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**NEW LIFE
FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY
IN QUEBEC**

The breath of new life given to the Lasallian Family by the last General Chapter is reflected in the greater cohesion among different former students associations, in closer relations between Brothers and former students, in a growing need among our members to deepen their grasp of Lasallian spirituality, and in work more in line with the spirit of our Holy Founder.

**A common programme for
Lasallian groups**

In the past, each of our schools had a former students' association. In the last 25 years, changes in schools have led to fortunate amalgamations, and so now, all the former students of the city of Quebec belong to the same Lasallian organisation.

The result of so many people coming together gives much more strength to the various apostolic activities we engage in in the region. This increase in numbers encourages new ventures, and provides dynamism, efficiency and support for important schemes.

Another advantage of having one group has to do with the need of some standardisation in the training of members. Since we are asked to be more and more knowledgeable about the teachings and life of St. John Baptist de La Salle, there is a need to draw up some worthwhile programme. We are asked to organise day-long refresher courses, provide topics for study, directions, literature, all of which presupposes some forward planning.

The Lasallian Federation of Canada also makes it more easy to arrive at standardisation in the work of the assessors in the four Canadian Districts. At the three annual meetings, the exchange of information about local activities provides an incentive for all the groups.

As far as those who do not belong to the Federation are concerned, assessors are still trying to devise a common training programme. They have a scheme for next autumn.

It is clear that the publication of the Letter to the Lasallian Family offers us a good opportunity to reflect on our apostolate, and on the qualities that are needed of a group wishes to join this new movement. Such reflection will enable everyone who is already involved to become reacquainted with the whole of the spirituality of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

**Creation of new links
between Brothers and lay people**

Usually it was the Director who looked after the former students' association: the other Brothers did not feel particularly involved. Apart from special anniversaries, there were very few contacts with former students.

With the closure of our schools and their regionalisation, many associations found it difficult to survive, and others folded up. This situation enabled us to form the Quebec Lasallian Association. In the absence of specific premises, meetings began to be held in Brothers' communities. This was the first step in the establishment of closer relations between Brothers and lay people. Nowadays it would not occur to anyone to hold monthly meetings anywhere but at the Brothers' house.

These links between the two groups lead to greater mutual understanding and awareness of one another's problems. People living in the world help us at times to get our feet back on the ground, and this enables us to work better with ordinary people or the underprivileged. On our

side, our Gospel values influence those that come into contact with us.

Let us give you an example of what we mean. Three times a year, Lasallian men and women come to visit our retired Brothers. Their comments include the following: these Brothers give us a lesson in serenity, and faith in God. They continue to be Christian teachers even in old age. We like visiting them because they give us more than we give them.

Deepening of Lasallian Spirituality

We have always had members who were very active in local good works. But, in the last few years, especially since the Congress in Mexico, they have been trying more and more to bring the Gospel dimension into their work for charity.

The truth of this is borne out by the increasing demands they are making for means to study the life of our Holy Founder. They want to delve more and more deeply into his spirit. As a result their life as Christians becomes renewed. An example of this, some asked for a day of recollection in preparation for Lent.

Every time we speak of St. John Baptist de La Salle, they listen with great attention. What attracts them most is his interest in the Scriptures, his faith and trust in God, his work to give human

and spiritual help to young people, and his gift of being able to bring people together for his schools.

The stress on Christian education

When it comes to choosing activities, they always insist on allocating time for the pastoral care of either young people or adults. In this way, members follow our Holy Founder's approach who always stressed the education of the individual as a whole.

As we take part in their assemblies, we feel that they are inspired and guided by Lasallian spirituality. For them, concern for the young, the poor, and ordinary families is a priority.

The publication of the Letter to the Lasallian Family comes at a good time. All will be able to find in it new reasons to stimulate their apostolic work. The feeling of belonging to a group that includes so many people inspired by the same spirit will give renewed stimulus to each one's spiritual life. The heritage of our Father, shared with them, will produce in the Church a much needed and hoped for renewal.

Brother Jules Cantin