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TOWARDS A PLAN OF LASALLIAN FORMATION

In the Lasallian Region of Spain and Portugal, two positive realities have come to be the cause of a new profile of the Lasallian formation of the Brothers. On the one hand we have the awakened interest in a knowledge of the Founder and of his work, and on the other, the presence of a fairly numerous group of Brothers from the several districts in the novitiates and scholasticates. Both realities were carefully considered by the National Commission of Formation, made up of all the Brothers of the Region who are entrusted with the formation of Junior Novices, Postulants, Novices and Scholastics, as well as the Pastoral Teams.

1. The Process of Drawing up the Plan

The National Formation Commission together with Brother Saturnino Gallego undertook the task of elaborating a possible plan. The first version of the plan basically brought together:

- a) Material available in Spanish with reference to:
 - a.1 Biographies of the Founder.
 - a.2 Works of the Founder.
 - a.3 Works about the Founder.
 - a.4 Biographies of Brothers.
 - a.5 The History of the Institute.
 - a.6 Lasallian publications of interest.
- b) A program guide for the Lasallian formation of each formation section: Aspirancy, Postulancy, Novitiate, Scholasticate and Permanent Formation.
 - b.1 The biography of the Founder.
 - b.2 The history of the Institute.
 - b.3 Books and materials within the scope of the young men in formation, according to their level.
 - b.4 Books and materials suitable for the formation teams.
 - b.5 Suggestions for methods: Time sequence, activities, readings, tasks to be accomplished.

In a later development, each district assumed these program guidelines, adapted for their own specific character, and looked to implant the program in their formation groups. Several of the Spanish Districts, having already joined for the two-year Novitiate and one year of Scholasticate, decided to concretize and adjust the Formation Program according to that fact and, consequently combined for the two years of the novitiate and three years of Scholasticate. This Plan is presented in the following outline as section 2.

Lasallian Plan of Formation for Novitiate and Scholasticate

2.1 Plan for the First Year of Novitiate

- a) Complete biography of the Founder.
 - a.1 De La Salle and his Times.
 - a.2 Place of Laymen in the Catechetical Movement of the France of the 17th C.
 - a.3 First Biographers of the Founder.
 - a.4 Important traits in the Life of the Founder taken from the works of Bernard, Maillefer and Saturnino.
- b) The Human Personality of the Founder.
 - b.1 Portraits of St John Baptist De La Salle.
 - b.2 Handwriting analysis of the Founder.
 - b.3 Human Personality of St. John Baptist De La Salle.
 - b.4 Most important features of his relations with the Brothers.
- c) The Spiritual Thought of St. John Baptist De La Salle.
 - c.1 Sources and originality of Lasallian spirituality.
 - c.2 "Called by God" to bring about "the Work of God".
 - c.3 To announce the Gospel to poor children.
 - c.4 Consequences of Lasallian spirituality for the Brothers of Today.
 - c.5 Spiritual Writings of the Founder.
 - c.6 Pedagogical Writings of the Founder.

2.2. *Plan for the Second Year of Novitiate.*

- a) The spiritual journey undertaken by the Founder.
 - a.1 Four fundamental Events.
 - a.2 The first community and how it was structured in Rheims.
 - a.3 The spread of the work and the consolidation of the community.
 - a.4 The great crisis and the "dark night" of the Founder.
 - a.5 Evangelical principles found in the whole course of the Founder's journey.
 - a.6 Lasallian spirituality for the Brother of Today.
- b) History of the Institute
 - b.1 The destiny of the Institute is in the hands of its members.
 - b.2 Landmark events in the history of the Institute.
 - b.3 The Institute today in its most representative regions.
 - b.4 The Institute in Spain.
 - b.5 Lives of the most representative Brothers:
 - Biographies of the first Brothers.
 - Lives of Brother Saints, Blessed and Venerables.
 - Lives of Brothers known of the Novices.
- c) The Institute Today
 - c.1 The Institute Today in different countries.
 - c.2 Organization of the Institute.
 - c.3 Informative organs of the Institute.
 - c.4 Perspectives for the future.
 - c.5 The Institute in Spain Today.

2.3. *Plan for the First Year of Scholasticate.* Theme: The Brother as Christian Educator. Course on the "Theology of Education" for the Brothers.

- a) The Founder's work of Christian Education.
 - a.1 Reading of the life of the Founder from the standpoint of his work in Christian Education.
 - a.2 The pedagogical work of the Founder and its antecedents.
 - a.3 The catechetical work of the Founder in 17th Century France.
- b) Pedagogical-catechetical writings of the Founder.
 - b.1 The literary output of St. John Baptist De La Salle in relation to Christian education.
 - b.2 Three significant works of the Founder: *Meditations for Time of Retreat*, *The Conduct of Schools* and *Christian Politeness and Courtesy*.
- c) The theology of education of the Founder.
 - c.1 God, the principal agent in Christian education.
 - c.2 The child, subject of Christian Education.
 - c.3 The teacher, instrument in the Hands of God.
 - c.4 The teacher, sent by the Church.
 - c.5 The end of Christian Education.

2.4. *Plan for the Second Year of Scholasticate:* Theme: the Brother as Catechist. Course on "Pastoral Theology" for the Brother.

- a) The Brother as Catechist, according of the Founder.
 - a.1 Some of the most significant writings: *The Duties of the Christian*, *Instructions and Prayers* and *The Spiritual Canticles*.
 - a.2 Gifts which God has granted to the Brother to announce the Gospel to the poor.
 - a.3 To announce the Gospel to the poor by means of the gratuitous school.
 - a.4 God calls the Brother through the community to announce the Gospel to the poor.
- b) The Brother as Catechist throughout the history of the Institute.
- c) The Brother as catechist as described in the *Declaration*, special study of numbers 25 through 42.

2.5. *Plan for the Third Year of Scholasticate:* Theme: the Brother as Teacher. Course on "Lasallian Pedagogy" for the Brothers.

- a) The Brothers as Teacher according to the Founder.
 - a.1 The essence of the teacher: the spiritual, moral, professional and technical formation of the teacher.
 - a.2 The work of the teacher: profound knowledge of his students, love of his students, example and dedication of the teacher.
- b) The Brother as Teacher throughout the history of the Institute.
- c) The Lasallian Christian School Today. Special study of numbers 43 through 52 of the *Declaration*.

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