

De La Salle
TODAY

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



AUTUMN 2014



**THE GENERAL CHAPTER:
ELECTIONS & EXPERIENCES**

De La Salle TODAY

Dear Reader,

In this issue of *De La Salle Today*, we look inside the 45th General Chapter – from the election of the third American Superior General to the personal experiences told in the words of the capitulants. In future issues, we'll examine the Acts, the *Rule* revision and how outcomes of the Chapter will guide the future of the Lasallian mission.

First, we highlight the election of Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, as he answered the call to serve as Superior General. We learn how this call was one in a series of calls throughout his life that brought him to this election. Brother Robert also shares a message to our Region. Here at Christian Brothers Conference, his election was met with mixed emotions – sadness in knowing Brother Bob would no longer be a member of our office community, but joy and pride knowing he would lead the Institute.

Meanwhile, we were thrilled to welcome Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, following his election as General Councilor. In this issue, a Q&A with our new General Councilor will give you insight into Brother Tim's thoughts on the mission, association and more. In "A Look Inside the 45th General Chapter," Brother Tim leads the article with a preview of the direction the Chapter will provide. Then, capitulants share reflections on various aspects of the General Chapter experience.

This issue also pays tribute to Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, and Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, as they move on after service as Superior General and Vicar General, respectively. Additionally, we look at the legacies left by the first two American Superiors General, Brother Charles Henry Buttner, FSC, and Brother John Johnston, FSC.

We hope this issue brings to life the 45th General Chapter as we celebrate new leadership in the Institute!

Enjoy!



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
Editor

Cover photo: From left, Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, and Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, stand together following the election of Brother Robert as Superior General. Brother Timothy would be elected General Councilor two days later. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

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8 ANSWERING THE CALL:
BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC,
SUPERIOR GENERAL
BY BROTHER COLMAN COOGAN, FSC, AND
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

15 A MESSAGE FROM
BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC,
SUPERIOR GENERAL
BY BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC

16 A BELOVED BROTHER:
BROTHER ÁLVARO
RODRÍGUEZ ECHEVERRÍA, FSC
BY BROTHER WILLIAM MANN, FSC

18 FOLLOWING IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF AMERICAN
SUPERIORS GENERAL
BY BROTHER JOSEPH GRABENSTEIN, FSC

26 AN INTERVIEW WITH
BROTHER TIMOTHY
COLDWELL, FSC,
GENERAL COUNCILOR
BY BOB CARREJO

30 A LOOK INSIDE THE
45TH GENERAL CHAPTER
BY BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

40 BROTHER THOMAS JOHNSON, FSC:
A BROTHER'S BROTHER
BY BROTHER FRANCIS CARR, FSC

42 HONORING FORMER
SUPERIORS GENERAL THROUGH
FORMATION PROGRAMS
BY CARISSA HAHN

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2 NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

48 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME TO THE NEW DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

July 1, 2014, marked the start of the new District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). The new District joined together the legacy Districts of San Francisco, founded in 1868, and New Orleans-Santa Fe, founded in 1921. SFNO includes ministries and communities located in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Washington, and in Tijuana, Mexico. Over a period of several years, both Districts' Brothers and Leadership Teams engaged in consultations and gatherings to plan and prepare for the new District, including approving its constitutive statutes and electing its first Visitor, Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, who then appointed its Leadership Team, pictured below.



The District debuted its new logo in September, pictured above. SFNO's Provincialate and main administrative offices are located at Mont La Salle in Napa, California. A second Provincialate office is located in Covington, Louisiana. The District's communications office is located in Denver, Colorado.

(Left - Right) Front Row: Janet Ruggiero, Director, Board Formation; Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, Visitor. Middle Row: Gery Short, Director, Office of Education – Mont La Salle; Bob Carrejo, Director of Communications; Pamela Gleeson, Chief Financial Officer; Greg Kopra, Director, Formation for Mission. Back Row: Brother James Joost, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor; Charles Legendre, AFSC, Director, Office of Education – Covington. Courtesy Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

THREE BROTHERS PROFESS FIRST VOWS

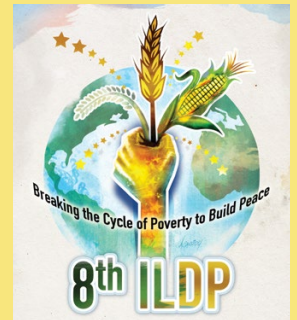
Brothers David Deradoorian, FSC (District of Eastern North America), Roberto Martinez, FSC, and Patrick Martin, FSC (District of San Francisco New Orleans), pronounced first vows as members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in August 2014. The professed vows come at the conclusion of their novitiate year at Mont La Salle in Napa, California. The novitiate is a year of integration in the vocation of a Brother focused on the core elements of community, mission and apostolic spirituality. Brothers David, Roberto and Patrick are now teaching in their respective Districts. Brother David at St. Raymond High School for Boys in Bronx, New York; Brother Roberto at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco, California; and Brother Patrick at De La Salle High School in Concord, California.



(Left - Right) Brother David Deradoorian, FSC, Brother Roberto Martinez, FSC, and Brother Patrick Martin, FSC, participated in the Lasallian Student Leaders program on the campus of Saint Mary's College of California in July. Courtesy Abel Gutierrez

INTERNATIONAL LASALLIAN DAYS FOR PEACE HIGHLIGHTS POVERTY

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty to Build Peace was the theme for the 2014 International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDP), which took place September 21 through October 21. Following the outcomes of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, this year's ILDP focused on the movement to eradicate poverty, particularly as it affects access to nutrition and survival. Lasallians were encouraged to participate by engaging in and learning about issues related to fair trade, ethical retail practices, food consumption practices, and issues of hunger in communities.



LOCATIONS OF ARCHIVES CHANGE

As of September 1, 2014, archives for Christian Brothers Conference and the Midwest District are now housed at Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, under the supervision of Amy Surak. With the formation of the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), archives for the legacy District of New Orleans-Santa Fe (NO-SF), along with archivist Brother Emmet Sinitiere, FSC, moved to Mont La Salle in Napa, California, in May 2014. Brother Emmet continues to manage the collection for the legacy NO-SF District, while Andrea Miller is archivist for the legacy District of San Francisco as well as the new District.

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED



DENA TWINNING SUMMIT STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS

The District of Eastern North America (DENA) hosted a Twinning Summit during which participants visited twin schools in Kenya, part of Africa’s Lwanga District. DENA created the pilot program with the intent to enhance relationships between twin schools. During the two-week program, which took place in July and August 2014, participants spent time with Lwanga District administration and novices, took part in an immersion experience with the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies Program, and visited Child Discovery Centre, Rongai Agricultural and Technical School, Mwangaza College, and St. Mary’s Secondary School and Child Rescue Program.

*(Above) Twinning Summit participants spent time with novices.
Courtesy Abel Gutierrez*

NEW LEC OFFICERS ELECTED

The Lasallian Education Council (LEC) elected new officers at its June 2014 meeting in Washington, D.C. Chair of the LEC is Charles Legendre, AFSC, Director, Office of Education – Covington, District of San Francisco New Orleans; Vice Chair is Loras “Red” Sieve, AFSC, Consultant to the District Council, Midwest District; and Secretary is Charles “Skip” Gaus, Jr., AFSC, Director of De La Salle Vocational in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.



Charles Legendre,
AFSC. *Courtesy
Karen Hebert*



**Loras “Red”
Sieve, AFSC.**
*Submitted by
Loras Sieve*



**Charles “Skip”
Gaus, Jr., AFSC.**
Courtesy Al Henry

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

APPOINTMENTS

JUDITH CAREW, Interim Principal, St. Raymond High School for Boys, Bronx, NY, effective September 3, 2014

MARK CARTY, Executive Director, The San Miguel School of Providence, Providence, RI, effective July 1, 2014

DR. JAMES P. GALLAGHER, Interim President, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA, effective June 1, 2014

BROTHER RONALD GALLAGHER, FSC, Interim President, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco, CA, effective August 1, 2014

TAYLOR GANTT, President, St. Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM, effective May 20, 2014

CHARLES "SKIP" GAUS, AFSC, Director, De La Salle Vocational, Bensalem, PA, effective July 1, 2014

BROTHER NICOLAS GONZALEZ, FSC, President, Cathedral High School, El Paso, TX, effective July 1, 2014

DR. CATHERINE GUERRIERO, President, La Salle Academy, New York, NY, effective July 1, 2014

DR. KEVIN GYOLAI, President, Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park, MN, effective July 1, 2014

BROTHER GHEBREYESUS HABTE, FSC, Visitor, Lwanga District, Africa, effective July 1, 2014

BROTHER THOMAS HARDING, FSC, President, St. Joseph High School, Westchester, IL, effective August 1, 2014

TIMOTHY G. HENNESSY, President, De La Salle North Catholic High School, Portland, OR, effective June 9, 2014

DAVID HOLQUIN, Interim Principal, Justin-Siena High School, Napa, CA, effective July 1, 2014

BROTHER LARRY HUMPHREY, FSC, President, St. Joseph's Institution International School, Singapore, effective July 1, 2014

STAY CONNECTED



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DR. CRAIG JUNKER, President, Totino-Grace High School, Fridley, MN, effective July 1, 2014

BROTHER JOHN KANE, FSC, President, Calvert Hall College High School, Baltimore, MD, effective July 14, 2014

JAMES LOGAN, Director, St. Francis - St. Joseph - St. Vincent, Bensalem, PA, effective July 1, 2014

AURORA LUJAN, Principal, Cathedral High School, El Paso, TX, effective July 1, 2014

FRANK MILEY, President, Cretin-Derham Hall, Saint Paul, MN, effective July 1, 2015 (Executive Vice President for 2014-2015 academic year)

JOHN OMERNIK, Principal, San Miguel High School, Tucson, AZ, effective July 1, 2014

MARILYN PAQUETTE, Principal, De La Salle Academy, Concord, CA, effective July 1, 2014

MATT POWELL, Executive Director, Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation, Napa, CA, effective June 16, 2014

DR. MYLES SEGHERS, Principal, De La Salle High School, New Orleans, LA, effective June 1, 2014

[SEE PAGE 2 FOR APPOINTMENTS RELATED TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE NEW DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS.](#)

LVs PREPARE FOR 9TH ANNUAL RUN



Lasallian Volunteers (LVs) is preparing for its 9th annual LVs Run, which will take place on December 14, 2014, in St. Louis, Missouri, in collaboration with the Hot Chocolate Run. As an associate charity with the 5k/15k race, LVs is collecting donations and looking for runners and race-day volunteers. Donors can contribute to the run or support an individual runner. More information is available at www.lasallianvolunteers.org.

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

HONORED AS AFSCs

Welcome to the newest Affiliated Members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (AFSCs). Those selected as AFSCs are people who, in recognition for their long-standing and exemplary association with the Brothers and their mission, are welcomed as honorary members of the Institute.

DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA:

WILLIAM WOLFF, Executive Director, LaSalle School, Albany, NY

MIDWEST DISTRICT:

JOSEPH F. BIRCH, Anchor, WMC-TV Action News 5; Graduate, Christian Brothers University (CBU) and Christian Brothers High School; CBU Board Member; Memphis, TN

RICHARD ENGLER, President, Cretin-Derham Hall, Saint Paul, MN

DR. MARY CATHERINE FOX, Interdisciplinary Studies Professor, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

MONSIGNOR VALENTINE N. HANDWERKER, Rector, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Graduate, Christian Brothers High School; Chair of the Mission and Identity Committee, Member of the Executive Committee, Christian Brothers University; Memphis, TN

MONSIGNOR JOHN B. MCARTHUR, Pastor, St. Louis Catholic Church; Graduate and Chaplain, Christian Brothers High School; Memphis, TN

TONY PISCITIELLO, University Advancement, Senior Advancement Director, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

MARIA "LUPE" RAMIREZ, Retired Longtime Cook and Supporter, various Brothers' communities; MN

DR. STEPHANY SCHLACHTER, Provost, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

LEGACY DISTRICT OF NEW ORLEANS-SANTA FE:

KATHLEEN CALDER, Retired Faculty Member, De La Salle High School, New Orleans, LA

FATHER EDWARD DEGEYTER, Chaplain, Holy Family Community, Lafayette, LA

FATHER LUIZ DUTRA, Chaplain, Holy Family Community, Lafayette, LA

SISTER BRENDAN JORDAN, Faculty Member, Mullen High School, Denver, CO

JANELL KLOOSTERMAN, Principal, Mullen High School, Denver, CO

VERNA LEGER, Benefactor and Volunteer, Holy Family Community, Lafayette, LA

ANNE MOTT, Parent, Board Trustee, Supporter, Saint Paul's School, Covington, LA

STEPHANIE TRAHAN, Business Manager and Caretaker, Holy Family Community, Lafayette, LA

EDDIE RIECKE, Benefactor, Saint Paul's School, Covington, LA

ALBERT ROUCHON, Benefactor, Saint Paul's School, Covington, LA

ROXANNE ROUCHON, Benefactor, Saint Paul's School, Covington, LA

TIM SCHMECKPEPER, Retired Faculty Member, Mullen High School, Denver, CO

PEGGY ST. JOHN, Teacher and Former Administrator, De La Salle High School, New Orleans, LA

LEGACY DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO:

BILL GEORGE, Retired Faculty Member, La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, Milwaukie, OR

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

VATICAN ANNOUNCES YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

The Year of Consecrated Life will begin in November 2014, focusing on renewal for women and men in consecrated life, thanksgiving among the church for the lives of service of brothers, sisters, priests and nuns, as well as an invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation. The year coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's promulgation of *Lumen Gentium* (*Light of the Nations*) and *Perfectae Caritatis* (*Perfect Charity*).

The Vatican will center the year around four gatherings: Catholic consecrated religious and consecrated religious from other Christian traditions, a conference on religious formation, a discernment gathering for those in the process of joining religious orders, and a theological symposium on religious life. Resources will be available at www.lasallian.info.

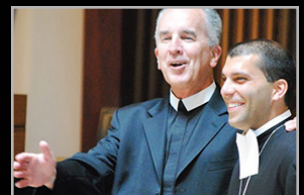
DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL (CONCORD) OPENS MIGUEL MODEL SCHOOL

De La Salle High School in Concord, California, opened a middle school for low-income students August 8, 2014. De La Salle Academy, a division of the high school, is a Miguel model school that currently serves

DE LA SALLE 34 boys in fifth and sixth grades. The school plans to add one class each year, until it has a full complement of four classes, fifth through eighth grade, with a student body totaling 80 boys. A donation from Kenneth H. Hofmann will fund De La Salle Academy for the first five years.



ACADEMY



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(Left) Brother Robert records his first video message as Superior General. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Right) Brother Robert, center, stands with Brothers from RELAF following his election. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

ANSWERING THE CALL: BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPERIOR GENERAL

BY BROTHER COLMAN COOGAN, FSC, AND ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

“I do.”

With those words, voice full of emotion, Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, accepted the call of his Brothers to become Superior General and lead the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as the third American Superior General.

Thunderous applause and a pealing of bells celebrated his simple response to this question of Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, former Superior General: “Brother Robert, do you accept the will of God as expressed by the body of our society to be the 27th successor of St. John Baptist de La Salle?”

This call was one of several Brother Robert accepted throughout his life. Another call he might not have anticipated, but another call he willingly answered.

(Left) Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, stands before the capitulants following his election. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

THE INITIAL CALL: BECOMING A BROTHER

Brother Robert grew up in a modest home in Philadelphia, one of eight children of the late Warren and Eileen (Story) Schieler. His family described a young “Bobby” as humble, quiet, smart and very competitive.

Religious vocation might have been quietly calling Brother Robert throughout his young life through the influence of his mother, the Sisters who taught at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish School, and finally the Brothers at West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys (now West Catholic Preparatory High School) and La Salle College (now University).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ANSWERING THE CALL: BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONTINUED

Answering the initial call, Brother Robert joined the Brothers at age 18, receiving his habit in September 1968 with 12 other young men.

Richard Schieler, Brother Robert's brother, recalled a bit of surprise from the Schieler siblings when they learned of Brother Robert's vocation.

“He did not discuss it with us, only our mother,” the younger Schieler remembered. “We were surprised at first, but when we thought about it, it made sense because of his personality and the way he approached things. We knew this was right for him.”

Following Vatican II, initial formation was changing in religious life, so Brother Robert represented the last of the old and the beginning of the new. Of the original number who joined with him, seven made their first vows; three made final vows.

After completing his initial formation and receiving a bachelor's degree from La Salle in 1972, Brother Robert taught at La Salle College High School outside of Philadelphia and received a master's degree from University of Notre Dame in 1975. But his days in the classroom would be numbered.

THE CALL TO BE A MISSIONARY

In 1975, the Baltimore District sent out a call for Brothers to volunteer for four-year commitments to the Philippines as missionaries. Little did he know, he would spend a total of 11 years there serving the poor and working class in Bacolod and Iligan City.

Exhibiting a strength for organization, superiors asked Brother Robert to assume the supervision of numerous rural schools that had been established by the Columban Fathers. It was also in this context that he observed firsthand the concept of a “shared” mission with lay colleagues who formed the larger part of the schools' faculties. This was significant and was to bear fruit several years later as the Institute embraced “association for mission.”

Recognizing his need for a deeper understanding of enculturation of faith and education, he applied to the University of Pennsylvania where he received his doctorate with a thesis on “An Assessment of Animistic Beliefs of Filipino High School Students.” He returned to the Philippines in 1988 where he served as supervisor of Lasallian schools.

In 1991, he wrote an article for the former *Review for Religious* in which he described his path to the Philippines as a “response to God's successive calls in my life as I understood them.” He wrote, “One commitment led to the next and challenged me to live the charism of St. La Salle.”¹

His commitment in the Philippines, once again, led to the next.

CONTINUED CALLS TO LEADERSHIP

At the former Baltimore District's Chapter in 1991, a restructuring of administration led to creating the position of director of education with the title of Auxiliary Visitor.

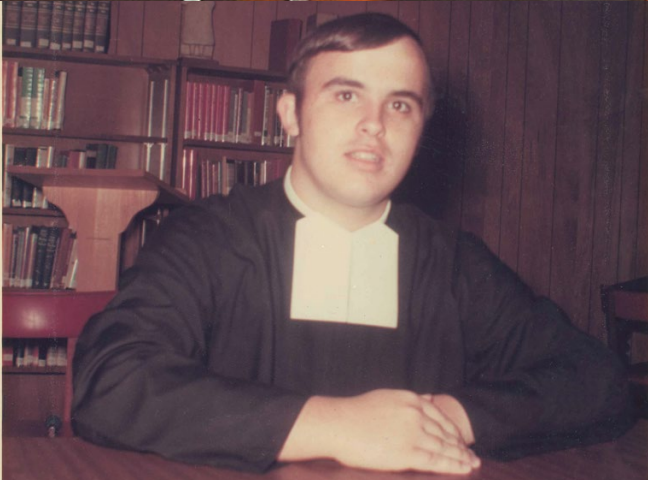
With the new position decided, the Visitor began a search to find a Brother to serve. He wanted a younger Brother with a doctorate, a background in religious education, administrative experience, a clear understanding of our primary mission to the poor, and an awareness of shared mission.

It was obvious that Brother Robert met these criteria. So, the Visitor sent him a letter asking him to return and take up the new post. Brother Robert answered the call.

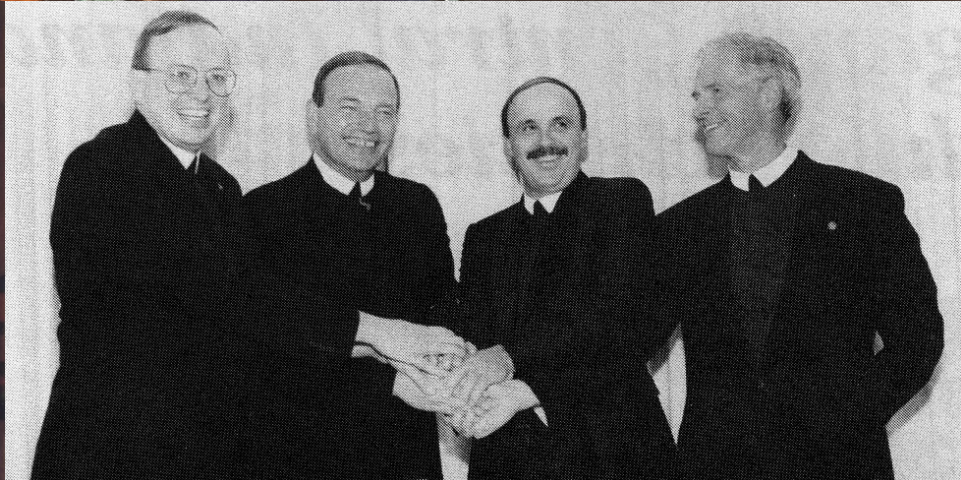
In the following years, Brother Robert served in various administrative positions, including as Auxiliary Visitor of the Baltimore District (1991-1998), Director of Education for Christian Brothers Conference (1998-2001), Visitor of the Baltimore District (2001-2007), and General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America, formerly the United States-Toronto Region (2007-2014).



(Top) Brother Robert, fourth from right, and Brothers who served in the Philippines are pictured together during the annual Baltimore District Assembly at La Salle University in the mid-1980s. Submitted by Brother Kevin Stanton, FSC



(Left) Brother Robert sits in the novitiate library in Ammendale, Maryland, during a family visit shortly after receiving his robe in 1968. Courtesy Schieler Family



(Right) Brother Colman Coogan, FSC, far right, then-Visitor of the former Baltimore District, congratulates, from left, Brother Joseph Grabenstein, FSC, Brother Richard Breese, FSC (deceased), and Brother Robert on their 25th anniversary as Brothers at a celebration at La Salle University in 1993. Courtesy Kelly & Massa Photography



ANSWERING THE CALL: BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONTINUED

In 2008, which was his 40th year as a Brother, the Baltimore District honored the new General Councilor at its Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner in Philadelphia. Brother Kevin Strong, FSC, a lifelong friend of Brother Robert, wrote a tribute to Brother Robert that appeared in the printed program.

“Quite simply, Bob is a man of great integrity who expresses his love for God, his family, his Brothers, and his fellow man in all that he does,” wrote Brother Kevin. “For me personally, he has been a best friend, as well as a source of guidance and encouragement over all his years as a Brother.”²

Brother Robert's contributions as General Councilor were many. To highlight just a few, he assisted in the restructuring of five Districts into the two new Districts of Eastern North America (2009) and San Francisco New Orleans (2014) and he led the creation of the new Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) comprising all of Canada and the United States (2012).

He strongly supported young Lasallians, including the Regional Young Lasallians Committee, the RELAN delegates to the 2014 International Symposium of Young Lasallians, Lasallian Volunteers and young Brothers. He led the coordination of a meeting of young Brothers from Mexico and the United States (2011) and a national formation program for Young Lasallians (2009). He also led the organization of a two-year national formation program, Called to Be Brothers, that culminated in August 2012.

(Top Left) Brother Robert, second from left in middle, celebrates his 25th anniversary as a Brother with his parents, seated, and siblings at a celebration at La Salle University in 1993. Courtesy Schieler Family

(Top Right) Brother Robert, second from left, stands with the Superior General, Vicar General and other General Councilors following their elections in 2007. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Middle) Brother Álvaro presents Brother Robert with the seal of the Institute and the Rule following Brother Robert's election. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Bottom) RELAN Brothers gather for a photo after the election of Brother Robert. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

His presence in the Christian Brothers Conference office was one of leadership and friendship. He welcomed a new vision in the Region that implemented shared leadership with Partners with the establishment of the Lasallian Education Council and the hiring of an executive director in June 2011.

“When I walked in the door of Christian Brothers Conference as the new executive director, Brother Bob welcomed me,” said Dr. Margaret McCarty. “Over the next three years, he was my mentor, friend, Regional historian and trusted colleague. Together we forged a new model of shared leadership where we, Brother and Partner, led our staff and collaborated on the work of the Conference. He is a man of vision and a devoted De La Salle Christian Brother, and I am proud to have worked with him.”

A NEW CALL: SUPERIOR GENERAL

On May 20, 2014, at the General Chapter, Brother Robert faced another call at the General Chapter: to lead as Superior General.

After a period of reflection, discussions and three rounds of votes, his fellow Brothers called upon him to lead. Again, he accepted the call. Reaction and congratulations immediately poured in as word spread throughout the Lasallian world.

“I was overcome with pride and knew then that I was witnessing Institute history in the making,” recalled capitulant Brother Charles Kitson, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor of the District of Eastern North America, which is Brother Robert's home District. “For me, it was the most significant and powerfully overwhelming moment of the General Chapter!”

It has been said that true leaders embody personally the ideals that characterize the groups they lead; they are also able to successfully reflect these values back to their groups with a magnetism that draws them forward in pursuit of their cherished values; true leaders possess the wisdom and ability to develop strategies that enable the groups to attain their goals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

ANSWERING THE CALL:
BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC,
SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONTINUED

Brother Colman Coogan FSC, served as Visitor of the Baltimore District when Brother Robert accepted the calls to serve in the Philippines and to return to the U.S. to serve the District. Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications for Christian Brothers Conference.

Given the life experiences of Brother Robert, a lifelong docility to the motion of God's grace in him, his spoken statements of where he stands, the felt influence of the larger Church under Pope Francis, and the expression of the General Chapter — there can be little doubt that the Holy Spirit has manifested God's will in his regard. Brother Robert Schieler is gifted with the ability to serve the Institute as its leader.

Even in his first moments as the new Superior General, with bells ringing in celebration around him, he sent a message to Lasallians in an informal video the Institute recorded and shared:

"I know that anything that can be accomplished will be done only because of the great Lasallian family that we are all a part of."

Brother Robert and Brother Álvaro meet Pope Francis on June 9, 2014. Taken by L'Osservatore Romano Photographic Service

As he settles in as Superior General, Brother Robert can look back to that 1991 *Review for Religious* article in which he wrote about changing assignments—how they required learning and how they "led to an enhanced self-awareness of what God was calling me to be."³

Now, after 46 years of answering calls as a Brother, God has called Brother Robert to lead the Institute.

With two simple words, "I do," Brother Robert answered that call. ●

- 1 Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, "A New Rule and an Old Novice: A Shared Journey," *Review for Religious* 50.6 (November – December 1991), 855-856.
- 2 Brother Kevin Strong, FSC, "A Man of Faith, Service, and Community," printed program from Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner in Philadelphia (October 25, 2008), 18-19.
- 3 Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, "A New Rule and an Old Novice: A Shared Journey," *Review for Religious* 50.6 (November – December 1991), 856.



A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPERIOR GENERAL

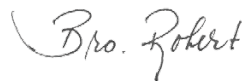
Dear Friends,

I am happy to send greetings to you all in this autumn issue of *De La Salle Today*. It is also an opportunity for me to thank you for the many emails and cards of congratulations and best wishes upon my election as Superior General. Among my early thoughts after being elected was of how much I was going to miss my intimate connection with RELAN and the Christian Brothers Conference office in Washington, D.C. We are a Region rich not only in material resources but also with outstanding Lasallians truly dedicated to this ministry entrusted to us by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. We are a Region with a history of creativity and innovation. Saint Mary's Press, the Sangre de Cristo Center, Christian Brothers Services and Christian Brothers Investment Services, along with the various Regional Lasallian formation programs starting with the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, the Lasallian Volunteers movement, the San Miguel School movement and the retreat centers and camps in Francophone Canada are but a few examples of this richness.

In my 46 years as a Brother, despite periods of challenge and trial, every assignment has been a grace and blessing; I accept the present "will of the body of the society" in this light. From my early years at La Salle College High School in suburban Philadelphia, my years in the Philippines, the years in Baltimore District leadership and the past seven years as General Councilor for the Region, I have met and been engaged in the Lasallian mission with incredibly committed Lasallians who inspired me, challenged me and significantly contributed to my formation and growth as a Brother. Many of you continue to play this role in my life today.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the entire staff at Christian Brothers Conference. No General Councilor was as blessed and fortunate as I was by the quality and number of persons who surrounded me in the Conference office. Here, too, is but another example of the Region's creativity and innovation. RELAN was the first Region in the Institute to establish a Regional mission council with voice and vote – the Lasallian Education Council – and the first to have Lasallian women lead our programs at the Regional level. These initiatives of the Brothers Visitor demonstrate their confidence in the decisions of recent International Mission Assemblies and the past two General Chapters; a confidence which I share about our collective future. For I believe the words of the prophet Habakkuk: "The vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late" (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

Your Brother in Christ,



Brother Robert Schieler, FSC
Superior General

Brother Robert stands with the American flag on the grounds of the Generalate in Rome as the third American Superior General. Courtesy Brother Larry Schatz, FSC





A BELOVED BROTHER: BROTHER ÁLVARO RODRÍGUEZ ECHEVERRÍA, FSC

BY BROTHER WILLIAM MANN, FSC

What does one write about a man who is as beloved as our former Superior General? How do you capture in a few paragraphs the essence of a man who was not only appreciated, respected and admired like his immediate predecessors, but one who often inspired in others an almost reverential sense of connection?

Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, in his first remarks as Superior General to the capitulants of the 43rd General Chapter of 2000 shared with us his deep conviction that being brothers is our greatest treasure. My intuition is that he was giving us, in the opening moment of his first day as our leader, the key to understanding who this hopeful man would be among us and why so many would come to love him so deeply. In a church that is often too hierarchical and a human family that is often tragically divided between the haves and have-nots, he would choose to walk among us simply and humbly as a witness of and an invitation to equality, inclusion and universal brotherhood.

Even now I have an image in my mind of him in the dining room of the Generalate in Rome, during an international gathering of Brothers and Partners. He walked from table to table greeting people individually. Personally, he was expressing to each his appreciation not only of what they were doing as Lasallians, but who they were as his brothers and sisters.

Another image that comes to mind is that of Brother Álvaro sitting for hours in the far back of a bus having personal one-on-one interviews with each of the Latin American Visitors. We were traveling from a meeting at the Provincialate in São Paulo to the national Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, and he was making sure, even on the recreational excursion we were enjoying after a full week of meetings, that the press of business would not hinder his guaranteeing individual time with each and every one of his Brothers. He would, in his own words, “always have time” for those around him.

(Left) Brothers express their gratitude for the leadership of Brother Álvaro. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Right) Brother Álvaro addresses capitulants at the 45th General Chapter. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC



This beloved leader is a man who, when all is said and done, loves his family and loves being a Brother. A deeply private man of prayer, he treasures the gift of association, and he enjoys traveling, especially if it means he gets to be with members of the Lasallian family.

His life is, without doubt, marked by the murder, disappearance and atrocities committed against so many young catechists and missionaries during his time as Visitor in Guatemala; perhaps this is a key to understanding why he is so fiercely protective of the vulnerable and passionate in his advocacy for the poor. Or maybe the key is simply his deeply held appreciation for the sacredness of life, the gift of relationship and the unfolding will of God in his regard.

And so as I pause in grateful remembrance for his 14 years as our Superior General, a final image of Brother Álvaro comes to mind; it is that of his delivering an awe-inspiring address at the conclusion of the first International Assembly in 2006.

“When you return to your families, to your communities, to your schools,” he told us, “bring with you a message of hope and a word of courage. Tell them that the God of life, the God of the poor, the God of history, the God of the Kingdom, the forever young God, revealed by Jesus, has made us a part of his work and that we are always disposed to allow ourselves to be guided by his Spirit in order to collaborate in his project of salvation.”

How blessed we were to have had him accompany us during the opening years of the 21st century! ●

Brother William Mann, FSC, served as Vicar General from 2000-2007 while Brother Álvaro was Superior General. He has served as president of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota since 2008.

(Left) The outgoing Superior General, Vicar General and General Councilors are recognized for their service. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Right) Brother Álvaro and Brother Robert are captured in a photo together prior to Brother Robert's election. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC



“ He was a man of quiet action—skilled listening, administrative experience and openness.”



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AMERICAN SUPERIORS GENERAL

BY BROTHER JOSEPH GRABENSTEIN, FSC

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, follows in the footsteps of the two former American Superiors General. As Brother Robert begins his role, we look back at the legacies of Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, and Brother John Johnston, FSC.

BROTHER CHARLES HENRY BUTTIMER, FSC (1966-1976)

Born in Brighton, Massachusetts, in 1909, Thomas Joseph Buttimer was the oldest of a large family. Entering the New York District Novitiate, he received the name Brother Charles Henry in 1926. He studied at De La Salle College in Washington, D.C., for several years, then taught at Lasallian grade schools in Yonkers and Brooklyn, but returned to De La Salle to complete his degree in 1933. There he remained until 1949, rising from professor to dean of studies to director.

In 1949, Brother Charles Henry became Auxiliary Visitor of the New York District. With the carving of the Long Island-New England (LI-NE) District from that of New York in 1956, Brother Charles became its founding Visitor. Brother Charles was elected Assistant Superior General for the United States of America in 1961 with responsibilities that included administrative duties in Rome, and visits to the U.S. Districts and District-sponsored missions in the Philippines, Africa and Central America.

This was the time of Vatican Council II and renewal was stirring. In 1966, Brother Charles Henry was elected Superior General. He was a man of quiet action—skilled listening, administrative experience and openness. A future biography would appropriately be entitled *The Gentle American*.

Brother Charles Henry implemented reforms stemming from the landmark 39th General Chapter, especially subsidiarity and decentralization. Himself a scholar, Brother Charles Henry advocated thorough education for Brothers worldwide. He revitalized ongoing formation and renewal for the Brothers through the establishment of the International Lasallian Center (CIL) program for the Brothers' renewal and bolstered Lasallian missions. But there were pains. One was a steady reduction of personnel, evidenced by his signing of thousands of dispensations of departing confreres.

In 1976, Brother Charles Henry returned to the Narragansett, Rhode Island, provincialate. After a long decline, he died in December 1982 and was buried with his Brothers on the property. In 1986, the Region held the first session of the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies in his name.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

(Left) Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
AMERICAN SUPERIORS GENERAL
CONTINUED

*Brother Joseph Grabenstein, FSC, serves as
archivist for La Salle University in Philadelphia and
the former Baltimore District. He also assists with
archives for the District of Eastern North America.*

**BROTHER JOHN
JOHNSTON, FSC
(1986-2000)**

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1933, John Calvin Johnston was the oldest of four boys. He joined the Brothers in 1951 in Glencoe, Missouri, with the name Brother John Joseph. He was a successful high school teacher in the former St. Louis District, but promotions came rather quickly thereafter. Brother John directed the Brothers' houses of studies in Memphis, Winona (Minnesota) and St. Louis. He was then appointed Visitor of the St. Louis District (1971-1976). In 1976, he became Vicar General and 10 years later, he was elected Superior General, serving two seven-year terms.

Brother John energized the partnership between the Brothers and Partners in Lasallian ministries and the building of harmonious educational communities. His letter to "the Lasallian Family" in 1989, for example, was the first time that Lasallians who were not Christian were given recognition. Also noteworthy was his strong advocacy for the defense of the rights of children.

He was highly regarded in Rome by other superiors general, both male and female, and was elected vice president of the Union of Superiors General three times.

When his leadership ended in 2000, Brother John worked closely with the Lasallian Leadership Institute (1997-2012), a former three-year Regional formation program that focused on how Brothers and Partners could further the mission together. A masterful speaker, Brother John was frequently in demand for speaking appearances and giving presentations at retreats.

He later transitioned to Christian Brothers University in his hometown of Memphis. He passed away in October 2007 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Memphis.

The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) honors Brother John with a formation program and two awards in his name: the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, the Brother John Johnston, FSC Award and the Lasallian Volunteers Johnston Faith Award. ●

[Read more about the programs named in honor of Brothers Charles and John and how their legacies live on in RELAN on page 42.](#)

Brother John Johnston, FSC. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



RÉPONSE À L'APPEL : FRÈRE ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPÉRIEUR GÉNÉRAL

PAR FRÈRE COLMAN COOGAN, FSC, ET
MME ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

« J'accepte. »

Par ces mots, la voix vibrante d'émotion, Frère Robert Schieler, FSC, a répondu oui à la demande de ses confrères de devenir Supérieur Général et de diriger les Frères des Écoles chrétiennes comme troisième Supérieur Général américain.

Un tonnerre d'applaudissements et le son du carillon célèbrent la réponse simple qu'il a donnée à la question posée par Frère Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, Supérieur Général sortant : « Frère Robert, acceptez-vous la volonté de Dieu telle qu'elle s'est exprimée par le corps de l'Institut pour devenir le 27^e successeur de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle? ».

Cet appel fut l'un de ceux auxquels F. Robert a répondu tout au long de sa vie. Il ne l'avait probablement pas prévu, mais il y a répondu généreusement.

LE PREMIER APPEL : CELUI À DEVENIR FRÈRE

Frère Robert a grandi dans une maison modeste de Philadelphie, l'un des huit enfants de feu Warren et Eileen (Story) Schieler. Sa famille décrit le jeune « Bobby » comme un garçon humble, tranquille, brillant et doté d'un fort esprit de compétition.

Brother Fernando Lambert, FSC, oldest capitulant, accompanies the new Superior General on the walk to the chapel, following Institute tradition. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

Suivant la tradition de l'Institut, Frère Fernando Lambert, le capitulant le plus âgé, accompagne le nouveau Supérieur Général dans sa marche vers la chapelle. Courtoisie de l'Institut des F.É.C., service des Communications

Sa vocation religieuse peut avoir été préparée tranquillement pendant son enfance sous l'influence de sa mère, des religieuses qui lui ont enseigné à l'école paroissiale Saint-Sacrement (*Most Blessed Sacrament Parish School*), des Frères de l'école secondaire qu'il fréquentait, West Catholic (*West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys*) et, enfin, de ceux de La Salle College (qui s'appelle maintenant *La Salle University*, à Philadelphie).

En réponse à l'appel initial, Frère Robert a rejoint les Frères à l'âge de 18 ans, prenant l'habit en même temps que 12 autres en 1968.

Richard Schieler, frère de Frère Robert, se souvient de la surprise que sa vocation avait causée chez ses frères et sœurs.

« Il ne nous a jamais parlé de cela; seulement avec notre mère », se rappelle Richard, un peu plus jeune que lui. « Nous avons été surpris au début, mais quand on s'est mis à y penser, on trouvait que ça avait du bon sens, étant donné sa personnalité et sa façon d'aborder les choses. On a trouvé que c'est tout à fait ce qui lui convenait. »

Après avoir terminé sa formation initiale et reçu un diplôme de bachelier à *La Salle University* en 1972, Frère Robert a enseigné à l'école secondaire *La Salle College High School*, située dans la très proche banlieue de Philadelphie, et a obtenu une maîtrise de *University of Notre Dame*, dans l'Indiana, en 1975. Ses jours en classe étaient toutefois comptés.

SUITE À LA PAGE 22



Capitulants from the District of Eastern North America: from left, Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC, Brother Robert, Brother Charles Kitson, FSC, Brother William Mann, FSC, and Brother Dennis Malloy, FSC.
Courtesy Brother Larry Schatz, FSC

Capitulants du District de DENA : à partir de la gauche, F. Robert Schaefer, FSC, F. Robert, F. Charles Kitson, FSC, F. William Mann, FSC, et F. Dennis Malloy, FSC.
Courtoisie de F. Larry Schatz, FSC



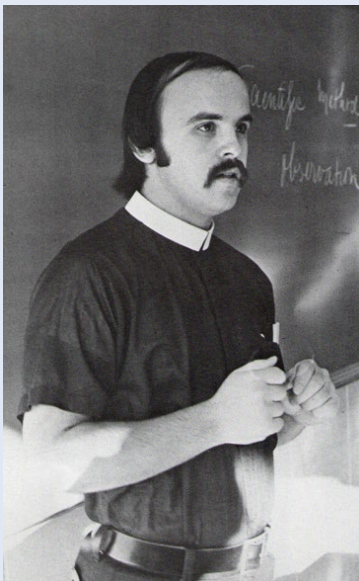
L'APPEL À ÊTRE MISSIONNAIRE

En 1975, le District de Baltimore a lancé une invitation aux Frères à se porter volontaires pour un engagement de quatre ans comme missionnaires aux Philippines. C'est ainsi, sans l'avoir prévu, qu'il devait passer 11 ans à enseigner aux pauvres et aux enfants des classes ouvrières à Bacolod et à Iligan City.

Faisant preuve d'un talent marqué pour l'organisation, les supérieurs ont demandé à Frère Robert de prendre en charge la supervision des nombreuses écoles rurales qui avaient été établies par une communauté de Pères, les *Columban Fathers (Missionary Society of St. Columban)*, fondée en Irlande en 1916). C'est à cette époque et dans ce contexte qu'il découvrit le concept de « mission partagée » avec les laïcs, qui constituaient la plus grande partie du corps éducatif. Cela fut important et porta du fruit quelques années plus tard lorsque l'Institut adopta le concept d'« association pour la mission ».

Se rendant compte du besoin qu'il avait d'avoir une meilleure compréhension de l'inculturation de la foi et de l'éducation, il s'inscrivit à *University of Pennsylvania* et y obtint son doctorat; sa thèse, avec le titre « *An Assessment of Animistic Beliefs of Filipino High School Students* », traitait des croyances animistes chez les élèves philippins. Il retourna aux Philippines en 1988 à titre de Superviseur des écoles lasalliennes.

En 1991, il écrivit un article dans l'ancienne revue *Review for Religious*, dans lequel il décrivait son parcours aux Philippines en tant que « réponse aux appels successifs de Dieu comme je les ai compris ». Il écrivit par exemple : « Un engagement a conduit au suivant et m'a poussé à vivre le charisme de De La Salle. »¹



Brother Robert taught at La Salle College High School in the 1970s. Courtesy La Salle College High School

Frère Robert a enseigné à l'école La Salle College High School dans les années 1970. Courtoisie de cette école

Une fois encore, son engagement aux Philippines l'a conduit vers un autre.

AUTRES APPELS AU LEADERSHIP

Au Chapitre de District de Baltimore, en 1991, une restructuration de l'administration a amené le District à créer le poste de Directeur de l'éducation, avec le titre de Visiteur auxiliaire.

Cela ayant été décidé, le Visiteur se mit à la recherche d'un Frère capable de remplir ce poste de service. Il voulait un Frère assez jeune ayant un doctorat, une bonne connaissance de l'éducation religieuse, une expérience en administration, une compréhension claire de notre mission première auprès des pauvres et une sensibilisation à la mission partagée.

Il était clair que Frère Robert répondait à tous ces critères. Frère Colman, Visiteur, lui fit parvenir une lettre dans laquelle il lui demandait de rentrer au pays et d'accepter la nouvelle position. Il répondit à l'appel.

Au cours des années qui suivirent, Frère Robert œuvra dans diverses fonctions administratives, incluant celle de Visiteur auxiliaire du District de Baltimore (1991-1998), de Directeur de l'Éducation pour *Christian Brothers Conference* (1998-2001), de Visiteur du District de Baltimore (2001-2007) et, enfin, de Conseiller général pour la RELAN, autrefois la Région *United States-Toronto* (2007-2014).

En 2008, année qui marquait ses 40 ans comme Frère des Écoles chrétiennes, le District de Baltimore a honoré le nouveau Conseiller général lors de son événement annuel appelé *Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner* (Banquet F.É.C. de remises de récompenses), qui avait lieu à Philadelphie. Frère Kevin Strong, un ami de longue date de Frère Robert, écrivit son eulogie. En voici un extrait :



Capitulants process to the chapel singing Laudate omnes gentes laudate dominum following the election of Brother Robert. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

Après l'élection de Frère Robert, les capitulants se dirigent vers la chapelle en procession tout en chantant Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum. Courtoisie de l'Institut des F.É.C., service des Communications

« Bien franchement, écrivait Frère Kevin, Bob est un homme de grande intégrité qui exprime son amour pour Dieu, pour sa famille, pour ses Frères et pour tout le monde dans tout ce qu'il fait. Pour moi personnellement, il a été mon meilleur ami ainsi qu'une aide dans mon orientation et une source d'encouragement pendant toutes ses années dans la communauté. »²

Les contributions de Frère Robert à titre de Conseiller général furent nombreuses. En voici quelques-unes à titre d'exemples : il a aidé à restructurer en deux Districts, soit celui de *DENA* (2009) et de *San Francisco/New Orleans* (2014), les cinq Districts qui existaient auparavant, et il a présidé à la création de la RELAN en 2012, qui comprend l'ensemble du Canada et des États-Unis.

Il a fortement aidé les Jeunes Lasalliens, incluant leur Comité régional, ainsi que les délégués de la RELAN au Symposium 2014 des Jeunes Lasalliens, les Volontaires lasalliens et les jeunes Frères. Il a assuré la coordination d'une rencontre des jeunes Frères du Mexique et des États-Unis (2011) ainsi que du programme national de formation pour les jeunes Lasalliens (2009). Il a également dirigé l'organisation du programme de formation « Appelés à être Frères », qui a connu son événement culminant en août 2012.

Sa présence au Bureau régional de Washington (*Christian Brothers Conference*) en fut une de leadership et d'amitié. Il a facilité l'avènement d'une nouvelle vision dans la Région qui a mis en œuvre le leadership partagé avec les Partenaires, grâce à l'établissement du LEC (*Lasallian Education Council, ou Conseil lasallien d'éducation*) et à l'embauche d'une directrice exécutive au Bureau régional en juin 2011.

Brother Robert leads capitulants in a Skype call with newly elected General Councilor Brother Angel Ricardo (Ricky) Laguda, FSC, who was not present at the Chapter. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC

Frère Robert dirige les capitulants dans une conversation via Skype avec le Conseiller général nouvellement élu, F. Angel Ricardo (Ricky) Laguda, FSC, qui n'était pas au Chapitre. Courtoisie de F. Alexander Gonzalez, FSC

« Quand j'ai franchi la porte de *Christian Brothers Conference* en tant que nouvelle directrice exécutive, Frère Robert m'a accueillie, dit Mme Margaret McCarty, PhD. Tout au long des trois années qui ont passé depuis, il était mon mentor, mon ami, notre historien pour la Région et un collègue en qui on pouvait avoir confiance. Nous avons établi ensemble un nouveau modèle de leadership partagé où nous, Frères et Partenaires ensemble, dirigeons notre personnel et collaborons au travail du Bureau régional. Il est un homme de vision et un Frère des Écoles chrétiennes dévoué, et je suis fière d'avoir travaillé avec lui. »

UN NOUVEL APPEL : SUPÉRIEUR GÉNÉRAL

Le 20 mai 2014, Frère Robert a été confronté à un nouvel appel lors du Chapitre général : être le leader en tant que Supérieur Général.

À la suite d'un temps de réflexion, de discussions et de deux tours de vote, ses confrères l'ont appelé à diriger. Une fois encore, il a répondu oui à l'appel. Les réactions positives et les félicitations ont afflué rapidement de partout, au fur et à mesure que la nouvelle était connue dans le monde lasallien.

« Je débordais de fierté et je savais que j'assistais à un événement historique d'Institut, dit Frère Charles Kitson, FSC, Visiteur auxiliaire pour le district de DENA, le district d'où Frère Robert est originaire. Pour moi, dit-il, ce fut le moment le plus significatif et le plus fort du Chapitre général! »

SUITE À LA PAGE 24



Translations by Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC

Traduction par F. Florent Gaudreault, FSC

Il a été dit que les vrais leaders incarnent personnellement les idéaux qui caractérisent les groupes qu'ils dirigent; ils sont également capables de refléter avec succès ces valeurs auprès de leurs groupes avec un magnétisme qui les pousse à faire avancer les valeurs qui leur sont chères; les vrais leaders possèdent la sagesse et la capacité de développer des stratégies qui rendent les groupes capables d'atteindre leurs objectifs.

Étant donné les expériences de vie de Frère Robert, sa docilité constante à l'action de la grâce de Dieu en lui, ses déclarations claires quant à ses positions, l'influence de l'Église dans son ensemble sous le leadership du pape François, de même que ce qui a été exprimé par le Chapitre général, tout cela nous permet de croire que l'Esprit Saint lui a manifesté quelle était la volonté de Dieu à son égard. Frère Robert Schieler a ce qu'il faut pour œuvrer comme leader de l'Institut.

Dès ses premiers moments comme nouveau Supérieur Général, alors que les cloches de la fête sonnaient encore autour de lui, il a fait parvenir un message aux Lasalliens par le moyen d'une vidéo informelle que l'Institut a enregistrée et diffusée :

« Je sais que tout ce qui peut être fait le sera grâce seulement à la grande famille lasallienne dont nous sommes tous membres. »

Frère Colman Coogan, FSC, était Visiteur du District de Baltimore quand Frère Robert avait accepté les invitations à aller œuvrer aux Philippines, puis à revenir travailler dans le District. Mme Elizabeth Moors Jodice est Directrice des communications à Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC.

Pendant qu'il prend la charge de son nouveau poste, il peut retourner un peu à son article de 1991 dans *Review for Religious* dans lequel il avait écrit comment les changements de tâches exigent d'apprendre et « conduisent à une prise de conscience renforcée de ce à quoi Dieu m'appelle ».³

Au moment présent, après ces 46 ans passés à répondre à des appels en tant que Frère, Dieu a appelé Frère Robert à diriger l'Institut.

Par ces deux simples mots, « J'accepte », il a répondu à l'appel. ●

- 1 Frère Robert Schieler, FSC, « *A New Rule and an Old Novice : A Shared Journey* » (Une nouvelle Règle et un vieux novice : un itinéraire partagé), *Review for Religious* 50.6 (Novembre – Décembre 1991), 855-856.
- 2 Frère Kevin Strong, FSC, « *A Man of Faith, Service, and Community* » (Un homme de foi, de service et de communauté), programme imprimé de l'événement *Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner* (25 octobre 2008), 18-19.
- 3 Frère Robert Schieler, FSC, « *A New Rule and an Old Novice : A Shared Journey* » (Une nouvelle Règle et un vieux novice : un itinéraire partagé), *Review for Religious* 50.6 (Novembre – Décembre 1991), 856.



(Left) Brother Robert prays before the relics of Saint La Salle. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Gauche) Frère Robert en prière devant les reliques de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle. Courtoisie de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, service des Communications

(Right) Brother Robert speaks during the General Chapter. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Droite) Frère Robert prend la parole pendant le Chapitre. Courtoisie de l'Institut des F.É.C., service des Communications

UN MESSAGE DE F. ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPÉRIEUR GÉNÉRAL

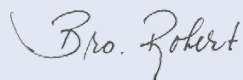
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de vous faire parvenir mes salutations par le moyen de l'édition automnale de *De La Salle Today*. C'est en même temps une occasion pour moi de vous remercier tous pour les nombreux courriels et cartes de félicitations et de bons vœux que vous m'avez envoyés à la suite de mon élection comme Supérieur Général. Parmi les toutes premières pensées qui me sont venues après mon élection, il y a eu celle de la perte que j'allais subir en m'éloignant de la connexion étroite que j'avais avec la RELAN et le Bureau (*Christian Brothers Conference*) à Washington, D.C. Notre Région est riche non seulement en ressources matérielles, mais également en Lasalliens remarquables totalement dévoués au ministère qui nous a été confiés par saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle. Nous sommes une Région ayant une histoire de créativité et d'innovations. Pensons à *Saint Mary's Press*, à *Sangre de Cristo Center*, à *Christian Brothers Services* et à *Christian Brothers Investment Services*, ainsi qu'aux programmes variés de formation lasallienne, à commencer par *Buttimer Institute*, le mouvement des Volontaires lasalliens, le mouvement des écoles Saint-Miguel, ainsi que les centres de retraite et les camps du Canada Francophone; et ce ne sont là que quelques exemples de cette richesse.

Tout au cours de mes 46 ans comme Frère, malgré des périodes de difficultés et d'expérimentation, chaque fonction exercée fut une grâce et une bénédiction; c'est sous cet éclairage que j'accepte l'actuelle volonté « du corps de la société ». Depuis mes toutes premières années à *La Salle College High School*, dans la banlieue de Philadelphie, puis mes années aux Philippines, celles dans des postes de leadership dans le district de Baltimore et les sept dernières à titre de Conseiller Général pour la région, il m'a été donné de rencontrer des Lasalliens incroyablement engagés dans la mission lasallienne et qui m'ont inspiré, m'ont obligé à me dépasser et ont contribué de façon significative à ma formation et à ma croissance en tant que Frère. Plusieurs d'entre vous continuent d'ailleurs à jouer ce rôle dans ma vie encore aujourd'hui.

Sur une note plus personnelle, je veux remercier bien sincèrement tout le personnel de *Christian Brothers Conference*, à Washington, D.C. Aucun autre Conseiller général n'a bénéficié de la chance que j'ai eue d'être entouré par un personnel aussi nombreux et de grande qualité comme c'était le cas au Bureau. Voici d'ailleurs un autre exemple de la créativité et de l'esprit d'innovation de la Région : RELAN fut la première Région de l'Institut à établir un Conseil régional de la mission avec droit de parole et de vote – c'est le LEC, ou Conseil d'éducation lasallienne – et la Région fut également la première à faire appel à des femmes pour diriger nos programmes au plan régional. Ces initiatives des Frères Visiteurs permettent de voir la confiance qu'ils portent aux décisions récentes des Assemblées internationales de la Mission et des deux derniers Chapitres Généraux; il s'agit d'une confiance que j'ai aussi envers notre futur collectif. Et je crois à ces paroles du prophète Habacuc : « La prophétie marche vers son terme, et elle ne mentira pas; si elle tarde, attends-la, car elle s'accomplira, elle s'accomplira certainement. » (Habacuc 2, 2-3)

Votre Frère dans le Christ,



F. Robert Schieler, FSC
Supérieur Général



“ I want to ensure that our mission is marked by continuity and creativity.”

**Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC,
General Councilor**



AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC, GENERAL COUNCILOR

BY BOB CARREJO

On May 22 at the 45th General Chapter, Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, was elected as a General Councilor of the Institute, with responsibility for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). He assumes the role after having filled a number of leadership positions over the years, the past seven as Visitor of the legacy District of New Orleans-Santa Fe.

Recently, Brother Timothy sat down with *De La Salle Today* to share his thoughts about being a General Councilor and about the Lasallian mission in RELAN.

Your election as General Councilor took place a few weeks into the General Chapter in Rome. What was your overall impression of the Chapter?

It was a time of being creative about the future. I think people will be spurred and motivated by the Acts that will be published soon. I was impressed with the specificity and practicality of the Acts—the agenda is very full for the next seven years! I was impressed by the preliminary work that preceded the Chapter. In more than one way, the assemblies and symposia made our vision that much clearer.

What is the job of a General Councilor?

I am discovering something every day, so I'm learning by doing. My starting point is my support of the Superior General and helping him implement his vision for our international Institute. I link the Lasallian Region of North America with the Center of the Institute to help ensure we are coordinating our efforts. So my base community is in Rome. I also live in Washington, D.C. and work in collaboration with the terrific staff at Christian Brothers Conference. I think of that as a "launchpad" for my travels in Canada, the U.S. and Bethlehem. I visit and support the Brothers' community at Bethlehem University and serve on the Board of Regents. I work closely with our formation and vocation leadership at the District and Regional levels. I accompany the Lasallian Volunteers and the young Lasallians in the Region. If you ask me tomorrow, I'm sure I will have discovered something else!

*(Left) Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC.
Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC, GENERAL COUNCILOR

CONTINUED

Do you have any particular goal for yourself as a General Councilor?

I want to ensure that our mission is marked by continuity and creativity. To achieve the former we have to pay attention to the financial supports that we need now and will need in the future. To achieve the latter we have to be clear and convinced on what the unchanging core is—relationships—and what the pressing imperatives in the society are.

What would you say are the immediate challenges and opportunities that exist for the Lasallian mission in RELAN?

The place and force of religion, faith and spirituality in our Region requires deep study and decisive initiatives. I hope I can stimulate a strategic response to the spiritual needs of our society.

You served as Visitor of the legacy District of New Orleans-Santa Fe for seven years. What did the experience teach you about the role of leadership in the Lasallian mission?

I learned to be less uptight about the details, or put another way, to trust God's desire and will in situations that looked beyond saving. I've seen God work through too much chaos, oftentimes more effectively than when things are ordered, to doubt the presence of the divine in a situation for which all I can offer is two bits.

In the past, you've often spoken about the idea of creative fidelity to the Lasallian charism and mission. Explain what you mean by that. Why does the idea mean so much to you?

Creative fidelity is similar to what I mentioned earlier about continuity and creativity. There are core elements to our charism that ought not change but should be articulated in a faithful, fresh way for today's imagination. There are elements that ought to change—but determining what and how is a tight wire without a net. It's the life-or-death challenge of every organization, secular or religious. It's exciting and terrifying at the same time.

The Superior General, Vicar General and General Council met for the first time since their elections during September and October in Rome. From left, Brother Robert, Vicar General Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, and General Councilors Brother Angel Ricardo (Ricky) Laguda, FSC (PARC), Brother Paulo Petry, FSC (RELAL), Brother Aidan Illtyd Kilty, FSC (RELEM), Brother Timothy and Brother Pierre Saïdou Ouattara, FSC (RELAF). Courtesy Brother Paulo Petry, FSC



Bob Carrejo is the director of communications for the District of San Francisco New Orleans. He previously served in the same role for the District of New Orleans-Santa Fe. Bob and Brother Timothy have known each other since 1976 and have worked together at various times.

When the Founder wrote, “You ought to become an expert in the art of speaking to God, speaking about God, and speaking for God” in Meditation 64, that is core. When he wrote that we are to offer our education without charging a sou, well that can be adapted—and I say that knowing the pain that accompanies that creativity.

You’ve been a Christian Brother since you entered formation in the mid-1970s. How do you think the role of a Brother has been evolving over time since then?

(Left) Brother Timothy takes notes during a General Chapter session. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

The Brothers vis-à-vis the charism and mission have evolved. When I went to the Philippines in 1985 I saw our future—we were too immature, maybe too self-reliant, to see it and make provisions then. We no longer place ourselves at the center, but understanding that the charism and mission are central, place ourselves in full-bodied support. We live our vow of association and this impels us into association for the mission.

(Right) Brother Timothy and Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, assistant to the General Councilor, are pictured together in the days before Brother Timothy’s election. Courtesy Brother Larry Schatz, FSC

We continue our quest to grow into Christ and to become living, breathing, credible men calling and inviting people as Jesus did. That isn’t new but I think we have expanded beyond our students to our colleagues and Partners. We want to share our spiritual life and our community life more and more. Why? Because otherwise our educational vision lacks the mystical foundation that makes it Lasallian.

Along those lines, what do you make of the Institute’s emerging understandings of association, particularly in regard to Lasallian Partners?

Emerging and evolving are the right terms to frame association for the mission. I think we are deepening our sense of the mystical nature of our calling. God is breaking into history and into our lives. He is calling us personally and giving us the grace and courage to believe it. The more profound our conviction, that this is personal, the more power, quality and energy we bring to our educational and evangelizing ministry.

One last question. At the General Chapter and now in your role as a General Councilor, you have been immersed in the big picture of the Institute and the mission. What do you think Lasallians can learn from the big picture and how to be Lasallian?

This work is transformative. People’s very souls are altered. *Altered*. That is an audacious claim. The more you see it happening in completely different settings and cultures, the more natural it is to be swept away. So, the big picture: universal recapitulates the local picture. And so the call is to experience more than the local, even if only virtually for right now, and to challenge one’s sense of what is really real. To be a Lasallian today means you are connected and concerned about everyone else. This intensity is like a stem cell for hope. And hope is what makes us go out and say insupportable things like “we save souls.” ●



*Capitulants gather for the opening of the General Chapter.
Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools,
Communications Service*



*Capitulants celebrate the final work day of the General Chapter.
Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC*





A LOOK INSIDE THE 45TH GENERAL CHAPTER

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

You know that eerie hush in the school's emptied summer hallways? No slamming lockers, no squeaking of new sneakers, no braided rumblings of backpacks and backslaps? There's a similar silence when you enter the empty *Aula Magna* (Great Hall) at the Christian Brothers' Generalate in Rome. The Aula is the gathering place for plenary sessions of a General Chapter's capitulants. Not unlike a school hallway, the Aula's silence issues an invitation to imaginatively enter a diorama of people, ideas and movements.

The portraits of Superiors General that ring the Hall invite you to recall the assemblies that set the tone and direction of the Institute. You can hear Brothers offering key contributions that shaped *The Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration* (1967). You can hear the thunderous applause that followed votes expressing unanimity and mandate as guiding principles were articulated: subsidiarity in 1966, co-responsibility in 1976, interdependence in 1986 and solidarity in 1993. You can even feel the undertow of emotions in the cascading movements to build the Lasallian family in 1976, shared mission in 1993, the vow of association in 2000 and the "proper development of association in the whole Lasallian family" in 2007.

This Chapter, our 45th, opened on Easter Tuesday and closed on Pentecost Sunday. We anchored ourselves in the biblical themes of re-birth and renewal, and the import of the letter the principal Brothers sent to John Baptist de La Salle on April 1, 1714, calling him to return to leadership. The first three weeks were dedicated to assessing our progress since the 44th, determining

the present needs and charting future actions. In the fourth week, we elected the Superior General, Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, who for the past seven years served as General Councilor for our own Region. Turn to page eight to learn more about this singular moment in our history.

The final two weeks honed in on completing a revision of the *Rule*. This has been submitted to the Congregation for Consecrated Life, and we hope that we will soon learn of the Holy See's approval. A future issue of *De La Salle Today* will offer a fuller account of this significant step in the life of the Brothers.

The 89 capitulants were divided into seven thematic groups that generated 48 propositions to respond to the needs of the international body. Each group built on the exemplary work of gatherings that preceded the Chapter: International Mission Assembly, International Young Brothers Assembly and International Symposium of Young Lasallians.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

(Left) On the grounds of the Generalate. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC

A LOOK INSIDE THE 45TH GENERAL CHAPTER CONTINUED



Brothers representing RELAN gather for discussion. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

The Superior and General Council met in September and October to build on the post-Chapter editorial team's work, which will result in a circular to be published in November. This will be followed in early 2015 by a circular, authored by the Superior General and General Council, that will outline the strategic seven-year plan of implementation of these calls to creative action and faithful integration.

In the meantime, I offer some snapshots of the thematic groups' exemplary work:

- *One Family, One Mission: Brothers with Passion for the Educational Service of the Poor* called for the creation of an International Council of the Lasallian Education Mission, tasked with establishing a commission to "carry out a study of the activity of the pastoral ministry in the network of Lasallian educational works and develop methodologies for the proclamation of the Gospel with sensitivity, openness and dialogue." In addition, the Superior and Council are to work with the Lasallian Educational Mission Secretariat to compose a "Declaration of Lasallian Pedagogy" to articulate the special nature and qualities of contemporary practice.
- *Formation and Accompaniment* considered it vital that each District create programs to train formators, Brothers and Partners, and strengthen existing ones. To complement the recent MEL Bulletin 51, "Formation for the Lasallian Mission," the Council will establish a commission to update the *Guide for Formation* (1991).
- Emerging from *Our Lasallian Vocation: A Sign of Hope for the Church and the Poor* was an initiative to "guarantee an international community of vocation ministry in each Region for the purpose of offering an experience of community life dedicated to the service of the poorest."
- *Association* called the Brothers to "be witnesses and promoters of fraternity, and of the gift of freely saying yes, for the educational service with the poor; accompany Partners, and also allow themselves to be accompanied by them, in their respective journeys as Lasallian educators; and to encourage and welcome the specific contribution that Partners bring to the Lasallian charism."
- *Stewardship of Resources* called each Region to acts of solidarity for Districts that are aging and fragile. Each Councilor and Region is to "draw up a vision, a structure and an administrative plan in order to guarantee what is vital for the life of the Brothers, what is imperative for organizing the administrative structure, and what is important for the continuity of the Lasallian mission."
- *The Government in the Service of Vitality in the Institute* drew attention to the financial difficulties experienced by some Regions and called the "International Economic Council, in dialogue with the conferences of the Brother Visitors, (to) advise the Brother Superior and Council, within a year of the General Chapter, as to the most appropriate way to finance the Regional structures."
- *Life of the Brother in the 21st Century* proposed that the new leadership at the Center of the Institute issue a strong pastoral call to personal and community conversion. They presented a thorough plan to assist Regions and Districts in organizing a formation process on the Community Annual Program.

General Chapters are best thought of as alpha points for creativity, energy and vision for consecration, community and mission.

When Brother Michel Sauvage, FSC, commented that the 39th General Chapter and its Declaration was "looking to a future to be invented" he could have been talking about any Chapter's quest. So today's questions are familiar: How will the Chapter make a difference? What dynamic and relevant call has it issued?

The Aula Magna is once again empty and silent. The 45th General Chapter's seven weeks have been carefully preserved for the archives. It remains for us now to invent the difference-making future to which it calls us. To help in that endeavor, we asked some capitulants to share their experiences and reflections, and we invite you into the power, quality and energy of the 45th General Chapter.

[Read the reflections starting on the next page.](#)

THE CALL TO ACCOMPANY THE INSTITUTE

BY BROTHER ROBERT SCHAEFER, FSC

The 300th anniversary of the letter to De La Salle at Parménie served as the framework for the recent General Chapter. The basic message of the principal Brothers to the Founder was, “Look, despite the challenges and the hardships all of us are experiencing, we have important work to do on behalf of the kids currently in school and those of future generations. Our efforts are essential for the life of the Church as well as for the betterment of society. We need you and your leadership in order to move forward. Recall the enthusiasm and optimism of your initial commitment. God is calling you and us, your Brothers, to develop this innovative method of announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to youth. Please return and work with us!”

We know how that story ends. De La Salle returns to faithfully accompany the Brothers for the remainder of his days, and despite future hardships, challenges and setbacks, this innovative method of Catholic education adapted to the reality and needs of the young, the Church and the world and continues to this day.

General Chapters provide the Institute with the opportunity to recognize reality and to respond to contemporary demands and challenges with creative fidelity. The capitulants gathered first and foremost as a community of De La Salle Brothers united in their consecration to the Trinity for the mission of “providing a human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry the Church has entrusted to it.”

We were very much aware of the geopolitical, socio-economic, religious and cultural factors impacting the mission in all parts of the world – the poverty and violence in parts of Africa and Latin America, the religious intolerance and conflicts in Asia and the Middle East, the secularism and religious indifference and rising costs of quality Catholic education affecting Europe and North America. Our eyes were wide-open to the demographic realities facing many Districts in terms of aging and declining FSC vocations, formation and community life.

THE TONE OF THE CHAPTER WAS OPTIMISTIC AND HOPEFUL. INSPIRED BY THE EXHORTATION OF POPE FRANCIS TO AVOID SELF-PRESERVATION AND SELF-REFERENCE, THE CHAPTER ENGAGED IN DISCERNMENT FOCUSED ON MISSION AND A VIBRANT FUTURE.

Two significant sources in our discernment should not be overlooked because in many ways they are the signs of the innovation and creative fidelity that characterized the 45th General Chapter. The role and impact of young voices, including the International Young Brothers Assembly and the International Symposium of Young Lasallians, were very important. The 45th General Chapter recognized that we must actively seek the insights and observations of serious-minded, Gospel-centered young people and that Brothers have an important role of accompaniment.

Like the early Brothers who challenged De La Salle to find again the enthusiasm of his initial commitment, the messages of the young Brothers and young Lasallians challenged the capitulants, and by extension all the Brothers, to do the same. We are challenged to accompany the Institute as far as we shall be able and as God will require of us, to develop this innovative method of announcing the Good News to future generations.

Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC, is principal of Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, and Robert Schaefer, FSC, stand together during a Founder's Day celebration. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC



A CHANGED VISION

BY BROTHER LOUIS-PAUL LAVALLÉE, FSC

When I left for Rome, I felt that our future was threatened. That fear had its source in our situation in Francophone Canada, but it also came after reading some reports: we were doomed to die in a short period of time.

However, after hearing the comments by Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, during his opening address, the commitments of the young Brothers in their report, and the message from the young Lasallians, not to mention the discussions we had in thematic groups, I must admit that my vision of the Institute has changed to become enriched with HOPE.

THREE THEMES, MORE THAN OTHERS, HELPED MY VISION OF THE INSTITUTE TO GROW IN HOPE AND AUDACITY: THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE OF THE POOR, LASALLIAN PARTNERS AND INTERNATIONALITY.

The theme of educational service of the poor has been a priority since the beginning of our Institute, but we must recognize that it has not always been implemented. It seems the capitulants wanted to stress the necessity of putting that principle back into action; the words “for and with the poor” became more and more frequently used. More precisely, the word “with” became prominent. For me, it means that we want to be closer to the real life of the poor. That implies a change in our lifestyle in order to help the people for whom we, as an Institute, were created.

During the Chapter, it became obvious that a large number of capitulants considered that our Partners have an increasing role in the mission. Vatican II taught us that we cannot confine the Holy Spirit. Many stressed that the Lasallian charism not only must be kept by us, the members of the Institute, but that it must be developed in unity with those for whom it is meaningful. Our charism came to this world through John Baptist de La Salle, but it touches everyone’s hearts and it illuminates the imagination of the Brothers as well as our Partners. Therefore, this shared charism in the mission will require of all Brothers and Partners a more challenging formation.

Our Institute has long been known as international. But I dare to say, until the 45th General Chapter, that notion was rather confined in each given country. During this Chapter, we understood that our vow of association requires from us to be more and more open to international needs and not only to those of our District or of our country. This also means that during their formation the young Brothers will be invited to consider that their mission could be anywhere in the world. This is a very positive move, given the urgent needs some Districts cannot serve.

In 1714, De La Salle answered the Brothers who had sent him the famous letter: “Here I am; what do you expect from me?” I hope that when we review the circular following the 45th General Chapter, we are in the same mood as he was.

Brother Louis-Paul Lavallée, FSC, is Visitor of the District of Francophone Canada. Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, provided this English translation.

(Left) A view from the back of the Chapter Hall. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Right) Brother Louis-Paul Lavallée, FSC, at front, walks through the Generalate. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



GOING “BEYOND THE BORDER”

BY BROTHER JORGE GALLARDO DE ALBA, FSC

The late Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes used to say that the USA-Mexico border was not a border but a scar. This comparison strikes me even more now, when in the General Chapter we spoke about borders as the horizon our Lasallian mission should go toward.

Undoubtedly, these discussions about going to the border, the periphery and the desert, were inspired by the words and example of Pope Francis who constantly invites us all to leave our areas of comfort in order to encounter the poor and vulnerable. The vulnerable ones, we know, are there: “by the border.” It comes as no surprise to see emerging from the Acts of the Chapter a proposition under the title “Beyond the Borders.”

The metaphor of the border was a constant inspiring element for the capitulants. The results can be seen in the propositions that invite all Lasallians to answer with audacity and creativity the urgent needs of those who live on the peripheries of our own personal interests. In fact, four of the seven thematic groups proposed the opening of a new initiative related to this metaphor. These proposals frequently use the prefix “inter:” inter-Regional, inter-District, inter-congregational communities. They insist on communities with mixed membership: lay teachers and Brothers, volunteers and Brothers, young Brothers and young Lasallians, etc.

Yes, I am confident that we will create many new initiatives in this line, especially between USA and Mexico where the word “border” means much more than its obvious geopolitical definition. I know that some of the capitulants are already working on it on both sides of the border.

In addition to the *El Otro Lado* program in Arizona, there are established Lasallian educational communities in Tijuana, Tucson, El Paso, Matamoros and Homestead. Not far from the actual borderline, we also have apostolates in Los Angeles, Chihuahua, Monclova and Monterrey.

There is no other place in the Lasallian world with such a big presence along the same geographical border. The Chapter’s appeal should resonate louder for both Lasallian Regions: RELAN and RELAL.

THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE MOST VULNERABLE CAN BE ENORMOUS. NEVERTHELESS, THIS PROPOSAL TO GO BEYOND THE BORDER HAS STILL AN EVEN MORE CHALLENGING CALL.

If we stay only with the idea of having community or pastoral work in our Region, it will directly involve only a handful of Lasallians. Instead, the Chapter calls us, all Lasallians, to get involved in a personal process of exploring deeper to find other “borders” within our hearts and minds.

This outlook should push us to go beyond the border – beyond the scars from previous injuries left there by the trivial search for our personal securities – to the uncertainty of a life committed to service. This attitude will lead us, no doubt, to go beyond the border of our discouragement and pessimism, to a space of hope committed to God’s plan of salvation.

Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, was elected Vicar General at the 45th General Chapter after serving for seven years as a General Councilor in Rome. He is originally from the District of North Mexico in the Lasallian Region of Latin America (RELAL), but since 1989, he has been a member of the Sector of Japan in the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) in the La Salle Pacific Asia Regional Conference (PARC).

Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, reads during the General Chapter. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



A VIEW FROM THE PLATFORM

BY BROTHER MICHAEL G. FRENCH, FSC

Part of the early days of our Chapter involved the organization of the various working groups that included translators, secretaries, scrutineers (those who counted the votes), technicians, a chronicler and the Central Commission. Each of the five Regions elected a moderator¹ who, with Coordinator Brother Ambrose Payne, FSC, and Secretary General Brother José Antolínez, FSC, and occasional visits by the Superior General as president, would basically run the daily work of the Chapter. We took turns sitting up on the platform or podium from which we could see the entire Chapter Hall.

The job description of the moderators is taken from number 3.2.4 of the “Rules and Procedures” adopted by the assembly: “Chapter Moderators are five Capitulants elected one from each Region of the Institute who preside in rotation over the Chapter when it meets as a whole to carry out the business of the Chapter. Moderators ensure that the rules adopted by the Chapter are followed; they exercise discretion in the management of business being considered by the Chapter and deliver prompt rulings.”

One ongoing task was to clarify the text of the “Rules and Procedures” when questions arose. This little booklet was the *vade mecum*, or reference manual, which had to be accepted and voted in so that we would have a guide to which we could turn when unclear situations surfaced. Like any handbook, it did not contain the answers to all of the questions related to the Chapter. When such questions arose, the Central Commission had to either make a decision or pose the question or ruling to the body of the Chapter.

The principal task of the Commission was to adjust to the needs of the Chapter, keep the debate, discussion and decision-making process moving, and to resolve disputes and clarify questions.

Brother Michael G. French, FSC, center, contributes to the music. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



Brother Michael G. French, FSC, third from right, serves as a moderator. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

One disadvantage of moderation was that I could not participate in the debate when I was on the platform, only being able to participate when I was seated at my place in the hall. Despite the extra work this required, I had the opportunity to really understand how the Chapter works, and this allowed me to serve the assembly through the work of the Central Commission.

Perhaps the greatest joy for me was working with a group of extraordinary Brothers. Moderation is a very public position, and you can feel very exposed, both physically and psychologically. When you are required to make decisions that do not please everyone, there can be a great deal of accumulated tension. I found that our coordinator was very supportive, and there was a marvelous camaraderie among the five moderators.

EVEN WHEN WE DID NOT AGREE, THERE WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY AND CHARITY THAT ALLOWED US TO MOVE THROUGH THE EXHAUSTING WORK OF THE CHAPTER WITH GRACE AND SERENITY.

¹ Brother Gustavo Ramírez, FSC, from RELAL, Brother Jon Lezamiz, FSC, from RELEM, Brother Tom Lavin, FSC, from PARC, Brother Félicien Bora, FSC, from RELAF, and Brother Michael G. French, FSC, from RELAN.

Brother Michael G. French, FSC, works on special projects for the Midwest District.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

BY BROTHER CHRISTOPHER PATIÑO, FSC

As the Brothers of the Districts of San Francisco and New Orleans-Santa Fe prepared to become one District, we took the words of the Prophet Joel as the theme of our Constitutive Assembly, “I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” Over a 48-day period, this was my experience of the 45th General Chapter. Three experiences in particular gave me much hope about the future of the Lasallian mission and vocation of the Brother.

“Your sons and daughters will prophesy...” The capitulants took to heart the documents from the various assemblies that took place in preparation for the General Chapter, namely the reports of the Superior General and his Council, International Mission Assembly, International Young Brothers Assembly and the International Symposium of Young Lasallians.

IN LISTENING TO THESE REPORTS AND THE RESPONSE OF THE CAPITULANTS, TWO THINGS STRUCK ME: 1) THE NEEDS ARE GREAT, AND 2) WE MUST BE COURAGEOUS IN OUR RESPONSE.

As it should, the mission became the focus during the first days and remained the case throughout the Chapter. No matter our respective priorities, different realities or challenges, there was a commitment to remain attentive and respond prophetically to the needs of the world, Church and the mission entrusted to us by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. This commitment, with Christ at its root, brought us to appreciate more deeply the need for the vocation of the Brother and the call to work “together and by association” with our Partners.

“...your old men will dream dreams...” The fragility of our Institute: our aging numbers, decline in Brother vocations and financial difficulties in sustaining the mission became signs of hope. While these realities challenge us, they have allowed us to dream again. Our dreams evolved into a sense of urgency that allowed us to look for audacious ways to respond to the challenges our Institute faces today. A desire for strong leadership that would both challenge and inspire, a willingness to find practical ways to promote the vocation of the Brother with authenticity in how we witness to

Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC, is dean of discipline/ student services at San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona. He served as a member of the Assembly Preparatory Commission for the International Young Brothers Assembly.



The five scrutineers, including Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC, top right, count votes. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

Jesus Christ, and creativity in sustaining and advancing our service to the young, especially the poor. I am thankful for the opportunity to have participated in the elections of our Superior General and his Council, a truly prayerful and emotional experience that allowed me to experience the Holy Spirit in a special way.

“...your young men will see visions...” I would like to end my reflection by expressing my gratitude for the privilege to participate in the 45th General Chapter as a young Brother. I left Rome filled with hope by the knowledge that there is an Institute ready to listen to the prophets of our time, eager to dream again, and continually seek to respond to Christ in those on the peripheries, especially the young and vulnerable, who in a special way give us the eyes of faith to see as God does. The young Brother capitulants of the 44th General Chapter had the “vision” to request that an international meeting of young Brothers take place in preparation for this General Chapter. In this Chapter’s closing days, the young Brother capitulants called for continued conversion and renewal. It is our hope that we all remain attentive to God’s gentle but persistent voice speaking to the heart.

From left, Brother Arsenio Turiégano, FSC (RELEM), Brother Jhonmar Sanchez, FSC (RELAL), Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC (RELAN), Brother Alexander González, FSC (RELAL), and Brother Diego Rico (RELAL). Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC



TWEETING A PAPERLESS GENERAL CHAPTER

BY BROTHER LARRY SCHATZ, FSC

“A paperless Chapter? Really? Eighty-nine capitulants from around the world speaking so many different languages and very few of them ‘digital natives.’ Well, I guess we’ll just see how it goes...”

Such were my thoughts preparing for my first experience at a General Chapter. I admired the fact that we were attempting to go paperless, but I was also doubtful that we could actually pull it off. I packed my MacBook Air and hoped for the best.

According to Brother Jesús Martín Gómez, FSC, the Institute’s Coordinating Secretary of Communications, for the first time, the Chapter went paperless to be more efficient and save time and money. As we all know by now, not only did it work, it actually—at least in my opinion—was a smashing success.

Given all the meetings we had, the notes taken, the rewrites and reiterations of so many proposals and *Rule* revisions, I simply cannot imagine how many dumpsters we would have filled with paper!

(Left) Brother Gus Sinco, FSC, assists with technology at the General Chapter. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC

(Center) From left, Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, stands with Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, and Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

(Right) Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, snaps a photo. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



The Institute first shares the news of Brother Robert's election over Twitter.

The fact that revisions could appear almost instantaneously on Google Drive and that all of us could easily access them made staying organized and focused so much easier.

Yes, the first couple of days were a bit challenging, although not nearly as much as I had anticipated. I can't give enough credit to Brother Jesús and his “tech team.” They were outstanding. I want to particularly highlight Brother Gus Sinco, FSC, from the Midwest District. Because of his ability to communicate in English, French and Spanish, he was the “go-to person” for any computer issues.

Many of the capitulants also were adept at various forms of social media, so the many photos taken each day and made readily available to each of us also helped get news out to the Lasallian world in unprecedented ways. The Communication Service relied on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to share news quickly. In fact, the Institute first shared news of the election of the Superior General on Twitter.

I kept a blog for the Midwest District and provided an entry about three times a week. I received lots of feedback that people were very grateful for the postings. I have to admit though, for me, the blogging was my way of journaling this profound experience. I have kept a journal most of my life, and so the blogging really helped me sort through the myriad of daily experiences and decide which were the key events and activities that both impacted me and that were worth sharing. My real goal was not to provide a chronicle of the Chapter, but rather to give “the folks back home” a taste of what the seven weeks at “the Motherhouse” were all about.

I feel very blessed to have been part of the 45th General Chapter, and I now feel particularly blessed to have been seated right next to the newly elected Superior General. On to the next seven years!

Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, is Visitor of the Midwest District. Follow him on Twitter @lschatzsc.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

BY GREG KOPRA

Every August, I visit many of the schools in my District to provide Lasallian Mission Orientations for new teachers and staff, welcoming them into the worldwide Lasallian family. I begin the orientation with these words: "It's all about relationships." Lasallian education is all about the multiplicity of relationships that exist at many levels, from local ministry to international family.

The first two terms I define are Brother and Lasallian Partner. The first men involved with De La Salle in the early schools chose to call themselves Brothers first and foremost to describe their relationships with one another. They promised to be brothers to each other in order to provide the kind of education their students needed and deserved. They worked together, lived together, prayed together, recreated together. They learned from each other. In the beginning, it was all about relationships.

Soon after addressing the term Brother, I introduce the term Lasallian Partner. In recent years, we have come to commonly use the term to describe those of us who are not vowed Brothers but who are involved with Lasallian education. Note that the term describes our relationship with Brothers. We partner with Brothers in the educational service of the young, especially those most in need. We are like brothers and sisters to one another, and brothers and sisters to the De La Salle Brothers. We are like older brothers and sisters to the young people God has entrusted to our care in our educational ministries. Today, it continues to be all about relationships.

During the General Chapter, I was privileged to assist Brother Gustavo Ramirez, FSC, from the District of North Mexico and An de Bremme from the District of North Belgium in the presentation of the report of the 2013 International Mission Assembly.

From left, Greg Kopra stands with co-presenters An de Bremme and Brother Gustavo Ramirez, FSC. Courtesy of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



Each of us served as delegates to the Assembly, and as we prepared our presentation, we felt the awesome responsibility of communicating the challenges and responses from the Assembly. Working with Brother Gustavo and An was inspiring and energizing.

THE THOUGHT THAT THE CHAPTER HAD GIVEN A DE LA SALLE BROTHER, A LAY WOMAN AND A LAY MAN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SHARING THE OUTCOMES OF THE ASSEMBLY WITH THE CAPITULANTS REINFORCED MY BELIEF THAT WE ALL TRULY PARTNER WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR THE FUTURE OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION.

I am confident that our report assisted the capitulants with their deliberations about the future.

Today, what really stands out for me about this Chapter experience is the breadth of collaboration that the Brothers themselves called for to assist them with their Chapter deliberations. They called for the International Mission Assembly, the International Young Brothers Assembly and the International Symposium of Young Lasallians. The gatherings represent concrete expressions of the Brothers' commitment to collaborating with Lasallian Partners.

Being brothers and sisters to one another is a core value of both the founding story and the Lasallian Educational Mission today. My experience at the 45th General Chapter reinforced this core value in a profound way. Lasallian education, from local ministry to international family, truly is all about relationships. ●

Greg Kopra is the director of formation for mission for the District of San Francisco New Orleans. He was the principal writer of the 2013 International Mission Assembly report.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
45TH GENERAL CHAPTER AT
WWW.LASALLIAN.INFO/45TH-GENERAL-CHAPTER/**



BROTHER THOMAS JOHNSON, FSC: A BROTHER'S BROTHER

BY BROTHER FRANCIS CARR, FSC

It isn't easy to get a unanimous opinion about someone when you ask people to comment, but 13 out of 13 people who worked with Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, during his seven years in Rome as Vicar General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools described him as “a Brother who never put ‘business’ ahead of the ‘person’” and “who always found time for you.”

A BROTHER'S BROTHER – THAT'S A TERM THAT CAME UP IN MOST OF THE COMMENTS.

I have known Brother Tom for more than 25 years. For six years, I was his Auxiliary Visitor in the Midwest District when he was Visitor. I always found myself more creative and more competent when we worked together. He brought out the best in me and made sensible decisions that considered others' opinions and ideas. He considered us to be “servant-leaders.”

Brother Tom loved teaching, but answered the call to be an administrator – first as an assistant principal at De La Salle Institute in Chicago in the 1970s and 80s,

then as Visitor of the Chicago District, where he led the merging of three Districts into today's Midwest District. After leading the Midwest District as Visitor from 1995-2001, he served as Regional Coordinator at Christian Brothers Conference from 2002-2007.

In 2007, he was elected Vicar General. In that role, Brother Tom prepared and coordinated the month-long meetings of the General Council. One of the Councilors noted how well Brother Tom consulted with all of them as he prepared for the meetings. He patiently listened, gave each Brother the freedom to express himself, and led the Council to achieve its goals in a peaceable, efficient manner. That's truly a gift and a sign of an excellent administrator.

(Far Left) Brother Tom attends the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha in 2012 with Brother Bernard Knezich, FSC (deceased). Courtesy Brother Tom Johnson, FSC

Brother Álvaro and Brother Tom shake hands at the General Chapter. Courtesy Brother Alexander González, FSC



(Left) Brother Tom addresses capitulants at the General Chapter. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

Brother José Antolínez, FSC, Secretary General, worked closely with Brother Tom and wrote that he is “a Brother who believes in every person, and that makes it very easy to work with him.”

Brother Tom’s service as Vicar General included work with the Secretariat for Lasallian Family and Association, which involved the Young Lasallian movement. With Brother Charles Kitson, FSC, Montse Nieto and Joseph Gilson, he helped enhance the presence of the Lasallian family and the involvement of young people in the mission. One result was Circular 461, “Associated for the Lasallian Mission... an act of HOPE.”

Gilson, International Coordinator for Young Lasallians, considered Brother Tom to be a model for the Lasallian family to invite, accompany and challenge future generations of Lasallians.

Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, Superior General while Brother Tom was Vicar, reminded us that through Brother Tom’s involvement with the Secretariat for Lasallian Family and Association, “he has given a strong impulse to this important dimension of our mission today that opens our hearts to a future of hope.”

Brother Tom also accompanied Lasallian Partners at the Generalate and worked with Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. Those in Rome knew many assignments required his attention, but Brother Tom was always willing to set aside what he was doing to help others.

“BROTHER TOM IS A BROTHER’S BROTHER, A BROTHER WHO LEADS BY EXAMPLE AND EXERCISES THAT LEADERSHIP WITH COMPASSION AND WISE COUNSEL,” WROTE BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, SUPERIOR GENERAL, WHO SERVED AS A GENERAL COUNCILOR WHILE BROTHER TOM WAS VICAR GENERAL. “A TRUE COMMUNITY MAN WHO QUIETLY, UNSELFISHLY GOES ABOUT DOING COMMUNITY CHORES AND SERVICE SO IMPORTANT FOR THE FRATERNAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.”

Brother Tom stands with Brother Pubudu Rajapakse, FSC, from Sri Lanka at an evening social during the International Mission Assembly in May 2013 where the delegate from India welcomed each person with the traditional blessing and red kumkuma.

Courtesy Brother James Joost, FSC

It sounds like Brother Tom didn’t make time to relax, but he did. While in Rome, he was always ready to try out the latest burger place or hit the movie theater to keep up with Hollywood’s latest releases. Brother Tom now has more time for the latest films and can trade testing burger places for hot dog stands in Chicago. After seven years in Rome, he’s now back in the Midwest District on a sabbatical year.

Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, a General Councilor until his election to be Brother Tom’s successor as Vicar General, expressed concern about Brother Tom’s return to Chicago: “Going back home to adjust to the extremes of Chicago’s weather will not be easy, but you will do it well. Just as you do everything.”

Yes, Brother Tom does everything well, always with others in mind, always with professionalism, always with self-confidence and humility. But fear not; he loves Chicago too much to let the weather wear him down. He’s happy to be home!

We thank you, Brother Tom, for your generosity, your effectiveness, your friendship, your brotherhood. May God be with you as you move on from Institute leadership. ●

Brother Francis Carr, FSC, is director for mission at Saint Mary’s Press in Winona, Minnesota.





*Johnston Institute participants gather during their July 2014 session.
Courtesy Saul Martinez*



HONORING FORMER SUPERIORS GENERAL THROUGH FORMATION PROGRAMS

BY CARISSA HAHN

Lasallians who participate in formation programs often leave feeling inspired or renewed. Their time in association builds community and brings to life the Lasallian mission in a new way. Of these powerful formation programs offered by Christian Brothers Conference, two were named in honor of the two previous American Superiors General, Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, and Brother John Johnston, FSC.

THE JOHNSTON INSTITUTE

Launched this year, the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice was named in honor of Brother John, who served as the Institute's second American Superior General from 1986-2000. Brother John is known and highly respected for his great competence and influential leadership style, making evident his strong passion for evolving the mission through collaboration between Brothers and Partners.

At the conclusion of the Lasallian Leadership Institute, it was determined that the Region needed a new formation program with a different orientation and structure. A committee comprised of representatives from each District and facilitated by Regional Programs Director Alisa Macksey and Brother James Martino, FSC, took on the task.

After his election as Superior General, Brother John made clear his vision of the Lasallian family writing, "for the first time in the history of the Institute, a General Chapter addressed all those associated with us, inviting them to share our Lasallian heritage, to live Lasallian spirituality with us, and to help make our schools the Christian schools that St. De La Salle wanted them to be."¹

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

HONORING FORMER SUPERIORS GENERAL THROUGH FORMATION PROGRAMS

CONTINUED

HE IDENTIFIED THE IMPORTANCE OF HELPING THE INSTITUTE EVOLVE IN RESPONSE TO OUR CHANGING WORLD AND THE CURRENT STATE OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION. THE JOHNSTON INSTITUTE ADDRESSES THE LASALLIAN HERITAGE AND HOW IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AND INCORPORATED WITH TODAY'S YOUTH.

Also included in the Johnston Institute curriculum is a focus on the defense and promotion of the rights of the child. Brother John held a passion for this topic and even penned a pastoral letter in January 1999, "On the Defense of Children, the Reign of God, and the Lasallian Mission."

Brother Ernest J. Miller, FSC, who was part of the committee that created the Johnston Institute, called Brother John an inspiration and said his passion for the rights of children greatly influenced him. He is now pursuing a doctorate in Catholic social ethics and religious education at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.

"Through his time as Superior General and afterwards, he offered a bold vision for Lasallian education and evangelization in the world today," said Brother Ernest.

(Left) Greg Kopra listens to participants' discussions.

(Right) From left, participants Peter Gleich, Helen Hollis and Beverley Madar collaborate during a session.



Brother John Johnston, FSC. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

The Johnston Institute is a two-year program that consists of five in-person gatherings (three by District; two Regionally) and four online sessions. It began in March 2014 with District gatherings. The July 13-18, 2014, session held at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, brought together all 108 participants.

Participant Brother Richard Galvin, FSC, campus minister at St. Raymond High School for Boys in Bronx, New York, sees great value and importance in the program for Lasallian servant-leaders.

"It is always a blessing to gather with other like-minded Lasallians," he said. "It is inspiring to hear all the good that takes place in our Lasallian world, and it validates and encourages me in what I attempt to do in my small part of that world each day. Doing that with increased knowledge of our former Superior who valued the poor and the promotion of social justice is an added blessing."

Two awards also bear the name of Brother John: the Brother John Johnston, FSC Award and the Johnston Faith Award. The highest Regional honor, the Brother John Johnston, FSC Award, recognizes Brothers and Partners who have endeavored over many years to advance the Lasallian mission.

The Johnston Faith Award, presented by the Lasallian Volunteers (LVs), recognizes a supporter who has expressed and/or demonstrated great faith in the work of the LVs. Brother John was an avid supporter of the LVs.





Brother Laurence Hughes, FSC, reads prayers of the faithful at the Buttimer graduation Mass.

THE BUTTIMER INSTITUTE

With its first session held in 1986, the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies is named in honor of Brother Charles Henry, who served from 1966-1976 as the first American, indeed the first non-French, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The Buttimer Institute is an intensive formation and education program that studies the origins of the Lasallian educational mission and the life and work of De La Salle.

Brother Charles Henry was elected during the 39th General Chapter, which is known as a Chapter of renewal because it followed Vatican Council II. Brother Charles Henry oversaw this Chapter that called for the Brothers to return to their authentic roots. He was a strong promoter of Lasallian studies in relation to ongoing and continuing formation.

In *The Gentle American*, Ronald Isetti wrote of Brother Charles Henry, "The Superior General challenged the Brothers to extend the Institute's vision beyond the familiar horizon, reminding them of their obligation after Vatican II to live in a much wider ecclesial and human community. 'The postconciliar Brother,' he emphatically declared, 'cannot afford to be a man of narrow mind, narrow outlook, a man of too limited interest.'"²



Buttimer graduates gather for one last photo at the Buttimer graduation banquet.



IN THE EARLY 1980s, IDEAS FOR THE BUTTIMER INSTITUTE EMERGED DURING A TIME OF STRONG INTEREST IN THE REGION FOR TWO RESOURCES: ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF LASALLIAN MATERIALS AND A FORMATION OPPORTUNITY THAT STUDIED LASALLIAN PEDAGOGY, SPIRITUALITY AND THE FOUNDER.

English translations were slowly underway, following the publication of materials in French that started years earlier in Rome. Brother Charles Henry led a Lasallian studies publication project when he returned to the Region after the 40th General Chapter in 1976. However, he suffered a stroke and the translation project saw a setback. He died in 1982.

It was around that time that a group of Brothers picked up the translations, while another group, with some of the same members, started discussing ideas to develop a Regional formation program. These groups coordinated their efforts and decided to use the translated texts for the program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

HONORING FORMER SUPERIORS GENERAL THROUGH FORMATION PROGRAMS

CONTINUED

At the same time, Manhattan College, where Brother Charles Henry was highly respected, was planning to create a center of Lasallian studies. Ultimately, it was decided to combine these ideas and honor the memory of Brother Charles Henry with the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies.

THE BUTTIMER INSTITUTE DRAWS ON THE LEGACY OF BROTHER CHARLES HENRY, INCLUDING HIS ENCOURAGEMENT TO BROTHERS TO RETURN TO THEIR ROOTS WHILE BEING MINDFUL OF THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle and an analysis of some modern educators, participants of the Buttimer Institute develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education. The Buttimer Institute is designed to inspire participants to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story and discover the basis of their vocation as educators.



Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

As a young Brother, Brother Frederick Mueller, FSC, who was involved in the early discussions that led to the creation of the Buttimer Institute, was in awe of Brother Charles Henry. Brother Charles Henry put the robe on Brother Frederick when Brother Frederick became a novice. Being from the same District, they would later live and work together.

“He had a wealth of knowledge about all things Lasallian, and he believed deeply in the ongoing formation process of deepening one’s commitment to the mission,” wrote Brother Frederick. “For him, formation was both a matter of the mind and of the heart.”

Today, participants in the Buttimer Institute meet for two-week sessions over 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. This year, Buttimer welcomed 90 participants, including Lasallians from Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Italy and Eritrea. The program was held June 29-July 11 at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga, California.



(Left) Greg Kopra, Brother Frederick Mueller, FSC, and Brother Francis Carr, FSC, Buttimer 2 faculty and staff, stop for a photo.

(Right) Participants share ideas in the Young Lasallian Practicum.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FORMATION PROGRAMS
AND CONFERENCES AT
WWW.LASALLIAN.INFO/PROGRAMS-EVENTS**

INSPIRED FORMATION

Both of these Regional programs pay tribute to the passion, vision and talent that guided Brothers Charles Henry and John. Their leadership has left many inspired to continue the profound mission that drives our vocation as Lasallians.

“To continue the mission, today and into the future, we must know and understand our Lasallian history,” said Macksey. “Both of the previous Superiors General appreciated the importance of our history and that the Lasallian mission is a mission for all, not just Brothers. Both Institutes continue their legacies and beliefs.” ●

- 1 Brothers of the Christian Schools, General Council, *In Memoriam: Brother John Johnston*, Circular 458 (September 20, 2008), 34.
- 2 Ronald Eugene Isetti, FSC, *The Gentle American: The Life and Times of Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, First American Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*, Christian Brothers Publications (1994), 300.



THE LASALLIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Another formation opportunity Christian Brothers Conference offers is the Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI). This year's LSJI focused on the experiential program entitled *El Otro Lado*, Spanish for “the other side,” which is offered by San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona. With a focus on immigration and the tough journey migrants often face, 19 participants immersed themselves in the experience from July 6-11, 2014.



LSJI included a visit to the fence dividing the United States and Mexico while participants volunteered at the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Courtesy LSJI participants

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2014

22 – 24 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

NOVEMBER 2014

6 – 9 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Philadelphia, PA

9 – 11 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

19 – 20 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Chicago, IL

20 – 22 Huether Lasallian Conference, Chicago, IL

22 – 23 Regional Young Lasallians Committee (RYLC) Meeting, Chicago, IL

DECEMBER 2014

14 LVs Run, St. Louis, MO

JANUARY 2015

16 – 19 Lasallian Volunteers Midyear Retreat, Brant Lake, NY

26 – 27 Regional Education Advisory Committee (REAC) Meeting, New Orleans, LA

FEBRUARY 2015

21 – 22 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, San Diego, CA

21 – 25 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, San Diego, CA

22 – 25 Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) Conference, San Diego, CA

MARCH 2015

5 – 8 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, West Coast Gathering, Russian River, CA

12 – 15 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, Midwest Gathering, Belleville, IL

19 – 22 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, East Coast Gathering, Mount Pocono, PA

26 – 29 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Winona, MN

29 – 31 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting, Winona, MN

APRIL 2015

22 Regional Finance Committee (RFC) Meeting, Washington, DC





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— Pastoral Letter 2004, p. 22



Register by November 5 at www.Lasallian.info

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