

## FOREWORD

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With this 7th edition, our third appearance of the *Lasalliana* begins. In a few months, the General Chapter will constitute an important event upon which we will have the occasion to reflect in future editions. The capitulants themselves or perhaps the next General Council which will be elected, will no doubt review the various publications of the Mother House, evaluate their objectives, their content and their distribution in view of providing the Lasallian Family with an improved and uninterrupted service.

At the beginning of this number, I should simply like to call the attention of our readers and users of the *Lasalliana* to the purpose of the articles which we publish.

Recently, upon reading the replies to a questionnaire on the situation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the different regions of the Institute, I became convinced that one of the most frequent concerns among the Brothers is that of sharing the Lasallian charism with the lay teachers who are associated with them in the same educational and evangelical mission. These responses, having come from 53 different countries, seem to me to be a truly significant sampling.

This has to do with a sharing on all levels:

- of the spirituality of St. John Baptist De La Salle,
- of a philosophy of education,
- of major pedagogical institutions and orientations,
- of experience accumulated over three centuries,
- of initiatives and responsibilities on every level in the concrete situations of today.

This willingness of sharing and of associating proceeds, no doubt, from various causes:

- the urgency of replacing the Brothers, whose numbers are diminishing,
- the continuity of the educational work which is so often very much appreciated by those who benefit from it.
- the conviction of representing an educational trend of value,
- the concept of a type of scholastic community based on the style of the Brothers.
- the frank recognition of the Ministry of lay people in the Church, etc.

If the awareness of the necessity and urgency of this sharing is quite evident, there is some measure of hesitation regarding the manner and means this sharing should take. It is therefore opportune to recall that the *Lasalliana* was created for this purpose. It proposes channels of reflection and shared research to individuals, communities, and work groups. It offers the advantage of gathering together all the purposes and aims of Lasallian history:

- a consideration of the origins of the Institute in order to become better acquainted with the Founder,
- a wide range of actual accomplishments, of on-going research, of commitments, and testimonies.

It is because of this that the Brothers who work on the publication of the *Lasalliana* hope that these articles will be used as instruments of work and not simply as reading material. This therefore calls for distributing the *Lasalliana* within the community and throughout the institutions.

At the beginning of this third year, we hope that the 120 leaflets which have already appeared and the 60 planned for this year (20 of which are included here) will constitute some of the instruments of reflection on real life situations, and may they enlarge and make more meaningful the "the togetherness and by association" of the Lasallian family.

**F. Léon LAURAIRE**

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