

**THE LA SALLE SCHOOL,  
IN SIMON BOLIVAR SUBURB,  
SANTO DOMINGO**

*(The school described in this article is part of a social movement known as "education of the people", an expression which in Latin America signifies that the school is a total teaching and learning center serving all groups of people in the milieu in which the school is situated.)*

As can be seen from the title of this article, the school is in Barrio Simon Bolivar, on the outskirts of the Capital, a great number of whose inhabitants have come in from the surrounding countryside with the false hope of getting work. Most people of the district who do have work, perform odd jobs as servants, etc. We would not be exaggerating if we said that public services to help them are totally non-existent.

De La Salle is an all-age school. It is founded on Christian principles as advocated by the Founder of the Brothers who established the school in 1964. It attempts to get everyone involved: parents, students, teachers and ancillary staff. Thus their efforts have repercussions in the locality. This in fact is how we interpret the ideas or charism of the Founder, De La Salle.

**General objectives of the school.**

- To bring Gospel principles to bear at local and national levels, hoping that people will be renewed and able to convince others to aim not at domineering but at helping.
- To encourage those involved in the school to take part in educational activities in the neighbourhood.
- To get the students to take interest in spreading correct values, thus ensuring that their education has influence on the surroundings.
- To aim at improving conditions in the area.

- To get everyone connected with the school involved in it, by their suggestions and actual help, as Lasallian ideals suggest.

**Specific objectives.**

- To encourage firm but delicate criticism of matters which should be improved in the country.
- To facilitate theory and practice able to bring equality to society.
- To evolve creative ideas for this effect.

**Parents' association.**

This ensures that what is done in school spreads out to families as follows:

- a. There is a Coordination Team, which has three delegates from each district of the town.
- b. Next there exists a Formation and Communication Team which trains administrators among the parents and keeps parents informed as required.
- c. There is a Health Team which takes under its wing preventative care based on popular medicine and which links up with professional doctors.
- d. The Technical Team helps in practical matters, but also has reflective meetings too.
- e. The Entertainment Team looks to celebrations in school and in the surrounding district.
- f. The Children and Youth Team sees to youth clubs, religious education, choirs and theatrical performances.
- g. There is a Library Team whose title describes their work.

The Association of Parents and Friends is divided into three sections.

**Teachers.**

These attempt to have influence not only in school but on the district, and keep up their professional standards by frequent refresher courses.

**Student representation.**

Each year two representative from each grade are elected to help in planning.

**The Brother James Miller teaching library.**

This library:

1. Has practical information about national and international educational institutions and organisations.

2. Helps organisations to do their work in the suburbs.
3. Creates links between popular organisations for the sharing of ideas.
4. Encourages people and organisations to house in the library educational material that might be of use to others. This material is then catalogued and lent out.
5. Encourages use of these materials for people or groups who have written down their names in a diary available for this purpose.
6. Stimulates study, reading and research.

It offers the following services:

Documentation, childrens' library, youth library, school library, audiovisual material and films, courses and workshops.

#### **Youth groups: Lasallian Ministry.**

The above includes school and community catechesis for children, young people and adults. At present one adult, two youth and two childrens' groups are

in function.

They try to convince people that we should live as children of God and Brothers and Sisters of one another, which in Lasallian terminology could be put as living in Faith, Fraternity and Service.

The groups are adapted to the needs of the persons involved, but each uses the well-known formula: see, judge, act.

There are two vocation groups, one for boys, the other for girls, which help young people to reflect on their possible future religious life.

The various communities share in parish work and in Lasallian work in the District of Central America.

Our pastoral work is gradually growing and maturing. It is becoming more complex and its future looks bright.

We shall end by mentioning the theatre groups: La Salle popular group, the Samill society, and, just founded, the De La Salle children's choir. There is the usual sporting activity, with our traditional basketball and volleyball competition. ●