trained the First Brothers.
- 4) The Broad Outlines of De La Salle's Training of the First Brothers: Dialogue - Community - Commitment.

- 5) De La Salle and the discernment of Vocations.
- 6) De La Salle's Writings.

Such is a brief outline of the very modest effort in our district to nourish the devotion and interest of the Brothers in the Founder on the one hand, and, on the other, to shed Lasallian light on our apostolic life today.

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