

De La Salle TODAY

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA | AUTUMN 2023



Leaven for the Future

Inside this Issue



Looking to the Future
of RELAN, p. 10



New Institute
Structure Promotes
Collaboration, p. 22



Huether Conference
Celebrates 50th
Anniversary, p. 25

letter from the editor ■

Dear Readers,

This issue of *De La Salle Today* is all about growth, hope and moving the mission forward. In each story, you'll see a link to the Leavening Project, an initiative of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that encourages us to see things anew and be the leaven from which new possibilities to serve young people on the peripheries grow.

Our first two stories focus on the future of the mission. The Superior General and members of the General Council share their thoughts on the Lasallian Region of North America following their June 2023 visit to the Region, including priorities, challenges and serving young people on the peripheries. You will also hear from them on the new Institute structure that is intended to decentralize leadership and promote collaboration.

The next two stories highlight initiatives that started small and grew over time. The Huether Lasallian Conference started in 1973 as a workshop with about 40 Christian Brothers who served as school administrators. In 2023, the conference celebrated its 50th anniversary with nearly 400 Lasallians from a variety of ministry types. We also highlight *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education*, which started as an idea of a few professors at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. In 2024, *AXIS* will celebrate its 15th anniversary and transition to a new partnership between the six Lasallian colleges and universities in the United States under the leadership of Christian Brothers Conference.

Higher education is the focus of our last two stories. Bethlehem University in the Holy Land marked 50 years in October, shortly before unrest erupted in the area. This story shows how it has been a source of hope. Finally, we introduce an effort to expand higher education in Africa with La Salle College of Education, Science & Technology (LSC-EST) in Kenya.

As you read this issue, we invite you to consider: how *you* can be the leaven?



Elizabeth Moors Jodice
Editor

De La Salle Today is published by Christian Brothers Conference for the Lasallian family in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN).

Christian Brothers Conference
415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20017
202-529-0047 | communications@lasallian.info | www.Lasallian.info
Executive Director: Tom Southard

Editor

Elizabeth Moors Jodice

Assistant Editor/Timeline Design

Rebekah Galucki

Story Development Support

Bob Carrejo
Denis de Villers
David Genders

Editorial Support

Bob Carrejo
James Lindsay
Tom Southard
Chris Swain

Contributing Writers

Bethlehem University Foundation
Brother Dennis Lee, FSC
Elizabeth Moors Jodice
Brother William Mann, FSC
Brother George Van Grieken, FSC

Photography

Carla Barwick
Bethlehem University Foundation
Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools
La Salle College of Education, Science and Technology
Lewis University
Manhattan College
RELAN Archives
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Please email comments and suggestions to communications@lasallian.info. The editor of *De La Salle Today* reserves the right to edit and make final decisions regarding the content published in the magazine.

Desafalle TODAY

- 10 Looking to the Future of RELAN
By Elizabeth Moors Jodice
 - 17 Lasallian Essentials: Lasallian
Spirituality Today
By Brother George Van Grieken, FSC
 - 22 New Institute Structure Promotes
Greater Collaboration
By Elizabeth Moors Jodice
 - 25 Huether Celebrates 50th
Anniversary
*By Elizabeth Moors Jodice
and Rebekah Galucki*
 - 28 AXIS Celebrates 15 Years and
Transitions to New Partnership
By Brother William Mann, FSC
 - 31 Bethlehem University Marks
50 Years
By Bethlehem University Foundation
 - 34 Expanding Higher Education
in Kenya
By Brother Dennis Lee, FSC
-

Letter from the Editor

- 2 News and Appointments
- 36 Calendar of Events

(Cover) The Superior General and General Council visited the Lasallian Region of North America in June 2023. Turn to page 10 to read their thoughts on the Region.



RCCB Invites Partners as Members

The Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) has invited four Lasallian Partners to join the leadership group, marking the first time that the membership has not been all Brothers. Traditionally, RCCB members have been Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors. This change took effect at the October 2023 meeting in Québec.

In line with the 46th General Chapter's call to renew structures for the future, the RCCB decided to add members who serve in District leadership roles focused on educational mission work. Four Partners currently hold those positions and are now members of the RCCB: Jim Logan, director of the office for mission and ministry in the District of Eastern North America; Scott Kier, superintendent of Lasallian education in the Midwest District; Mike Daniels, director of the office of education in the District of San Francisco New Orleans; and Denis de Villers, communications specialist / formator in the District of Francophone Canada. Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Midwest District Visitor and RCCB moderator, highlighted a few points in their decision to expand RCCB membership.

"First, the 46th General Chapter asked us to reimagine governance and to experiment – much as the leadership in Rome is doing," explained Brother Michael. "Second, these Partners are directly engaged with the schools, and they bring a wealth of information to the Visitors and Auxiliaries as we discuss mission, grant requests, and concerns related to charism."

From left: Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, Brother Jules "Bud" Knight, FSC, Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, Jim Logan, Brother Frank Byrne, FSC, Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Brother Bob Schaefer, FSC, Scott Kier, Denis de Villers, Brother Chris Brady, FSC, Brother Sergio Leal, FSC, and Brother Carlos Gómez, FSC. Not pictured: Mike Daniels



Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, as the coordinating General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), is also an RCCB member. Brothers Carlos Gómez and Sergio Leal are engaged in RCCB as part of RELAN's General Council accompanying team.

"For decades, RELAN has shown leadership in living out the calls of our shared mission. This decision taken by the RCCB almost seems like a natural next step in deepening the relationship between Brothers and Partners as co-guarantors of the mission," said Brother Chris. "Additionally, this clearly responds to our most recent General Chapter's call for governance structures 'with greater communion, collaboration and solidarity at Regional and Institute levels.'"

RELAN Lasallians in Institute Leadership



Three Lasallians from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) are now serving in leadership roles in the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools' new structure. Three councils and seven commissions are part of this new structure. Brother Superior Armin Luistro, FSC, appointed Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, vice president for student life and chief mission officer at Lewis University, as the RELAN designee for the International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission (CIAMEL), the council that focuses on the Lasallian mission and identity, effective October 1, 2023. Two commission chairs are from the District of San Francisco New Orleans. Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, is chair of the commission on consecrated life, and Charlie Legendre, AFSC, is chair of the commission on evangelization, both effective June 4, 2023. Read more about the new structure on page 22.

From left, Charlie Legendre, AFSC, Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, and Dr. Kurt Schackmuth. Legendre and Vasoli are pictured at the commission meeting in Rome in September 2023. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Schackmuth photo courtesy Lewis University

Brothers Profess First, Final Vows



Three Novices from the Lasallian Region of North America professed their first vows over the summer. Pictured above from left, Brother Matthew Chiantella, FSC, and Brother Halen Gamino, FSC, from the District of San Francisco New Orleans, and Brother Michael Phipps, FSC, from the Midwest District, professed their first vows in July 2023. Since then, Brothers Matthew and Halen have been serving in new ministries, with Brother Matthew as the director of student life at San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona, and Brother Halen as a math teacher at Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, California. Brother Michael is continuing his ministry at Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a counselor.

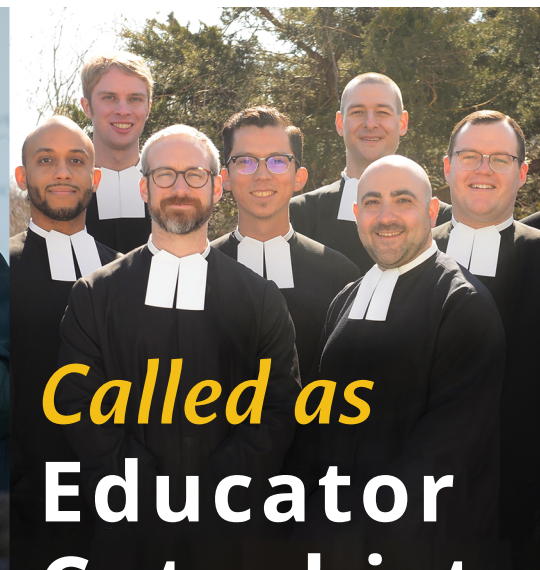
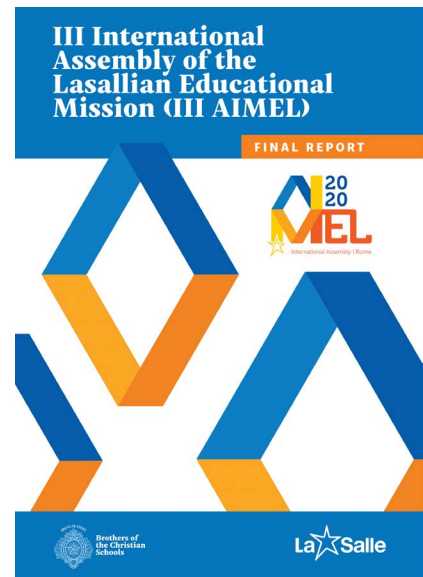


Additionally, three Brothers professed their final vows in recent months. Pictured above from left, in the Midwest District, Brother Johnathon Emanuelson, FSC, and Brother Mark Engelmeyer, FSC, professed final vows in July and August, respectively. Brother Steven Barbaro, FSC, in the District of Eastern North America, professed final vows in September. Brother Johnathon is serving at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Brother Mark is at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Brother Steven continues his service at La Salle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island.

Final AIMEL Report Available

A final report from the third International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL) is available. Published by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the document provides the outcomes from AIMEL III, which was themed "Identity, Vitality, Transformation: Together, We Make it Possible." The report shares the assembly's planning, process, detailed proposals, lines of action and concludes with a letter to the Lasallian family.

Led by the International Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission (CIAMEL), the assembly was originally scheduled for May 2020, but was postponed and then reimaged into hybrid format that concluded in November 2022. Visit www.Lasallian.info to access the report.



Bella Salle
BROTHERS
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

Called as
**Educator
Catechist
Mentor
Apostle**

Brother



BROTHERSVOCATION.ORG

Formation Programs Gather Lasallians

Regional formation programs brought Lasallians together throughout the summer and fall to help give them a deeper understanding of the mission and grow in their vocation. Registration for summer 2024 programs will open in February, including for the fifth cohort of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Practice.

(Top) Participants in the Buttmer Institute of Lasallian Studies represented 13 countries in the two-week intensive formation program, which included a luncheon for international participants. This program takes place over three summers and focuses on the life, work and spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the mission. It also allows participants to build community through daily prayer, classes, reading time and socials. *Courtesy Carla Barwick, Buttmer I participant*



(Center) The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) took place in July at La Salle Educational Center in Homestead, Florida, focused on the migrant farm worker experience. In 2024, LSJI will explore the theme "Urban Intersections of Injustice" at the Brother David Darst Center in Chicago, Illinois.



(Bottom) Fourth cohort participants of the Johnston Institute gathered as a Regional group in July, followed by an online session in September and District in-person sessions in October. They will come together as a cohort one final time to complete the program in March 2024. *Courtesy Lewis University*



Registration opens in February 2024.



June 23 – July 6, 2024

Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY



LSJI
LASALLIAN
SOCIAL JUSTICE
INSTITUTE

July 15 – 20, 2024

“Urban Intersections of Injustice”
Brother David Darst Center
Chicago, IL



**July 22 – 26, 2024
(Regional Session)**

Cohort V Begins!
Lewis University
Romeoville, IL



Visit www.Lasallian.info/programs-events or scan the QR code to learn more about these programs.

appointments

Brother Paul Avvento, FSC, Director, Office of Vocation Ministry, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ, effective July 1, 2023

Kevin Beirne, President, Montini Catholic High School, Lombard, IL, effective July 1, 2023

Dr. Tricia Bruce, Director, Springtide Research Institute, effective September 5, 2023

Roxanna De Peña-Elder, Executive Director, The De La Salle School, Freeport, NY, effective August 1, 2023

Ashleigh de Villiers, President, De La Salle North Catholic High School, Portland, OR, effective July 1, 2023

Dr. Thomas Fitzmaurice, President, La Salle Academy, New York, NY, effective July 1, 2023

Dr. Colette Geary, Liaison to Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU), Christian Brothers Conference, effective September 5, 2023

Maria Goitiandia, Program and Administrative Associate, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective March 31, 2023

Sam Govea, Interim Principal, Mullen High School, Denver, CO, effective June 20, 2023

Matthew Hayosh, Principal, La Salle High School, Yakima, WA, effective July 1, 2023

James Howell, Executive Director, Bethlehem University Foundation, Beltsville, MD, effective October 30, 2023

Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, Interim President, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA, effective July 1, 2023

Charlie Legendre, AFSC, Chair, Commission on Evangelization, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, effective June 4, 2023

Brother James Martino, FSC, La Salle International Foundation, Washington, DC, effective September 1, 2023

Dr. Elise Matson, Principal, Resurrection College Prep High School, Chicago, IL, effective July 1, 2023

Teri McCloughan, Interim President, Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul, MN, effective July 1, 2023

Dr. Milo Rivero, Courtesy Manhattan College



Manhattan College Names New President

Manhattan College has introduced Milo Rivero, Ph.D., P.E., as its 21st president, effective July 1, 2023. Rivero previously served as a consultant in the architecture, engineering and construction industry. An alumnus of Manhattan College, he earned a bachelor of engineering degree from the school in 1981. He later went on to receive both a master of science and Ph.D. in civil engineering, which segued into his various roles in project management and construction management firms in New York. He has given back to his alma mater by teaching as an adjunct professor, by serving on committees and through his membership and presidency of the Jasper Mentor Program.

appointments

Richard Neider, Principal, De La Salle High School, New Orleans, LA, effective August 1, 2023

Keane Palatino, Director of Communications, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ, effective September 1, 2023

Danielle Palkert Hermanny, President, Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park, MN, effective May 15, 2023

Milo Rivero, Ph.D., P.E., President, Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York, effective July 1, 2023

Martin Sandoval, Principal, Saint Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM, effective July 1, 2023

Michael Sandoval, Interim President, Saint Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM, effective January 1, 2023

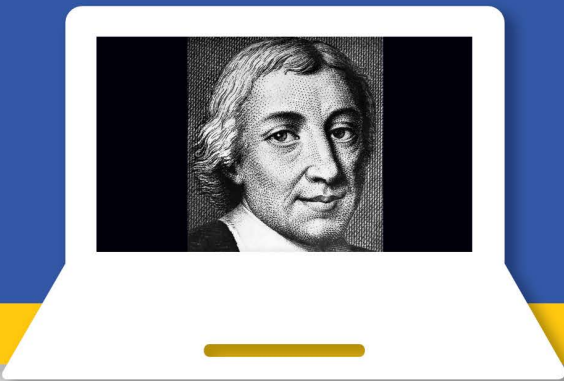
Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, RELAN Designee, International Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission (CIAMEL), Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, effective October 1, 2023

Ernest Siy, Principal, La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA, effective October 19, 2023

Matthew J. Stoessel, President, Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, PA, effective November 1, 2023

Chris Tiritilli, Principal, Montini Catholic High School, Lombard, IL, effective July 1, 2023

Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, Chair, Commission on Consecrated Life, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, effective June 4, 2023



Registration is now open!

LaSalle
RELAN

R E G I O N A L
WEBINAR SERIES

Learn more, register and access archived webinars by scanning here:



January 11
Spiritual Care for a Busy Educator

Brother Matthew Chiantella, FSC
Brother J.D. Macioce, FSC

March 19
Retired Lasallians Connect and Contribute

Robert N. Ortbal
Joan E. Williams

February 7
Building Inclusive Communities in Our Schools

Maryann O'Neill

April 16
Integral Ecology: A New Lasallian Educational Project

Brother Gus Sinco, FSC

www.Lasallian.info

Looking to the Future of RELAN

By Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) is looking toward opportunities to strengthen and grow the Lasallian mission following the June 2023 visit of the Superior General and General Council.

Stemming from the One La Salle vision of the 46th General Chapter, the General Council committed itself to visiting all five Regions of the Institute in 2023. The visits were intended to help the new Institute leaders understand how the Regions and Districts operate organizationally, learn the strengths and challenges related to living the mission, and consider how the direction set forth by the 46th General Chapter, AIMEL III and the Leavening Project can be applied in each Region and serve as an opportunity for renewal and greater collaboration.

Brother Superior General Armin Luistro, FSC, and the General Council began their RELAN visit at Mont La Salle in Napa, California, spending several days with Brothers and Lasallian Partners in District and Regional leadership, followed by a meeting with leaders of Lasallian colleges and universities. The visit concluded with trips to ministries.

Discussions at Mont La Salle focused on strengths and opportunities, including collaboration and co-responsibility, accompaniment, formation and life of the Brothers. Examples of topics that arose included more integration and support of the Francophone Canada District, increased collaboration among higher education institutions, quality formation, the needs of aging Brothers and the call from the General Chapter for Brothers to deepen their spiritual and fraternal lives.

Representatives from each District in RELAN and from the Regional office gathered with the Superior General and General Council to discuss strengths and challenges, while looking to the future of the mission.



These conversations and the subsequent ministry visits gave the Superior General and General Councilors a better understanding of the mission in RELAN. Following the visit, we asked them to share their impressions and thoughts on the Region.

What is your main takeaway from this visit?

Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, Superior General: I am convinced that RELAN continues to be a powerhouse for the Institute in advancing new pathways that will not only address current challenges but most importantly prepare for a future that is yet evolving. All the elements, structures and programs that respond to current needs and those of the foreseeable future are very well in place and will continue to improve on their own. But our vision for 2037, RELAN's 200th year of Lasallian presence in North America, cannot be realistically undertaken by just looking at invigorating Districts as we know them today. It will definitely require framing the process as leading to a Regional plan or at least an organizational structure with the capacity to respond effectively to a very different environment that remains elusive for the Lasallian mission.

Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, General Councilor: The main takeaway from the visit is recognizing that the Districts in the Region remain committed to collaboratively respond to the needs that exist in the areas of formation and educational mission while building upon the strengths that exist in each District and the Regional office as an organizational structure. Recognizing the efforts around evangelization and catechesis, accessibility to our ministries, supporting immersion projects, and the aging of the Brothers, it is clear that the Region is responding to shifting dynamics in areas related to the life of the Brothers and the educational mission.



Prayer and Mass were important aspects of the gathering, grounding participants in the holy presence of God.

As one of the three members of RELAN's accompanying team (along with Brother Chris), what did you take away from the visit that will help you accompany the Region?

Brother Sergio Leal, FSC, Executive Secretary: The sense of being One La Salle, regardless of positions, places, ministries. It helps us to be more conscious and accompany the Region in the best way. A very well organized and efficient Region, which lets us to focus on fraternal accompaniment rather than business one.

Brother Carlos Gómez, FSC, Vicar General: The visit gave me a broad and comprehensive perspective of common processes. It left



Table discussions and sharing ideas helped to give the General Council a look into mission in RELAN.

me with several lessons: the commitment to formation of Lasallians; the strength of a Region with a structure that provides good services and support to the Districts; the decision to add a Regional role that supports higher education; the prioritization of the catechetical processes and religious formation of some Districts; the decision to provide members of boards of trustees with more formation; and an urgent need to support the District of Francophone Canada in its next steps. As companions of the Region, I think that we could be close to these projects to encourage, enrich the reflection and share what we learn from other Regions and from our own experiences.

What do you see as a priority for RELAN in the next three years?

Brother Alfonso Novillo, FSC, Secretary General: A priority could be to define the future framework for the integration of French-speaking Canada into the Region. As a current District, it will not be able to maintain itself in the short or medium term. Another priority is to deal with the high cost of education or, if preferred, to make ministries more accessible to people with limited resources. To make every effort not to become elite centers.

Brother Anatole Diretenadji, FSC, General Councilor: RELAN is a large Region with a great deal of expertise and many assets. All the works, in their great diversity, try to provide adequate responses to the needs of young people and society. But to guarantee the future of the mission, what I see as one of the Region's priorities is the formation of Partners in the Lasallian identity. The Region will also need to strengthen collaboration between the four Districts and collaboration between large institutions, for example, Lasallian higher education, so that "One La Salle" becomes a reality in the Region.

Brother Chris: In short, to take creative and bold steps toward fostering "One La Salle." This offers the opportunity to continue to discern the future of each District, further engage Francophone Canada, foster co-responsibility for the educational mission and Lasallian vocations, accompany the growth of the new generation of leaders (Brothers and Lasallian Partners) and consider how the Region can continue to engage with and support the worldwide Institute and Lasallian family through its mission initiatives, resources and areas of expertise.

How do you think RELAN can contribute to bringing the Lasallian family together as “One La Salle”?

Brother Armin: RELAN’s core strength lies in its well-organized and highly efficient Regional services and formation programs for the Lasallian family. It could very well expand and offer these same services and programs to benefit a wider segment of the Lasallian world. This will require getting better acquainted with global realities, working in collaboration with others who may help enrich existing programs with diverse cultural backgrounds and developing platforms to make the Regional programs more accessible to other linguistic groups and affordable on a socialized basis.

What would you consider a challenge that the Region could turn into an opportunity?

Brother Ricky Laguda, FSC, General Councilor: One key challenge and opportunity is to advance its evolving understanding of association for mission at this stage of its history and in light of changing demographics. This challenge is an opportunity for Brothers and Partners to stay engaged with governing ministries. This has implications in a renewed sense of shared responsibility among all Brothers and Partners to have a better understanding and sense of urgency to ensure quality educational access and equity.

Brother Anatole: I would consider a challenge to be the effective integration of the District of Francophone Canada into the Region, while recognizing its particularity and way of operating. This part of the Region is fragile, given the small number of Brothers living in retirement homes. If the Region boldly undertakes a few initiatives to accompany and support Francophone Canada, it will be an opportunity to prove that it is possible to walk together in synodality to respond to the needs of those in the most fragile parts of the Institute.

What do you think RELAN could learn from other Regions?

Brother Alfonso: It would be interesting to learn more about RELAN’s program called PERLA (a program started in 2001 to focus the Region on common educational mission outcomes). From RELEM, it could be worthwhile to know the programs and formative models offered for the associative and community processes. From PARC and RELEM, the different ways of handling religious diversity or no religious affiliation.

Given that you have served as a Councilor since 2014, how have you seen RELAN evolve over the years?

Brother Ricky: The previous General Council had not officially visited RELAN because of the pandemic. However, based on what I have seen and heard, RELAN as an organization has evolved its roles and



Brother Ricky Laguda, FSC, has served as a General Councilor since 2014.

responsibilities in the area of association, vocation promotion and Lasallian formation. RELAN's evolving self-understanding has made the Region more responsive to the Lasallian mission about collaborating with other Regions. They continue to adapt their strategies and projects accordingly to ensure effective collaboration and partnerships within RELAN (e.g., universities, secondary schools, Christian Brothers Services, etc.) and across other Regions (e.g., English-speaking RELAF, Bethlehem University, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Beyond the Border projects, etc.). Also, it seems that the RELAN office has been transformed to be lean and agile in its operations and processes.

In the message you shared during the visit, you noted the importance of keeping senior Brothers involved in the mission. What are your thoughts on, as you said, opening new pathways for senior Brothers to participate?

Brother Armin: The digital platform, for example, presents multiple opportunities for our senior Brothers to be fully engaged with various aspects of our educational ministry with young people, beginning

At the conclusion of the gathering, the Region presented the Superior General and General Council with an icon of Our Lady of the Peripheries, specially commissioned for this gathering. Brothers Armin Luistro and Carlos Gómez accepted the icon after the closing Mass.





From left, Brothers Joël Palud and Alfonso Novillo learned about the El Otro Lado immersion program, which highlights the realities of life along the border between the United States and Mexico.

teachers or newly minted administrators by serving as mentors, coaches, tutors and storytellers. What may seem initially intimidating could be the creative use of technology for the non-digital natives, but the Districts could very well create, curate and direct programs as well as invest in media platforms to make this happen. Technology and social media can provide senior Brothers with a new pathway to witness to the power of our fraternity, breaking barriers and announcing good news.

During your ministry visit, what did you learn about the opportunities the Region has to serve those on the peripheries?

Brothers Martin Digilio, FSC, General Councilor (visited La Salle Educational Center, Homestead, Florida): I was impressed by many efforts that seem to be growing. Keeping in mind the complexity of the situation of immigrants, I believe that this educational response has a lot of value in its effort to include children and adolescents in formal education programs. Homestead is a very powerful initiative with many local agencies supporting it. Although Homestead's emphasis is inclusion in public education and training in aspects of communication skills and cognitive competencies, I think that the young people may also need support for their development in socio-emotional and expressive aspects. I think it would be good for them to systematize an action plan and a roadmap to achieve these objectives.

Brother Carlos (visited El Paso, Texas, District of San Francisco New Orleans' El Otro Lado program): The situation of migrants is a painful reality both at the borders and in the big cities of the



Brothers Anatole Diretenadji, far left, and Sergio Leal, back row right, visited De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana, which serves young people in the Blackfeet American Indian Tribe.

United States. The El Otro Lado program could be a pilot for a greater presence of Brothers and volunteers from RELAN and other Regions, especially from Latin America. I learned that in order to work with migrants it is not enough to go and be there: it is necessary to prepare well those who are going to live these experiences. Joining with other religious or civil service organizations could be a way to do that.

Brother Sergio (visited De La Salle Blackfeet School, Browning, Montana): Blackfeet was an inspiring and fulfilling visit. There are several possibilities to serve those who are in the peripheries (as RELAN is currently doing) through the existing ministries by making some changes, such as including mid/long-term volunteers, focusing on direct service to the poor, creating a sense of community and shared leadership.

The Next Steps

Following the visit, a writing team created a summary report that outlined initial observations and reflections. In addition, they listed “horizon statements,” goals for the Region over the next three to six years, along the topics of association for mission, finance, Lasallian educational mission, leadership and governance, and life of the Brothers. They also listed opportunities that come from challenges.

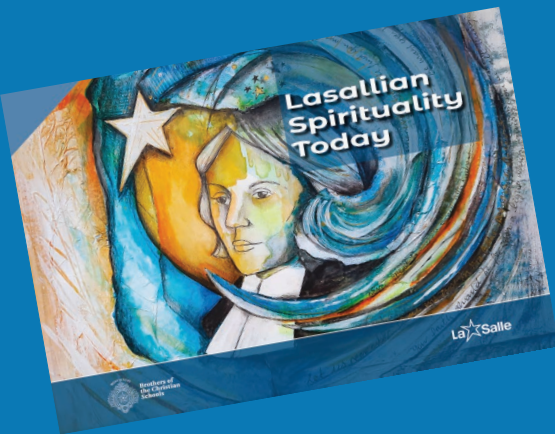
Starting in the fall of 2023, under the guidance of the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers, a planning team is being established to create a Regional renewal plan based on the horizon statements. Work will begin in the spring. ■

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications for Christian Brothers Conference.

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 Spirituality Today*, a document that emphasizes the importance of Lasallian spirituality within the present context of the shared Lasallian mission and association. Published in February 2023, the document includes three parts: a conceptual graphic, an explanation of Lasallian spirituality and a section that looks to the future, asking how Lasallian spirituality can help meet needs in the world.

Visit www.Lasallian.info/LasallianEssentials to get a printable version of this section, along with a PDF of *Lasallian Spirituality Today*.

Lasallian Spirituality Today

By Brother George Van Grieken, FSC



Lasallian Spirituality Today began as an initiative by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian School's Secretariat on Association. Many meetings with educators, teachers, Brothers, volunteers and other members of the Lasallian Family from all over the world had made it clear that there was a great desire on the part of all Lasallians to deepen their understanding of Lasallian spirituality.

The Institute pursued several cumulative efforts in response to this expressed desire and interest:

1. An international survey was created, compiled and published by the Lasallian Research and Resources Service to gain a more comprehensive picture of current realities of each District's efforts to promote Lasallian spirituality, along with the programs and resources that were being used to do so.
2. An international think tank on Lasallian Spirituality was created with the goal of providing a better understanding of Lasallian spirituality within the Lasallian Family. The think tank included Brothers and Lasallian Partners of various backgrounds and faith traditions.

3. After two years of regular online meetings and a week together in Rome, this group, drawing on all the information that had been shared by Districts, source documents around Lasallian spirituality and the group's own expertise and experience, developed a resource to help all Lasallians develop a deeper appreciation of Lasallian spirituality today. It is designed to be used by both individuals and Lasallian groups for either personal reflection or general discussion.

This new resource includes three parts: a conceptual graphic, a brief systematic explanation of Lasallian spirituality that underpins the graphic, and proposed "horizon commitments" that provide key focus areas from our spiritual storehouse that can meet the needs of the world as we move into the future. All the components of the booklet supplement one another and are meant to complement the formation and development of Lasallian spirituality already active in each District.

Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, served for four years as Secretary of the Lasallian Research and Resources Service for the Institute, concluding his service in October 2023. He is one of the authors of this document. Brother George also serves as Lasallian Resources Coordinator for Christian Brothers Conference, with much of his focus on the Lasallian Resource Center.

Highlights

The three parts of the resource provide different communicative approaches for perceiving Lasallian spirituality today.

1. A conceptual graphic (at right) provides a visual overview of the major elements of Lasallian spirituality along with their relational connections. It is designed for the visual learner, expressing the dynamic nature of a living spirituality, whereby there may be an immediate connection, place or home by way of this visual expression.
2. The central narrative section builds an understanding of Lasallian spirituality, moving from the general



to the specific, drawing on the group's research and discussions, along with key references from existing Lasallian resources. It provides an articulated conceptual framework around which reflections and conversations about Lasallian spirituality may effectively occur.

3. The horizon commitments section looks to the future,

asking us to think about what we need to draw from the wells of Lasallian spirituality to enrich the world in these particular areas of need, bringing the treasures of Lasallian spirituality to meet the hungers of the world today. It is asking us to bring our gift to others and to look "out," not just "in" or to each other.

The Development of Lasallian Spirituality

The Development of Lasallian Spirituality is the central section of the document. It explains spirituality and Lasallian spirituality, the essential dynamics of Lasallian spirituality and how a living Lasallian spirituality is pursued on three levels.

Terms

A clear definition of "spirituality" is followed by a definition for "Lasallian spirituality," along with concise descriptions of Lasallian mission, ministries and education. "The best way to learn about Lasallian spirituality is to be part of an authentic Lasallian educational community." (#13)

The incarnational aspect of Lasallian spirituality is highlighted, one

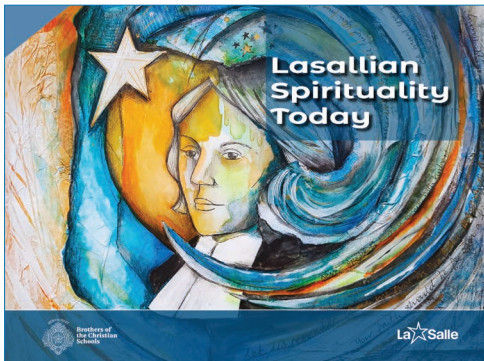
that is integral to the Lasallian vocational journey. "The incarnational dimension of Lasallian identity encompasses a habitual movement toward the transcendent, a passion for education in all its rich complexity, and a community with shared Lasallian mission priorities. All Lasallians, in their own way, embody these elements of Lasallian identity in their ministry." (#23)

Essential Dynamics

After descriptions of major Lasallian terms, attention is paid to the essential dynamics of Lasallian spirituality. These are what mark the character of a Lasallian life: living in the holy presence of God, trusting

in the way God works in one's life, having a passion for the mission and being in a ministry together and by association. These dynamics come together in a vocational journey among "a circle of lifelong educators and lifelong learners who see learning and teaching as a holy endeavor that is deeply relational, centered on teaching the minds, touching the hearts, and transforming the lives of those entrusted to their care." (#24)

The natural question that follows is "Where is Lasallian spirituality found?" The answer has two parts. It is found in a distinctive kind of education: "Lasallian pedagogy places relationships at the center of its activity.



Student-teacher relationships are the transformative catalysts for genuine educational success.” (#55) And it is found in a distinctive kind of educators: “Teachers educate as much by who they are as by what they do and say.” (#58)

“The best way to learn about Lasallian spirituality is to be part of an authentic Lasallian educational community.” (#13)

Pursuing Lasallian Spirituality

The last major section looks at how a living Lasallian spirituality is pursued on three levels: the personal: “It is a ministry that calls us to nourish interiority and approach each person as an expression of God’s love.” (#60); the relational: “It is as a community that we seek, identify, and pursue the Lasallian mission and the common good, engaging all people of good will and welcoming the diverse religious experiences of those within a community.” (#64); and the professional: “The character, deep values, and core priorities of all those involved in a Lasallian ministry are reflected in how students are served, especially those who have greater difficulties...” (#66)

The conclusion provides the wider summary perspective. “The Lasallian educational movement has been a river of grace for an untold number of students, educators, families, and others throughout its history, and it continues to be a source of growth and inspiration around the world.” (#70)

For Reflection and Discussion

1. **Your Experience:** In which parts of the document did you find yourself agreeing with the statements? Why? What connected strongly for you? Which parts describe your own experience? Which parts differ from your experience?
2. **Your Growth:** Where can you see a need for growth in your own Lasallian vocational journey? What first step could you take in that direction? Who could you talk to about it? How could you be a mentor for others who may want accompaniment on that shared journey?
3. **Your Reflection:** If you were to add a section to the booklet, what area would you address?



Encountering Lasallian Spirituality:

A WORKSHOP AND RETREAT
February 11-14, 2024 | Lutz, FL

Do you feel called to deepen your spiritual life?

Mark your calendar for
*Encountering Lasallian Spirituality:
A Workshop and Retreat.*

Presented by Christian Brothers Conference, this gathering is the result of Regional formation experiences emphasizing the importance of Lasallian pedagogical leadership, association for mission and social justice immersion. Through this unique, vibrant legacy a desire for deeper spiritual formation has grown.

This retreat-style formation experience will offer dynamic sessions on the tradition of spirituality, personal spirituality and themes of Lasallian spirituality, alongside reflection time, communal prayer and liturgical experiences. Participants will return to their local contexts renewed in faith and grounded spiritually, inspired to more fully integrate their spirituality into ministry and community.

Register at [Lasallian.info/spirituality](https://lasallian.info/spirituality)

The deadline to register is December 20.

New Institute Structure Promotes Greater Collaboration

By Elizabeth Moors Jodice

■ With goals of renewal, bold leadership, and solidarity, the Superior General and General Councilors have re-envisioned the governance structure of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Brother Superior General Armin Luistro, FSC, described the changes as a response to the calls of the 46th General Chapter and the third International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL), along with the invitation for Lasallians to be the leaven for a more fraternal world through the Leavening Project. In a June 2023 letter to Lasallians, Brother

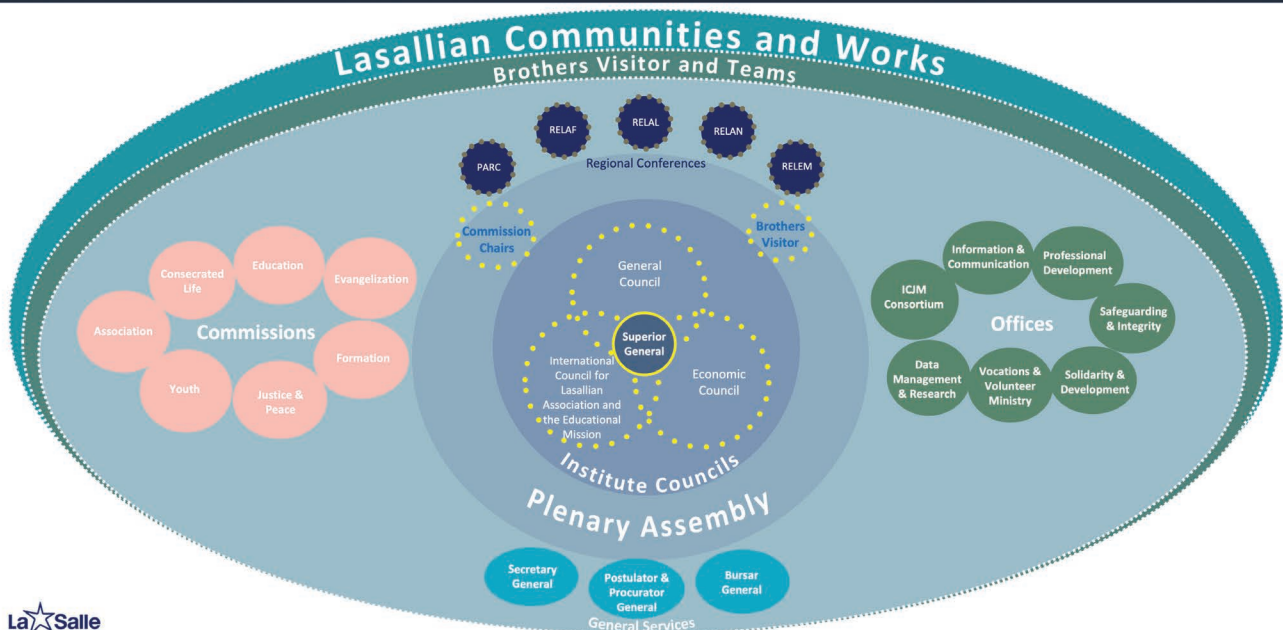
Armin announced the new structure, writing, “We now wish to begin the journey towards a new governance model that will allow us to build on the gains of the past, be more dynamic in responding to the emerging needs of the world and facilitate our discernment and implementation of the inspirations from the Holy Spirit.”

The new structure includes three councils, seven commissions, seven offices and three general services. It aims to decentralize leadership and promote collaboration. To that end, not all leadership roles will be based at the Generalate in Rome.

“During the General Chapter, Brother Armin mentioned the Institute isn’t in Rome, it’s in the heart of every person because they’re the ones doing the mission. It’s not Rome,” explained General Councilor Brother Ricky Laguda, FSC. “We’d like to envision the structure to include Lasallians who are working in the field and to create processes for creativity and ideation coming from different parts of the globe at the service of the Lasallian educational mission.”

The chart below shows the various parts of the new structure and how they expect to interact. *Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*

Leadership, Animation and Governance





In September, the commission chairs met for the first time in person as they began their service. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Councils

The three councils are the General Council, the International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission (CIAMEL), and the International Economic Council (IEC). They are responsible for making policies for the Lasallian family, advising the Superior General, and monitoring the mandates of the 46th General Chapter and III AIMEL.

Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, vice president for student life and chief mission officer at Lewis University, is the RELAN designee for CIAMEL, the council that focuses on the Lasallian mission and identity.

"I am honored to serve in this important role and represent our Region in this significant way," commented Schackmuth. "Furthermore, I am energized and excited about the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of our Lasallian mission on a global level."

The IEC makes decisions and recommendations to help the Institute responsibly manage its financial resources. Pamela Gleeson, chief financial officer for the District of San Francisco New Orleans, has served on the IEC since October 2022 and attended the council's most recent meeting at the Generalate in September 2023.

"One of the first priorities of the IEC is to understand the financial situation of the Districts across the Institute and to recommend steps to ensure the sustainability of Districts and the mission as a whole," explained Gleeson. "Our immediate next steps will be evaluating the data gathered during the General Council's Regional visits and identifying Districts at risk."

Commissions

The commissions focus on the topics of association, consecrated life, education, evangelization, formation, justice and peace, and youth. Made up of Brothers and Partners, Brother Armin described his vision of having commissions that are "small, agile and dynamic." The commissions will address the commitments and lines of action from the General Chapter and III AIMEL, along with emerging issues and concerns.

"We hope that they will be eyes and ears of the Institutes, and of the different offices [and] councils, that will serve the needs of the global network," Brother Armin explained in his June 2023 video introducing the new structure. "Together, we hope that the commissions will be able to discuss, debate, brainstorm,

ideate, strategize, and, finally, make recommendations to the Institute councils so that a fuller discussion can be made, and a decision can be done right away."

Two commission chairs are from the District of San Francisco New Orleans. Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC, is chair of the commission on consecrated life, and Charlie Legendre, AFSC, is chair of the commission on evangelization. Heather Ruple Gilson, who has served in a number of RELAN ministries, is chair of the commission on association.

"Brother Armin and his council hope to have a more broad-based group of people animating the mission of the Institute," shared Brother Steven. "Instead of a Rome-based council, the council moves to interact with the Regions. The commissions participate in animating the mission of the council by being based in various Regions of the Institute to have a pulse on mission and consecrated life."

The commission chairs met for the first time in September 2023 at the Generalate. The gathering was intended to create community, gain a better understanding of their roles as chairs and the Institute priorities, and provide space to strategize and develop a common way of working together.



“I have been struck again by the Brothers’ choice to again take the path of listening, dialogue and collaboration,” said Legendre. “At our recent in-person gathering, the chairs of the commissions practiced this synodal way in considering both the direction provided by the Mission Assembly and the General Chapter and Brother Armin’s call for us to not be afraid to be innovative and nimble as we consider the work of the commission to understand and respond to the needs of today.”

The commissions replace the secretariats, which were based at the Generalate. Each commission will have two members, in addition to the chair, and they will all serve from their respective home Districts.

Offices and General Services

The seven offices and three general services are responsible for managing and executing specific goals of the councils and supporting the Regions and Districts in implementing directives. Most of the personnel in these areas of responsibility will be based in Rome.

The offices are information and communication, vocations and volunteer ministry, professional development, safeguarding and integrity, the Istituto Convitto

Jesus Magister (ICJM) consortium, solidarity and development, and data management and research. Some of these offices are new, replacing previous services. For example, the ICJM consortium brings together various Lasallian educational institutions, Regional organizations and entities to offer formation and professional development in Lasallian studies and formation, leadership development, learning and pedagogy, and formation for catechesis/ catechetical supervision.

The general services are the procurator and postulator general, the secretary general and the bursar general. These offices, for example, deal with juridical-canonical order questions, causes of beatification and canonization of Brothers, and managing goods and resources of the Institute.

How It Works

The intention is that the councils, commissions, offices and services will work closely with the Districts and Regions in order to facilitate responses to urgent challenges and opportunities collaboratively and efficiently.

“The District leadership teams, of course, are at the forefront of everything. They are the ones that deal with the Lasallian communities and ministries,” explained Brother Armin. “They

The International Economic Council advises the Superior General on financial matters. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

are the first point of contact. They are where the action is. That is where the Lasallian mission operates.”

An important step in this increased collaboration will be bringing the councils, commission chairs, and Visitors together for a Plenary Assembly in July 2024 in Rome.

Brother Armin has stressed that this new structure is a work in progress and that they will revise it as needed. The hope is that the structure will evolve to effectively respond to new realities and allow Brothers and Partners to work together and by association.

As Brother General Councilor Chris Patiño, FSC, noted, “It seeks to put us on a trajectory that brings renewal, offers the Church and society leadership that is transformational because it’s rooted in the Gospel values that allow us to respond in paschal hope to the needs of today, and allow us as a Lasallian family to move more and more towards One La Salle.” ■

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is director of communications for Christian Brothers Conference.

Huether Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Elizabeth Moors Jodice and Rebekah Galucki

■ The Huether Lasallian Conference celebrated its 50th anniversary November 16-18, 2023, themed "Tradition and Transformation: Aspiring to Our Legacy of Educational Excellence." Over five decades, thousands of Lasallians have been profoundly impacted by this gathering, which brings together educators from across the Region to explore innovative educational issues and build community as a Lasallian family.

The origins for this conference date back to the 1930s and the Christian Brothers Educational Association (CBEA). The CBEA was organized in 1938 at a meeting at Manhattan College. Meetings were held nearly every year, giving Brothers the opportunity to share information and collaborate. Thirty years later,

delegates to the 1968 United States Regional Chapter felt the educational programs of the CBEA should continue in a more structured format. That led to a workshop in 1973 that would later become today's Huether Lasallian Conference.

Brother Francis Huether, FSC, with the support of the National Education Council of the Christian Brothers, led the inaugural 1973 workshop to provide secondary school administrators a forum to address educational concerns. The first workshops only included Brothers until they welcomed lay educators in 1978. When Brother Francis retired from his leadership role in 1985, the workshops were given his name.

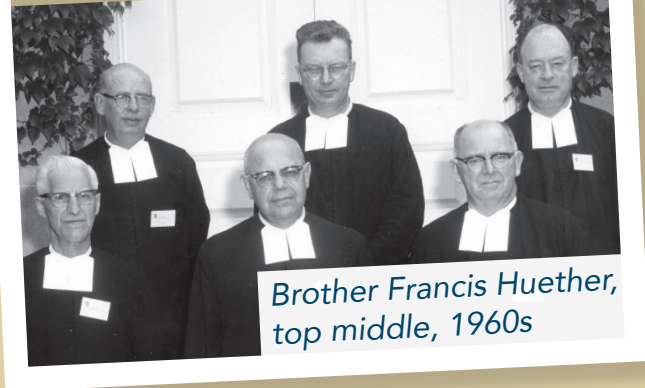
Over the years, the Huether Workshops increasingly focused on the shared mission of

Brothers and Lasallian Partners, creating forums for discussion and debate on how best to further the Lasallian mission. The gatherings also expanded to include educators from all types of Lasallian ministries.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of what started as a small workshop, turn the page to explore a timeline of Huether's evolution. See highlights from this year's anniversary conference at www.Lasallian.info/Huether2023 and on social media with #Huether50th.

Information through 2004 came from MEL Bulletin 30: The Huether Workshops, Brothers of the Christian Schools, September 2006. Thank you to Amy Surak and Ryan Langberg in Regional Archives for supplying early photos, programs and articles.





Brother Francis Huether, top middle, 1960s



HUETHER LASALLIAN CONFERENCE



Through the Years

1973

The first meeting that would later become the Huether Lasallian Conference is held in response to the United States Regional Chapter in 1968, where the delegates felt the educational programs of the Christian Brothers Educational Association (CBEA) should continue in a more structured format. The gathering takes place in Minnesota with some 40 Christian Brother administrators. Brother Francis Huether, FSC, serving as executive education secretary of Christian Brothers Conference, directs the first 16 workshops, supported by the National Education Council of the Christian Brothers (NECCB). A second workshop that year moves the location to Chicago, where it would remain for the next three decades.

1978

The workshops open to lay educators who serve as department chairpersons, master teachers and teacher supervisors. An even broader audience is invited the following year.

1985

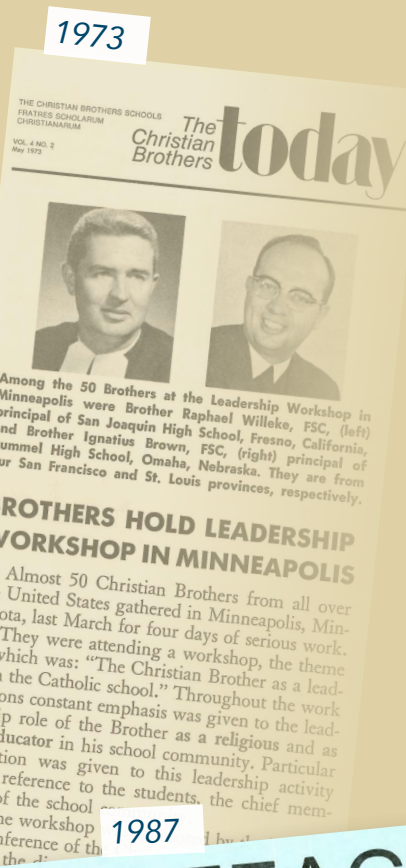
The workshop's name officially changes to the Huether Workshop to honor Brother Francis as he steps down from his leadership role. This year's gathering produces a seminal document for Lasallians in the Region, "Characteristics of Lasallian Schools."

1987

The Distinguished Lasallian Educator Awards are added to celebrate the accomplishments of educators from each District.

1995

Following a process similar to the 1985 workshop that resulted in "Characteristics of Lasallian Schools," participants in this year's workshop analyze, refine and endorse a document of guidelines for fostering the shared mission in the Region.



1987

THE TEACHER IN THE LASALLIAN SCHOOL

SPEAKERS

Keynote: Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC General Councilor of the Christian Brothers. Rome, Italy. "The Teacher in the Lasallian School."

Workshop Sister Mary Peter Traviss, OP University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California. "The Teacher in Transition" (Myers - Briggs Personality Inventory will be given by Sr. Mary Peter at 4:30 PM Thursday for those who have not taken it.)

PRESENTERS

- Mr. Michael Guerra, Executive Director of the Secondary Department of NCEA, Washington, D.C. and Brother Robert Kealey, FSC Executive Director of the Elementary Department of NCEA, Washington, D.C.
- Professor James Coleman, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Professor Coleman will discuss his latest research about Catholic Schools as recorded in his book, "Private High Schools: Attitudes of Teachers in Catholic Education"

FOR WHOM

Teachers in Lasallian Schools with five to ten years experience and master teachers or administrators.

HOW MANY

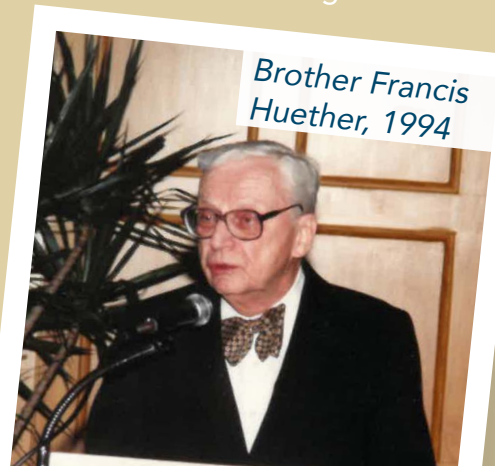
Limit two per school.

PRICE

REGISTRATION \$75.00 (Includes Workshop Dinner)
HOTEL \$35.00 Single
\$40.00 Double

SPECIAL EVENT

Presentation of the First Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award at the First Huether Workshop Dinner.



Brother Francis Huether, 1994



2011

2002 The gathering's name is updated to include "Lasallian" in the title to become the Huether Lasallian Workshop.



2003 Another name change replaces "Workshop" with "Conference" to become the Huether Lasallian Conference and more accurately reflect the nature of the event.



2014

2004 After more than 30 years in Chicago, the conference begins to move locations, with the first being San Francisco, California.

2014 The conference returns to Chicago and its longtime location of the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza for three years before once again moving to different locations each year.

2009 The Brother John Johnston, FSC Award is introduced to recognize a significant lifetime body of work for and service to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and particularly to the Lasallian mission in the Lasallian Region of North America.

2018 Huether returns to Minneapolis, the location of the first gathering.

2011 The leadership of the then USA-Toronto Region sign a statement on the Rights of the Child, advocating for the promotion and protection of the rights of children and committing themselves to helping children achieve their full human dignity.

2020 Huether is held virtually for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2023 Huether celebrates its 50th anniversary.



2004



AXIS Celebrates 15 Years and Transitions to New Partnership

By Brother William Mann, FSC



From the editor: Brother William Mann, FSC, has been a steadfast advocate for *AXIS* since his time as president of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. As *AXIS* was transitioning to a new partnership, we asked Brother William to share his account of the publication's history.

■ *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education* will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2024 and its transition to a new partnership. *AXIS* is a peer-reviewed, open access academic journal that shares original scholarly and creative works that contribute to collective knowledge of the Lasallian mission in higher education contexts.

The first issue of the online journal was published in 2009 as a grassroots initiative led by three Lasallian Partners at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Beginning with the 33rd issue, released in the fall of 2023, *AXIS* has transitioned from being a project of Saint Mary's to being a partnership between the six Lasallian higher education institutions in the United States under the leadership of Christian Brothers Conference (CBC), the office for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN).

The Idea of a Journal

The path to publishing the first issue of the journal began with a commitment to the mission. Brother Louis DeThomasis, FSC, who led Saint Mary's almost continuously from 1984 to 2008, promoted a growing spirit of association among Lasallian Partners and Brothers and fostered a deepening of the understanding of the university's rich Lasallian Catholic heritage. His efforts coincided with a growing appreciation of the role and importance of tertiary education within the larger Lasallian world.

When the Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU), in collaboration with the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU), launched the International Lasallian Leadership Program at the Generalate in Rome in June 2007, it was therefore no surprise that professors and administrators of Saint Mary's eagerly enrolled in the two-week program.

Every year since its inception, about 50 administrators and professors from IALU member institutions have continued to enroll in what is now known as the Rome IALU Program, where participants are expected to design a project that could potentially foster cooperation among the network's institutions. The 2007 participants from Saint Mary's chose as their project the auspicious goal of initiating an online international journal in service to Lasallian higher education. It would become *AXIS*.

The Early Days of the Journal

The three professors who attended that 2007 program were a quite exceptional group of Lasallian Partners: Valerie Edwards-Robeson, Roxanne Eubank and Richard Tristano. Their inspiration for the journal's name came from the keynote address that the then Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools had given at the program. In that address, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, pointed out "some axes through which

the influence and impact of IALU could be felt with more strength and effectiveness,” citing offering quality education, prioritizing research focused on reality and quality education for the poor, disenfranchised and displaced, and highlighting the importance that researchers, faculty and students feel the call to respond actively through their faith in their professional work.

Valerie, Roxanne and Richard proved to be quite successful in finding Lasallians at Saint Mary’s to work with them, and Brother Louis gave the project his tacit approval. The main challenge they encountered, however, was getting colleagues at other Lasallian institutions involved.

In the first issue of *AXIS*, an article entitled “Lasallian Assessment: Charism and the University,” co-authored by Richard with three colleagues at Saint Mary’s (Mary Catherine Fox, Melissa Luedtke, and Sister Judith Schaefer, OP), proposed both a model of an integrated view of the Lasallian Catholic university and a seven-part Lasallian assessment instrument. In a final two-page “afterword” to the article, the authors incorporated feedback, which is referenced as “valuable suggestions” solicited from participants of the Rome IALU Program in 2007, to an initial draft of the article. This article provides a good glimpse into how the original founders of the journal envisaged its functioning.



Brother William Mann, FSC, speaks to participants of the 2014 Lasallian Research Symposium. Courtesy Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota

The Re-Fashioning of the Journal

The actualization and implementation of the original project and the solicitation of manuscripts from Lasallian colleagues around the world proved to be challenging. After about two years of work, the group was ready to drop the project. But first, Valerie and Sister Judith decided to discuss the matter with me, as I had succeeded Brother Louis as president of the university in June 2008.

We met over the course of a few weeks and worked closely to re-focus and re-fashion the vision of *AXIS*. A part-time copy editor (Annmarie De Marais) was hired to work with Valerie and Sister Judith, who assumed the function of managing editors. A new four-part structure (original scholarship and creative works, shared knowledge archive, annotations of dissertations and distinctive works of Lasallian higher education, and occasional selective bibliographies on Lasallian topics) was introduced. A decision was made that *AXIS* would only be published in one language, English. It would be offered for free online, with the option of purchasing print copies.

We gathered an internationally recognized group of Lasallians to serve on the initial editorial board: Brothers Frederick Mueller, Donald Mouton, Robert Schieler, Leonardo Teijaro and George Van Grieken. As some editors moved off the board, others joined, including Timothy Gossen, Brother Lawrence Humphrey, FSC, Greg Kopra, Alisa Macksey, Matthew Nowakowski and Brother Robert Smith, FSC.

The fact (a) that Roxanne Eubank, one of the initial founders of the journal, became the director of the Rome IALU Program from 2009 to 2018, (b) that Saint Mary’s University began to host an annual International Lasallian Research Symposium on its Minneapolis campus and (c) that I led IALU from 2015 to 2018 greatly helped to raise the profile of *AXIS* in the IALU network of colleges and universities.

As my term as president of Saint Mary’s was coming to a close in academic year 2017-2018, I was serving as president of IALU and editor-in-chief of *AXIS*. I had some exploratory conversations with IALU about moving *AXIS* under the auspices of IALU. Although those ideas were not

AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education

AXIS is a peer-reviewed, open access academic journal, published twice annually. Under the leadership of Christian Brothers Conference, AXIS is a collaboration between the six Lasallian institutions of higher education in the United States: Christian Brothers University, La Salle University, Lewis University, Manhattan College, Saint Mary's College of California and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

[Read the Current Issue](#)
[Explore Previous Issues](#)

brought to fruition, it was becoming clear that AXIS had grown into something more than a project solely sponsored by Saint Mary's.

The Transition of the Journal's Leadership

In 2019, discussions began with CBC about transitioning the journal to the Region. It was agreed that the journal should remain connected to one or all of the Lasallian institutions of higher education in RELAN.

The time to pursue joint sponsorship seemed right. Manuscripts were regularly being submitted by professors at all Lasallian colleges and universities in the Region. Some of the journal's principal protagonists had retired or transitioned away from Saint Mary's, and other LACU institutions were increasingly open to supporting and jointly "owning" AXIS.

Transition efforts gained momentum in 2022, leading to more discussions with Saint Mary's and leaders at the other Lasallian colleges and universities. All

parties were supportive of CBC taking leadership of the journal, in partnership with the six institutions of higher education.

This transition began in late 2023, with the development of a new website, www.axisjournal.org, (pictured above) and plans to hire a managing editor to work with the editorial board and representatives from each LACU institution to produce the journal.

Conclusion

AXIS, at the time of its inception, clearly met a need for Lasallian higher education; but what assured its longevity was really the dedication and service of a few generous Lasallians, and a synergy that was the consequence of a number of interlocking relationships and events.

It was never the work of one person. Rather, it was the work of a team of colleagues passionate about the Lasallian mission and higher education who worked tirelessly, together and by association, in the spirit of faith and zeal on behalf of Lasallian

scholarship in service of the mission.

A strong commitment to quality Lasallian formation, like "yeast mixed in with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened" (Lk 13:20), awakened and nurtured the imaginations of Lasallian colleagues at Saint Mary's University to do something in service of all Lasallians in higher education. This, along with Brother Álvaro's "axes" remarks were, in many ways, like "a mustard seed planted in a garden which became a large bush" (Lk 13:19). AXIS is, and it is hoped will continue to be, a strong and clear example of what shared mission, Lasallian association, and working together and by association can accomplish. ■

Brother William Mann, FSC, is president emeritus of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and editor-in-chief of AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education. He is a former vicar general of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (2000-2007) and the immediate past president of the International Association of Lasallian Universities (2015-2018).

Bethlehem University Marks 50 Years

Submitted by Bethlehem University Foundation

From the editor: Shortly after the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration, unrest in the Holy Land broke out. District and Institute leadership have been in contact with the Brothers' communities in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Jaffa with great concern for their safety, as well as the impact the strife is having on the Palestinian people. The appropriate parties continue to monitor the situation while supporting local leadership in their efforts.



■ In 1964, Pope Paul VI made history as the first pontiff to fly on an airplane and the first to visit the Holy Land. Although his visit was brief, he left with a desire to do something for the Palestinian people but lacked clarity as to what that would be. The needs of Palestinians living on the margins were vast as they faced daily life with the restrictions of the Israeli occupation while also experiencing a general lack of employment, housing and educational opportunities. Some decided to flee while others stayed in despair.

Fulfilling a Need

Church leaders wrestled for nine years before the Pope's vision was realized. The need for an institute of higher education emerged as an opportunity that would allow people to stay in Palestine and gain the knowledge and skills needed to support their families while addressing larger societal issues. In 1973, Brother Jean Manuel,

FSC, offered property in Bethlehem, owned by the De La Salle Christian Brothers since 1909, for a collaborative effort between the Vatican and the Brothers. Launched on October 1, 1973, Bethlehem University was the first registered university in the West Bank.

What started as a small group of three Brothers, some Palestinians and 112 students is now a vibrant university with more than 3,200 students and more than 19,000 graduates. Bethlehem University provides quality higher education which forms the whole person in the context of a learning community that provides mind- and heart-touching transformative learning experiences through its academic programs, research, extracurricular activities and community engagement. The university fosters values that flow from deep concern with advancing social justice and care for the environment, rooted in mutual confidence and friendship.

A Beacon of Light

Bethlehem University has served as a place where nearly three dozen Brothers from North America have reached out to and raised up our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Their commitment has impacted the lives of thousands of young people, transforming many lives in this unsettled part of our world, including their own.

Brother Robert Smith, FSC, who served at Bethlehem University from July 2007 through August 2012 as vice president for academic affairs and, simultaneously, as interim vice chancellor from 2008-2009, has witnessed the university reaching out to those on the peripheries for decades.

“While there are many marginalized individuals, groups, ethnicities and minorities in our world, no one can doubt or be untroubled by the extraordinary and

“This fiftieth year is your year of jubilee; you shall not sow, nor shall you reap the aftergrowth or pick the untrimmed vines, since this is the jubilee. It shall be sacred for you. You may only eat what the field yields of itself.”

Leviticus 25:11-12

decades-long marginalization and suffering of the people of Palestine,” said Brother Robert. “In very many ways, Palestine and its people, culture, religious institutions and very existence have been on the peripheries for the past 75 years. Since the time of the establishment of the State of Israel, Palestinians have known and endured annexation of their land and their homes, forced exile with very little chance to return and have ownership restored, and exclusion from or limited allowance for self-governance. In the face of

such realities, Bethlehem University has been a beacon of light and a place of hope for all the members of its community—students, alums, employees, donors, church and secular and governmental agencies and others—for a half-century. Bethlehem University’s existence, much less its continuity and growth, is surely a sign of both God’s providence and God’s affirmation of its mission.”

For 10 years (2003-2013), Brother Jack Curran, FSC, lived in Bethlehem while serving as the university’s vice president for advancement and was keenly aware of how the confiscation of land and the imposition of travel restrictions within the West Bank affected the daily lives of students.

“Among the many challenges these tragic realities of the Israeli military occupation presented to the university was that the



Brother Peter Bray, FSC, Ed.D., speaks at one of the jubilee celebration events. He recently stepped down as the eighth vice chancellor of Bethlehem University, after 15 years of service. Courtesy Bethlehem University

20 percent of the student body who lived in Jerusalem daily faced more unpredictability and harassment from the soldiers at the Separation Wall (in effect, a new “border” crossing). Students were subjected to more psychological trauma and, at times, detention, on their way to and from the university each day,” Brother Jack explained.

As the Separation Wall was being constructed, fewer pilgrim tour groups came to Bethlehem, challenging the university on at least two levels. “Pilgrim presence on campus was a visible sign of hope for students, faculty and staff. Without their presence, we had fewer visible signs of hope,” said Brother Jack. “Many pilgrim group members became donors to the university, and so with fewer groups, our fundraising efforts were also challenged.”

The Year of Jubilee

On October 1, 2023, Bethlehem University celebrated its jubilee, recognizing the fields that have grown and how the Holy Spirit has transformed its humble beginnings over five tumultuous decades. Today, the university sits at the highest point in Bethlehem and serves as an oasis where Muslim, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Latin Catholic, and other students gather to learn, dialogue, respect and support one another with the hope of long-term peace.

The university serves a population characterized by 20 percent Christians and 80 percent women. It offers 29



undergraduate degrees in areas such as biodiversity, sustainability, nursing, hotel management, education, business and health sciences. Its nine graduate degrees include oncology and palliative care, creative pedagogy, infectious diseases, tourism, and child neuropsychology and neurodevelopment disorders.

As one of the largest employers in Bethlehem, nearly 60 percent of the employees are graduates of the university. Many are from the same communities as the students, so they know the realities of these young people.

Brother Peter Iorlano, FSC, has served Bethlehem University for the past 20 years and is currently vice president for human resources and administrative affairs, and coordinator for institutional values. He believes that the vision, mission, and values of the University help it “to be a developing pocket of God’s kingdom where Christians of different denominations and Muslims can engage in a daily dialogue of life.”

Given the fluctuating adverse political, economic and social situations over the years, Brother

Bethlehem University offers 29 undergraduate degrees and nine graduate degrees. Its student population is 80% women. Courtesy Bethlehem University

Peter believes “it’s a bit of a miracle that Bethlehem University is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In God’s mysterious design, God has brought and continues to bring together a diverse group of people on the ground who believe in the mission of the university and strive to accomplish it. Moreover, we have been blessed with people from different parts of the world who help support us.”

As Bethlehem University moves beyond its jubilee year, it will continue to sow seeds of education, hope and transformation so Palestinian young people can develop as men and women who are confident and proficient in their careers, committed to pursue the common good, and prepared to lead Palestine and our world to peace.

Bethlehem University Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in the United States that assists Bethlehem University in achieving its mission and promotes the university in the United States.

Expanding Higher Education in Kenya

By Brother Dennis Lee, FSC

■ Over the years, there has been a special connection between what is known today as the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) and the English-speaking African District of Lwanga. Many are familiar with the twinning relationship between ministries in RELAN and ministries in the Lwanga District that began in the 1990s. However, the relationship between Lasallians on both continents began in earnest in the 1960s when missionary Brothers sailed across the Atlantic to help build schools in East Africa.

Similar to RELAN, most of the Lwanga schools have been secondary schools. A notable exception has been Christ the Teacher Institute for Education (CTIE), currently the School of Education of Tangaza University College in Nairobi, Kenya. Beginning in 1992 as a teacher

training college for 13 young members of religious congregations (including the De La Salle Christian Brothers), that mission has expanded to a current enrollment of some 600 students, including about 40 young Brothers. More than 100 students come from informal settlements of Kenya.

Creating a New College

Because of a desire to expand the mission to include cutting-edge programs in fields of applied science and information technology, while enhancing and expanding education programs, the Lwanga District has taken the bold step to begin its own Lasallian college, named La Salle College of Education, Science & Technology (LSC-EST), in Nairobi.

This has been a formidable undertaking since the District is focusing on ensuring that this will

be a self-sustaining project. Over the past two years, much work has been done so that, ideally, ground might be broken very soon. These steps began with the generous gift of land (estimated value of \$6,000,000) from the Lwanga District itself.

Working with an established architect who has built several schools and malls in the vicinity of the proposed college, the estimated cost for the project is \$16,000,000. Once start-up costs were calculated, the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) provided a generous gift to help fund the start of the project.

An accomplished international team has reviewed and tweaked the building design over many months. The result promises to be an attractive state-of-the-art

| This rendering is the vision for the new college. *Courtesy LSC-EST*



educational facility. A recent needs assessment study enthusiastically endorsed the creation of a college in Nairobi specifically focused on education, science and technology because of Kenya's increasing student population and the demand for quality education and rewarding careers. Located near to several "informal settlements" in Nairobi that house families with limited financial means, the new college will be committed to remaining accessible to young people from diverse economic backgrounds.

Working as One La Salle

While this is a Lwanga project, in a spirit of One La Salle, RELAN has provided further support in terms of personnel. Brothers Jim Martino and Dennis Lee, from the District of Eastern North America, were heavily involved in the early stages of this project, and Brother Dennis continues to work with Brother Betre Fisseha, FSC, (Lwanga Visitor) Brother Moses Abunya, FSC, (Lwanga Auxiliary Visitor) and Brother Paulos Welday, FSC, (CTIE director) as the project leadership team. Meanwhile, committees of international Lasallians have provided input in key areas of academics, building design and fundraising. From the start of the project, an executive team of prominent tertiary institution leadership has helped guide the work. Members include Dr. Dan Allen (La Salle University president) as well as former college/university presidents: Dr. Brennan O'Donnell (Manhattan College), Brother Louis



DeThomasis (Saint Mary's University of Minnesota) and Brother James Gaffney (Lewis University.) Brother General Councilor Chris Patiño, FSC, serves as liaison to the General Council.

Financing the Future

While the finances for beginning this new college have been assured, what remains is to raise money for construction and for creating an endowment. There are unique cultural circumstances related to fundraising and philanthropic giving that require creativity on the project leadership team's part as it works with determination to raise the necessary funds. A fundraiser, Tim Beresnyak, was hired to assist in reaching the financial goals. He has been working with fundraising committees based in the United States and East Africa, as well as having conversations with other international partners.

All have acknowledged that since there are no known financially affluent alums from the Lasallian schools in the area, the task of raising awareness and \$16,000,000 is a challenge. However, work has begun to develop strategies of attracting

Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, with Robert, a 2023 graduate of CTIE. While CTIE is focused on teacher training, LSC-EST would expand higher education opportunities. *Courtesy LSC-EST*

foundations and donors, including seeking friends capable of making a significant gift that would have a major impact on transforming the society in East Africa and beyond. Might we join together as Lasallians to pray for the success of this project. ■

Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, has a long history of service in the Lwanga District. Since 2002, he has served as formator and board member, as well as lecturer, campus minister and fundraiser, for Christ the Teacher Institute for Education (CTIE). He currently serves as project director for La Salle College of Education, Science & Technology (LSC-EST).

To learn more about the project or assist with fundraising, contact Brother Dennis Lee at director@lbedf.org or Tim Beresnyak at tberesnyak@cbconf.org or (202) 529-0047 x122. For updates, visit LaSalleCollegeKenya.org.

calendar of events

January 2024

- 2-5 Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 11 Webinar: Spiritual Care for a Busy Educator

February 2024

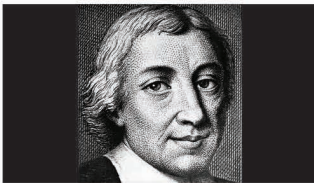
- 2 Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU) Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2-5 Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) Meeting, Washington, DC
- 7 Webinar: Building Inclusive Communities in Our Schools
- 11-14 Encountering Lasallian Spirituality: A Workshop and Retreat, Lutz, FL
- 16-19 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Darien, IL
- 25-28 Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) Conference, Orlando, FL

March 2024

- 7-9 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, SFNO Gathering, Duncans Mills, CA
- 14-16 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, DENA Gathering, Marriottsville, MD
- 19 Webinar: Retired Lasallians Connect and Contribute
- 21-23 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, MW Gathering, Marine on St. Croix, MN

April 2024

- 16 Webinar: Integral Ecology: A New Lasallian Educational Project



La  Salle
RELAN

REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Scan here to register and access archived webinars:



www.Lasallian.info

January 11
**Spiritual Care for
a Busy Educator**

*Brother Matthew Chiantella, FSC
Brother J.D. Macioce, FSC*

March 19
**Retired Lasallians Connect
and Contribute**

*Robert N. Ortbal
Joan E. Williams*

February 7
**Building Inclusive
Communities in Our Schools**
Maryann O'Neill

April 16
**Integral Ecology: A New
Lasallian Educational Project**
Brother Gus Sinco, FSC

Registration is now open!

We are Lasallian

UNDERSTANDING



PROTECTING



GUIDING



Providing Catholic Organizations with Comprehensive Plans and Solutions

- > Catholic School Management
- > Employee Health Plan
- > Employee Pension Plan
- > Employee Retirement Savings
- > Mission Advancement
- > Property/Casualty
- > Religious Health
- > Student Accident Plan
- > Website Design/Board Portals
- > BMT Management & Financial Consultants



cbservices.org • 800.807.0100

Delafalle TODAY

Christian Brothers Conference

415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20017

