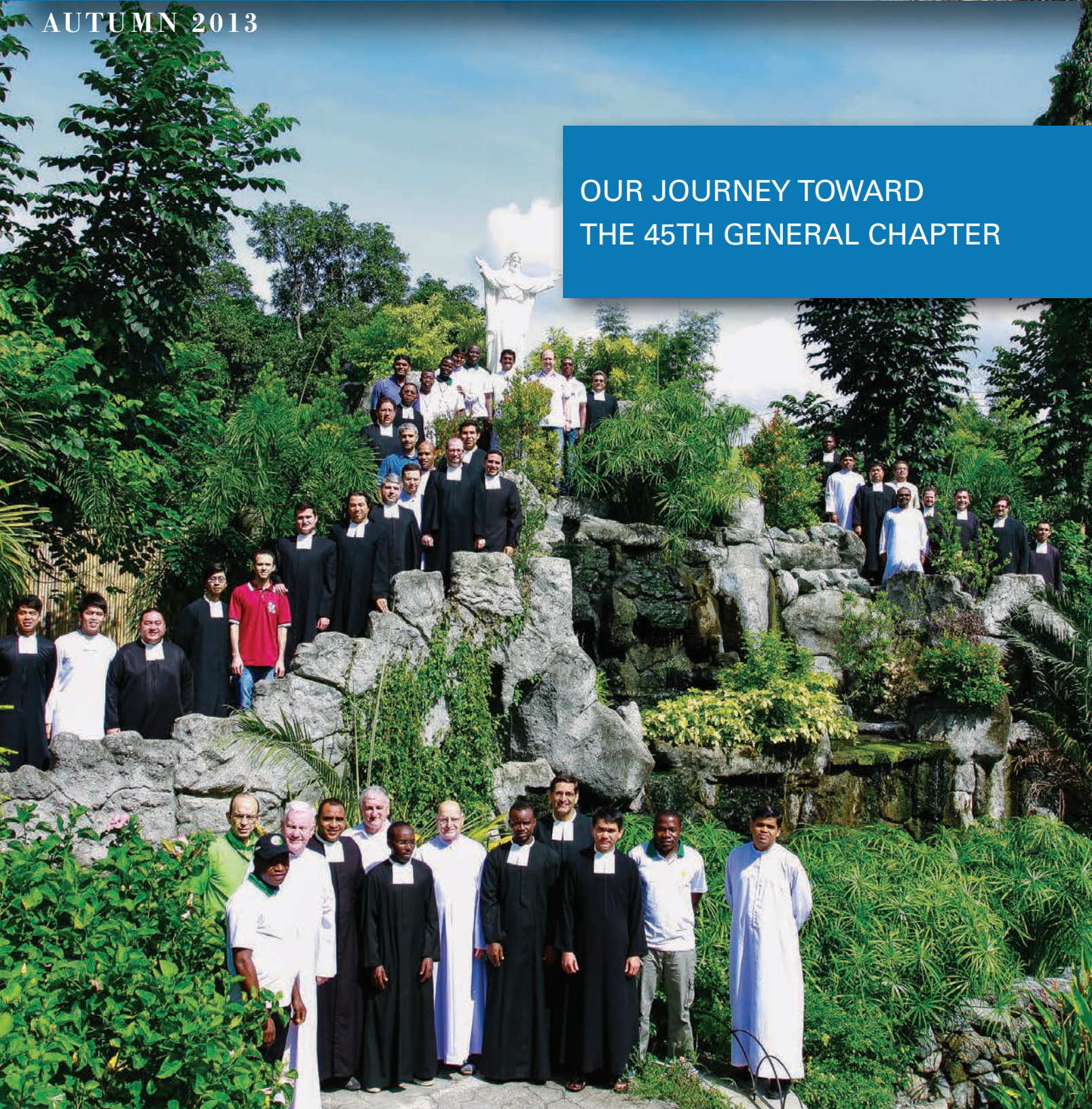


De La Salle TODAY

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA

AUTUMN 2013

OUR JOURNEY TOWARD
THE 45TH GENERAL CHAPTER



De La Salle TODAY

Dear Reader,

This issue of *De La Salle Today* is all about the future: of the mission, of formation, and of this publication itself.

Journeying toward the 45th General Chapter, we are reminded of the goals set in the past and the work done to achieve them. We are mindful of current challenges and the zeal needed to address them while strengthening the mission to continue transforming lives.

The upcoming General Chapter will set guidelines for the future of the mission, directing us to find innovative ways to respond to those guidelines and meet the needs of the people we serve – as well as one another as Lasallians.

In the article “Looking Toward the 45th General Chapter,” General Councilor Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, discusses preparations for the General Chapter, including how international gatherings contribute to its planning. This issue also reflects on the inaugural RELAN Women’s Symposium and Regional formation programs. It not only highlights recent formation gatherings, it also introduces a new program the Office of Lasallian Education will launch this spring.

The look and content of *De La Salle Today* continue to come into focus as we ask the question: How can we best tell our Lasallian stories? We want to hear from you. Email us at communications@lasallian.info. Tell us what you think of our new look, content, and what you’d like to see in future issues. We intend to share stories that connect us, stories that inspire us, and stories that are uniquely Lasallian.

Planning for the future never stops, and just when we have a plan, a new set of realities presents itself. That’s an amazing aspect of the Lasallian mission – the ability to evolve and develop new ways to meet new needs. This is one reason the mission has been transforming lives since 1680 – and for many years to come.

Enjoy!



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
Editor

Cover photo: Brothers gathered at the International Young Brothers Assembly.
Photo by De La Salle Philippines
Communications and Resources

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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

3025 FOURTH STREET NE, SUITE 300
202-529-0047

COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO

WWW.LASALLIAN.INFO

GENERAL COUNCILOR, RELAN

BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF LASALLIAN EDUCATION

DR. MARGARET MCCARTY

EDITOR

ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

ASSISTANT EDITOR

CARISSA HAHN

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC

DR. MARGARET MCCARTY

ALISA MACKSEY

JOLLEEN WAGNER

BROTHER GERARD J. FRENDREIS, FSC

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC

ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

CARISSA HAHN

ALISA MACKSEY

BOB CARREJO

KATHLEEN CALDER

PHOTOGRAPHY

KELLY BARTH

KATHLEEN CALDER

DE LA SALLE PHILIPPINES COMMUNICATIONS

AND RESOURCES, PHOTOGRAPHERS DEMY CRUZ, JR.,

ARWIN DOLORICON, DAVID LEAÑO, AND MIGUEL ORTEGA

PHILIP DE RITA

MARY ESSLINGER

BROTHER FLORENT GAUDREAU, FSC

SISTER JOYE GROS, OP

BROTHER GEORGE HETZEL, FSC

INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS,

COMMUNICATION SERVICE

BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC

BROTHER JOSEPH MARTIN, FSC

MIDWEST DISTRICT OFFICE

EILEEN MIZE

DR. AMANANDA RICHLINE, DPM

BROTHER LARRY SCHATZ, FSC

ARTWORK AND DESIGN

JOHN BURNS GRAPHIC DESIGN

PLEASE EMAIL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

TO COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO. THE EDITOR OF

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NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

FOUR BROTHERS IN REGIONAL NOVITIATE

Brothers David Deradoorian, FSC (District of Eastern North America), Anthony Elfering, FSC (Midwest District), Patrick Martin, FSC (San Francisco District), and Roberto Martinez, FSC (San Francisco District), are currently in the novitiate, a one-year formation program consisting of intense study and prayer at Mont La Salle in Napa, CA. Since entering the novitiate in August 2013, the Brothers have taken part in their regular four core courses on liturgy, community life and the *Rule*, scripture, and the life of the Founder. They have heard from guest speakers on topics such as prayer and journaling, a Brother as “A Student Exemplar,” spiritual integration, and the RELAN Lasallian Women’s Symposium. They also serve each Wednesday at Justin-Siena High School, a Lasallian high school in Napa. The novitiate is under the leadership of Director Brother Kevin Slate, FSC, and Sub-Director Brother Philip Johnson, FSC.



(LEFT – RIGHT) BROTHERS PATRICK MARTIN, FSC, DAVID DERADOORIAN, FSC, ROBERTO MARTINEZ, FSC, AND ANTHONY ELFERING, FSC, ATTENDED THE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPTEMBER 5 ON THE CAMPUS OF JUSTIN-SIENA. COURTESY EILEEN MIZE

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN NORTH AMERICA

The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) marked a milestone with the 175th anniversary of the arrival and permanent establishment of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in North America. The District of Francophone Canada hosted a celebration for approximately 300 people September 14 in Montréal with a ceremony, Mass, and banquet. The Vicar General of the Diocese of Montréal, four bishops, and several other priests celebrated the Mass. A display highlighted the Lasallian mission in the District from its beginning and expansion to present day.



MASS WAS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE 175TH CELEBRATION. COURTESY BROTHER FLORENT GAUDREAU, FSC



A DISPLAY HIGHLIGHTED THE EXPANSION OF THE MISSION. COURTESY BROTHER FLORENT GAUDREAU, FSC

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

LVs EMBARK ON 25TH YEAR OF SERVICE



Fifty-three Lasallian Volunteers (LVs) are serving in 27 ministries as teachers, tutors, mentors, social workers, and more in what marks the 25th year of service for the LVs. The 2013-2014 cohort includes 32 first year and 21 second year volunteers. New sites include John Paul II Academy in Racine, WI, and Archbishop O'Hara High School in Kansas City, MO.

DISTRICTS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW ORLEANS-SANTA FE TO BECOME ONE

After a four-day Constitutive Assembly, Brothers in the Districts of San Francisco and New Orleans-Santa Fe (NO-SF) agreed to unite and create a new District, which will be called the District of San Francisco New Orleans. The target date for the inauguration of the new District is July 1, 2014, pending the Institute's approval. The assembly was held in June 2013 in Sierra Madre, CA, where the Brothers discussed, revised, and voted on statutes that would constitute a new District.

(BELOW) BROTHERS OF THE NO-SF AND SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICTS AT THE CONSTITUTIVE ASSEMBLY.
COURTESY BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC



GENERAL COUNCILOR BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, (FAR RIGHT) LOOKS ON AS NO-SF VISITOR BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC, AND SAN FRANCISCO VISITOR BROTHER DONALD JOHANSON, FSC, SIGN THE DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS STATUTES. COURTESY BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED



MIDWEST DISTRICT LOOKS TO FUTURE

Following a year of preparation and a series of area meetings, 51 delegates attended the second Midwest District Mission Congress in July 2013 in Romeoville, IL. The Congress, which sets the District's strategic direction for the coming years, had the theme of *Called to Transform Lives*. Delegates discerned what they could create, together and by association, that would lead to a transformation of the District. Working in four commissions, the delegates approved 18 resolutions in the areas of governance, finance, formation, and association.

(ABOVE) DELEGATES TO THE MIDWEST DISTRICT MISSION CONGRESS. COURTESY MIDWEST DISTRICT

(RIGHT) BROTHER AUGUSTINE NICOLETTI, FSC, RICHARD WARD, AND BROTHER JAMES WALLACE, FSC, WERE BLESSED AND COMMISSIONED DURING A CEREMONY AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE IN AUGUST 2013. COURTESY PHILIP DE RITA

LASALLIAN MISSION EXTENDS TO JAMAICA MINISTRY

The District of Eastern North America (DENA) has extended the Lasallian mission to St. Vincent Strambi Catholic High School in Bull Savannah, Jamaica. DENA's initial commitment to provide leadership to the school is for two years. Brother Augustine Nicoletti, FSC (DENA), will serve as principal with Brother James Wallace, FSC (DENA), Richard Ward (DENA), and Brother Kent Connolly, FSC (Midwest), on staff. St. Vincent Strambi will continue to be a diocesan school and rely on Jamaican teachers.





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NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

HONORED AS AFSCs

Two longtime Lasallians in the District of New Orleans-Santa Fe (NO-SF) have been honored as Affiliated Members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The Brothers honored Diahann Larson, AFSC, and Patricia Martinez, AFSC, in a May 2013 celebration in Santa Fe, NM. Larson has served in many leadership roles on the St. Michael's High School (Santa Fe) faculty and administration since 1992. Martinez has served as the Brothers' cook, first at the College of Santa Fe and now at St. Michael's, throughout her adult life.



(LEFT – RIGHT) DIAHANN LARSON, AFSC, NO-SF AUXILIARY VISITOR BROTHER DAVID SINITIERE, FSC, AND PATRICIA MARTINEZ, AFSC. COURTESY BROTHER GEORGE HETZEL, FSC

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NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

APPOINTMENTS

EDWARD A. BOLAN, Principal, Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Brooklyn, NY, effective July 1, 2013

FRANK P. BRAMBLE, SR., Interim President, Calvert Hall College High School, Baltimore, MD, effective July 1, 2013

BROTHER WILLIAM JOHNSON, FSC, Principal, La Salle Academy, New York, NY, effective July 1, 2013

REV. STEPHEN W. JONES, President, Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City, MO, effective July 1, 2013

DR. WILLIAM MACATEE, President, La Salle Academy, New York, NY, effective July 1, 2013

BROTHER CHARLES KITSON, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, District of Eastern North America, effective September 1, 2013

BROTHER AUGUSTINE NICOLETTI, FSC, Principal, St. Vincent Strambi Catholic High School, Bull Savannah, Jamaica, effective August 1, 2013

BROTHER EDWARD PHELAN, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, District of Eastern North America, effective September 1, 2013

BROTHER THOMAS SCANLAN, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, District of Eastern North America, effective September 1, 2013

TAD SMITH, Executive Director/Principal, San Miguel School, Chicago, IL, effective June 5, 2013

CHARLES STEMBLER, Principal, Calvert Hall College High School, Baltimore, MD, effective July 1, 2013

RALPH STINSON, AFSC, Director, St. Gabriel's Hall, Audubon, PA, effective July 1, 2013

L



SEVENTY-FOUR BROTHERS BEATIFIED

SEVENTY-FOUR BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AND ONE LAY PERSON WERE AMONG THE 522 MARTYRS BEATIFIED OCTOBER 13, 2013, IN TARRAGONA, SPAIN. THIS BEATIFICATION COMPLETED THE GLORIFICATION OF ALL BROTHER MARTYRS WHO WERE KILLED IN SPAIN DURING THE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE 1930s. IT IS THE LARGEST BEATIFICATION CELEBRATED UNTIL NOW OF THE SPANISH PERSECUTION. THE BROTHERS WERE INCLUDED IN THREE CAUSES OF THE DIOCESES OF MADRID (TWO CAUSES) AND OF TARRAGONA (ONE CAUSE).



Brother David Caretti, FSC, Brother Anwar Martinez, FSC, Superior General Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, Brother Peter Nguyen, FSC, and Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC, at the International Young Brothers Assembly.



(Left) Brother Michael French, FSC, and Charlie Legendre, AFSC, rehearse music at the International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC

(Right – speaking) Brother Anwar Martinez, FSC, at the International Young Brothers Assembly.

TOWARD THE 45TH GENERAL CHAPTER

BY BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC
GENERAL COUNCILOR, RELAN

In a few short months, the 45th General Chapter for the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools will open in Rome. Eighty-eight Brothers from around the world are delegates to the Chapter that opens on April 22 and closes on June 8, 2014. A Chapter evaluates the life of the Institute, provides for its continuing adaptation and renewal, and sets out the main guidelines for the future of the Lasallian mission (*Rule*, 103).

The 88 Brother delegates will not make decisions for the future in isolation. Many Brothers and Partners have been participating in a discernment process about our future. These include the 140 delegates to the 2013 International Mission Assembly held in Rome in May 2013, the 34 young Brothers who gathered in assembly in the Philippines in August 2013, the many Brothers and communities who offered their opinions to the international commission revising the Brothers' *Rule* of life, and the 57 young Lasallians who will participate in a symposium in Rome in February 2014. What recommendations are they offering the delegates to consider? What are our collective hopes and dreams for our shared future?

2013 INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

Recognizing that the Lasallian mission today is carried out by a vast number of lay men and women, the delegates to the 43rd General Chapter in 2000 approved a new structure in the Institute: the International Mission Assembly that would meet one year prior to a General Chapter. The majority of delegates would be lay men and women with the responsibility to make recommendations for the Lasallian mission, Lasallian association, and formation for mission. These recommendations would then be sent to the General Chapter for decision. The first assembly was held in 2006 before the 44th General Chapter in 2007.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

At the second International Mission Assembly in May 2013, 15 lay men and women and four Brothers from RELAN were among the 140 delegates. The theme was *One Family, One Mission: Lasallians Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor*, and it focused on Lasallian pedagogy, evangelization and pastoral ministry, and the Lasallian educational community. The purpose of the assembly was to identify challenges in these areas and formulate responses. In preparing for the assembly, some of the challenges identified by RELAN's delegates were:

- Addressing the financial viability, sustainability, and accessibility for the poor and working class to our institutions,
- Maintaining Lasallian identity: forming future generations of Lasallian educators imbued with and faithful to the heritage,
- Training and supporting Lasallians to accompany and animate adult Lasallians as they journey through the process of association with particular attention to creating new and sustaining current associative groups across the Region,
- Identifying, training, and accompanying future Lasallian administrators with particular attention to the areas of gender, ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity (succession planning),
- Continuing to develop structures that more fully call Brothers and Partners to exercise co-responsibilities for the mission and promotion of a culture of vocation.

These challenges resonated with the experience of other Regions and found their way into some of the Assembly's final recommendations. *The full report is available on the Regional website at <http://lasallian.info/2013/09/26/final-report-on-international-mission-assembly/>.*

Among these were:

- Continue to call for quality formation programs, particularly formation for a new generation of formators,
- Faced with great financial challenges, address the need for greater solidarity and interdependence to ensure the service of the poor remains at the forefront of our educational projects,
- Confronted by fundamentalism and growing intolerance, build communities of faith in our multi-cultural and multi-faith world through faith, service, and community,
- Understand and advance the experience of living association for the Lasallian Educational Mission,
- Call once again for an international mission council as the first International Mission Assembly requested.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG BROTHERS ASSEMBLY

At the conclusion of their assembly, the young Brothers from around the world addressed a letter to the Lasallian Family available at <http://iyba.lasalle.org/>. In a series of statements, they recommitted themselves to seek new ways to serve the poor, promote Lasallian vocations—especially the Brothers' vocation—to work creatively and in association with their lay Partners, and be willing to take risks to respond to the challenges that arise from present day realities. They joined Superior General Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría's call to be Brothers without Borders, going where the needs are greatest. The full report of their gathering including proposals on mission, community life, formation, association, consecration, and vocations will be formally presented at the General Chapter to the delegates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



(Top) Brother Anwar Martinez, FSC (second to last), participates in a procession during the International Young Brothers Assembly.



(Left) Joe Gilson and Heather Ruple carry a portrait of St. La Salle during the International Mission Assembly's Founder's Mass. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communication Service



(Right) Liturgical dancers from a Lasallian school perform during the opening celebration of the International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communication Service



REVISION OF THE *RULE*

The world changes rapidly, and our Institute has undergone significant evolution since the current *Rule* of the Brothers' life was approved in 1987. The proposed revisions to this *Rule* will be a significant part of the work at the General Chapter. Since the last Chapter in 2007, the *Rule* Revision Commission has been in dialogue with all the Brothers inviting their contributions to the revisions. It has been a rich dialogue, and the updating in the draft that will be presented to the delegates retains the inspirational tone of the current text. Of course, revising a *Rule* does not necessarily renew an Institute. Still, if we Brothers steep ourselves in our rich heritage, are faithful to our commitment and consecration, open to the signs of the times revealed in our recent past, and abandon ourselves to God's providence as De La Salle and the first Brothers did, God will continue to act in and through us. That is the hope in revising our current *Rule*.

3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF YOUNG LASALLIANS

The 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians will be held in Rome, February 9 – 15, 2014. The objective of the Symposium is to develop common and international Young Lasallian Mission Objectives for the Young Lasallian (YL) Movement across the Lasallian Network into the future. It will also address those recommendations from the International Mission Assembly directed at Young Lasallians. Like the Lasallian Volunteers movement, this relatively new movement is one more path that can bring vitality to the Lasallian mission in the early decades of this new century.

(Top) Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC, (center) walks with fellow Brothers at the International Young Brothers Assembly.

(Center) Brother Anwar Martinez, FSC, (far left) participates in a service day during the International Young Brothers Assembly.

(Bottom) RELAN Delegates to the International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communication Service

GOING FORWARD

While we must await the decisions and direction of the 45th General Chapter, our Region can—and is—moving forward in a number of the areas highlighted by these assemblies and commissions. The Office of Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference has designated the next three themes of the annual Huether Lasallian Conference to reflect those of the International Mission Assembly: *Lasallian Pedagogy, Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry, and the Lasallian Educational Community*. The Region's Lasallian Education Council has identified the following five priorities for the coming years:

1. To develop the next generation of Partners for Lasallian mission and ministries,
2. To extend the Lasallian mission to new groups, especially those most in need,
3. To ensure ongoing vitality of the Lasallian mission through resource development,
4. To enhance the quality and reputation of the Lasallian brand,
5. To advocate for issues central to the Lasallian mission.

With the completion of the mission at the Sangre de Cristo Center, an agenda item for the Visitors and the Region's Vocation Formation Committee is a new continuing formation program for the Brothers. The Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice will commence in 2014. (Read more about the Region's formation efforts on page 24.) Districts are providing more local formation programs to complement Regional ones thereby ensuring more Partners are exposed to the Lasallian heritage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



All photos from the International Young Brothers Assembly are courtesy of De La Salle Philippines Communications and Resources, and photographers Demy Cruz, Jr., Miguel Ortega, Arwin Doloricon, and David Leaño.

The Lasallian Research Symposium inaugurated last year and co-sponsored by Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and Christian Brothers Conference can promote some of the research priorities of the Institute and Region.

This year, our Region is blessed with four novices and eight postulants. It should be noted that among them are former Lasallian Volunteers and participants in the Midwest District's Lasallian Teacher Immersion Program. Creativity and innovation in vocation promotion as well as in the educational mission are important ingredients for promoting all Lasallian vocations in the Region and Institute today and going forward.

Brother Raoul Traore, FSC, from the District of Afrique de L'Ouest (RELAF) spends time with a young girl during a service day at the International Young Brothers Assembly.

CONCLUSION

Recently Pope Francis gave an extensive interview that received wide coverage in the secular press. I conclude this reflection with his commentary on Chapter 11 in Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews: "Abraham leaves his home without knowing where he was going, by faith. All of our ancestors in the faith died seeing the good that was promised, but from a distance... Our life is not given to us like an opera libretto, in which all is written down; but it means going, walking, doing, searching, seeing... We must enter into the adventure of the quest for meeting God; we must let God search and encounter us... You are not setting the time and place of the encounter with him. You must, therefore, discern the encounter. Discernment is essential" (Antonio Spadaro, S.J. "A Big Heart Open to God," *America*, September 30, 2013).

May Pope Francis' words guide our own discernment and that of our Chapter delegates when we convene in the spring. ●



VERS LE 45E CHAPITRE GÉNÉRAL.

PAR BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, F.É.C.
CONSEILLER GÉNÉRAL, RELAN

Dans quelques mois à peine, le 45e Chapitre général de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes s'ouvrira à Rome. 88 Frères de partout dans le monde seront délégués au Chapitre qui s'étendra du 22 avril au 8 juin 2014. Le but d'un Chapitre, c'est d'évaluer la vie de l'Institut, de voir à son adaptation et à son renouveau, et de déterminer les principales orientations pour l'avenir de la mission lasallienne (*Règle*, 103).

Les 88 délégués ne prendront pas de décisions pour l'avenir en vase clos. De nombreux Frères et partenaires ont en effet déjà participé à des activités de discernement concernant notre avenir. Cela inclut les 140 délégués qui ont participé à l'Assemblée internationale de la Mission de 2013, les 34 jeunes Frères qui se sont réunis aux Philippines en août dernier, les nombreux Frères et communautés qui ont fait parvenir leurs commentaires à la Commission internationale de révision de la *Règle*, et les 57 jeunes Lasalliens qui participeront à une conférence qui se tiendra à Rome en février prochain. Quelles sont les propositions que ces personnes recommandent aux délégués d'étudier? Quels espoirs et quels rêves avons-nous en commun?

L'ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA MISSION DE 2013

Comme preuve qu'ils comprenaient que la mission lasallienne est portée aujourd'hui par un grand nombre de laïcs et de femmes, les délégués au 43e Chapitre général, en 2000, ont approuvé une nouvelle structure dans l'Institut, soit celle de l'Assemblée internationale de la mission, qui se réunirait un an avant un Chapitre général. La majorité des délégués seraient des laïcs et des femmes à qui on demanderait de faire des propositions touchant la mission lasallienne, l'association lasallienne, ainsi que la formation pour la mission. Ces recommandations seraient ensuite acheminées au Chapitre général en vue de prises de décisions. La première de ces assemblées s'est tenue en 2006, soit juste avant le Chapitre général de 2007.

Brother Gus F. Sinco, FSC, selects an apple for personal reflection following a prayer that demonstrated a parable about apple seeds at the International Mission Assembly. From the prayer: "Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple. It is much more important to count the number of apples in each seed."

Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC

Lors de la dernière Assemblée internationale de la mission, F. Gus Sinco, F.É.C., a choisi d'utiliser une pomme pour illustrer une réflexion personnelle qui suivait une prière faisant référence à une parabole utilisant des pépins de pommes. Extrait de la prière : « N'importe qui peut compter les pépins dans une pomme. Mais il est beaucoup plus important de compter le nombre de pommes dans un seul pépin. »

Photo : F. James Joost, F.É.C.

Lors de la deuxième Assemblée, en mai 2013, 15 laïcs, incluant des femmes, et 4 Frères furent les délégués de la RELAN parmi les 140 que comptait l'Assemblée. Le thème en était Une famille, une mission : Lasalliens associés pour le service éducatif des pauvres, et l'accent fut placé sur la pédagogie lasallienne, l'évangélisation et le ministère pastoral, ainsi que sur la communauté éducative lasallienne. Le but cette assemblée était d'identifier les défis qui se posent dans ces domaines et de formuler des réponses. Au cours de leurs activités préparatoires, les délégués de la RELAN avaient identifié les défis suivants :

- Voir comment assurer la viabilité financière et le maintien de nos œuvres, ainsi que leur accessibilité pour les pauvres et les jeunes de la classe ouvrière;
- Assurer le maintien de l'identité lasallienne : former de futures générations d'éducateurs lasalliens qui soient convaincus et fidèles à l'héritage reçu;
- Former des Lasalliens et leur apporter l'aide voulue pour qu'ils soient en mesure d'accompagner et d'animer des Lasalliens adultes dans leur cheminement vers l'association, en portant une attention particulière à la création de nouveaux groupes dans la Région et à l'accompagnement de ceux qui existent déjà;
- Trouver, former et accompagner les futurs administrateurs lasalliens, en portant une attention spéciale à la représentation homme-femme, à l'origine ethnique, à la culture dont ils sont issus et à la diversité religieuse (prévoir un plan de succession).
- Continuer à développer des structures qui amènent les Frères et les partenaires à collaborer davantage dans des responsabilités partagées eu égard à la mission et à la promotion de la culture vocationnelle.

SUITE À LA PAGE 18



Delegates gather for the Founder's Mass at the International Mission Assembly.

Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC

Les délégués à la messe du fondateur de l'Assemblée internationale de la mission.

Photo : F. James Joost, F.É.C.



Ces défis ont rencontré ceux présentés par les autres Régions et certains ont trouvé leur place dans les recommandations finales de l'Assemblée. Le rapport complet est disponible sur le site de la Région à : <http://lasallian.info/2013/09/26/final-report-on-international-mission-assembly/>. On y trouve notamment les recommandations suivantes :

- Continuer à demander des programmes de formation de qualité, surtout ceux visant la nouvelle génération des formateurs;
- Même quand on est confronté à d'importants problèmes financiers, insister sur la nécessité d'une plus grande solidarité et de l'interdépendance, afin de s'assurer que le service des pauvres demeure au premier plan de nos projets éducatifs;
- Confrontés aux fondamentalismes et à l'intolérance grandissante, construire des communautés de foi dans notre monde multiculturel et aux croyances nombreuses, par le moyen de la foi, de la fraternité et du service;
- Comprendre et mener plus loin l'expérience d'association vivante au profit de la mission éducative lasallienne;
- Demander une fois encore la création d'un conseil international de la mission, comme l'avait demandé la première Assemblée de la mission.

La rencontre internationale des jeunes Frères

À la fin de leur rencontre, les jeunes Frères venant d'un peu partout dans le monde ont écrit une lettre à l'intention de la famille lasallienne. On peut la trouver à l'adresse <http://iyba.lasalle.org/>. Au moyen d'une série de déclarations, ils se sont engagés eux-mêmes à chercher de nouvelles façons de servir les pauvres, de promouvoir les vocations lasalliennes – plus particulièrement celles à la vocation de Frère –, de travailler de façon créative et en association avec leurs partenaires laïcs, et d'être prêts à prendre des risques pour répondre aux défis qui surgissent des réalités d'aujourd'hui. Ils se sont joints à l'appel adressé par le Frère Supérieur général Alvaro Rodriguez Echeveria pour être des Frères sans frontières, allant là où les besoins sont les plus grands. Le rapport complet de leur assemblée, incluant les propositions concernant la mission, la formation, l'association, la consécration et les vocations, sera présenté de façon officielle aux délégués lors du prochain Chapitre général.

La révision de la Règle

Le monde change rapidement, et notre Institut a connu une évolution significative depuis l'approbation de la *Règle* actuelle en 1987. L'étude des changements proposés constituera une partie importante du travail du prochain Chapitre. Depuis le dernier Chapitre général, en 2007, la Commission de révision de la *Règle* a établi un dialogue avec tous les Frères, leur demandant de participer à cette révision. Il s'en est suivi un riche dialogue, et la mise à jour du projet qui sera présenté aux délégués conserve le ton inspiré du texte actuel. Évidemment, réviser une *Règle* ne renouvelle pas nécessairement un Institut. Il n'en demeure pas moins qu'en plongeant dans notre riche héritage, en demeurant fidèle à nos engagements et à notre consécration, en nous ouvrant aux signes des temps révélés dans notre passé récent, et en nous abandonnant à la Providence divine, comme l'ont fait De La Salle et les premiers Frères, Dieu va continuer en nous et à travers nous. C'est cette espérance qui a guidé la révision de la *Règle*.

La rencontre des jeunes Lasalliens

La troisième Rencontre des jeunes Lasalliens aura lieu à Rome du 9 au 15 février 2014. Son objectif sera d'identifier et de classer par priorités les objectifs visant à la mise en place d'un mouvement international à l'intérieur du réseau des jeunes Lasalliens. Elle s'occupera également des recommandations de l'Assemblée internationale de la mission qui concernent les jeunes Lasalliens. À l'image du mouvement des Volontaires lasalliens, ce mouvement relativement nouveau est un moyen de plus pour favoriser la vitalité de la mission lasallienne au cours des premières décennies de ce nouveau siècle.

(Left – Right) Alisa Macksey, Janet Ruggerio, and Alan Weyland hold candles during an evening prayer service at the International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC

De gauche à droite : Alisa Macksey, Janet Ruggerio et Alan Weyland tiennent des chandelles au cours d'une prière du soir à l'Assemblée internationale de la mission.

Photo : F. James Joost, F.É.C.





Brother Peter Nguyen, F.S.C., at the International Young Brothers Assembly.

F. Peter Nguyen, F.É.C., à l'assemblée internationale des jeunes Frères.

Pour aller de l'avant

Même si nous devons attendre les décisions et les orientations que donnera le 45e Chapitre général, notre Région peut aller de l'avant – elle est d'ailleurs en train de le faire – dans un nombre significatif de domaines qui ont retenu l'attention des Assemblées et commissions dont nous avons parlé. Le Bureau d'éducation lasallienne (OLE), à la Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, a déjà choisi les trois prochains thèmes qui seront étudiés lors des Conférences annuelles Huether, afin de refléter ceux qui ont été retenus à l'occasion de l'Assemblée internationale de la mission, soit : *la pédagogie lasallienne, l'évangélisation et le ministère pastoral, et, enfin, la communauté éducative lasallienne*. Le Conseil d'éducation lasallienne (LEC) de la Région a quant à lui fait le choix des cinq priorités suivantes pour les années qui viennent :

1. Développer la prochaine génération de partenaires pour la mission lasallienne et les ministères.
2. Étendre la mission lasallienne vers de nouveaux groupes, surtout ceux qui sont le plus dans le besoin.
3. Assurer la vitalité actuelle de la mission lasallienne par le développement des ressources.
4. Mettre en valeur la qualité et la réputation de l'image de marque lasallienne.
5. Faire la promotion des thèmes qui sont centraux pour la mission lasallienne.

La fin de la mission à Sangre de Cristo Center amène les Visiteurs et le comité régional des vocations et de la formation à choisir un nouveau programme de formation pour les Frères. L'Institut Frère-John-Johnston pour la pratique lasallienne contemporaine offrira son premier programme en 2014. Les districts offrent en plus des programmes locaux de formation qui complètent ceux offerts au plan régional, de sorte que davantage de partenaires sont mis en contact avec l'héritage lasallien.

La Conférence sur la recherche lasallienne, qui a débuté l'an dernier et qui est co-présidée par Saint Mary's University of Minnesota et par Christian Brothers Conference, est en mesure de mettre de l'avant certaines des priorités de recherches de l'Institut et de la Région.

Cette année, notre Région a la chance de compter quatre novices et huit postulants. Il est bon de faire remarquer qu'il se trouve parmi eux d'anciens Volontaires lasalliens ainsi que des participants au programme d'immersion des enseignants lasalliens, mis en place dans le district de Midwest. La créativité et l'innovation dans la promotion vocationnelle, aussi bien que dans la mission éducative, constituent des ingrédients importants pour promouvoir toutes les vocations lasalliennes dans la Région et dans l'Institut et pour aller de l'avant.

Conclusion

Récemment, le pape François a donné une interview assez longue qui a été largement médiatisée dans la presse. Je termine cette réflexion en vous livrant le commentaire qu'il a produit sur le chapitre 11 de la Lettre aux Hébreux : « Abraham quitte sa maison sans savoir où il allait, grâce à la foi. Tous nos ancêtres dans la foi sont morts en voyant le bien qui était promis, mais comme à distance... Notre vie ne nous est pas donnée comme un libretto d'opéra, dans lequel tout est écrit; cela veut dire qu'il faut avancer, marcher, faire, chercher, voir... Il nous faut entrer dans cette aventure de la recherche de Dieu; nous devons laisser Dieu nous chercher et nous rencontrer... Vous n'avez pas à choisir le temps et le lieu de votre rencontre avec lui. Il vous faut par conséquent reconnaître cette rencontre; le discernement est essentiel. » (Antonio Spadaro, S.J. « A Big Heart Open to God » (Un grand cœur ouvert à Dieu), America, September 30, 2013).

Puissent ces mots du pape François guider notre propre discernement et celui de nos délégués au Chapitre lorsqu'ils se rencontreront le printemps prochain. ●

RELAN delegates to the International Mission Assembly stand with students who welcomed them. The delegates gave each student a star necklace and the students gave each delegate a heart with his/her name on it. Courtesy Brother James Joost, F.S.C.

Les délégués de la RELAN à l'Assemblée internationale de la mission avec des élèves qui leur souhaitent la bienvenue. Les délégués remettent un collier d'étoiles à chacun et les jeunes offrent à chaque délégué un cœur sur lequel son nom est inscrit. Photo : F. James Joost, F.É.C.





LASALLIAN WOMEN: CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BY KATHLEEN CALDER

As I begin my 33rd year of teaching at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, LA, I am amazed and fascinated at the wisdom and foresight of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. I have watched them not only accept female teachers into their schools, but come to truly value our involvement in their work of educating all children for more than three centuries.

I have witnessed this transformation firsthand from being invited to the 1983 Huether Lasallian Conference as a young woman new to Lasallian education, to being involved in the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies as a participant then staff member, and now, attending the first Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) Women's Symposium. Being part of these incredible experiences has marked times of growth and developing a deeper understanding of the mission for me.

Thirty-three women and five Brothers, including Superior General Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, and RELAN General Councilor Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, gathered at St. Joseph's Camp on the Russian River in California July 8 – 12, 2013, for the Women's Symposium co-sponsored by Christian Brothers Conference and Saint Mary's College of California.

Brother Álvaro set the tone of the assembly by affirming the long-standing value of women in Lasallian ministry. Presentations and discussions highlighted how women have always been involved in the mission—from the influential women in St. La Salle's life and quiet supporters of the early mission to women embracing their roles as Lasallian Partners today. The Brothers shared with us their personal experiences of how women have influenced and enhanced their lives and service, and participants shared with them the powerful impacts Brothers have had on us. It was this type of sharing and mutual appreciation that helped make this gathering such a moving experience.

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*(Left) Participants of the first
RELAN Women's Symposium*

LASALLIAN WOMEN: CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE CONTINUED

To spotlight women in the mission, Trish Carroll, who organized the Institute's inaugural Women's Symposium held in the Pacific-Asia Regional Conference (PARC) in 2012, sent a recorded presentation that led to a new – or in some cases, renewed – appreciation for those female voices in De La Salle's life and the Lasallian mission. She guided us through a look at the earliest female influence in St. La Salle's life: his mother, Nicole Moët de Brouillet, his grandmother, and later the Sisters of the Child Jesus and "Sister" Louise in Parmenie, who inspired (and pushed) De La Salle to return to his work when he was despondent at the seeming failure of the mission. Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC, noted Lasallian scholar, led us in a discussion analyzing the letters De La Salle wrote to female religious.

After this study of history, we looked at the contributions of various women in the mission today – as teachers, counselors, administrators, and those in other positions. In small groups, we discussed the contributions of those with whom we work and how they strengthen our schools and offices individually, Regionally, and worldwide. We also shared ideas on new ways to further connections between Lasallian schools in the Region.

From a personal standpoint, this Symposium meant a lot to me. At that Huether Conference in 1983, the discussion was about what terminology would be used for lay faculty in the Brothers' schools, as well as their part in the mission. At that time, I was something of a rarity – a lay faculty member who was a woman. It is amazing to see how far we've come in our understanding of what female teachers, counselors, and administrators offer the students in Lasallian schools: compassion, understanding, a "mothering" instinct that supplements the "big brother" concept as conceived by St. La Salle, and a gentleness in handling problems.

*(Left – Back to Front)
Elizabeth Smith, Brianna
Mustard, and Cynthia
Ganote write in journals
on the porch during per-
sonal reflection time.*

*(Right – Back to Front)
Elissa Pensa-Cerros,
Cecilia Gottsegen,
Diahann Larson, AFSC,
and Janell Kloosterman
during a session.*

Heather Ferro listens intently during a session.



Kathleen Calder serves at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, LA, as an English/publications teacher, the yearbook adviser, and public relations director.

*All Women's Symposium
photos by Kathleen Calder*

Being part of this evolution from Brothers only to inclusion of lay men and women in Lasallian schools has been an incredible experience for me. To work with Brothers Álvaro, Robert, Gerard, Ronald Gallagher (immediate past president of Saint Mary's College), and Ed Phelan (Auxiliary Visitor of the District of Eastern North America) at the Symposium and to see their dedication to the mission and their acceptance of women in the work has been most gratifying. We are now a major part of the mission – not the rare female on staff.

Looking back on this journey which I have experienced, I am reminded of a conversation I had at Buttimer in 2003, when one of the attendees, a nun, told me she was impressed that the Brothers had the foresight to begin teaching their lay colleagues the basics of the Lasallian history, mission, and style of prayer. She only wished her own order would even consider this approach to inculcating its founder's mission and story into lay teachers.

READ MORE ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM
AND SEE MORE PICTURES AT
[HTTP://LASALLIAN.INFO/2013/07/12/MAKING-HISTORY-INSPIRING-LASALLIAN-WOMEN](http://lasallian.info/2013/07/12/making-history-inspiring-lasallian-women)

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AFTER THIS SYMPOSIUM, I AM ASSURED THAT OUR MISSION IS ALIVE AND INNOVATIVE – AS ST. LA SALLE'S EARLY SCHOOLS WERE. WHAT A TRADITION. WHAT A GIFT TO EDUCATION TODAY. AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE GROWTH OVER MY YEARS OF SERVICE WORKING WITH THOSE CHILDREN ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE.

To make my Lasallian journey even more personal, my mother told me, after I'd been teaching at De La Salle for about five years, "You know, Grandpère was taught by les frères as a child in France." She had never mentioned this before. I was so surprised. And, now, life has come full circle, and I am teaching and actively participating in a Lasallian school, continuing a family legacy of education with the Brothers and their lay Partners. ●





Buttimer 1 participants



Buttimer 2 participants



Buttimer 3 participants



FORMING THE FUTURE OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE AND ALISA MACKSEY

Life often slows in the summer as students swap studies for sunscreen, but summer is a swirl of activity when it comes to forming Lasallians for the future of the mission. Summer is prime time for Regional formation programs that deepen and strengthen the commitment of participants to the Lasallian mission and enhance their educational and leadership skills.

As we look to the future of the mission in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), we keep in mind that a stage of the upcoming 45th General Chapter will include a focus on formation for all involved in the Lasallian mission (*Convocation of the 45th General Chapter*, Circular 468, 1.3.5). One goal of the Office of Lasallian Education is to offer innovative, holistic programs that are focused on the current and future needs of Lasallians.

One of these programs is the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, which has been providing participants with a deeper understanding of the Founder, a sense of community, and a unified zeal for the mission since 1986. It studies the origins of the mission and the life and work of St. John Baptist de La Salle during two-week sessions that take place over the course of three summers with each year focused on a different aspect: the founding story, De La Salle's educational vision, and De La Salle's spiritual vision.

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Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, assistant to the General Councilor and Buttimer 3 community director, gives a completion certificate to Don Stout, alumni director at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, LA. Courtesy Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC



THIS YEAR, BUTTIMER WELCOMED 105 PARTICIPANTS WITH 42 PEOPLE IN BUTTIMER 1, 28 PEOPLE IN BUTTIMER 2, AND 35 PEOPLE IN BUTTIMER 3. WHILE MOST PARTICIPANTS WERE FROM RELAN, THE PROGRAM INCLUDED INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS FROM SINGAPORE, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, ERITREA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, MALTA, SRI LANKA, ITALY, AND INDIA. BUTTIMER WAS HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA IN MORAGA JUNE 23 – JULY 6.

"I got so much from the course. I'm still buzzing with it," said Brother Laurence Hughes, Auxiliary Provincial of the District of Great Britain and Malta and Buttimer 2 participant. "It changed my view of De La Salle. He became a real person during the course of the two weeks."

Another program that has people buzzing is this year's Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), which was held July 21 – 26, at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Chicago, IL, with the theme *Violence and Peacemaking in an Urban Environment*. Lasallians navigated an eye-opening experience on violence, social justice, community suffering, and peacemaking.

This year, the Brother David Darst Center in Chicago led the organization and planning of the program for 21 participants. Highlights included looking at violence as a symptom of various social issues, hearing from representatives who minister to young people about violence prevention, and visiting local ministries that address all aspects of violence.

LSJI participants gather in front of the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center.



Larry Price, professor at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, called the gathering one of the most moving and memorable experiences of his life. "We were all a bit angry to find out how much our system of justice and our culture has exacerbated gang violence," he said. "Everyone left the experience with a sense that this is our problem and not some isolated problem in some isolated neighborhood. I also felt a sense of pride that I am connected to the Lasallian community and it is a community which cares about all people regardless of their situation in life."

LSJI is based on the Gospel and our Lasallian vocation to seek social justice and serve the poor. It is designed to be experiential, educational, creatively practical, and reflective. In previous years, it has focused on immigration in Tucson, AZ, and El Paso, TX; homelessness in San Francisco, CA; and civil rights in Memphis, TN. Plans are currently underway to shape the next LSJI program.

Beyond crafting programs for the next year, planning formation programs examines current and future formation needs, and then creates ways to meet those needs. This future-oriented approach is in line with the portion of the upcoming General Chapter that will vision for the future and "set achievable goals for the year 2021 based on the reality of our situation" (*Convocation of the 45th General Chapter, Circular 468, 1.3.5*).

Participants in the 2012 Lasallian Research Symposium take part in a group discussion.



The Office of Lasallian Education is already envisioning for the future and developing new ways to serve formation needs, with the knowledge that these needs continually evolve and so must programs. In 2012, the Office of Lasallian Education put the Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI) on hiatus for evaluation. This led to the conclusion of LLI, which began in 1997 and served approximately 800 Lasallians, and the launch of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice.

THIS NEW PROGRAM WILL DEBUT IN MARCH 2014 AS A FORMATION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON OUR LASALLIAN HERITAGE IN LIGHT OF CONTEMPORARY REALITIES. TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF LASALLIANS, THE JOHNSTON INSTITUTE WILL FEATURE A BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH WITH FIVE IN-PERSON GATHERINGS (THREE BY DISTRICT; TWO REGIONALLY) AND FOUR ONLINE SESSIONS OVER TWO YEARS. THE ONLINE COMPONENT WAS CREATED TO DECREASE TIME AWAY FROM MINISTRIES AND TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AND LEARNING BETWEEN IN-PERSON SESSIONS.

The Johnston Institute will cover three thematic areas: Lasallian Story and Vision, Lasallian Educational Mission and Social Justice, and Spirituality, Vocation, and Association. Some historical texts will be used to set the background, but the majority of readings will be contemporary texts.

Formation on a Regional level is more than programs that exist now and those that might exist in the future. Gatherings like the Symposium on Lasallian Research (October 2012, October 2013) and the RELAN Women's Symposium (July 2013) are both initiatives that have been developed as ways to address growing needs.

The Research Symposium, co-sponsored by Christian Brothers Conference and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, is designed to develop a community of scholars committed to supporting, conducting, and publishing Lasallian research.

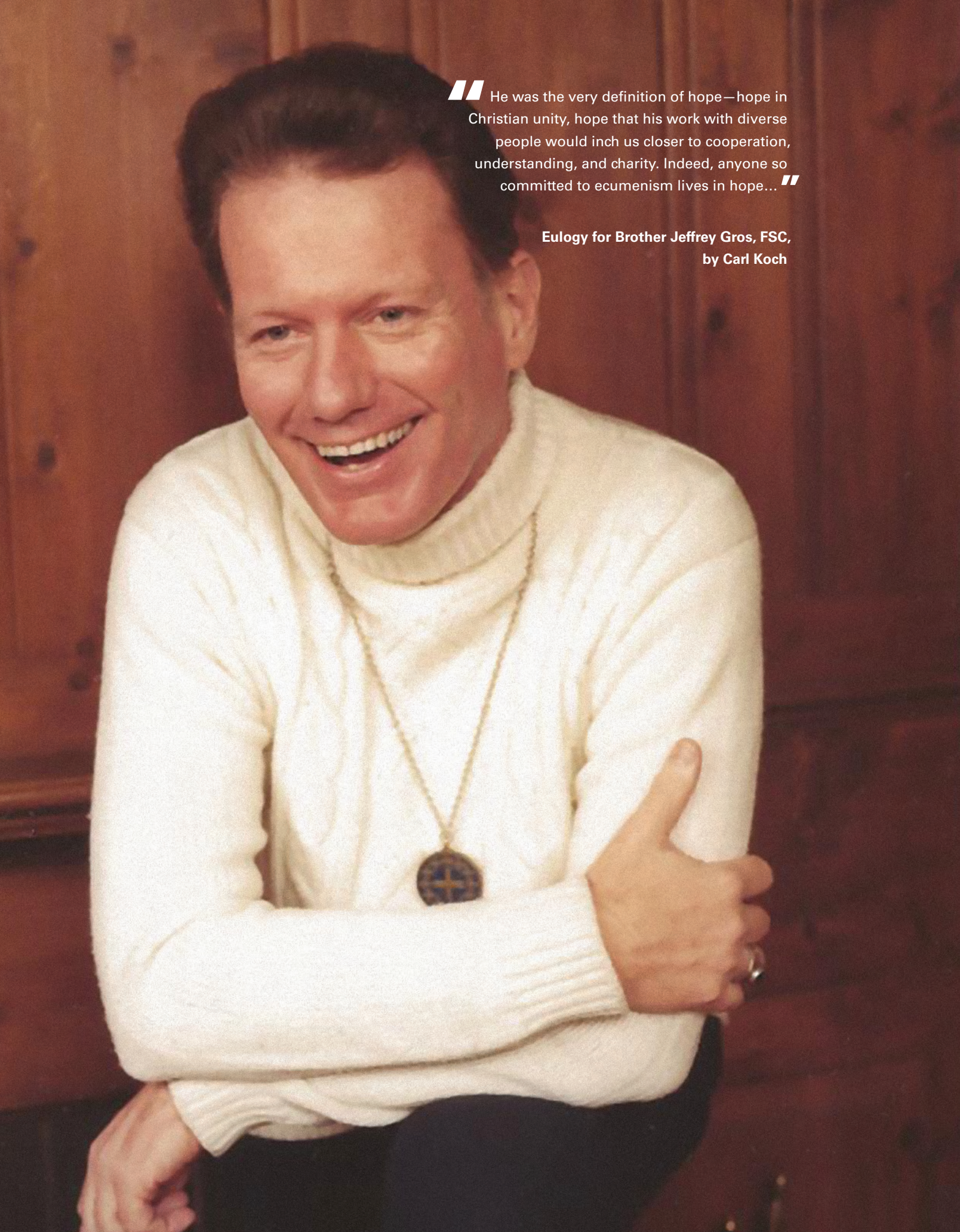
The Women's Symposium, co-sponsored by Christian Brothers Conference and Saint Mary's College of California, is a response to the challenges presented by the 44th General Chapter and Circular 461 to strengthen association with lay Partners and their contribution to the Lasallian Educational Mission. (Read more about the Women's Symposium on page 20.)

These combined efforts show how our Region is dedicated to preserving and furthering the rich Lasallian tradition of transforming lives of those entrusted to our care. We strive to be at the forefront of forward-thinking endeavors to form Lasallians who will touch the hearts of a new generation of young people. With a sense of zeal for the mission, we live the slogan of the 45th General Chapter: "This is God's work and also your work." ●



LEARN MORE ABOUT FORMATION PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES AT
[HTTP://LASALLIAN.INFO/PROGRAMS-EVENTS](http://lasallian.info/programs-events)





“ He was the very definition of hope—hope in Christian unity, hope that his work with diverse people would inch us closer to cooperation, understanding, and charity. Indeed, anyone so committed to ecumenism lives in hope... ”

**Eulogy for Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC,
by Carl Koch**

*(Left) Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC.
Courtesy Sister Joye Gros, OP*

*Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC.
Courtesy Midwest District*



THE LEGACY OF BROTHER JEFFREY GROS, FSC

BY CARISSA HAHN

A great leader in the ecumenical movement who poured immense passion into all of his work—that’s how friends, family, and colleagues will remember Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, who passed away August 12, 2013, in Chicago, IL at age 75, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

HIS ZEAL FOR THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT WAS AN EXTENSION OF HIS ENTHUSIASTIC VIEW OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION. CARL KOCH, FORMER BROTHER AND LONGTIME FRIEND OF BROTHER JEFFREY, DELIVERED THE EULOGY AT THE FUNERAL CELEBRATION, DESCRIBING BROTHER JEFFREY AS ALWAYS STRIVING TO SEE “THE BIGGER PICTURE,” WHICH TRANSLATED INTO ALL HIS WORK IN ECUMENISM. KOCH SAID THAT BROTHER JEFFREY WROTE OR EDITED 18 BOOKS, 310 ARTICLES, AND SCORES OF BOOK REVIEWS—ALMOST ALL ON ECUMENISM. BROTHER JEFFREY DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY DIALOGUES WITH VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

“Like many of you, I was somewhat intimidated by the sheer breadth and depth of his intellect and his voracious appetite for reading and knowledge, all in the service of ecumenism,” said Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, Midwest District Visitor. “It was so evident at his funeral that he has touched and changed the lives of such a fascinating variety of people—from an Armenian Orthodox monk to a Pentecostal preacher...His compassion and concern for others and their well-being always took precedence over the latest book, article, or insight.”

John Armstrong, friend of Brother Jeffrey, wrote about Brother Jeffrey’s compassion in a blog post online saying, “Here is a man born and reared in a Southern evangelical and Baptist culture, who represented a fairly despised minority in that culture, who learned how to talk to his neighbors and then relate deeply to the Christian faith of people who, in so many ways, were entirely unlike himself in both their background and ecclesial context. In this way, Jeff broke ‘new ground’ for ecumenism in America and beyond.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

THE LEGACY OF BROTHER JEFFREY GROS, FSC CONTINUED

His passion for the Lasallian mission and ecumenism started early on. Brother Jeffrey was born John Jefferson Gros in Memphis, TN, the son of Jeff and Faye (Dickinson) Gros. He graduated from Price College in Amarillo, TX, entered the novitiate in 1955 in Glencoe, MO, and professed his final vows in 1963. He received a B.A. and M.Ed. from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, an M.A. in Theology from Marquette University, and a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University.

THE ARDOR HE HAD TOWARD HIS VOCATION RADIATED IN EVERY ASPECT OF HIS LIFE AND IN EVERY ROLE HE HELD. THOSE ROLES WERE MANY OVER BROTHER JEFFREY'S 58 YEARS AS A DE LA SALLE CHRISTIAN BROTHER. AMONG THEM, HE WAS AN EDUCATOR AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY AND MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, AS WELL AS OTHER LASALLIAN INSTITUTIONS. MOST RECENTLY, BROTHER JEFFREY HAD BEEN A RESIDENT SCHOLAR IN CATHOLIC STUDIES SINCE 2011 AT LEWIS UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE CHAIRED THE SCHOOL'S THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN 1967.

*(Left – Right) Carla Gibson, Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, Mary Esslinger, and Mary Lorsung at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Washington, DC after a Mass celebrating Gene Hamrick's 40th anniversary of priesthood.
Courtesy Mary Esslinger*



Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, with his sister, Sister Joye Gros, OP. Courtesy Sister Joye Gros, OP

In the tribute delivered at Brother Jeffrey's funeral, Father Sebastian MacDonald, CP, described how he effectively carried out the mission: "Jeff was a living embodiment of his founder's, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, program to attract a group of followers who would excel in educational methods, exhibit a preference for the poor among the uneducated, and do so as a group of dedicated lay religious. He represents a vital link in the long history of excellence among the Lasallian Christian Brothers."

Brother Jeffrey was also in a number of notable national positions throughout his life, including president of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, director of Faith and Order for the National Council of Churches for 10 years, associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for 14 years, and dean of the Catholic Institute for Ecumenical Leadership. He was also a Distinguished Professor of Ecumenical and Historical Theology at Memphis Theological Seminary.



Brother Jeffrey was most interested in passing on the love and expertise he had in the dialogue to the next generation, explained his sister, Sister Joye Gros, OP. A colleague close to Brother Jeffrey reported that he would read about three books a week.

“He never read novels, he only read heavy stuff,” said Sister Joye. “When he got sick, his big concern about being on medication was that it would make his brain fuzzy, and he wouldn’t be able to concentrate. He was reading, writing, and reviewing up until days before he died.”

Those who knew Brother Jeffrey knew that along with reading, he deeply enjoyed bicycle riding. “Serious biking,” as Sister Joye described. He would go on many trips biking through Europe, staying with the Brothers along the way. A memorable story about Brother Jeffrey is a tale of him riding his bike and reading at the same time, mentioned by Koch in the eulogy. Sister Joye remembers when she received the phone call about Brother Jeffrey having an accident on his bike. When she visited him, he said it was because the sun was in his eyes. She smartly asked him if he had considered wearing sunglasses, and told him she would get him a helmet for his birthday. It wasn’t until later that she learned the accident wasn’t actually from the sun, but from him reading and riding his bike at the same time.

“Jeff could be amazed by the wind on his face while riding his bike or the music of Wagner, a good conversation or the majestic dancing of the Alvin Ailey ballet. He didn’t gush about these wonders, but throughout his life he nurtured enjoyment of them and invited many of us into this world. I loved that about Jeff,” said Koch.

Brother Jeffrey’s funeral was held on August 17, 2013, at the Sancta Alberta Chapel on the campus of Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, followed by his burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville. Memorials may be made to the De La Salle Christian Brothers Retirement Fund, 7650 S. County Line Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. ●



(Left – Right) Brother Arnold McMullen, FSC, Sheila Cusack, and Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, at a recent District Day in the Midwest District. Courtesy Brother Larry Schatz, FSC





*Bob Carrejo is
Director of Communications
for the District of
New Orleans-Santa Fe.*

A WORLD AWAY NO LONGER: A LASALLIAN ALUMNA'S TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCES AMONG THE POOR OF AFRICA AND HAITI

BY BOB CARREJO

It is a long way from the rugged environs of the western United States to the continent of Africa or the Republic of Haiti. Those who venture there usually do so as curious travelers in search of vacation adventures or perhaps the quick snapshot-and-journal educational experience. However, for one young Lasallian, the journey to these two places would be both the realization of an old dream and the awakening of a new one.

Kelly Barth is a nurse practitioner who lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. A 2001 graduate of Mullen High School in Denver, CO, Kelly's special journey began with her decision to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. Nurse practitioners are advanced practice nurses who, as she puts it, "have the compassion and knowledge of a bedside nurse but also the more extensive training and expertise in the particular field of practice which they specialize." Her interest took her to the University of California at San Francisco, where she earned a master's degree in nursing and, like her fellow graduates, looked forward to a bright and fulfilling future. It would come. But there would be more. Much more.

Kelly had grown up with a strong awareness of the many faces of human need. "I was always involved in volunteer work with my family, church, and school," she remembers, "helping those less fortunate in my community by working in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

*(Left) Kelly hugs children she serves
in Africa. Courtesy Kelly Barth*

A WORLD AWAY NO LONGER:

A LASALLIAN ALUMNA'S TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCES AMONG THE POOR OF AFRICA AND HAITI

CONTINUED

She also remembers the role that her Lasallian education played in those experiences. "When I was a student at Mullen, I was a part of a community that offered help to those in need," she said. "I was nervous my first time volunteering, stepping out of my comfort zone, but I quickly learned that I was no different than the people I met. All of us have been down on our luck or at a point in our lives where we need support and help. This is that point for many of these people. Attending a school that emphasized our obligation to give to others helped push me into discovering what I had within myself and learn what my abilities are as a member of society."

Not long after Kelly began working as a nurse practitioner, she would have reason to put these lessons to serious use.

In 2012, Kelly became involved with the organization International Medical Relief. When it sponsored a special children's relief trip that fall to Tanzania, Africa, Kelly and several of her coworkers were invited. "Visiting Africa had been a dream of mine since I was a small child," she said. "I always wanted to go on a safari, see this vastly different culture, and experience life in such a different place."

However, there would be no safari. What awaited the nurses was a series of grueling overland treks through Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, where they would set up and staff medical and surgical clinics in areas where modern medical treatment was non-existent. What Kelly saw left her both enchanted and stunned over their three weeks of service.

"The people in Africa were so friendly and welcoming and happy to have visitors," she said. "But Africa has poverty that people in the United States have never seen. No running water or electricity. Children everywhere with no supervision. None of the basic necessities."

SHE RECALLED ONE PARTICULAR ENCOUNTER WITH A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY. EVEN AFTER SUFFERING WITH A BROKEN ARM FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND HAVING A BONE INFECTION, HE DID NOT FLINCH AS THE NURSES TREATED HIM. "I LEARNED THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF ALL FROM THESE KIDS: YOU CAN BE AND OVERCOME ANYTHING IN LIFE IF YOU ARE RICH IN LOVE, CARE, WARMTH, FAITH, HOPE, AND COMPASSION," SHE REMEMBERED.

Kelly spends last moments with kids in Africa during the final day of her trip there. Courtesy Kelly Barth





Kelly (middle row, fourth from the left) stands with fellow members of the Haiti medical team.

Courtesy Dr. Amanda Richline, DPM

WHEN THEIR MISSION ENDED, KELLY AND HER COLLEAGUES LEFT AFRICA. THEN, IN THE LAST WEEK OF THE YEAR, THEY WOULD HEAD OUT AGAIN, THIS TIME TO THE EARTHQUAKE-RAVAGED REPUBLIC OF HAITI. THE DEVASTATION THAT REMAINED ALMOST THREE YEARS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE LEFT HER SHOCKED. KELLY AND THE TEAM OF DOCTORS AND NURSES TRIED THEIR BEST TO RESPOND TO APPALLING CONDITIONS.

“This community had 75,000 people and no hospital, doctors, nurses, or pharmacy,” she said. “Our team treated over 400 people in four hours before we had to close our line because we ran out of almost every medication that we had. After we packed up we saw many people still waiting to see if we would help them. They were sticking their arms through the iron gate asking us to help them. I had never seen such extreme poverty, lack of hygiene, congested communities, and old tarps, sheets, and scrap metal that serve as homes.”

After seven days the team left Haiti, most of its members themselves ill, suffering from the effects of a few days’ exposure to the polluted air, water, and land that their patients had helplessly endured their entire lives. Exhausted, humbled, and awed, Kelly returned to San Francisco.

Later, the young nurse practitioner would have time to reflect on her experiences and the impact that they had on her. And she knows now that she is not the same person as before.

Kelly muses, “Volunteering overseas has changed my perspective on life in the world today. I returned from both of my trips in shock that people in the world live the way they do while many of us live in such safe, clean, and stable environments. Many people live without basic necessities such as food, clean water, stable structures, and medical care. There is so much work that needs to be done. The ability to help is here. All we need to do is keep giving our time.”

Some say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. In at least one case, however, this common wisdom must contend with the mind and heart of a young woman from Colorado. Because although it may still be a long way from the rugged environs of the western United States to Africa and Haiti, for Kelly Barth it is not nearly as far away as it used to be, and, if she has her way, it never will be again. ●

Kelly prepares to administer medication to a child in need.

Courtesy Dr. Amanda Richline, DPM



Be a Lake
TODAY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2013

21 – 23 Huether Lasallian Conference,
New Orleans, LA

24 – 25 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting,
New Orleans, LA

DECEMBER 2013

6 – 7 Novitiate Postulancy Committee, Napa, CA

JANUARY 2014

14 – 18 RELAN/RELAL Chapter Delegates Meeting,
Brazil

17 – 20 Lasallian Volunteers (LV) Midyear Retreat,
Brant Lake, NY

FEBRUARY 2014

9 – 15 International Young Lasallians Symposium,
Rome, Italy

22 – 23 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting,
Atlanta, GA

23 Joint Lasallian Education Council (LEC) and
Regional Conference of Christian Brothers
(RCCB) Meeting, Atlanta, GA

23 – 25 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers
(RCCB) Meeting, Atlanta, GA

23 – 26 Lasallian Association of Secondary School
Chief Administrators (LASSCA) Conference,
Atlanta, GA

MARCH 2014

6 – 9 Brother John Johnston Institute of
Contemporary Lasallian Practice West Coast
Gathering, Duncans Mills, CA

13 – 16 Brother John Johnston Institute of
Contemporary Lasallian Practice
Midwest Gathering, Belleville, IL

13 – 17 Brothers in Initial Formation
Spring Workshop, Anaheim, CA

16 – 17 Regional Vocation Formation Committee
(RVFC) Meeting, San Diego, CA

20 – 23 Brother John Johnston Institute of
Contemporary Lasallian Practice
East Coast Gathering, Mt. Pocono, PA

APRIL 2014

22 – June 8 45th General Chapter, Rome, Italy

23 Regional Finance Committee (RFC) Meeting,
Burr Ridge, IL





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