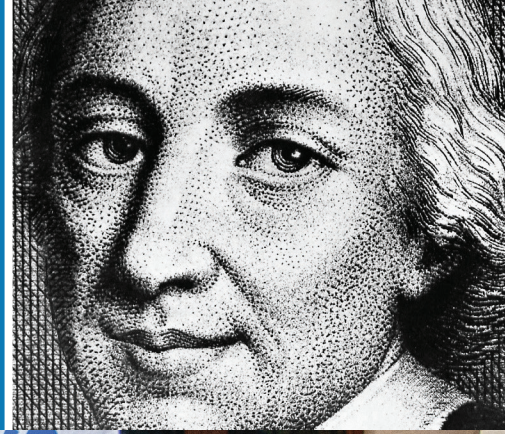


# De La Salle TODAY

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA | AUTUMN 2022



## Building New Paths

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# letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

What an exciting time to be Lasallian! As we look ahead at where new pathways might lead us, we give thanks to those who have helped pave the way for the future. This issue of *De La Salle Today* celebrates this moment in our Lasallian history while recognizing the importance of the past.

We start by hearing directly from those who attended the 46th General Chapter, themed “Building new paths to transform lives.” You’ll read about their experiences, impressions and hopes. We also share the seven pathways, or priority areas, that emerged from the Chapter.

We highlight the newly elected Superior General and Council. You’ll learn about a new leadership model that assigns accompanying teams to each Region. The team for RELAN includes Brothers Chris Patiño (General Councilor), Carlos Gómez (Vicar General) and Sergio Leal (executive secretary to the General Council).

In addition, we thank the Superior General and Council who served from 2014-2022. You’ll see a tribute to Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, and a final reflection by Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC.

When we think about the future, formation is an essential part. Flip to the center of this issue for our Lasallian Essentials on *Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim’s Handbook*.

We’re excited to introduce a new story series that you’ll see over the next few issues. It’ll all about relationships, invitation and passing on the Lasallian mission through generations. We start with an inspiring trio from Francophone Canada.

We end our issue highlighting a leadership change at Christian Brothers Services. Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, retired after 14 years as president, and Patrick Lynch has stepped into the role, making him the first non-Brother to lead the organization.

We hope you enjoy this issue and that it helps you think about your role in the future of the mission.



Elizabeth Moors Jodice  
Editor

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(Cover) Participants from RELAN who attended the 46th General Chapter as capitulants or invited experts and consultants. *Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate*





Prior to joining CBC, Tom Southard served as chief operating officer at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. *Courtesy Tom Southard*

The Buttimer Institute takes place for two weeks over three summers focusing on the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian mission. *Courtesy Manhattan College*

## Executive Director Named for CBC

Christian Brothers Conference (CBC), the office for the Lasallian Region of North America, has welcomed Tom Southard as executive director, marking a leadership model change that introduced a single leader for all staff, programs and other initiatives of CBC. The new model is intended to increase collaboration, enhance synergy between departments and prioritize employee wellness, while meeting the needs of the Region in new and more efficient ways. Reporting to the Lasallian Education Council (LEC), Southard joined CBC on July 1, 2022. He spent his first few months focusing on the new organizational structure and leading the hybrid CBC staff, building relationships with key Brothers and Partners in the Region, and prioritizing his Lasallian formation. Learn more about Southard and this new role at [www.Lasallian.info/southard](http://www.Lasallian.info/southard).

## Formation Programs Gather Lasallians

Regional formation programs brought Lasallians together in person over the summer, after two summers of virtual, informal or postponed programming. The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies gathered for two weeks at Manhattan College with 64 participants. Eighteen Lasallians took part in the Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) at De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana, with its OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA Blackfeet Immersion experience focused on the Blackfeet American Indian Tribe. The fourth cohort of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice kicked off the two-year program with 59 participants, gathering by District in July and again in October. Learn more about these formation experiences at [www.Lasallian.info/programs](http://www.Lasallian.info/programs).



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## Four RELAN Brothers are Novices



Three Brothers from the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) are taking part in their yearlong experience at the Regional Novitiate in Chicago, Illinois. Brothers Matthew Chiantella, Halen Gamino and Carter Powers entered the Novitiate on July 21, 2022, accompanied by Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, Novitiate director, and Brother Michael French, FSC, Novitiate sub-director. Brother Michael Phipps from the Midwest District, who previously completed his canonical year at the Regional Novitiate, has re-entered formation as a novice. Brother Michael is a member of the De La Salle Community in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is working as a counselor at Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota, while continuing his formation.



At left, from left, Brothers Steven Vasoli, Halen Gamino, Carter Powers, Matthew Chiantella and Michael French. Courtesy Brother David Caretti, FSC. Above, Brother Michael Phipps. Courtesy Cretin-Derham Hall

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## Francophone Canada Visitor Reappointed

Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, will serve a third term as Visitor of the District of Francophone Canada, through May 14, 2025. Brother Florent was first appointed Visitor in 2016 after having served as liaison to the General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America since 2012, when Francophone Canada and United States-Toronto Region became RELAN.



Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, pictured with Brother Superior General Armin Luistro, FSC, represented the District of Francophone Canada at the 46th General Chapter. Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate

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## New Lwanga District Leadership Appointed

Brothers Moses Abunya (left) and Betre Fisseha visited Mwangaza College in Nakuru, Kenya, where they shared a light-hearted moment with fashion students, including Damaris, who was previously cared for at Child Discovery Center (CDC) in Nakuru. Mwangaza and CDC are both twinned ministries. *Courtesy Brother Oscar Okoth, FSC*



The Lwanga District of Africa has new leadership, with Brother Betre Fisseha, FSC, as Visitor, and Brother Moses Abunya, FSC, as Auxiliary Visitor, effective July 1, 2022. The Lwanga District and the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) share a special connection through the twinning program, which partners ministries in Lwanga with schools in RELAN to encourage connections between students and provide financial support for Lwanga ministries. Brother Betre has a long history with twinning, having been involved in the program while serving at several schools in Ethiopia, and Brother Moses has become familiar with twinning over recent years, including helping to bring La Salle Primary in Naka, Nigeria, into the twinning program. Learn more at [www.Lasallian.info/twinning](http://www.Lasallian.info/twinning).

# 2022 2023

**Theme Starts Nov. 27, 2022**



Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools

La  Salle



[Lasallian.info/lasallian-dna](http://Lasallian.info/lasallian-dna)

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## Lasallian Women of Hope Celebration

Lasallian Women of Hope (LWH) hosted its first global virtual celebration on October 1, 2022, to raise awareness about and fundraise for the program, which aims to ensure girls and women have full access to Lasallian education. Themed “Streams of Hope: Creating New Pathways,” locations throughout the world hosted watch parties. The event featured videos of LWH coordinators and young women speaking about the impact of LWH projects and how the support provides them with a sense of empowerment and dignity. It also offered keynote presentations, discussions at watch parties or in breakout rooms and award presentations. Read more about the event, watch a recording and learn more about LWH at [www.Lasallian.info/lasallian-women-of-hope](http://www.Lasallian.info/lasallian-women-of-hope).



Students from Saint Raphael Academy in Pawtucket and La Salle Academy in Providence joined Lasallians at the Lasallian Women of Hope watch party at Christian Brothers Center in Narragansett, Rhode Island. *Courtesy Maryann Donohue-Lynch*

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## Honored as AFSC

Lasallians recognized with Letters of Affiliation (AFSC) have been formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served the Lasallian mission in an extraordinary way.

### District of San Francisco New Orleans

Edward (Ed) Tywoniak, AFSC, a longtime Lasallian Partner, received Letters of Affiliation on April 2, 2022, after a two-year postponement due to the pandemic. The ceremony was held at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga, his alma mater. Tywoniak was recognized for his continuous support and stewardship of the Lasallian mission as a distinguished educator and faculty member for 40 years until his retirement in 2019.

### Midwest District

Longtime Christian Brothers Services employees Jim Ceplecha and Pamela Mott were honored with Letters of Affiliation during a ceremony in June 2022 at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. Ceplecha has served in a variety of roles at Christian Brothers Services over 40 years, currently as director of Defined Contribution Plans. Mott served Lasallian ministries for 47 years in leadership roles in human resources both at Lewis University and Christian Brothers Services and as a board director for La Salle Manor Retreat Center in Plano, Illinois.



The water fundraiser is a three-phase project. The first phase, constructing the reservoir, is complete. Donations will help the school construct a tank, water treatment facility and purification process, with a later goal of developing a wastewater treatment system.

Courtesy Fundación La Salle Paraguay

## Support SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Lasallians are invited to support an effort to promote clean water and sanitation as part of an international initiative that extends beyond the Lasallian family. Each year, the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools collaborates with Lasallians worldwide to advocate on behalf of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation this year. To raise awareness, the Institute's Solidarity and Development Secretariat developed extensive educational activities and teaching resources, and Christian Brothers Conference and La Salle International Foundation collaborated to send promotional posters to ministries in RELAN. As part of this initiative, Lasallians are invited to support a fundraising activity to benefit a Lasallian school in Paraguay, San Isidro Labrador. This school's academic year is often cut short because of a lack of water. Learn more about SDG6 and the fundraiser at [www.Lasallian.info/sdg6](http://www.Lasallian.info/sdg6).

## appointments

Cornelius Begley, Principal, Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, NJ, effective July 1, 2022

Maria Cabrera, Interim Principal, De La Salle North Catholic High School, Portland, OR, effective August 16, 2022

Jojo de Guzman, Principal, De Marillac Academy, San Francisco, CA, effective July 1, 2022

Ashleigh de Villiers, Interim President, De La Salle North Catholic High School, Portland, OR, effective July 12, 2022

Brian Edel, Principal, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN, effective July 1, 2022

Yolanda Franco, Coordinator, Beyond Borders Initiatives, District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective July 1, 2022

Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, Visitor, District of Francophone Canada, effective May 15, 2022

Dr. Arlana Kingsbury, Interim Principal, Saint Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM, effective July 1, 2022

Andrew Kuffner, Director, Formation for Mission, District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective July 1, 2022

Brother Jesús Lara, FSC, Interim Principal, San Miguel High School, Tucson, AZ, effective July 1, 2022

Sara Lawrence, President, Lasallian Educational and Research Initiatives, Winona, MN, effective June 1, 2022

Patrick C. Lynch, CFA, President, Christian Brothers Services, Romeoville, IL, effective July 5, 2022

Maria Ribera, Director, Board Formation, District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective July 1, 2022

Tom Southard, Executive Director, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective July 1, 2022

# Building New Paths: Experiences of the 46th General Chapter

By Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, and Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ Seven pathways focused on solidarity, spirituality, leadership, the environment, association for mission, vocation and sustainability will guide the Lasallian mission for the next seven years. These pathways, or priority areas, were developed at the 46th General Chapter, which took place at the Generalate in Rome from May 1-22, 2022. They are commitments intended to provide direction to Lasallians worldwide, while allowing freedom to creatively achieve those goals locally.

With the theme “Building new paths to transform lives,” the 70 Brother capitulants and invited experts and consultants at the General Chapter were called to re-envision and co-create Gospel-fraternity as leaven for the future of the mission.

The initial phase provided the opportunity to understand the present-day realities with “boldness in truth,” where participants heard from various speakers who spoke to the challenges facing the Church and society today. Capitulants then reflected on how the Institute is being called to offer a response of those challenges through the Lasallian educational mission. This eventually gave way to articulating one key challenge, dream and set of values to guide the design process, which led to seven transformation pathways. Solidarity throughout the Institute, articulated as “One La Salle,” with an ongoing focus on the peripheries and co-responsibility, became a common thread of the pathways and the accompanying commitments.

Prayer and community rooted the experience for participants. A significant moment for many was the liturgy with Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Reflecting on *Fratelli Tutti*, he shared that for Brothers and Lasallian Partners, “your primary role is to prepare us to live as siblings in society. Not to live comfortably or even morally at home privately, but to live as siblings in society. Because, to compress the Holy Father’s teaching very briefly, ‘if we do not learn to live as siblings in society then we and the planet are finished.’”

It is in this spirit that the work of the 46th General Chapter focused on building new paths to transform lives. On the following pages, participants from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) reflect on various aspects of their General Chapter experiences.



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**“Constituted to represent the whole Institute, the General Chapter has been since the days of the Founder the ultimate expression of the communion that exists among all the Brothers.”**

*Rule, 112*

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RELAN participants celebrate the election of Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, center, as Superior General. *Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate*

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### With the pandemic halting in-person gatherings, including postponing the 46th General Chapter for one year, how would you describe your experience of being together with members of the global Lasallian family, as One La Salle?

**Brother Richard Galvin, FSC:** I was inspired to be with Lasallians from around the world. Learning about the delegates as individuals and the context in which they live and minister allowed me to grow in my awareness of what we refer to as “One La Salle.” My time away coincided with our Founder’s Week at La Salle Academy. Seven delegates from six different continents agreed to record “best wishes” videos which were shown throughout the week at La Salle Academy. This was a blessing to our school community and a reminder that we are “One La Salle.”

**Heather Ruple Gilson:** As a woman, a committed Lasallian Partner and co-secretary of Association, I recognize the privilege of attending and participating in the Chapter. Being able to engage in such a deep and meaningful way about the future of leadership and pathways to sustain the Institute and support the growth of mission and the Lasallian family will be a highlight of my journey as a Lasallian woman. It was not lost on me that the Lasallian Partners present were a part of discussions and discernment in ways not seen before in the history of a General Chapter. The Chapter process acknowledged differences yet celebrated and drew upon the strength of the diverse cultures and experiences present. I enjoyed being able to meet and get to know Brothers from around the world whose work and commitment serve as inspiration for the Lasallian family.

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### What was your biggest takeaway from the Chapter?

**Brother Chris Englert, FSC:** The 46th General Chapter brought together not only the Brothers, but also some of the most committed and insightful Partners in the Lasallian mission. Our history has never been without challenges, but the Brothers are surrounded by

knowledgeable and passionate Lasallians. The formation and affirmation of our lay colleagues must continue to be a priority. It's what we need and what they want! Assured that we are doing God's work, we left with a renewed sense of optimism.

**Brother Richard:** My biggest take away is that we have chosen a Superior and Council who are right for this moment in time. I had the opportunity to be in a language group with Brother Armin as well as other discussion groups. I believe he embodies one of the goals of this Chapter, to create a spirit of change. He is blessed with a General Council who will support him in leading the Institute through the next seven years, articulating prioritized values such as prophetic audacity, interiority and a culture of encounter.

**Brother Dylan Perry, FSC:** For me the most remarkable thing to come out of the Chapter was the "dream" statement that guided our work. This simple and powerful statement reminds the Lasallian family what we are about and helps us to answer the question, "What does it mean to be Lasallian?" We can all say, "We are...leaven for a more fraternal world, called to encounter God in those who are poor and to promote justice." This is a powerful statement that applies in every context we find ourselves in and puts our educational ministry into a universal context while describing our role in the Church and the world.

**Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC:** For me, the biggest takeaway was the Appreciative Inquiry methodology that was used to organize the Chapter. Appreciative Inquiry is a process for organizational change that focuses on areas of strength and potential for life-giving growth. Given our reality, globally and on a District level, what can we do to live in fidelity to our charism? That was the guiding question, and I believe it helped to establish a mindset that aligned with the spirit of the Institute—the spirit of faith and zeal. Face the many distressing realities before us and respond with faith and zeal.

## The Strength of Decisions: We Make Plans to Give Life

These are the seven pathways developed at the 46th General Chapter.

1. Building a fraternal world through education, evangelization and the promotion of justice
2. The pathway of radical availability to God
3. Renewed structures for the future
4. Integral ecological conversion
5. Association for mission guarantees a bold and prophetic Lasallian family
6. Lasallian vocations: walking together
7. Leveraging the human and financial resources of our international Institute to help ensure the sustainability of the Lasallian mission

At the time of this publication, the Communication and Technology Service at the Generalate was preparing a document with more information on the pathways. Visit [www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org) for more information.

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## What stood out to you about the forthcoming pathways and commitments as particularly significant?

**Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC:** I think the emergence of Lasallian Partners as an increasingly important element in the Institute continues to surface in ways that demand more attention and inclusion in significant decision-making roles. Integral ecology is also something we must pay attention to and ensure our educational mission addresses protection of the vulnerable—youth and adults—as well as our care for our vulnerable home.

**Brother Robert Schieler, FSC:** Renewed structures for the future and association for mission are the two essential pathways that must be embraced across the Institute if the Lasallian mission is to have a viable future. Lasallian association for mission is a gift of the Holy Spirit for our time. It is imperative that at all levels of the Institute appropriate governance and formation structures exist that ensue on the part of all Lasallians—Partners and Brothers—co-responsibility, solidarity, accountability and transparency. Committed and dedicated Lasallians deserve new structures and ongoing quality formation experiences that deepen their vocational journeys as ministers of the Gospel and ambassadors of Christ to all those entrusted to their care.

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## International Gatherings: Next Steps after the 46th General Chapter

Three international gatherings helped to inform the 46th General Chapter: the 3rd International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL), the 2nd International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL). Each group had the opportunity to present at the Chapter.

AIMEL presented the process and work of the delegates, the eight proposals with their justification and the plan for the in-person phase II. The Chapter endorsed AIMEL's proposals, which addressed the strengthening, reorganization and promotion of the global Lasallian community and

updating the mission's lines of work in a new "glocal" (connecting local and global) context. The endorsement means the Chapter supports the work completed thus far and the intention to create lines of action. AIMEL held phase II of its gathering at the Generalate October 29 – November 4, 2022.

IYBA shared a broad sense of the priorities and concerns of young Brothers. The Chapter approved the creation of an international standing committee for young Brothers, similar to the International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL). IYBA met at the Generalate November

7-20, 2022, for phase II to develop initiatives in response to the Chapter.

The ICYL presented the four proposals stemming from ISYL that directly correspond with Young Lasallians' four areas of priority, which are culture of vocations, service with the poor, communications and networking, and sustainable organizational growth. ISYL met at the Generalate November 14-19, 2022, to work on lines of action. This intentional overlap with IYBA provided the opportunity for young Brothers and Young Lasallians to come together and explore areas of synergy and collaboration.



**Is there a certain pathway or experience you had at the Chapter that makes you feel especially hopeful about the future of the mission?**

The 46th General Chapter took place at the Generalate in Rome from May 1-22, 2022. Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate

**Brother Michael French, FSC:** Without a doubt I was struck most by the Chapter’s attention to Integral Ecological Conversion. Having attended five Chapters, I finally see us taking a clear stance as an Institute on our “common home” and the role our educational institutions play in moving us toward commitments to be carried out. It is expected that we say something about the future and our lives, but this is something truly new for us Lasallians.

**Brother George Van Grieken, FSC:** One of the most obvious and hopeful aspects of the Chapter was the fact that the attendees were well aware of the realities of the world today, and they recognized the providential limits and invitations that these realities provided for the Lasallian mission. Another hopeful dimension was the clear priority to move “to the peripheries” and “outside our comfort zone.” The Lasallian world is adjusting its focus toward a deeper engagement with the “especially the poor” part of article three in the *Rule*. Finally, the rather new pathway of Integral Ecological Conversion was both unexpected and evocative. It slowly emerged from a previously unseen cocoon and provided newly recognized areas of attention for the Lasallian world in line with the encyclical, *Laudato Si’*.

**Based on the discussions at the Chapter, what do you feel are the biggest challenges facing the mission? *Sur la base des discussions au Chapitre, quels sont, selon vous, les plus grands défis auxquels la mission doit faire face?***

**Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC:** I believe that the greatest challenge remains the Lasallian formation of all participants in the mission. We must ensure that all the members of educational staffs are sufficiently familiar with the story of the Institute’s foundation and aim to offer a holistic education to all the young people entrusted to their



The 46th General Chapter included an audience with Pope Francis, during which Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, read a message to the pope, and Pope Francis encouraged the group to continue evangelizing and educating. *Courtesy Vatican Media*

care; this is an important challenge, which must be taken up constantly, or it will never be completely achieved. Another challenge, in the context of “One La Salle,” will be for the Districts in a position to do so to contribute to the development of the works of Districts in financial difficulty. The goods of each District belong to the whole Institute. *J’estime que le plus grand défi reste la formation lasallienne de tous les participants et participantes à la mission. Il faut s’assurer que l’ensemble des membres des équipes éducatives connaisse suffisamment bien l’histoire de la fondation de l’Institut et vise à offrir une éducation holistique à tous les jeunes confiés à leurs soins; il s’agit là d’un défi important et qui doit être relevé constamment, car il ne sera jamais complètement atteint. Un autre défi, dans le contexte de « Un De La Salle », sera, pour les Districts en mesure de le faire, de contribuer au développement des œuvres des Districts en difficulté financière. Les biens de chaque District appartiennent à tout l’Institut.*

### How do you feel the pathways respond to the Chapter theme of “Building new paths to transform lives”?

**Brother Robert Schieler:** In his message to the General Chapter participants, Pope Francis artfully articulated our seven pathways and our relationships with those entrusted to our care. He said by choosing the pathways we did for Lasallian pedagogy in the 21st century we offer the essential values of our rich pedagogical tradition. “You educate in responsibility, creativity, coexistence, justice and peace. You educate to the inner life, to being open to the transcendent, to the sense of wonder and contemplation before the mystery of life and creation. You live all of this and you interpret it in Christ, and translate it into the fullness of humanity.” His words captured well the hopes and dreams for our transformative pathways.

## How do you feel the outcomes of the Chapter speak to realities in RELAN?

**Alisa Macksey:** In my opinion, the most relevant outcome for the Chapter is to think of new and innovative governing structures. We need to think of shared mission and co-responsibility differently in light of more and more Lasallian Partners who hold leadership positions, yet do not have authority or a seat at the table in decision-making for the District or Region.

**Brother Dylan:** The educational landscape in North America needs a greater sense of meaning and purpose. Educators need deep and holistic support. Students are in search of meaning and need the skills to prayerfully evaluate all information and ideas they are being bombarded with. Lasallian institutions are struggling with boards

Continued on page 14

## Women at the 46th General Chapter

Five women participated in the 46th General Chapter, including two who were invited because of their Institute leadership roles. Alisa Macksey (RELAN) is CIAMEL president and co-chairperson of III AIMEL, and Heather Ruple Gilson (RELAN/RELEM) is co-secretary of Association in the Secretariat for Association and Mission. Their participation included presentations, membership in one of the pathway commissions and interventions on the floor of the assembly to answer questions and explain the work and direction of III AIMEL and developments of Association for mission. They also fully participated with voice and vote in Regional and small language groups.

“While I recognize that those of us invited to the Chapter could not possibly speak for all women (over 58% of Lasallian Partners) in the Lasallian family, I feel like it was an important step forward in addressing the call from the *Declaration on the Lasallian Educational Mission* (2.2.1)

and *The Conversation for the Lasallian Family* (Chapter 6) to ensure the voice, experience, wisdom and gifts of women be included in all levels and in decision-making bodies,” said Ruple Gilson.

“I felt welcomed and empowered to participate in the Chapter process by sharing my experiences, hopes for the future and challenges in order to work with the Brother delegates to create pathways forward,” shared Macksey.

Of the other three women who participated, Sister Leslye Sándigo

was invited to serve as facilitator because of her expertise with the appreciative inquiry method. Sister María Cervantes, Superior General of the Guadalupanas Sisters, and Sister Therese Do Anh Loan of the La Salle Sisters of Vietnam were invited as representatives of the two international Lasallian Sister congregations.

From left, Sister Leslye Sándigo, Heather Ruple Gilson, Sister María Cervantes, Sister Therese Do Anh Loan and Alisa Macksey. Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate





The majority of the General Chapter sessions took place in the Aula Magna. Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate

### Continued from page 13

and administrations with fewer Brothers. The pathway to deepen and clarify Lasallian spirituality and discernment methods is a way to bring the wisdom of the active-contemplative life to meet the challenges of education in RELAN.

### The 2nd International Young Brothers Assembly and the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians both presented at the General Chapter. What did you find to be significant from their work?

**Brother Robert Schaefer:** The reports from the International Young Brothers Assembly and the International Symposium of Young Lasallians inspired the delegates to the Chapter to be bold and courageous in looking to the future. The charism continues to inspire young people to engage in the mission. The most significant decision of the Chapter was inspired by the work of the Young Brothers. For the first time in recent history, a Brother will be assigned outside his District to a “beyond the borders” apostolate in service to those who are poor and marginalized as part of his initial formation. This is an act of creative fidelity to the charism.

### As the General Chapter endorsed the proposals of the 3rd International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL), what are your hopes for the next phase of AIMEL?

**Macksey:** I hope that the in-person phase will create concrete ways to bring the proposals to life and make progress in each Region based on the local contexts and realities. This is where we can meet the rubber to the road and create tangible actions with real assessments of the actions.

**Brother Ernest Miller, FSC:** I hope that AIMEL’s attention to eradicating poverty is accented. The assembly’s focus on eradicating poverty coheres with the General Chapter’s pathway on Education, Evangelization and the Promotion of Justice, which spotlights the pressing need to end poverty. This focus of attention by the Chapter and assembly is a call to listen to the word of God, to listen to Catholic

social teaching—especially in the pontificate of Francis—and to listen to our Lasallian educational heritage to not only serve those impoverished and marginalized, but also through education and advocacy to transform structures and systems that make people poor and disadvantaged. To this end, I hope that AIMEL will focus attention on why all programs for education and formation of Brothers and Lasallian Partners are infused with these foci. Our whole Lasallian orientation must be toward ending poverty. It is a long-distance struggle together with a wide latitude of other organizations within and beyond the Church.

### **In considering the call for “new pathways,” how would you describe the elections of the new Institute leadership?**

**Brother Michael Fehrenbach:** Electing the first superior from Asia is an indicator that things must change and develop in new ways. The delegates were of one accord about who we wanted. Brother Armin was clear about the challenge of moving to the peripheries. Selling that to Brothers whose average age, in this country, is 75+ will be our challenge. Brother Carlos is from Colombia—no French, Italian or American candidates were even mentioned for these offices. I think this speaks clearly about the vibrancy of mission in Latin America and Asia, as well as Africa. North America and Western Europe have resources. The other countries have emerging ministries and needs. “One La Salle” will be our motto.



### **Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC:**

The elections reflected a prayerful response to the Holy Spirit and a genuine response to the ground-level local hunger for an energetic General and Council to fearlessly lead the Lasallian worldwide community. To lead, not through more documents, but rather, through significant gestures and actions which inspire local responses. The new General comes from south of the equator, a nation with polarized politics and great socio-economic disparity. His home Region and District have been generating creative responses during his leadership. Brother Armin is not afraid to try new ways and he trusts his subordinates. His young and energetic Council, largely recommended by the General, are enthusiastic about being servant leaders. ■

All present in the Aula Magna applaud as Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, hands the *Rule* in the three official languages of the Institute and the seal/stamp for official documents to Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, shortly after his election as Superior General. *Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate*

Additional responses to each question can be found at [www.Lasallian.info/46th-general-chapter](http://www.Lasallian.info/46th-general-chapter).

# New Pathways in Leadership

By Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, and Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ In the final days of the 46th General Chapter, the capitulants elected new leaders. Recognizing the call for “new pathways,” the capitulants were invited to reflect on what type of leadership the Institute needs at this point in its history. The speaker at the retreat that took place before the election reminded those gathered about the importance of collective and spiritual discernment. He asked if this election would be different or simply be “an election like so many others.” The capitulants were attentive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and acted in a fraternal atmosphere as they engaged in this important process.

On May 18, 2022, they elected Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, as the 28th Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Brother Armin is the first Superior General from Asia and had served as Visitor of the Lasallian District of East Asia (LEAD) since May 2019 prior to his election as Superior. The following day, the capitulants elected Brother Carlos Gabriel Gómez Restrepo, FSC, from the District of Bogotá, as Vicar General. Prior to his election, Brother Carlos had been serving as president of Ethiopian Catholic University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, appointed in 2021. *(Read more about Brothers Armin and Carlos at [www.Lasallian.info/46th-general-chapter](http://www.Lasallian.info/46th-general-chapter).)*

On May 20, the capitulants elected five General Councilors, Brothers Martin Digilio (District of Argentina-Paraguay), Anatole Diretenadji (District of Central Africa), Ricky Laguda (re-elected, LEAD), Joël Palud (District of France) and Chris Patiño (District of San Francisco New Orleans). In a leadership model change, the Councilors will not be associated with one particular Region and will work in teams to support Regions and the wider Institute instead. The intent is to allow for more flexible leadership structures, as called for in the Superior General’s report prepared in anticipation of the General Chapter and

**Continued on page 21**

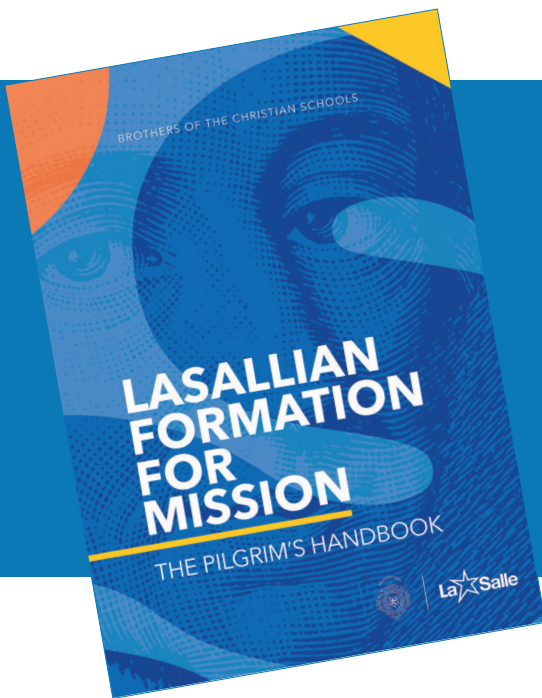
The new Superior General and General Council held their first meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, with the goal of connecting with Brothers and Lasallian Partners in their own local contexts and decentralizing governance of the Institute. From left, Brothers Sergio Leal (executive secretary), Joël Palud, Martin Digilio, Anatole Diretenadji, Ricky Laguda, Carlos Gómez, Chris Patiño and Armin Luistro. *Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate*



Exploring Lasallian documents.

Uncovering Lasallian research.

Sparking engagement to build a deeper understanding of mission and community.



Lasallian Essentials, a recurring feature in *De La Salle Today*, focuses on bringing Lasallian documents to life. This issue highlights *Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim's Handbook*, a publication of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that offers best practices and approaches for Lasallian formation. Published in November 2019, *The Pilgrim's Handbook* is the result of a collaborative effort of the Secretariat for Formation and Lasallians worldwide.

Do you have a suggestion on what you would like to see featured in Lasallian Essentials? Email your ideas to [communications@lasallian.info](mailto:communications@lasallian.info).

# Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim's Handbook

By Maryann Donohue-Lynch



*Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim's Handbook* offers an inspirational and practical guide for Lasallian formation, a long-important aspect of the mission. "Since the time of the Founder, formation for mission has been understood as a practical response to prayerful consideration of real-life situations. ... It enables all Lasallians to be protagonists in the ongoing story of participation in God's mission." (p. 12)

The beginnings of *The Pilgrim's Handbook* stem from the 45th General Chapter in 2014. Proposition 31 in Circular 429, *The Documents of the 45th General Chapter*, called for the General Council to "constitute an ad hoc commission to update the Brothers' Guide for Formation, taking into account the revised Rule (2015), MEL 51, and the current reality and diversity of the Church and the Institute" (p. 40).

With the formation of the International Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission (CIAMEL) and after much discussion, prayer and discernment, the document ultimately included all Lasallians, Brothers and Partners, together and by association. The editorial team began work in September 2016 and concluded in October 2019. The title was purposeful, as the themes of mission,

formation, Lasallian and pilgrimage developed as essential elements of the document as it focused on the primacy of the lived personal experience in the formative process.

The life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle offers the paradigm for identifying and integrating the various capacities needed to carry out the Lasallian mission. The document offers five capacities that are fundamental to the journey of the pilgrim: 1) seeing with the eyes of faith, 2) prayer and spiritual practice, 3) growth in freedom, 4) association and fraternity and 5) solidarity and care for the world through education. These five points became a charismatic dynamism for De La Salle, coming together in a life of faith, service and communion in mission. (p. 67-68)

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## Five Thresholds

*The Pilgrim's Handbook* offers five thresholds to help understand how someone is negotiating the transition each threshold represents in their formation journey. "Knowing what people are experiencing at these thresholds gives the formator a sense of how to make formation meaningful and relevant to participants." (p. 69)

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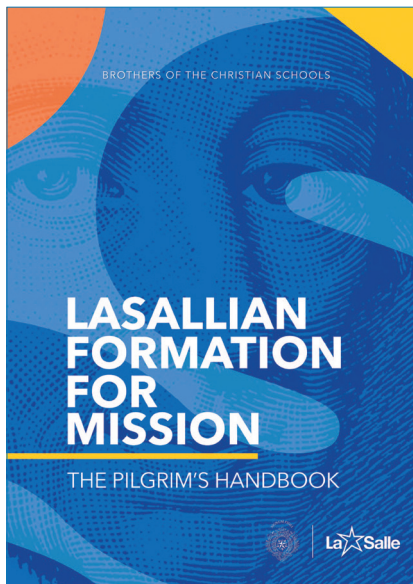
Maryann Donohue-Lynch is associate executive director for the District of Eastern North America's (DENA) Office for Mission and Ministry. She has presented at a number of Regional and District formation programs and events. With *The Pilgrim's Handbook* as the guide, DENA developed a new formation program on Lasallian Spiritual Accompaniment, which is currently in its second year.

1. **Induction: From Outside to Inside.** Coming into the Lasallian family with discovery and dependence. Entering a new community means navigating a new culture, becoming aware of the community's vision and values, and building relationships. Formation includes introducing the founding story and developing an awareness of concepts related to Lasallian spirituality and the mission. (p. 69-71)
2. **Belonging: From Me to Us.** Self-identification as a Lasallian. This threshold includes looking for support in peer groups and seeking out role models. Formation includes deepening an understanding of Christian discipleship, discernment and the spiritual writings of De La Salle and Institute documents. (p. 72-73)
3. **Commitment: From Career to Calling.** The discovery of the alignment between one's personal values and aspirations, the Lasallian vision and the mission. Spiritual practices and theological input facilitate the transition from seeing work as a "job" to seeing it as a life-giving vocational response. Formation includes deepening one's spiritual life, developing positive self-care, and understanding servant leadership and the principles and spirituality of justice, peace and integrity of creation. (p. 74-75)
4. **Co-Responsibility: From Followers to Leaders.** To increase one's capacity for leadership. As one becomes more attentive to the inner life, one acquires a greater capacity to mentor and accompany others.
5. **Wisdom: From Positional Power to Charismatic Witness.** One's trust that one's life will bear fruit beyond one's lifetime. This often relates to age or health and involves passing on responsibility. Formation includes a reimagined role in mission, creative fidelity to the reign of God, mentoring, inter-generational relationships, the Gospel journey of De La Salle's final years and ministry of presence. (p. 78-79)

Formation includes communal discernment, the spirituality of the *Rule*, cultural literacy, promoting Lasallian vocations, mentoring and spiritual accompaniment. (p. 76-77)

## For Reflection and Discussion

1. The Lasallian community is described as a visible sign of the presence of God in the world today as it gives expression to a variety of vocations in the Church. (p. 8) What is your personal experience of how the Lasallian family is a visible sign of God's mission active in the world today?
2. The handbook introduces the metaphor of "formation as pilgrimage, understood as a personal and communal journey of faith that deepens a sense of mission and purpose" (p. 9). What is your pilgrimage experience? In which threshold would you place yourself on your journey?
3. "The process of planning quality Lasallian formation recognizes the opportunities and challenges of the local contexts and structures." (p. 15) What are the unique contexts and structures of your Lasallian community?
4. "De La Salle identified faith and zeal as the chief characteristic of members of the Institute." (p. 68) How do you identify with these chief characteristics?
5. How can *The Pilgrim's Handbook* assist the development of formation programs for the mission within your context?



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## Elements of Formation Programs

A formation pilgrimage is a lifelong experience. Formation programs that comprise the Lasallian formative pilgrimage have particular characteristics. A quality formation program (p. 86):

- is a process of self-appropriation and of affective, intellectual, moral and religious transformation;
- cannot be reduced to a series of formation courses;
- enables each person to acquire the skills to freely live their experiences and to re-enter their lives with new perspectives;
- is characterized by accompaniment that provides support and challenge for the integration of the experiences;
- is a community-based experience, either through simultaneous experience or through clear support for the person;
- is holistic; it is an experience of faith, service and community;
- is of an appropriate length to meet the identified needs; and
- allows time for action, reflection, learning, sharing and integration, while encouraging ongoing practice of these skills to facilitate and institutional conversion.

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**“Accompaniment implies walking with others on the journey, sharing wisdom and insights learned from the Lasallian pilgrimage.”**

*The Pilgrim's Handbook, p. 30*

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Visit [www.Lasallian.info/LasallianEssentials](http://www.Lasallian.info/LasallianEssentials) to read *The Pilgrim's Handbook* and download a printable version of this section. On that page you will also find the Lasallian Essentials from previous issues of *De La Salle Today* on Bulletin 260, which tells the story of the Lasallian Region of North America, Circular 475, *From Hope to Commitment: Understanding Lasallian Vocations* and the *Declaration on the Lasallian Educational Mission*.

## Continued from page 16

at the General Chapter itself. The General Councilor native to the Region will be the coordinating General Councilor with two additional team members. For RELAN, the accompanying team includes Brothers Chris, Carlos and Sergio Leal, executive secretary to the General Council.

Prior to his election as General Councilor, Brother Chris had served as director of vocation ministry for the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) since 2015. He pronounced final vows in 2013 and began his teaching career at his alma mater, Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, California. Brother Chris was a member of the founding faculty of San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona. He was also instrumental in starting the Lasallians Without Borders initiative of the Districts of SFNO and Mexico Norte. As Brother Chris begins his term, he answered a few questions to about his new role and the mission in the years ahead.

### In your first video message as General Councilor, you noted your surprise at being elected. Tell us more about your reaction.

This is my second General Chapter and both times I found the election process to truly be an opportunity for collective discernment and being attentive to the type of leadership the Institute and Lasallian family needs. It really is a holy process. I would also add that I think no Brother necessarily expects to be elected. In my case, because of my age and experience, I figured I was “in the clear.” And, as I’ve expressed several times since then, I was looking forward to returning to school ministry. As my name surfaced, frankly, it was fearful. I was intimidated by such a responsibility and began to think of all the implications. Nonetheless, as I prayed and reflected about the possibility, I was conscious of the fact that God’s ways are not always our ways—that those things of the Spirit tend to be the unexpected. And, so, I remained open to serving as called upon “by the Body of the Society,” as our vow formula states. In terms of my reaction, since everything unfolded rather quickly, I was certainly stunned and shocked. It is a moment of many emotions and one that leaves you humbled by the trust placed in you. I describe the moment as one of “holy fear” and something that calls you to a deeper sense of faith as you seek to embrace God’s providence in your life recognizing that this is a call to selfless service.

### How do you anticipate being a presence in RELAN?

As a “native son” of RELAN, I know that there will be natural connection points and mutual familiarity that I believe will allow me to continue being available to RELAN and supporting initiatives within the Region. Along with Brothers Carlos and Sergio, as the RELAN accompanying



From left, Brothers Chris Patiño, Carlos Gómez and Sergio Leal make up the accompanying team for RELAN. Courtesy Brother Chris Patiño, FSC

team, we will be attentive to the needs in the Region as well as the expertise RELAN could offer in service to the entire Lasallian family.

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### **In considering the 46th General Chapter, what main themes emerged for you?**

Certainly, a theme that surfaced was creativity and allowing the new to come to life. I would also add co-responsibility, solidarity and peripheries. I believe the Holy Spirit is perhaps challenging us to look outwards. This means considering how we can both be good stewards of all that is entrusted to us now, but also ensure that we are attentive to where God is calling us at this moment in the history of the Institute. In a sense, how are we being invited, personally and collectively, to go beyond ourselves into the new pastures where the Lasallian mission is needed today? How are we cultivating the ground for new life or, as Brother Armin recently said, “a new springtide of hope”?

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### **In light of the pathways and commitments coming out of the General Chapter, what hopes to you have for the mission over the next few years? What challenges do we face?**

As a Lasallian family made up of diverse vocations, I hope that we will continue to grow in appreciation for the diverse members of the family as we seek to offer concrete responses to the “human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor.” It is in our unity around this shared commitment that I think we can deepen our sense of association and honor the gifts of each member of the Lasallian family. This is both a hope and challenge as we must grow in mutual trust and respond creatively as the Lasallian family evolves. Another hope and challenge is the call to move further to the peripheries. This is challenging because there is a lot of good work happening and, perhaps, some may feel that we are already at existential peripheries. And, in many ways, this is true. Nonetheless, our founding story reminds us that we must allow ourselves to be challenged by the Gospel calls of today. We must be bearers of the Good News in places where the need is the greatest.

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### **What message can you share with Brothers and Partners in RELAN as we prepare to embrace the pathways of the Chapter?**

Be not afraid! And thank you. Thank you for the good work that is happening and the ongoing commitment of many. Let us not be afraid to continue to respond to the educational needs of our time and to listen attentively to young people. Let us not be afraid to be Gospel witnesses in a fractured world and in a Church in need of healing. Together and by association, let us not be afraid to allow ourselves to be more and more transformed into instruments of God’s salvific goodness. In this way, our Lasallian educational mission can continue to be a sign of the reign of God, here and now. ■

# Thank You for Your Service and Leadership!



■ We celebrate and express our gratitude to Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General, Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, Vicar General, and the General Councilors who led the Institute from 2014-2022, which included an additional year of service due to the pandemic. We wish them well as they take the next steps in their journeys.

In an expression of solidarity, the outgoing and incoming Councils gathered together in October 2022 for a spiritual retreat and meetings to share experiences, lessons and fraternity in support of a smooth leadership transition.

Pictured from left, back row: Brothers Martin Digilio, Carlos Gómez, Paulo Petry, Aidan Kilty, Robert Schieler, Timothy Coldwell, Joël Palud, Anatole Diretenadji, Pierre Ouattara and Alfonso Novillo Aranda (Secretary General). Front row, Brothers Armin Luistro, Antxon Andueza (outgoing Secretary General), Chris Patiño, Ricky Laguda and Sergio Leal (executive secretary). Not able to attend retreat: Brothers Jorge Gallardo de Alba, Rafa Matas and Gustavo Ramírez. ■

The Brothers of the outgoing and incoming General Councils spent time together in October, which included a retreat at Casa Divin Maestro in Ariccia, Italy. Courtesy Brother Antxon Andueza, FSC

# Thank you, Brother Bob!

By Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC

We thank Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, for his eight years of service as Superior General and his preceding seven years as General Councilor. We asked Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, who served closely with Brother Bob for 15 years, to share a reflection about Brother Bob. We also extend our thanks to Brother Jorge for his service as Vicar General (2014-2022) and General Councilor (2007-2014).

■ Shortly after Bob's appointment as the new Superior General in 2014 was made public, there were already several texts circulating about him. All of them were complimentary, as could not be otherwise, about a Brother who, from his homeland, had already "stretched out his tent" to include so many Brothers and Lasallian Partners in the spirituality and mission of our Founder. Even before 2007, when he was elected General Councilor for RELAN, Brother Bob was already well known in the Philippines and East Africa.

I consider it unnecessary to review his performance as Superior General during the last eight years. Perhaps it would also be unnecessary to talk about his thinking and how he considers things should be done. And yet I believe that this is where his greatest virtue lies: his awareness of the historical moment in which we are living and its connection with the past. With Bob, any discussion or decision taken, had behind it a web of knowledge and references to the history of the Institute or the life of our Founder.

"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." This phrase of Habakkuk (2: 2-3), which appears as the title of Brother Bob's first Pastoral Letter in 2014, tells us a lot about Bob and his contribution to the Institute. I still remember the moment he and I were talking on the terrace of the Generalate about this phrase and

the challenges we had in front of us. Bob had been recently elected Superior General; the 45th General Chapter had just finished; and we still were not fully organized as a General Council. But, like Habakkuk, without knowing exactly how to put it in writing, we knew that our shared vision—if faithful to De La Salle's dream—would not disappoint anyone.

At that time, especially after seven years of working together at the Institute level as General Councilors, we were already aware of the serious problems we were facing. What were we to know about other problems that would come from areas completely outside our vision at the time? For him, in particular, a very delicate health intervention and the necessary convalescence time; for all, a pandemic that would force us to remain isolated for what seemed to last forever; and by the end of our mandate, a war in Europe that would question the international institutions—our Institute among them—and their effectiveness in promoting universal justice.

I have had the good fortune to live and work with Bob for the past 15 years, the last eight at his side as his vicar. It was an experience for which I am very grateful, from the administrative point of view and from the community and personal point of view. The pressure that always beset the Superior as guarantor of unity among the Lasallians of the world, and of the fidelity of the Institute to the Church and to the charisma of John Baptist



de La Salle did not prevent Bob from the timely and fraternal word to correct, motivate and encourage. And this word always comes preceded with others of thanksgiving. I know this attitude was the norm for Bob with all the people with whom he dealt.

I feel very fortunate to have lived with him. We enjoyed walking the streets of Rome or its surroundings during our free days or the retreat days that we regularly organized as a community. When it came to work, we shared the thrills, pains and joys of lively and tense discussions. His openness to accept opinions different from his own implies an even rarer virtue in a global leader: humbleness. His posture has always been one of listening and his attitude that of one who

knows he is part of a team in which it is necessary to accept that there are things we need to learn.

To me it's always enjoyable to read books and articles on history. And Bob, he is a historian. Surely in the history books of our Institute many things can be written about his leadership and the years he spent at the helm of the Institute, but the truth is that many of his concerns and questions will remain the concerns and questions of all Lasallians of all times. I am sure—and grateful—that Bob will continue to be concerned and involved in contributing from the place and community to which he will be assigned back in RELAN following his sabbatical period. ■

Brother Jorge laughs at a comment of Brother Bob as he addresses the Generalate staff during an appreciation lunch held in their honor on June 21, 2022, at the Generalate. Courtesy Communications and Technology Service, Generalate

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Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC, is a Brother of the Lasallian District of East Asia (LEAD). Following his service in Institute leadership, Brother Jorge is taking a sabbatical to pursue a master's in art history in Italy.

# Seeds of Hope: Eight Years as General Councilor

By Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, served as General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) from 2014-2022. During his final years as Councilor, he regularly shared artfully written reflections online covering a variety of topics, such as the legacy of Saint John Baptist de La Salle in today's world, walking with young people, following God's path, liturgical seasons, major Institute events, the COVID-19 pandemic and more. As Brother Tim transitioned to his new role as director of initial formation in the District of San Francisco New Orleans, we asked him to write one last reflection on his eight years as General Councilor.

■ During our time in leadership, Brother Superior and the General Council met three times a year at the Generalate in Rome for an extended period to collaborate in our mission to “be messengers of hope, justice, faith and joy” (Circular 470). We always opened our time together by making a retreat, outside of Rome, where we rotated the animation and facilitation of the retreat. In our final retreat before the General Chapter, we gathered in Assisi. Our animator was Brother Pierre Ouattara, FSC, and our theme was “joy and hope.” In all of our retreats, we gathered daily in a circle and shared the movement of the Spirit in our life; in our final sharing of this final retreat, we shared “seeds of hope.” We offered these in deep gratitude for what has matured and blossomed during our eight years of service. It was a moving moment, especially in light of

our first meeting where we had the proverbial look of deer in the headlights. We captured that in the first prayer we composed, and which we recited through the years; it opens, “Lord, like our Founder, we were led to a path we did not choose and to a place we did not seek. Our deepest fear is that we are inadequate, yet with Your grace we are confident to follow Your call, and to embrace in faith the journey of the Lasallian Mission in today's world.”

In this reflection, I'd like to share with you some memories from this journey where I was privileged to see these seeds of hope grow and mature.

So much about the life and service of a General Councilor was new to me—and radically different. I now had two homes, offices and sets of fraternal and collegial relationships: one in Washington, DC, the other in

Rome. It might seem that would mean “living out of a suitcase” but that wasn't the case at all. Over time, I became comfortable with the bi-locality and could return to each and feel at home. That was due in large part to the Partners and Brothers in the Generalate and Christian Brothers Conference, who made our shared work an incomparable experience, one that brought me much energy, purpose and joy. For a card-carrying homebody like me, the ability to move more or less seamlessly between these two homes can only be traced to God's grace.

Another grace of serving as Councilor was visiting portions of the Institute and Lasallian network of educational communities. In an effort to strengthen the unifying bonds in our global family, each year for five years we entered into the everyday life of the people whose passion

for this sacred mission is so inspirational. There are hardly words to describe what a privilege it was to see Brothers and Partners living their faith and fraternity with intense conviction. At the end of each pastoral visit to a Region, the Council and Superior gathered with the Visitors to exchange experiences and insights. I was treated with great dignity and hospitality in each of the 18 countries I visited.

As we were planning the seven years—which became eight—of our leadership mandate, we reached a consensus on another way, in addition to in-person visits, to tighten the unifying bonds of our global family: through annual messages. We determined that a fresh approach, distinct from Circulars, was called for, and the Lasallian Reflection series was born. Each reflection had a theme and a lead writer or two; together we refined the message and made it available in the middle of the calendar year. It was an immense pleasure composing a message that quickly became popular and anticipated. It's hard to measure of course, but my sixth sense

tells me that the annual reflection offered us a shared language for our shared passion. The evolution of the reflection reminded me that grace often arrives in unexpected ways.

The five Councilors with responsibility for a Region had, as I mentioned, two communities, two offices, which meant that our travel was a blend of the Regional and global. I tracked my travel over the years and found the split to be 55% Regional and 45% global. Within RELAN, I was drawn, happily, to the many events, conferences, retreats, assemblies, congresses and Chapters that sustain our faith and focus. As important as the purpose for the specific gathering, it was being in the presence of people who share the same Lasallian fire that made the burdens of travel light. Cultivating friendships and nurturing fraternity across time and cultural zones is no mean feat, but it gets close to the heart of the accompaniment a Councilor can offer. Again, keeping body, mind and soul together when traveling is not something that comes naturally—it was only possible due to God's grace.

The story is told that Saint Peter fled Rome during Nero's persecution of what was known then as "The Way." As he was traveling the Appian Way, he encounters the Risen Jesus. He asks, "Domine quo vadis?" (Lord, where are you going?) Jesus responds that he is returning to Rome, that is, returning to continue his saving mission, even if it means suffering. Peter pivots and returns as well. For me, Rome has played a pivotal role in my vocation. I served as secretary for formation in 2006-2007, though when I returned there in the role of General Councilor, I didn't see it as returning to persecution! No, I saw it as an opportunity to continue contributing to this saving mission. There have been tough moments, undeniably; I completed my term with some weariness. However, the graces flowing from God's loving power and presence have been overabundant. And I am convinced they will also flow for our new leadership. ■

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*Editor's Note: Brother Tim's previous reflections can be found at [www.Lasallian.info/General-Councilor](http://www.Lasallian.info/General-Councilor).*

As General Councilor, Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, second from left, accompanied Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, on many pastoral visits throughout the world, which included this visit to Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, New York, during the RELAN visit in November 2019. *Courtesy Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse*



# Infusing the Mission through Generations

By Denis de Villers

Introduction and editing by Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ To touch hearts. To transform lives. To serve. To truly know those entrusted to your care. To inspire the next generation. To rely on a trusted adult. To accompany one another's vocational journey.

Taking a moment to reflect on each of those phrases reminds us of their importance to the Lasallian charism and mission. Each touches on relationships, which have always been at the heart of the mission. The significance of relationships has been passed down through generations of Brothers and Lasallian Partners.

Lasallian Reflection 7, based on the 2021-2022 Lasallian theme "To Dream is Our Way Forward," reminds us of the importance of these multi-generational relationships. Quoting Pope Francis, the reflection tells us, "A utopia in a young person grows well if it is accompanied by memory and discernment. Utopia looks to the future, memory looks to the past, and the present is discerned. The most characteristic aspect of the young is utopia. Hence the insistence on the encounter between the old and the young" (p. 21, address to the members of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Rome, February 28, 2014).

These encounters among the past, present and future are embodied in relationships between generations of Lasallians who inspire and

accompany each other in their ministry. These relationships encourage succeeding generations to become engaged in the Lasallian mission, providing them on their journey with mentors who help them achieve their full potential and carry on the Lasallian mission.

Over the next few issues of *De La Salle Today*, we will introduce you to several trios of Lasallians and trace how invitations and relationships have influenced their lives and service to the mission. We start with three men in the Francophone Canada District.

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## Antoine Béland

At a very young age, Antoine Béland, now 28, was immersed in the Lasallian mission at Camp De-La-Salle in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, Québec, as a camper, messenger and counselor. When the closure of the camp was announced in 2014, he was among those who advocated for and took leadership of the camp to ensure its future.

Looking back on how he became deeply committed to the Lasallian mission, Antoine shared, "My passion for the mission was not sparked by any specific training or event. It's much more

of a journey in a context where I felt good and that I had not only a place, but an active role to play. Then, at different District meetings, I was invited to be the secretary of the lay Partners of Francophone Canada and, gradually, with others, I thought about what I could do to contribute to the human and Christian education of young people."

In addition to his service in his District, when Antoine was in his early 20s, he served as international coordinator of Young Lasallians, his most visible role as a committed Lasallian, through which he led and grew an international network of Young Lasallians.

"As international coordinator of Young Lasallians, I was able to live with the Brothers of the Generalate and share their lifestyle and prayer life," recalled Antoine. "As a result of my work in Rome, I have met hundreds

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**"I felt that I had not only a place, but an active role to play."**

*Antoine Béland*

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of young people involved in the mission. This has given me both an internalized vision of the mission and a global understanding of the work of Lasallians in the

world, and this, in turn, feeds my passion for this mission.”

By his side every step of the way was Martin Lapointe, Camp De-La-Salle director since 1996.

“Since I was very young, Martin has been and still is my mentor,” shared Antoine. “Day by day, step by step, he helps me to see things from a different angle to give them meaning. During our informal discussions, he led me to see my work with young people in the steps of John Baptist de La Salle. Today, I have the pleasure of working alongside him as assistant director at the camp.”

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## Martin Lapointe

For almost 30 years, Martin Lapointe has been part of the Camp De-La-Salle organization. Like Antoine, he met the Brothers at a young age. His uncle, Brother Réal Lapointe, FSC, often invited him to the former Saint-Jérôme Camp and community. One thing led to another, and Martin quickly felt at home with the Brothers. While he was an educator at the former École Mont-Bénilde, it was not uncommon for him to go to the community for dinner on Friday evenings. When a position as assistant director opened up at the camp, Martin did not hesitate to put his teaching career on hold to serve young people in a different type of ministry.

Martin sees Antoine as a prominent figure in the District. “Antoine is a man of heart,” said Martin. “He is empathetic with young people and loves to bond



with them. At the camp, he has held many positions, from the most humble to the most visible. He has excellent experience in animation and training here and internationally. For him, the camp is a school of life where young people learn, in a fun way, to develop what it takes to build a more just world. He wants to give back what he has received. He is a person of great value because he really embodies the motto of the camp: the camper comes first!”

Martin’s mentor is Brother Robert Lavallée, FSC, who was general manager of the camp from 1978 to 2014. Martin developed his sense of the educational mission from his friendship with the Brothers, but it is above all his connection with Brother Robert that helped him grow as an educator and learned how to nurture and accompany young people entrusted to his care.

Martin shared, “The frank exchanges I had with Brother Robert allow me to speak openly

From left, Antoine Béland, Martin Lapointe and Brother Robert Lavallée, FSC, at Camp De-La-Salle. Courtesy Camp De-La-Salle. Dans l’ordre habituel, Antoine Béland, Martin Lapointe et Robert Lavallée, FÉC au Camp De-La-Salle. Photo gracieuseté du Camp De-La-Salle

about the mission here and now. And it goes both ways. I remember when Robert came back from annual retreats, he had ‘crazy ideas’ (his expression) that led us to think of activities for young people in a creative mode. And they came out great!”

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## Brother Robert Lavallée

Brother Robert Lavallée, FSC, attended Mont Saint-Louis, a prestigious former school of the Brothers, where he was also a boarder. Like Martin and Antoine, Brother Robert felt good within an organized community life. He was fortunate to get to know some Brothers in a more informal way in the scout movement.

Brother Robert has always seen in Martin a leader who is concerned with helping young

people. The slogan “the camper comes first,” originally developed by Brother Robert, touched Martin immediately, who made it his leitmotif.

“Even today, when Martin approaches a situation, it is the young person’s point of view that will take precedence in his analysis,” said Brother Robert. “For him, from the welcome to the goodbye at camp, every little gesture counts.”

Regarding the mission, Brother Robert says the quality of the educational environment, the people, the safe environment and the educational approaches make a non-formal education center like the camp a significant

place of development for young people. He noted that the second generation of camp administrators is not afraid to shine in the community to show everyone what they do well, calling it “a legitimate pride.”

“Making young campers proud of what they have learned and achieved gives them the desire to surpass themselves and to commit to the service of others,” said Brother Robert.

### To the Future

That sense of commitment to service in the next generation is inspired and cultivated by caring adults, as Brother Robert, Martin

and Antoine each experienced themselves and now pass on to the generations after them.

As Lasallian Reflection 7 shares, “[U]topia gives meaning to our existence, because it demands, against all odds, that the mission we carry out has a meaning and that we make it possible” (p. 21). ■

*Denis de Villers serves as communications adviser and a formator for the District of Francophone Canada.*



*De La Salle*  
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OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

*“You, Brothers, are on the front line, so as to move from a closed world to an open world... Go forth with the joy of evangelizing by educating and of educating by evangelizing.”*

*- Pope Francis*

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**Mentor**  
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**Brother**



*We invite you to learn more and consider discerning with us.*

# La mission se diffuse d'une génération à l'autre

Par Denis de Villers

Introduction et édition par Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ Pour toucher les cœurs. Pour transformer des vies. Servir. Connaître vraiment ceux qui vous sont confiés. Pour inspirer la prochaine génération. S'appuyer sur un adulte de confiance. S'accompagner et cheminer mutuellement dans son parcours vocationnel.

Prendre un moment pour réfléchir à chacune de ces phrases nous rappelle leur importance pour le charisme et la mission lasallienne. Chacune renvoie aux relations, qui ont toujours été au cœur de la mission. L'importance des relations significatives a été transmise de génération en génération par les Frères et les Partenaires Lasalliens.

La réflexion lasallienne 7, sur le thème lasallien 2021-2022 « L'utopie nous fait avancer », nous rappelle l'importance de ces relations multigénérationnelles. Citant

le pape François, la réflexion mentionne : « Une utopie chez un jeune grandit bien si elle est accompagnée de mémoire et de discernement. L'utopie regarde vers l'avenir, la mémoire regarde vers le passé et le présent est discerné. L'aspect le plus caractéristique des jeunes est l'utopie. D'où l'insistance sur la rencontre entre les vieux et les jeunes. » (p. 21, discours aux membres de la Commission pontificale pour l'Amérique latine, Rome, 28 février 2014)

Ces rencontres entre le passé, le présent et le futur s'incarnent dans les relations entre générations de Lasalliens, qui s'inspirent et s'accompagnent mutuellement dans leur ministère. Ces relations encouragent les générations futures à s'engager dans la mission lasallienne, en leur fournissant dans leur

cheminement des mentors qui les aident à réaliser leur plein potentiel et à poursuivre la mission lasallienne.

Au cours des prochains numéros de De La Salle Today, nous vous présenterons plusieurs trios de Lasalliens et retracerons comment les invitations et les relations ont influencé leur vie et leur service à la mission. Nous commençons avec trois hommes du district du Canada francophone.

## Antoine Béland

Tout jeune, il est plongé dans le contexte du Camp De-La-Salle comme campeur, coursier puis moniteur. Lorsque la fermeture du Camp fut annoncée en 2014, il sera de ceux et celles qui reprendront le flambeau de l'administration du Camp pour démontrer brillamment que tout est encore possible.

À propos des débuts de sa conscience de la mission éducative lasallienne, Antoine nous partage :

« Ma passion pour la mission n'a pas été provoquée par une formation précise ou un événement. C'est bien davantage un cheminement dans un contexte où je me sentais bien et où je sentais que j'avais non seulement



Antoine Béland lors d'un happening lasallien. Photo gracieuseté de Denis de Villers. Antoine Béland during a Lasallian event. Courtesy Denis de Villers

une place, mais un rôle actif à jouer. Puis, au hasard des rencontres, on m'a invité à être le secrétaire du regroupement des laïcs du district du Canada francophone et,

Jeunes Lasalliens, son rôle le plus visible en tant que Lasallien engagé, à travers lequel il a dirigé et développé un réseau international de Jeunes Lasalliens engagés.

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« Je sentais que j'avais non seulement une place, mais aussi un rôle actif à jouer. »

*Antoine Béland*

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progressivement, avec d'autres, j'ai réfléchi à ce que nous pouvions faire pour contribuer à l'éducation humaine et chrétienne des jeunes là où j'avais les pieds. »

En plus de son service dans son district, Antoine, au début de la vingtaine, a servi comme coordonnateur international des

« Comme Coordonnateur international des jeunes lasalliens, j'ai été à même de vivre avec les Frères de la communauté centrale et de partager leur style de vie. Du fait de mon travail, j'ai fréquenté des centaines de jeunes impliqués dans la mission sur le terrain. Cela m'a donné aussi bien une vision intériorisée de la mission

qu'une compréhension globale de l'action des lasalliens dans le monde, et cela, en retour, nourrit ma passion pour cette mission. »

Martin Lapointe, directeur du Camp De-La-Salle depuis 1996, était fidèlement à ses côtés.

« Depuis que je suis tout jeune, c'est Martin Lapointe, directeur adjoint de camp depuis 1996, qui a été et est toujours mon mentor. Au jour le jour, pas à pas, il m'aide à voir les choses sous un angle différent pour leur donner du sens. Au fil de nos discussions informelles, il m'a amené à voir mon travail auprès des jeunes dans la suite de Jean-Baptiste de La

Dans l'ordre habituel, Martin Lapointe et Robert Lavallée, FÉC, prennent la pose avec un groupe du quartier St-Michel à Montréal. Photo gracieuseté du Camp De-La-Salle. Martin Lapointe (left) and Robert Lavallée, FSC (right), pose with a group from Montreal's St-Michel district. Courtesy Camp De-La-Salle



Salle. Aujourd’hui, j’ai le bonheur de travailler à ses côtés comme directeur adjoint au Camp. »

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## Martin Lapointe

Depuis bientôt 30 ans, Martin Lapointe fait partie de l’organisation du Camp De-La-Salle. Tout comme Antoine, il a fréquenté les Frères dès son jeune âge. En effet, son oncle, Frère Réal Lapointe, l’invitait souvent à Saint-Jérôme et lui offrait même d’opérer des tracteurs et pelles mécaniques! Et de fil en aiguille, Martin s’est rapidement senti chez lui chez les Frères. Alors qu’il était éducateur à l’École Mont-Bénilde, il n’était pas rare pour lui de se retrouver pour souper avec la communauté le vendredi soir. Lorsqu’un poste de directeur adjoint s’est ouvert au CDLS, Martin n’a pas hésité à mettre entre parenthèses sa carrière d’enseignant pour aller rejoindre les jeunes sur un autre terrain de mission.

À propos d’Antoine, Martin le perçoit comme une personne marquante dans le district :

« Antoine est un homme de cœur. Il est empathique avec les jeunes et adore créer des liens avec eux. Au camp, il a occupé toutes les fonctions, des plus humbles aux plus visibles. Il a une excellente expérience en animation et en formation ici et à l’international. Pour lui, le camp est une école de vie où les jeunes apprennent, de façon ludique, à développer ce qu’il faut pour bâtir un monde plus juste. Il tient à redonner ce qu’il a reçu. Il est une personne de grande valeur, car il incarne vraiment la devise du camp : le campeur avant tout! »

Sera-t-on surpris d’apprendre que le mentor de Martin est Frère Robert Lavallée qui fut directeur général du camp de 1978 à 2014? Martin a développé là son sens de la mission éducative par osmose en côtoyant les Frères, mais c’est surtout au contact de Frère Robert qu’il met en mots des réalités lasalliennes et l’attitude d’éducateur à cultiver pour le meilleur développement des jeunes confiés à ses soins.

Martin ajoute ceci :

« Les échanges francs que j’avais avec Frère Robert me permettent de parler ouvertement de la mission ici et maintenant. Et cela va dans les deux sens. Lorsque Robert revenait de retraite, il avait des « idées folles » (c’est son expression) qui nous amenaient à penser à des activités pour les jeunes en mode créatif. Et les résultats ont toujours été au rendez-vous. »

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## Frère Robert Lavallée

Frère Robert Lavallée a fréquenté le Mont Saint-Louis (la prestigieuse école des Frères) où il était également pensionnaire. Tout comme Martin et Antoine, ce dernier se sentait bien à l’intérieur d’une vie communautaire organisée. Il a eu la chance de connaître des Frères d’une façon plus informelle dans le mouvement scout.

Frère Robert a toujours vu en Martin un leader qui a le souci d’aider les jeunes. Le mot d’ordre « le campeur avant tout » s’il a été promulgué à l’origine par Frère Robert, Martin en a fait tout de suite son leitmotiv.

« Encore aujourd’hui, lorsque Martin aborde une situation, c’est le point de vue du jeune qui primera dans son analyse. Pour lui, de l’accueil à l’au

revoir, au camp, chaque petit geste compte. »

À propos de la mission, Frère Robert précise que la qualité du milieu éducatif, les personnes, l’environnement sécuritaire et les interventions éducatives qui sont faites, font d’un centre non formel d’éducation comme le Camp, un réel lieu d’épanouissement pour les jeunes. « Rendre le jeune campeur fier de ce qu’il a appris et réalisé, lui donne le goût de se dépasser et de s’engager au service des autres. » Il remarque que la 2e génération des administrateurs du camp ne craint pas de rayonner sur la place publique pour montrer à tous ce qu’ils font de bien, il s’agit d’une fierté légitime.

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## Vers l’avenir

Ce sens de l’engagement envers le service de la prochaine génération est inspiré et cultivé par des adultes bienveillants, comme frère Robert, Martin et Antoine l’ont chacun expérimenté et transmettent maintenant aux générations qui les suivent.

Comme le partage la Réflexion lasallienne 7, « L’utopie donne un sens à notre existence, parce qu’elle exige, contre toute attente, que la mission que nous accomplissons ait un sens et que nous la rendions possible ». (p. 21) ■

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*Denis de Villers est conseiller en communication et formateur pour le District du Canada francophone.*

# Christian Brothers Services Begins New Era in Leadership

By Phil Allen

Christian Brothers Services (CBS) is a nonprofit, Catholic organization that administers cooperative programs in the areas of health, retirement, property/casualty and technology, as well as financial, administrative and Catholic school consulting to faith-based organizations. CBS provides an annual contribution to support Christian Brothers Conference.

■ President/CEO of Christian Brothers Services (CBS), Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, Ed.D., retired in August 2022 after 14 years as president. Patrick C. Lynch, CFA, succeeds Brother Michael as the first president/CEO who is not a Brother in the organization's 62-year history.

Lynch began his term as the Lasallian ministry's fourth president/CEO on September 1, 2022. He follows CBS founder Brother Joel Damian, FSC (1960-1985), Brother William Walz, FSC (1985-2008), and Brother Michael (2008-2022) in the position. He brings three decades of experience in the financial services and banking industries, including serving as a senior vice president at Bank of America followed by 21 years as founder, president and CEO of Chicago Equity Partners, a boutique investment advisory firm launched in 2000.

Lynch was chosen as CBS president/CEO in part because of his outstanding history in customer service and team building. "Any success we had over the years was the direct result of a great team effort focused on helping clients/members. We built a culture upon the pillars of ethics, transparency and accountability. I know these are also values instilled in the foundation of CBS, which made this such a great fit for me," he said.

## Commitment to Catholic Identity and Lasallian Heritage

As the first non-Brother to serve as president/CEO at CBS, Lynch is committed to supporting the company's Catholic identity and Lasallian heritage. "In our case, the Lasallian way can continue throughout the company, being very mindful about doing the work to keep it vibrant. I am committed and devoted to do that," he said.

Throughout his career, he has advocated a "pay it forward" philosophy to assist new generations of students in obtaining Catholic educations. Lynch serves or has served on various boards with ties to Catholic

Patrick C. Lynch, CFA, is the first president/CEO of Christian Brothers Services who is not a Brother.



education and philanthropy, including 12 years as a board member and trustee of his alma mater, Loyola University Chicago, where he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance. He also has an MBA in finance from DePaul University, Chicago.

During his service at Loyola, Lynch chaired the finance committee, as well as its executive, compensation, investment and audit committees, helping to shape strategy for hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue for the university. He also served as the vice chair on the university's council of regents and is a member of Loyola's Baumhart Center for Social Enterprise & Responsibility's Leadership Council, which guides the center's efforts to foster just, humane, sustainable social business practices.

Furthering his commitment to Catholic education and philanthropy, Lynch also served as chairman of the board of trustees and as a trustee at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago, as chairman of the board of directors and board member for the Catholic Education Foundation, and as a board member at Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

On starting his new position at CBS, Lynch said, "I am fortunate to have found a company that is at the intersection of my faith and my skills, and I am honored to be entrusted to lead an organization that directly helps hundreds of Catholic missions.



I am excited about the future and look forward to continuing the great tradition of member service in the years to come."

Shortly after he started as president/CEO, the company held an all-employee Q&A session with Lynch to get to know their new leader. The informal meeting was conducted in a talk show format called "Chat with Pat." Employees asked Lynch a mix of serious and not-so-serious questions. On the direction of the company: "Bottom line: Great company, great people, good momentum—so my goal is to keep to that path." On his favorite baseball team: "As a native Chicago Southsider, I have a certain allegiance to the White Sox, though a trip to see the Cubs at Wrigley is not out of the question."

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### A True Servant Leader

Looking back on his many years of leadership, Brother Michael left a lasting memory of a true servant leader, dedicated to the mission of Christian Brothers Services, its staff and membership. Brother Michael took over as CBS president/CEO in 2008, and his time was distinguished by remarkable expansion in

"Chat with Pat" gave employees a chance to get to know the new president/CEO.

CBS Trusts and Plans, both in locations and in beneficiaries.

Brother Michael oversaw the 2014 acquisition of Catholic School Management, bringing consulting services into the company's portfolio. The company further added to its list of services in 2017 with Mission Advancement Consulting. In 2017, he also worked with the CBS board to oversee the acquisition of BMT Financial Services, bringing under the CBS umbrella a company that serves over 280 religious institutes and many sponsored ministries with their day-to-day operations.

Brother Michael also established CBS corporate branding and the marketing and communications department. As a lasting tribute to Brother Michael's belief in the importance of strong communication with company membership, CBS dedicated its new multi-media studio to Brother Michael at an August 31 ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by employees and guests. The state-of-the-art facility, called the BMQ Media Studio, allows the company

to create enhanced videos, webinars, podcasts, photography and more.

During Brother Michael's distinguished tenure, he reorganized the company's management structure and merged divisions to increase company operations and to enhance member/client services. Taking a stand for CBS membership, under Brother Michael's tenure, the company's Employee Benefit Trust initiated litigation to protect its employee health plan from government intrusion, which resulted in the Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burrell case, which went to the U.S. Supreme Court for a positive resolution.

To further serve the company's members, and to ensure proper

Wearing a personalized jersey, Brother Michael, an avid White Sox fan, was greeted by cheering Christian Brothers Services staff members on his last day as president/CEO.

training for CBS leadership, Brother Michael saw that investment was made in training for managers on all levels in performance management, sales, best practices and other topical management skill training. "My goal as a leader has always been to ensure our company's success by providing membership with the best programs and services. Our mission is to help them fulfill their missions," he said.

With his legacy at CBS secured, Brother Michael is certain CBS will continue to thrive in the years ahead. "I am confident that CBS, with our wonderful employees, and under the leadership of our new president/CEO, Pat Lynch, will continue to thrive and

On his last day before retirement, Brother Michael cut the ribbon on Christian Brothers Services' new multimedia studio, BMQ Media Studio, which the company dedicated to him to honor his commitment to strong communication.

provide our Catholic membership with the programs and services they need to advance their missions."

On his last day as president/CEO, Brother Michael was given a rousing send-off by CBS employees who surprised him by donning the colors of Brother's beloved Chicago White Sox and lining up around the building to give him an ovation as he walked past. Inside, Brother was again surprised by a video tribute made for him by former White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen. Then, in a heartfelt speech, Brother Michael thanked CBS employees for their dedication and wished everyone well as he began his well-deserved retirement. ■

Phil Allen serves as senior writer for Christian Brothers Services. Christian Brothers Services provided all photos in this story.



## December 2022

9-11 Regional Council of Young Lasallians (RCYL) Meeting, Ocean City, NJ

26-  
Mar. 1 Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) Conference, Orlando, FL

## January 2023

4-5 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Memphis, TN

## March 2023

9-11 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (SFNO), Napa, CA

## February 2023

3 Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU) Meeting, Washington, DC  
17-20 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Loranger, LA

15-  
Apr. 15 Spring into Action  
16-18 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (DENA), Marriottsville, MD  
23-25 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (MW), Marine on St. Croix, MN

# We are Lasallian

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Brother Joel Damian, FSC, founded Christian Brothers Services in 1960 as an alternative to expensive or unattainable insurance coverage for Catholic organizations. Sixty years later, Christian Brothers Services has grown to administer seven Trusts, which serve more than 3,000 Catholic organizations including religious orders, dioceses, colleges and schools. We continue to demonstrate the Lasallian tradition by understanding our members' needs, protecting their human and financial resources, and guiding organizations in finding practical solutions to their business needs.

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