

Many of the readers of *Lasalliana* must have received the recent issue of "Documents and Witness" regarding "The Catholic School Throughout the World".

If you have had the curiosity and patience to read this publication, you have probably come to realize how many diverse questions Lasallian schools throughout the Institute are facing. You can get an idea about which of these problems we ought to face:

- in an individual way,
- in solidarity with all other Catholic schools.

I would simply like to underscore some of these:

1) The recognition by the various governments and the respect of freedom which Catholic schools either enjoy or are demanding. In a number of countries there are the threats of reducing or suppressing these legitimate freedoms.

2) How to maintain, or even enrich and develop a Lasallian educational plan in schools where the number of Brothers is diminishing? How to help and work along with schools which wish to remain under Lasallian inspiration and affiliation when the Brothers are no longer there or are not there? In certain regions of the Institute this case is multiplying.

3) How to continue to work "together and by association" when State contracts introduce very strong constraints in the exercise of the Brothers' teaching careers or when the employment situation within the country practically no longer permits moving from one school to another?

4) Financial aid from the State allows the Brothers to more easily admit the poorest students. This then is a positive aspect because it permits us to get back to gratuity. But how do you "proclaim the Gospel" when the schools are submitted to tight controls by the public authorities and when these demand neutrality as the counterpart to their aid?

5) The contracts with the Government also give us a professional status which can allow us to work with greater solidarity with the educational efforts of the country. Our schools then can operate as being complementary to the public schools, and no longer as being parallel to them or in opposition to them. What are the positive aspects of this collaboration? What are our contributions to the betterment of the educational system?

6) Normally, a Lasallian school is characterized by its attention to the needs of the young and to their future life and professional career. To what extent do these schools contribute to pedagogical research? What accomplishments can we show in this regard?

7) Often, the Brothers's schools enjoy an excellent reputation thanks to their organization, efficiency, and the quality education which they provide. Do we always avoid the risk of a certain complacency which such success brings? Are our schools careful about regularly evaluating their operation and pedagogy?

8) We know that the success of a school depends above all upon the quality of those who teach there. Are we careful about the training and up-dating of our teachers, lay teachers as well as Brothers? This is the key to renewal and progress.

Other questions also certainly present themselves. *Lasalliana* can help find some solutions to these problems by proposing some reflection on our profession and ministry, various accomplishments, and by accounts of a variety of personal and communitarian commitments to new educational endeavours.

So, we count on your fidelity and zeal to make *Lasalliana* known to others. **THANK YOU!**

With this Issue No. 9, we complete our third year of publication. See you next year!

Brother Leon LAURAIRE, FSC

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