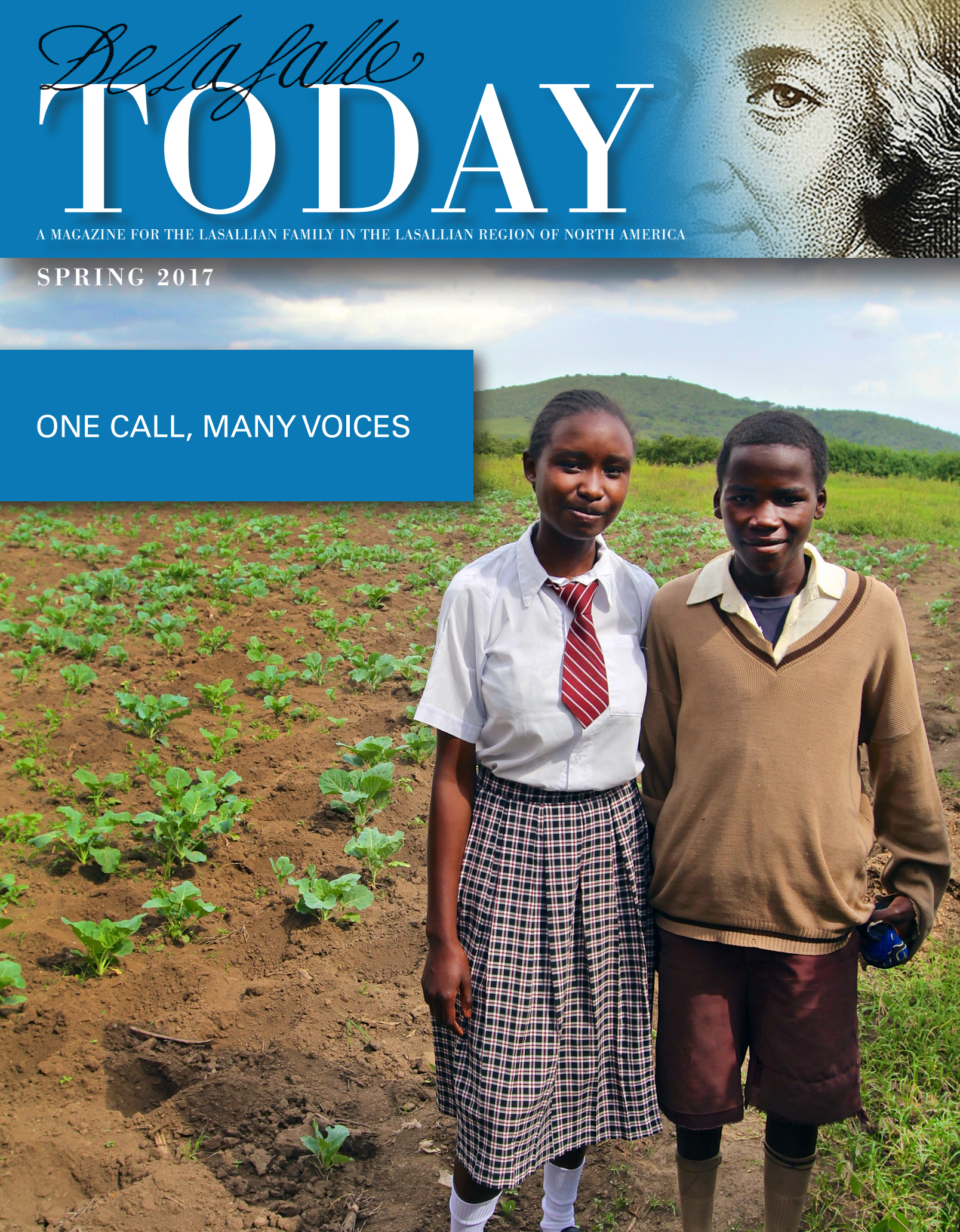


De La Salle
TODAY

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

SPRING 2017

ONE CALL, MANY VOICES



Dear Reader,

In our vast Lasallian world, we are bound to hear many voices. Our mission reaches 77 countries and touches the hearts of more than one million young people in nearly 1,000 educational ministries.*Together, we must listen to the many voices as we respond to the one call of God.

The Lasallian theme for the 2016-2017 liturgical year celebrates "One Call, Many Voices." As you may recall, in the spirit of the 45th General Chapter, the Superior and General Council developed annual themes through the year 2021 to support the overall theme of "Living Together Our Joyful Mission."

This issue brings to life the four dialogues presented in the Lasallian Reflection for "One Call, Many Voices," which states, "One of our critical roles as Lasallian educators is to help adolescents and young adults to understand one another and to discern the one call of God."

Dialogue one emphasizes that our first commitment is to the poor. Highlighting this part of the reflection is the inspirational story of Clinton Mburu Wangari, a young man whose life was changed when he entered Child Discovery Centre (CDC) in Kenya. CDC is part of the twinning program, which matches schools in the Lasallian Region of North America with ministries in the Lwanga District of Africa to offer financial support and build relationships between the students.

Dialogue two invites us into a dialogue with the Church to ensure that we are led by the Spirit. In our second story, you'll see how this happens on a daily basis in the Francophone Canada District as its ministries respond to the call of the Church through service to young people.

Dialogue three reminds us that Lasallian spirituality "listens with care and respect and is open to the questions proposed by people of other faiths." In "Creating a Campus of Inclusion," we share the story of the Interfaith Sacred Space at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga and Roshun Rahimi, a Muslim student who went from feeling excluded to being embraced by her Lasallian community.

Dialogue four cautions us to take care of ourselves. We have two stories along this dialogue. One shows the impact of the Lasallian Volunteers' Spiritual Companion Initiative, while the other highlights retreat programs in the District of Eastern North America and the Midwest District.

We hope these stories provide inspiration and help you discern how you can respond to the many voices in our mission. You can find the full Lasallian Reflection for "One Call, Many Voices," along with other resources for this theme, on our website at www.lasallian.info/one-call-many-voices.



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Editor

*These statistics are current as of December 31, 2016, and were provided by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

De La Salle TODAY

DE LA SALLE TODAY IS PUBLISHED BY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE FOR LASALLIANS 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

GENERAL COUNCILOR, RELAN
BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR LASALLIAN EDUCATION
MARK FREUND

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE
JIM LINDSAY

EDITOR
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

ASSISTANT EDITOR/LAYOUT AND DESIGN
ANNA WADDELOVE

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE
BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

TRANSLATION
DENIS DE VILLERS

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
DENIS DE VILLERS
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
BROTHER DENNIS LEE, FSC
ANNA WADDELOVE
RYAN WALL

PHOTOGRAPHY
CENTRE NOTRE-DAME DE LA ROUGE
CHILD DISCOVERY CENTRE
JOSH CUPPEK, MANHATTAN COLLEGE
DE LA SALLE INSTITUTE, CHICAGO
DENIS DE VILLERS
DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA
ABEL GUTIERREZ
BROTHER THOMAS HETLAND, FSC, CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SERVICES
INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
BROTHER KEVIN JUNK, FSC
LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS
GERRY SERRANO, SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
VILLA DES JEUNES

CREATIVE CONSULTANT
JOHN BURNS DESIGN GROUP

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.

(Cover) Child Discovery Centre has served more than 500 children since it opened in 2000.

Courtesy Abel Gutierrez



- 6 TWINNING: RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE
THE STORY OF CLINTON MBURU WANGARI, CHILD DISCOVERY CENTRE, NAKURU, KENYA
BY BROTHER DENNIS LEE, FSC
- 11 BRINGING WORD AND WITNESS IN THE FRANCOPHONE CANADA DISTRICT
BY DENIS DE VILLERS
- 15 APPORTER NOTRE PAROLE ET NOTRE TÉMOIGNAGE DANS LE DISTRICT DU CANADA FRANCOPHONE
PAR DENIS DE VILLERS
- 18 CREATING A CAMPUS OF INCLUSION
BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
- 22 LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
BY RYAN WALL
- 24 REFRESHING OUR HEARTS THROUGH RETREATS
BY ANNA WADDELOVE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2 NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

31 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

2019: CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF LASALLIAN VOCATIONS

Lasallians throughout the world will join together in 2019 to celebrate the Year of Lasallian Vocations with the theme “De La Salle: One Heart, One Commitment, One Life.” The Year of Lasallian Vocations marks the 300th anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La

Salle’s entry into eternal life and celebrates the impact of the mission he started. The yearlong celebration will take place during the 2018-2019 liturgical year, beginning on December 2, 2018, the first Sunday of Advent, and concluding on November 24, 2019, the feast of Christ the King. The Institute has established a 2019 ad hoc commission to focus on preparations, and the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) has a preparatory committee as well. More information is available at www.lasallian.info/2019-the-year-of-lasallian-vocations.



SECOND COHORT OF JOHNSTON INSTITUTE TO START IN JULY

The second cohort of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice will start in July 2017 with gatherings occurring by District. Launched

in 2014, the Johnston Institute took a hiatus after the first two-year cohort to evaluate the program in order to better meet the needs of Lasallians. The Johnston Institute is a formation program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference that focuses on deepening participants’ understanding of De La Salle’s story and vision, Lasallian pedagogy, promotion of justice, and spirituality. It utilizes contemporary texts to inform and influence current and future Lasallian practice. This program is designed for Lasallians who exercise mission influence and/or show potential for such in the future. Registration is open now and ends May 1. Register at www.lasallian.info/johnston.



BUTTIMER LOCATION TO RETURN TO ROOTS

The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies will return to its roots for the summers of 2017 and 2018. Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, will host the formation program after more than 25 years of Buttimer being held at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga. Buttimer began in 1986 with the first cohort at Manhattan College. The summer sessions in 1987 and 1988 were held at the Sangre de Cristo Spiritual Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Because of the limited size of that facility, in 1989 Buttimer moved to Saint Mary’s College of California. Buttimer is a formation program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference, and the location change came as part of the continuous effort to improve formation programs. Buttimer is an intensive three-year formation program that studies the life, work and spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian educational mission. Registration materials are available at www.lasallian.info/buttimer. The deadline to register is May 1.



Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, will host the Buttimer Institute for the summers of 2017 and 2018. Courtesy Josh Cuppek, Manhattan College

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED



The Lasallians Helping Lasallians program at Mullen High School is honored with the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence during the 2017 LASSCA Conference.

LASSCA EXAMINES OUR CHANGING CULTURE

The Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) held its 13th annual conference February 26 through Wednesday, March 1, 2017, in Orlando, Florida. Through a variety of speakers and breakout sessions, chief administrators, board members and other leaders explored the theme “Lasallian Leadership in a Rapidly Changing Culture.” Featured speakers included Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN, J.D., Ph.D., attorney at law and education law consultant at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California; Marcia Chatelain, Ph.D., associate professor of history and African American studies at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.; Ann M. Garrido, D.Min., associate professor of homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri; and Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who addressed participants via video conferencing. The Lasallians Helping Lasallians program at Mullen High School in Denver, Colorado, received the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence, which recognizes excellence in a Lasallian secondary school program that represents admirable values, standards and passions. Attendees also took part in table discussions, Masses, prayer, District and group dinners, and more.

NEW DENA VISITOR APPOINTED

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, has appointed Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, to serve as the second Visitor of the District of Eastern North America (DENA). The term of Brother Dennis Lee, who is currently an Auxiliary Visitor for DENA, will begin September 1, 2017, at the conclusion of the term of Brother Dennis Malloy, FSC. Brother Dennis Malloy is completing two four-year terms as Visitor, following two years as Visitor of the former Baltimore District. Brother Dennis Lee has served as a teacher, campus minister, in parish work and as a missionary in Africa.



Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, will serve as the second Visitor for the District of Eastern North America. Courtesy District of Eastern North America

**WANT TO RECEIVE EMAILS
WITH LASALLIAN NEWS?
EMAIL US AT
COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO**



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS AWARDED FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS



For the 2017-2018 service year, Lasallian Volunteers has been awarded \$100,000 to assist with student loan payments for

Lasallian Volunteers who complete a year of service. The grant is meant to address the impact of the loss of AmeriCorps, which previously awarded educational grants to volunteers at the completion of a service year. The grant, called the Saint Solomon Fund, is named in honor of Saint Solomon Le Clercq, FSC, and the work he did for the Lasallian mission during his time. Saint Solomon, a martyr of the French Revolution, was canonized October 16, 2016. He was the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be martyred and the first to be beatified. This fund enables Lasallian Volunteers to recruit qualified post-graduate students who are interested in serving the Lasallian mission and exploring their vocation as an educator while living in community. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

APPOINTMENTS

COLLEEN AHEARN, Executive Director, San Miguel School, Chicago, IL, effective December 1, 2016

DR. ADAM EHRMANTRAUT, President, Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park, MN, effective February 1, 2017

BROTHER DENNIS LEE, FSC, Visitor, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ, effective September 1, 2017

CHARLES LEGENDRE, AFSC, Director, Office of Lasallian Evangelization and Catechesis, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Covington, LA, effective July 1, 2017

JIM LINDSAY, Director of Administration, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective October 24, 2016

BROTHER AUGUSTINE NICOLETTI, FSC, President, Ethiopian Catholic University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, effective summer 2017

ANDREW STRAIN, Database Manager, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective March 8, 2017

The 2016-2017 Lasallian Volunteers gather at their Midyear Retreat in January 2017 at Point O'Pines in upstate New York.

Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

CELEBRATING THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT SOLOMON

Brother Solomon Le Clercq, FSC, was canonized in a ceremony October 16, 2016, in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Saint Solomon, a martyr of the French Revolution, was the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be martyred and the first to be beatified. Brother Solomon is credited with a miracle that took place in 2007. A five-year-old Venezuelan girl was cured of complications from a venomous snakebite through the prayers offered by religious Sisters, children and parishioners before their church's statue of Brother Solomon, who was venerated in the area. More information and resources to celebrate Saint Solomon can be found at www.lasallian.info/stsolomon.



*Lasallians from around the world attended the canonization of Saint Solomon.
Courtesy Brother Thomas Hetland, FSC, Christian Brothers Services*

Have you ever thought
about being a

BROTHER?

Have you ever thought
about being a

BROTHER?

Have you ever thought
about being a

BROTHER?

A young man must hear this question **three times**
from teachers, family and friends
before he will connect with us.



De La Salle
BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Be one of the **three**

www.BrothersVocation.org



Out of the 50 children currently served at Child Discovery Centre, 33 live at CDC, while 10 are in the outreach program and live with their families, three attend and reside at universities, three are in college and live at hostels near the college, and one attends and resides at St. Mary's Secondary School in Nyeri, Kenya, another ministry in the twinning program. Courtesy Abel Gutierrez

TWINNING: RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE

THE STORY OF CLINTON MBURU WANGARI, CHILD DISCOVERY CENTRE, NAKURU, KENYA

BY BROTHER DENNIS LEE, FSC

In every society throughout the world, we find vulnerable people. The Lasallian theme for the current liturgical year, “One Call, Many Voices,” urges us as Lasallians to respond, as far as we are able, to the real needs of our fellow brothers and sisters.

The twinning program between the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) and the Lwanga District of Africa is one of our Lasallian responses. Since 1995, RELAN educational communities have twinned with educational ministries in Lwanga to build relationships and provide financial support.

In Nakuru, Kenya, Child Discovery Centre (CDC) opened 17 years ago to serve homeless, abandoned and abused children. It has relied on the goodness of its twinned schools in RELAN to assist children not only with providing the most basic necessities – food, clothing, shelter and clean water – but also with education and hope. The donations help CDC enroll children in school, pay school fees, and buy uniforms, books and other supplies.

CDC is located just outside the magnificent Nakuru National Park, and these children begin their lives figuratively and literally “outside the encampment.” As addressed in dialogue one of the Lasallian Reflection for the 2016-2017 liturgical year, “One Call, Many Voices,” we learn that throughout our Lasallian world, “we hear the call to represent the needs of the society’s most vulnerable.”

As you will sense in this story, in Nakuru, RELAN Lasallians have been instrumental in working with our Lwanga District Lasallians in advancing a ministry that reflects our common call to represent the needs of the society’s most vulnerable youth, especially the poor. In June of 2014, seven RELAN Lasallians visited CDC and met Clinton Mburu Wangari. His voice touched their hearts, and I invite you to hear his voice as well.

CLINTON’S STORY

Born in Kenya on the first day of 1990, I, Clinton Mburu Wangari, am the first born of a single mother and a family of three, including one sister and one brother. My mother left home back in the year 2001 with friends to look for a greener pasture in a neighboring country (Uganda). Sixteen years down the line, she has never returned and all we cling on to is the hope that maybe one day in the future, she will.

The following year, my aged grandmother took me to a primary school to acquire education. Life was extremely hard for me, bearing in mind that I was the eldest and my grandmother was ailing. Her health continuously deteriorated, and I had to drop out of school to take care of the whole family. We lived in a thatched mud house near Lake Olborosat (50 miles east of Nakuru, Kenya). I started burning charcoal at a tender age to raise cash for the family. I begged in the streets and in the open markets for food or any available help. Then one day, in my routine of begging, I met a man who would change my life.

He asked me if I would like to resume my education. Without hesitation and not knowing what I wanted by then, I said, “Yes.” He told me where I should meet him the next day. I was living on the streets, so I went to my grandmother that evening, only to find that our only house had gone down in flames a week before, and she was living with her neighbor. I explained to her my meeting and for the first time in a long time, I saw her smile. The next day we woke up before 3:00 a.m. and



Clinton Mburu Wangari, far right, stands with, from left, Brother Paul Anderson, FSC, Child Discovery Centre administrator, Janerose, social worker, and Martin, patron of the boys. Courtesy Child Discovery Centre

started walking. We carried a packed lunch and 60 Kenyan shillings (60 cents). After more than five hours of walking, we boarded a van and paid 40 Kenyan shillings to travel to Nakuru. (I was familiar with the place since it was where I had previously lived with other street children.)

And so on that day in September 2005, we met the God-sent man, Brother Francis Kamanda, at Child Discovery Centre (CDC). When we arrived, my grandmother was so extremely tired and hungry that she couldn't speak until Brother Kamanda gave her something to eat. After a lengthy talk, he agreed to take me to school, and that was when I saw my grandmother completely smile. Early the next day, Brother Kamanda took me to Madaraka Primary School – a turning point in my life.

In CDC, I met new friends who were not very different from me. From the beginning until today, I have known that they would forever be my family. We prayed, played, ate, drank and slept under one roof of CDC. We had fun, shared sad moments, missed lunch at times together, and what we went through made our bond tighter. We went for Mass together, served in the church together, and went to similar schools. In

CDC, I learned who God is and His plans for humanity. Since Lasallians came to visit frequently, I made friends with people from all over the world, and I can't hold my tears back as I write this knowing that I can't personally thank all these persons for the hope, the courage and the physical support they have offered to me and us.

In the year 2008, I finished my primary education with an A grade. I was the best in our school and the best in our province. No one was happier than Brother Kamanda. I remember the warm embrace he gave me then. I joined Hillcrest Secondary School in February 2009 and continued to live at CDC (while Brother Francis Njoroge was the director of CDC). Life in high school passed very fast, and at the end of 2012, I finished my high school education, also with an A grade. I was the best in our school.

While waiting for the results of that exam so that I could join a university, I started tutoring my fellow brothers and sisters in CDC. The next year, I joined Meru University to study Business Information Technology. CDC paid for the fees for my first semester, but I had to drop out at the start of the second semester because CDC could not afford to continue

RELAN SCHOOLS TWINNED WITH CHILD DISCOVERY CENTRE:

- Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, PA
- Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, NY
- Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN
- De La Salle Blackfeet School, Browning, MT
- De La Salle Elementary at Blessed Sacrament, Memphis, TN
- De Marillac Academy, San Francisco, CA
- La Salle Academy, New York, NY
- Ocean Tides School, Narragansett, RI
- St. John's College High School, Chevy Chase, DC
- San Miguel High School, Tucson, AZ

To learn more about twinning, visit www.lasallian.info/twinning.



*Child Discovery Centre funds education expenses for students to attend local schools.
Courtesy Child Discovery Centre*

paying. Missing education, it hit me very hard as my life was blurred again for the second time. However, I then met the District of Eastern North America Twinning Summit group, and they helped me pay a full semester in Meru University, so I was back on track. I have continued my studies, earning money by teaching and working in construction. And during school holidays, I return to CDC where I still tutor my young brothers and sisters. They are my family.

God willing, this June, despite life's challenges, I will finish my university education and still strive to get beyond that. I have many things that I want to do as a career. Most practically, I want to be a lecturer at the university and/or to be the CFO of a company. Before long, I want to start a children's home like CDC. Whatever I do, I want to be a leader who can teach by example, instill courage, give hope to the hopeless, speak on behalf of the oppressed, fight for the truth and justice, and try to bring light to those kids out there in the streets who have a dream of being a better version of themselves, if only they had a chance. I am eternally grateful for being a Lasallian for life.

Mama, you will be proud of me. ●

Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, is an Auxiliary Visitor for the District of Eastern North America.



Brother Dennis Lee, FSC, left, and Clinton Mburu Wangari, right, talk with the participants of the 2014 Twinning Summit. Courtesy Abel Gutierrez



TWINNING
LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA
Walking Together in Solidarity

SAVE THE DATE!



HUETHER
LASALLIAN CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2017 › DENVER, COLORADO

This year's event will be held in Denver for the first time!
We invite you to mark your calendar and join Lasallians from around the Region
for an insightful week at Grand Hyatt Denver on 1750 Welton Street.

More information to come this summer at www.Lasallian.info

Lasallian Reflection: One Call, Many Voices

Dialogue Two: With the Church, to ensure that we are led by the Spirit as we bring our word and witness to the world

BRINGING WORD AND WITNESS IN THE FRANCOPHONE CANADA DISTRICT

BY DENIS DE VILLERS

Young people at Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge create a Lasallian star with their hands. Courtesy Centre Notre-Dame de La Rouge

Providing trusted spaces where teenagers feel comfortable opening up to others – and then to God – is a daily commitment of the Lasallian ministries in the Francophone Canada District.

Faith formation in the province of Québec has undergone significant change in the past 20 years. Schools have been deconfessionalized and religious education has been abandoned in favor of an Ethics and Religious Culture program that does not include faith formation. It is now the responsibility of the parishes and families to prepare young people to receive the sacraments.

Resources and budgets are limited in parishes and dioceses, so the services offered in our Lasallian ministries are more needed than ever. These programs serve as an example of how the mission is engaged in a dialogue with the Church, as highlighted in dialogue two of the Lasallian Reflection for the current liturgical year, “One Call, Many Voices,” which invites us into a dialogue with the Church, “to ensure that we are led by the Spirit as we bring our word and witness to the world.”

The programs offered in the Francophone Canada District provide young people with, as the Lasallian Reflection describes, “a trusted space in the company of trusted adults to express what is happening interiorly” and help them develop their inner life.

CENTRE NOTRE-DAME DE LA ROUGE

For 77 years, Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Québec, has provided youth with strong and meaningful experiences. Over the past 10 years, the Diocese of Saint-Jérôme has relied on the center’s expertise in

providing human and Christian education, and, where pastoral services are insufficient, helping parishes with sacramental preparation.

Recently, the Diocese of Saint-Jérôme asked the Notre-Dame de la Rouge team to be the center point for young people who want to take on special projects, like the diocesan youth gathering that is planned for June 2017. Forty young leaders from all over the diocese are involved. They will be trained at the center in order to animate others at the gathering.



Young people reflect during an activity at Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge. Courtesy Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge

BRINGING WORD AND WITNESS IN THE FRANCOPHONE CANADA DISTRICT

CONTINUED

Regular meetings are planned every two or three months with the diocese to ensure that everything goes well. The adult animators in the diocese and parishes know and appreciate the expertise of the center, which is now highly respected. The newly published Lasallian Educational Kit, which includes ideas for Lasallian animation programs for use in retreat centers and youth ministry, has contributed to this reputation.

Sylvain Beauregard, director of Notre-Dame de la Rouge, stressed the importance of the center not living in isolation.

“It would be too easy to stay safe in our bubble waiting for young people to come to us,” said Beauregard. “That’s why we hit the road to animate in Windsor, Alberta, Northern Ontario, and in several schools in the region.”

Although a large part of the center’s programming is geared toward summer camps and school retreat days, schools also come for customized programs that include a faith component.

“Even if an organization came for an animation that is not strictly speaking pastoral,” Beauregard explained, “teachers and counselors are advised that there will be moments of contemplation by the river, moments in the chapel before bed and other spiritual experiences that bring self-awareness about oneself, others and God.”

In sharing the gift of the Lasallian charism, Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge is living the call of the second dialogue in the Lasallian Reflection to engage in a shared discernment for the wider ecclesial mission: “At the local level, we participate and contribute to the life of the community. At the diocesan, national, and international levels, we meet with Bishops and other pastoral leaders in order to deepen our shared understanding of how our educational and evangelizing mission shares in the wider ecclesial mission.”

The work of Notre-Dame de la Rouge not only shares a common mission with the diocesan Church, but it is the face of the Church. The center’s expertise allows the Lasallian mission of providing human and Christian education to support and develop Church projects.

VILLA DES JEUNES

For 45 years, Villa des Jeunes in St-Augustin-de-Desmaures, Québec, has served as a Lasallian pastoral and spiritual animation retreat center. It welcomes school groups and organizes the Diocese of Québec’s sacramental preparation.

In the past four years, Villa des Jeunes has become a partner with the Diocese of Québec. It participates in the standing committee of the diocese’s youth ministry, consults on the vision of the mission of the Church to develop the youth of Québec, works closely in the sacramental preparation and rite of Christian initiation, works on common projects, accompanies pastoral teams in the parish, provides formation to the catechists, and offers formation in prison.

“Cardinal [Gérald Cyprien] Lacroix asked us to cross to the other side,” said Julie Baillargeon, director of Villa des Jeunes. “Like the apostles of Jesus who went off to announce the Good News, we cannot stay in our little world, we have to go to those who are on the other side.”

The expertise of Villa des Jeunes is recognized by the relevance and quality of the animation programs offered to various groups. Indeed, high-impact activities give young people intense moments that take them out of their comfort zone and make them think. Like the See-Judge-Act that had been the long-standing leitmotif for Catholic youth, the Villa offers young people an opportunity to experiment with fun challenges, review their life experiences through reflection and sharing, and reinvest what they discover into their communities after the experience. Everything takes place within a day. This formula is so acclaimed and appreciated that in the 2015-2016 academic year, 163 groups from public and private schools as well as 20 parish groups attended the center.

Customized programs are available to groups and focus on a variety of themes, such as inclusion, bullying, school perseverance, resilience, self-knowledge, trust, healthy romantic relationships, leadership and group cohesion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

*Young people enjoy activities at Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge.
Courtesy Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge*





The Villa des Jeunes staff, members of the board and members of the Brothers community gather together. Courtesy Villa des Jeunes

For two years now, the Villa has welcomed special needs students free of charge to give them a break from school and help students and teachers strengthen their relationships. The teachers are invited to participate in the process, so they can learn how to connect in a different way with their students.

“The Villa is a special place,” said Baillargeon, “because there are links being created, reconciliations taking place, and discoveries happening.”

Villa des Jeunes performs a mission that cannot be found in a formal school setting. In taking youth out of their environment, a window of opportunity opens so that they may open up and deepen their reflection.

Through the rich and varied offerings of Villa des Jeunes, there is a space of trust which is foundational in the relationship between the educator and youth.

“Our charism as Lasallians is truly the ministry of presence to youth,” explained Baillargeon. “We are here to take the first steps towards the young. The magic often happens in informal times where our animators join the kids in downtime to generate playful moments.”

To carry out its mission of contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church, the Villa des Jeunes team is proud to maintain proactive relationships with schools, the diocese, parishes, universities and colleges in the Québec region.

“We are always evolving, the wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing hard, and it continues to blow to bring us further along. I’m lucky to witness this,” said Baillargeon.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FAITH OF YOUTH

These two centers of the Francophone Canada District have developed a pedagogy of faith formation for young people that embodies the Lasallian charism.

In the context of a Church wondering how to reach youth, the great vitality of these centers in bringing the light of faith is made possible by these elements: the creation of spaces for speech and action, significant people who touch the heart and introduce the Word, and moments set aside for listening and sharing.

This is how our educational mission is truly evangelizing and participating actively in the broader mission of the Church, by announcing that God is always there, sometimes hidden, but always waiting to be revealed. ●

Denis de Villers is the communications adviser for the Francophone Canada District.

APPORTER NOTRE PAROLE ET NOTRE TÉMOIGNAGE DANS LE DISTRICT DU CANADA FRANCOPHONE

PAR DENIS DE VILLERS

Ouvrir un moment de grâce dans la vie d'un jeune pour qu'il puisse s'ouvrir à lui-même en tant que personne humaine en devenir, puis aux autres et enfin à Dieu, c'est un engagement qui se vit au quotidien dans les œuvres lasalliennes au Québec.

Cela ne va pas de soi. L'éducation de la foi au Québec a connu de grandes secousses ces 20 dernières années. Les écoles ont été déconfectionnalisées, et l'enseignement religieux a été abandonné au profit d'une formation qui, si elle prépare à l'humanisme, n'éduque plus les jeunes à la foi. C'est donc maintenant à l'Église diocésaine et aux familles de voir au parcours religieux des enfants qui voudront approcher les sacrements.

Les ressources et les budgets étant limités dans les paroisses et les diocèses, l'expertise d'œuvres comme celles que nous vous présentons ci-dessous prend tout son sens.

Ces programmes illustrent bien la façon dont la mission est engagée dans un dialogue avec l'Église, comme le souligne la réflexion lasallienne pour l'année liturgique, « Un appel, plusieurs voix. » Cette deuxième réflexion nous invite dans un dialogue avec l'Église, « pour être sûrs que sommes guidés par l'Esprit quand nous portons notre parole et notre témoignage au monde. »

Les programmes offerts dans le district du Canada francophone offrent aux jeunes, comme le dit la réflexion lasallienne, « un espace de confiance en compagnie d'adultes en qui ils ont confiance pour exprimer ce qu'ils sentent intérieurement » et ainsi développer leur vie intérieure.

CENTRE NOTRE-DAME DE LA ROUGE

Le Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge reçoit au camp depuis 77 ans des jeunes qui viennent y puiser une expérience de vie forte et significative. Ces 10 dernières années, l'Église diocésaine met à profit l'expertise de transmission de valeurs humaines et chrétiennes jusqu'ici développée au Centre. En effet, dans un contexte où l'offre pastorale décline dans plusieurs régions du diocèse, le Centre donne un coup de main aux paroisses en participant à la préparation sacramentelle des jeunes.

Dernièrement, le diocèse de Saint-Jérôme a fait un pas de plus en demandant au Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge d'être un point rassembleur des jeunes du diocèse qui veulent vivre un projet.

Et justement cette année, les animateurs du Centre ont pour mission de préparer des jeunes pour la journée diocésaine de la jeunesse qui aura lieu en juin prochain. On parle ici de 40 jeunes leaders de partout qui seront formés afin de faire vivre à d'autres la journée diocésaine des jeunes. Un temps fort est vécu au camp, mais aussi sur place, aux 4 coins du diocèse.

Des jeunes profitent du plein-air au Centre Notre-Dame de La Rouge. Gracieuseté du Centre Notre-Dame de La Rouge

Young people enjoy outdoor activities at Centre Notre Dame de la Rouge. Courtesy Centre Notre-Dame de La Rouge



De gauche à droite, Philippe Blais, animateur au Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, Frère Fernando Lambert, FÉC, ancien Visiteur du district du Canada francophone et Sylvain Beauregard, directeur du Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, participent à la fête du fondateur en mai 2016. Gracieuseté de Denis de Villers, service des communications du district.

From left, Philippe Blais, educator at Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, Brother Fernando Lambert, FSC, former Visitor of the Francophone Canada District, and Sylvain Beauregard, director of Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, participate in the May 2016 Founder's Day celebration. Courtesy Denis de Villers

Des rencontres régulières avec le diocèse tous les 2 ou 3 mois sont prévues pour s'assurer que tout se passe bien. Le Diocèse et les animateurs-accompagnateurs des paroisses connaissent et estiment l'expertise du Centre qui jouit maintenant d'une réputation fort enviable. *La Trousse éducative lasallienne*, publiée récemment, a notamment contribué à cette notoriété.

Pour le directeur, Sylvain Beauregard, « Il est important pour le Centre de ne pas vivre en autarcie, ce serait trop facile d'être bien entre nous dans notre bulle et d'attendre que les jeunes viennent à nous. C'est pour cela que nous sommes partis sur la route pour animer des groupes de jeunes à l'extérieur du Centre à Windsor, dans l'Ouest canadien (en Alberta), dans le nord de l'Ontario et dans plusieurs écoles de la région. »

Bien qu'une grande partie de la programmation du Centre soit orientée vers les écoles qui viennent vivre une animation pastorale et les camps d'été, les journées d'animation avec les écoles qui viennent au Centre sont aussi des occasions privilégiées d'éducation de la foi.

Véritable don pour l'Église, cette pédagogie lasallienne de l'intériorité ouvre sur le monde et permet aux animateurs du Centre de repartir en mission vers les écoles. La mission prendra tantôt le visage d'une préparation sacramentelle, tantôt celui d'une préparation à un voyage humanitaire ou d'un camp de leadership destiné à un futur conseil étudiant.

« Même si l'organisme est venu pour vivre un camp qui n'est pas à proprement parler pastoral, - souligne le directeur du Centre - les responsables sont prévenus qu'il se trouvera à l'horaire des moments de contemplation au bord de la rivière, des moments à la chapelle avant le coucher et d'autres expériences qui rapprochent de soi-même des autres et de Dieu. »

En partageant ce cadeau du charisme lasallien, le Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge vit l'appel du deuxième dialogue dans la réflexion Lasallienne à s'engager dans un discernement partagé pour la grande mission de l'Église : « Sur le plan local, nous participons et contribuons à la vie locale de la communauté. Sur le plan diocésain, national et international, nous rencontrons les évêques et d'autres leaders pastoraux pour approfondir notre compréhension partagée à propos de quelle manière notre mission éducatrice et évangélisatrice participe à la mission plus large de l'Église. »

Le travail du Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge est non seulement en dialogue de mission commune avec l'Église diocésaine, mais il est visage de l'Église là où cette dernière ne peut aller. L'expertise du Centre permet de soutenir et de développer des projets d'église en plus de contribuer à l'éducation humaine et chrétienne des jeunes.

Des jeunes profitent du plein-air au Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge.
Gracieuseté du Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge.

Young people enjoy outdoor activities at Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge.
Courtesy Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge

VILLA DES JEUNES

Depuis 45 ans, la Villa des Jeunes est un centre d'animation pastorale et spirituelle lasallien qui reçoit en ses murs des groupes scolaires et organise pour les paroisses du diocèse de Québec des services de préparation aux sacrements.

Mais, depuis 4 ans, l'oeuvre est devenue un partenaire privilégié avec le diocèse de Québec et, notamment, elle: participe à la table de concertation de la pastorale jeunesse du diocèse; est consultée sur la vision de la mission d'église à développer pour les jeunes de Québec; collabore étroitement dans la préparation sacramentelle et l'initiation à la vie chrétienne; travaille à des projets communs; accompagne des équipes pastorales en paroisse; forme les catéchètes en paroisse; et donne des formations en prison.

Julie Baillargeon, directrice du Centre, explique : « Le cardinal Lacroix nous a demandé de passer sur l'autre rive. À l'image des apôtres de Jésus qui sont partis annoncer la bonne nouvelle, nous ne pouvons pas rester dans notre petit milieu, il faut aller vers ceux qui sont ailleurs. » Et c'est ainsi que de plus en plus d'interventions en paroisse ou pour le diocèse se vivent sur le terrain.

L'expertise de la Villa des Jeunes se manifeste par la pertinence et la qualité de l'animation offerte aux groupes. En effet, des activités-punch font vivre un « wow » aux jeunes qui les sortent de leur routine de vie pour les faire réfléchir. À l'instar du voir-juger-agir qui a été le leitmotiv des jeunes catholiques d'hier, la Villa propose aux jeunes d'expérimenter des défis ludiques, de relire leur vécu par la réflexion et le partage et d'investir ce qu'ils ont découvert pour repartir avec un éclairage neuf. Le tout se vit à l'intérieur d'une journée. Cette formule est si reconnue et appréciée que, l'an dernier, ce sont 163 groupes d'écoles publiques et privées ainsi que 20 groupes de paroisses qui ont fréquenté le Centre.

Des programmes sur mesure sont offerts aux groupes et portent sur: l'inclusion, l'intimidation, le leadership, la confiance, la persévérance scolaire, la résilience, la connaissance de soi, les liens amoureux, l'affirmation de soi, la confiance aux autres, et la cohésion de groupe. Autant de thèmes qui répondent à un besoin criant chez nos jeunes. Depuis 2 ans maintenant, des groupes d'adaptation scolaire sont accueillis gratuitement pour aider les élèves et leurs enseignants à passer au travers de l'année scolaire. Les enseignants-accompagnateurs étant invités à entrer dans la démarche, ils se retrouvent pleinement actifs pour renouer différemment avec leurs élèves.

« La Villa est un lieu unique – dit la directrice du Centre - car il y a des liens qui se créent, des réconciliations qui s'opèrent et des découvertes qui se font. » La Villa des Jeunes remplit une mission qui ne peut pas être assumée dans un cadre

scolaire formel. En sortant les jeunes de leur milieu naturel, une fenêtre d'opportunité s'ouvre pour qu'ils puissent s'ouvrir à autre chose.

Dans l'offre de service riche et variée que la Villa des Jeunes propose, il y a un espace de confiance qui est toujours mis de l'avant dans la relation entre l'éducateur et les jeunes.

Mme Julie Baillargeon l'explique ainsi : « Notre charisme comme lasalliens est véritablement une pastorale de présence aux jeunes. Nous sommes là pour faire les premiers pas vers les jeunes. La magie s'opère souvent dans les temps non formels où nos animateurs rejoignent les jeunes dans les temps libres lors de moments plus ludiques. »

« Nous sommes toujours en évolution, le vent de l'Esprit souffle fort, et il continue de souffler. Je m'estime chanceuse d'être témoin de cela », poursuit la directrice du Centre.

Pour assumer sa mission, c'est-à-dire de contribuer à la mission évangélisatrice de l'Église, l'équipe de la Villa des Jeunes se fait un point d'honneur de cultiver des liens proactifs avec les écoles, le diocèse, les paroisses, l'université et les cégeps de la région de Québec.

COOPÉRER AVEC DIEU SUR DIFFÉRENTS CHEMINS, C'EST CONTRIBUER À FAIRE NÂÎTRE LA FOI DES JEUNES OÙ QU'ILS SOIENT

Les deux Centres du district du Canada francophone ont développé une pédagogie de la foi des jeunes qui manifeste un savoir-faire et un savoir-être lasalliens.

Dans la mouvance d'une Église qui se cherche, la grande fécondité des Centres qui fait naître la lumière de la foi est rendue possible par: Des lieux de prise de parole et d'action qui sont créés; Des personnes phares qui initient à la parole; Des moments qui permettent une qualité de relation qui permet l'écoute et le partage. Et c'est ainsi que notre mission d'éducation est véritablement évangélisatrice et participe activement à la mission plus large de l'Église, en nommant Dieu qui est toujours là, en filigrane, et qui attend d'être révélé. ●

Denis de Villers est le conseiller en communication du district du Canada francophone.

Lasallian Reflection: One Call, Many Voices

Dialogue Three: In secular and religious spheres, we must have a deep understanding of the culture in which we live



CREATING A CAMPUS OF INCLUSION

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Muslim student Roshun Rahimi had trouble finding her place at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga when she transferred there in September 2014. Wearing a hijab, she felt different from her peers and, admittedly, did not make an effort to immerse herself into campus life. The commuter student began to feel isolated.

"I started kind of spiraling into a depression-like feeling," Rahimi recalled. "So, I actually got the paperwork from the registrar's office to drop out."

Then, she received an email in February 2016 that would change her perspective. It was an invitation to Muslim students, staff, faculty and their families to attend a dinner as a way to support Muslims on campus. The timing was perfect. It was just days after Rahimi and her aunt, who were both wearing headscarves, were removed from a flight for additional screening. They were traveling with Rahimi's three young cousins to visit a family member who had been diagnosed with cancer.

Despite her hesitation, Rahimi attended the dinner with her mother and younger brother. She still remembers being greeted by the "radiant, smiling faces" of faculty and staff. She was shocked to find that this supportive community had existed all along.

WELCOMING CULTURES AT SAINT MARY'S

As Lasallians, welcoming and understanding different cultures is at the heart of dialogue three in the Lasallian Reflection for the current liturgical year, "One Call, Many Voices." Dialogue three reminds us that Lasallian spirituality "listens with care and respect and is open to the questions proposed by people of other faiths."

That is exactly what Rahimi experienced at the dinner. Sponsored by Saint Mary's President James Donahue and Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, director of the college's

Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture and Action, dinner conversations centered around how Saint Mary's could be more supportive of Muslims on campus. Rahimi suggested adding an interfaith prayer space, something that the college had been considering for years.

"It would be awkward because sometimes I would be praying in what I thought was an empty classroom and then a bunch of students would walk in, and they would see me in the corner doing all of these weird movements," she explained.

Rahimi found a champion in Karin McClelland, director of the Mission and Ministry Center. With Rahimi's help, they selected a room and it informally opened that semester. The Interfaith Sacred Space was dedicated in October 2016.

Opening the Interfaith Sacred Space is just one example of how Saint Mary's has taken steps to develop a "deep understanding of the culture in which we live," as highlighted in dialogue three in the Lasallian Reflection.

McClelland, who is a graduate of Saint Mary's, returned to the college about three years ago as a staff member. She found initiatives in place to be inclusive of many cultures, along with a desire to do more. Although the college is deeply rooted in its Catholic tradition, one goal is to promote the development of one's faith – whatever faith he/she practices.

For example, when there is a major crisis locally, nationally or internationally, the campus comes together for an interfaith prayer service where people can express grief and pray for unity in ways that reflect their tradition.

"We're slowly getting there in terms of transforming people's perceptions and their ideas around feeling safe and giving people a place to come together," said McClelland.

*Roshun Rahimi looks on as Karin McClelland, director of the Mission and Ministry Center, speaks during the dedication of the Interfaith Sacred Space.
Courtesy Gerry Serrano, Saint Mary's College of California*

CREATING A CAMPUS OF INCLUSION CONTINUED

Just some of the many initiatives Saint Mary's has undertaken to promote inclusion include the College Committee on Inclusive Excellence, the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, the Center for Engaged Religious Pluralism, the Intercultural Center, the Women's Resource Center, several degree programs that focus on justice and interfaith issues, and participation in Interfaith Leadership Institutes to learn how to support interfaith movements on campus.

"These are different student support services that help us diversify the voices, but support those students and their development so that they can identify themselves as a full member of this community and know that all are welcomed and loved by God," explained McClelland.

THE POWER OF INVITATION AND SUPPORT

That message is getting out on campus. In some ways, it's more of a whisper – things that happen in everyday life and not part of a developed program.

Rahimi finds these messages of inclusion in her classrooms and with her friends. Her friends have expressed their support to her in light of struggles Muslims face nationwide, and her professors are careful to work around the schedule of Muslim holidays.

"My professors have always been extremely understanding and just pillars of support," Rahimi said. "That's one thing that I've always appreciated. I've never felt treated differently or secondary to my other peers by any of my professors at Saint Mary's. If anything, I've just been supported."

That feeling of support started with a single email – the invitation to dinner and discussion.

"That one email changed my whole entire life at Saint Mary's," Rahimi said. "Had it not been that one email, had it not been my mom pushing me to go, my life would not be where it is today. I have had so much opportunity and so many different achievements and failures that I'm actually proud of all of them. I've had so many different opportunities presented just because of that one email."



(Above and inset) Members of the Saint Mary's College community come together for Hands Across SMC, an interfaith prayer service that brings people together during times of local, national or international discontent or crisis. Courtesy Gerry Serrano, Saint Mary's College of California

Saint Mary's College dedicated the Interfaith Sacred Space in October 2016.

Courtesy Gerry Serrano, Saint Mary's College of California

One of those opportunities came from Rahimi's work with McClelland in establishing the Interfaith Sacred Space. Finding her home in the Mission and Ministry Center, Rahimi began working as a Lasallian Peer Minister, a role that allows her to lead interfaith education and celebrations on campus. Being a Lasallian Peer Minister also introduced her to people who have become her best friends. She has turned her experience of feeling isolated into a positive experience as she works on inclusivity, including helping to form an interfaith task force with people of different faith and non-faith traditions with the goal of making the campus more open and inclusive.

Rahimi will graduate in May 2017 and leave her mark on the campus. It is especially important to her because her older brother, Rahmon Rahimi, is now a Saint Mary's student, after transferring there from another school. Like Rahimi, at first, he struggled to find his place on campus. Recognizing her experience in him, Rahimi introduced him to people in the Mission and Ministry Center and includes him in her activities. He is now finding his place and plans to apply to be a Lasallian Peer Minister.

Roshun Rahimi stands in the Interfaith Sacred Space with her brother, Rahmon Rahimi, who is also a Saint Mary's student.

Courtesy Gerry Serrano, Saint Mary's College of California



Whether it is the action of one person or a coordinated campus-wide initiative, Saint Mary's is living the third dialogue in the Lasallian Reflection and committing to "a continuous, humble, and loving dialogue in order to understand the deep aspirations of people (*Rule, 14*)."

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



LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

BY RYAN WALL

Ivette Quinteros's Chicago pride is apparent the moment you begin a conversation with her. Her voice becomes impassioned as she reminisces fondly on her upbringing on the North Side, and she is quick to point out her strong allegiance to the Cubs.

So naturally, when she walked into a coffee shop to meet Tom Cook, her spiritual companion, she was pleased to see that he too was an unabashedly proud Chicagoan.

"I remember walking in and seeing Tom in his Cubs shirt and thinking, 'This is awesome!'" she recalls with a laugh.

In the summer of 2016, Quinteros, 23, was home on break from her Lasallian Volunteers (LV) placement in Providence, Rhode Island, where she worked at The Tides School, a nonprofit family service agency that serves at-risk children. She was meeting Cook for the first time as part of the Spiritual Companion Initiative, which aims to connect current and former LVs and foster a spiritual connection between the two.

"The program developed as a way to provide spiritual direction and an opportunity to connect with an LV alum on a deeper level," explained Kathleen Swain, Lasallian Volunteers director. "Many of our volunteers form strong bonds with the Brothers, but the guidance and support from the alumni really add a new perspective based on their shared experiences. So far, it's helped steer participants as they contemplate their next steps in life and in their relationship with God."

Currently in its second year, the Spiritual Companion Initiative has six participants out of the 39 current LVs. Participants are paired with eight LV alums after a thorough process, during which alums are invited and interviewed. Swain's office puts together a pamphlet with short biographies of the alums,

which are given to current LVs. If an LV feels that they might have a connection with an alum, they are given the alum's contact information.

"I mostly picked Tom because I saw that we had similar backgrounds, and I felt that we could connect and have some productive conversations," Quinteros explained.



Tom Cook, second from left, is one of eight LV alums who are participating in the Spiritual Companion Initiative. They gathered for the training weekend in March 2016. Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers

From left, Lasallian Volunteers Ivette Quinteros, T.J. Diarra and Jaime Turrentine attend the LV Midyear Retreat in January 2017.

Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers

Like Quinteros, Cook, 36, is from the North Side and is a graduate of Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He was an LV in Kansas City, Missouri, for two years at Holy Family Catholic Worker House, a behavioral health clinic and a juvenile detention center. Following his service, he continued his ministry and currently serves at the Catholic Theological Union as assistant director of the Emmaus Formation Program. He decided to participate in the Spiritual Companion Initiative because he believed it enriched a program already close to his heart.

"It can be so tough to figure out who you are and what God's role in your life is," he said. "It's always nice to have someone there who understands – who has lived through it."

For Quinteros, her meeting with Cook came at a particularly difficult time. She had just finished her first year in the LV program and was trying to figure out her next steps, as well as her future with God. She acknowledged that it was difficult working in a school with at-risk youth because some days proved to be particularly personal and frustrating.

The youngest daughter of a Mexican immigrant and a Salvadoran immigrant, Quinteros was shocked to discover in grade school that she was considered "at-risk." She was forced to be aware of her surroundings from a young age. In grade school, she recalls taking classes on street smarts and gun violence. The kindness and camaraderie of one social worker in her neighborhood inspired Quinteros to give back to her community and led her to apply to become an LV.

When she initially got her placement, she was excited to have the chance to form a connection with the at-risk students at The Tides School. She instantly related to the school's neighborhood, given its similarities to her own in Chicago. She took this as a good sign that she could really make a difference in the children's lives. However, there were occasional rough patches in her journey.

"I remember crying a lot," she reflects. "I was told on my first day that I shouldn't feel bad if they didn't connect with me. There were some days that I just couldn't do anything to help a student, and I really took that personally. Some things were just out of my control, and I felt like these kids were holding my hand as I watched them drown. It was emotionally and spiritually draining, to say the least."

At times like this, Quinteros admitted that she questioned her faith – in God and in her own abilities. There was even a moment when she considered quitting halfway through her



service year. She took to prayer for healing and made it a point to reflect daily on her feelings and on the teachings of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

The Lasallian theme for the 2016-2017 liturgical year, "One Call, Many Voices," elaborates on the integral role spirituality plays in an increasingly secular world. It asserts that understanding one another is at the crux of carrying out the work of God, and that understanding ourselves and our limitations is crucial. Dialogue four of the Lasallian Reflection states that, "One of the trap doors in ministry is the temptation to think we must always be available, never stopping, even slowing down ... As we expend this energy on behalf of those entrusted to our care, it is not uncommon that we overlook care for our inner life."

Like Quinteros, Cook recognizes that being an LV can be difficult at times. He describes how his biggest role as a spiritual companion is to listen. The two try to talk monthly through phone calls, but frequently text back and forth for moral support. And of course, they have their occasional coffee meetings when both are in the Windy City.

"I really enjoy talking to Ivette, and the Spiritual Companion Initiative reminds me how awesome and truly special the LV experience is," he said.

Quinteros agrees, adding that the initiative has helped her in her second year of service. She feels comfortable confiding in Cook, and feels that their conversations help her regain her confidence when she is down.

"After I leave Tides, I don't know where I'll be headed or how I'll get there," said Quinteros. "But now I have the faith to know I'm headed in the right direction." ●

Ryan Wall is a junior studying communication at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lasallian Reflection: One Call, Many Voices

Dialogue Four: In prayer, which refreshes our hearts and where we re-locate the divine spark within ourselves and allow God to love us into being

REFRESHING OUR HEARTS THROUGH RETREATS

BY ANNA WADDELOVE

“MONSIEUR, OUR VERY DEAR FATHER:

We, the principal Brothers of the Christian Schools, having in view the greater glory of God as well as the good of the Church and of our Society, consider that it is of the greatest importance that you return to the care and general direction of God’s holy work . . . That is why, Monsieur, we very humbly beseech you, and we command you in the name of and on behalf of the body of the Society to which you have vowed obedience, to take up at once the general government of the Society.”

- Portion of a letter to De La Salle in Parménie, April 1, 1714





(Below left and inset) A view of Parménie. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service

(Left) DENA women and Brothers gather together for a women's retreat in Narragansett, Rhode Island, in spring 2014. Courtesy Brother Kevin Junk, FSC

Our historical understanding is that by 1713, numerous problems in the life of the community and in the life of our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, had reached a breaking point. He had been through trial after trial within both his personal life and within the Institute and needed respite. He traveled from Grenoble to a nearby hermitage called Parménie, where he became a recluse, until receiving the letter (at left). This plea from his Brothers, along with the counsel of Sister Louise in Parménie, impelled him to return to Paris. It has been established that this solitary period at Parménie was a major turning point in his personal life and in the founding story of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

As we continue to walk in the footsteps of De La Salle, we can make use of his time at Parménie as an example for the betterment of ourselves and our students.

In the Lasallian Reflection for "One Call, Many Voices," the Lasallian theme for the 2016-2017 liturgical year, the fourth dialogue reminds us of this need for retreat, quiet and self-care: "One of the trap doors in ministry is the temptation to think we must always be available, never stopping, even slowing down ... It is also to admit that we can't meet every need. As we expend this energy on behalf of those entrusted to our care, it is not uncommon that we overlook care for our inner life. We recall then that we cannot give what we do not have. We cannot call others to live in the holy presence of God if we ourselves do not dwell in the presence of God."

CARING FOR INNER LIVES THROUGH RETREATS

Taking time to reconnect with God through retreats helps enhance our inner lives, and Lasallians have a number of

options available. The District of Eastern North America (DENA) offers in-person and online retreats for people in the various stages of their Lasallian journeys.

"We know that the Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, saw the value in creating time and space for the *resting* in the holy presence of God,"

explained Maryann Donohue-Lynch, associate executive director for the Office for Mission and Ministry for DENA. "Time on a retreat is a gift that we give ourselves, the gift of time, to be present to God and others in ways otherwise not possible in our busy lives. Retreats renew, re-center and replenish us."

The Lasallian charism and mission attends to the total person, and retreats reinforce this by including time for the physical aspects of the participants' lives (walking an ocean path, experiencing a prayer labyrinth, or doing yoga), the artistic or creative (reflective art work such as creating a mandala or a restorative collage), the intellectual (journaling or sharing commentary on a Gospel or Lasallian text) and the spiritual journey (sacramental experiences or inviting people into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ).

One yearly retreat DENA offers is for Legacy Lasallians, intergenerational members of the Lasallian family who no longer serve in ministries, but want to remain connected to and actively engaged in the Lasallian mission.

"Enriching. Enlarging. Confirming," said Marianne Sheehan, a Legacy Lasallian member, in describing how the gatherings are beneficial to her. "These words capture for me the sentiments of our gathering to 'go beyond active ministry' to bring the richness we have shared to fulfillment in our lives."

Based on Circular 461: *Associated for the Lasallian Mission ... An Act of Hope*, DENA has been offering an annual women's retreat for the past five years. During Advent and Lent, DENA offers online retreats. The Advent online retreat incorporates the Founder's Method of Interior Prayer using the Sunday Gospel readings. The Association for the Lasallian Mission Committee (ALMC) organizes a retreat for Lasallians approximately every other year. The ALMC is comprised of representatives from the various geographically based association groups throughout DENA, such as the Philadelphia Area Lasallian Ministries and the Rhode Island Lasallian Association Group.



(Left) Legacy Lasallians gather for a retreat, including Brother Edward Phelan, FSC, second from right, and Maryann Donohue-Lynch, far left. Courtesy Brother Kevin Junk, FSC

(Below) Emily Vogel. Courtesy De La Salle Institute

DENA also offers retreats for senior Brothers and Partners, a retreat that Brother Edward Phelan, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor for DENA, oversees.

“As the Brothers on the east coast ‘age in place,’ we have grappled with the question: how do we create a culture that fosters opportunities for continued learning, growth and development?” Brother Ed said. “Realizing the major role of transitions in the lives of our group, we have held weekend retreats on the topic, named ‘Called to the Atlantic,’ which take place at the beach – the perfect venue for sharing the transitions of our lives as well as visioning together on the future of the Lasallian family on our coast.”

TAKING THE RETREAT TO LASALLIANS

In the Midwest District, retreat organizers have taken the idea of meeting someone where they are to a literal meaning through Parménie on Wheels, the name of the District’s formation efforts.

The Midwest District’s current program, entitled St. Yon, is named for a piece of property that De La Salle purchased in 1705, and, where every year, all the Brothers from the northern communities spent September for an annual retreat.

The Midwest District’s retreat team visits a ministry to offer a retreat for any member of the faculty or staff who is interested. It is a three-day experience, with 30 minutes each day for personal reflection with a Lasallian Companion, people who have been through significant formative experiences, understand and are committed to the mission, and are actively engaged in or retired from service in a Lasallian ministry. The conversational reflection is based on scripture and a passage from De La Salle that the retreat participant took 30 minutes the night before to prepare.

“We took spirituality on the road because formation is personal and begins and ends with each person’s personal journey,” explained Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, liaison for Catholic and Lasallian schools at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, and Lasallian formation coordinator for the Midwest District. The Midwest District is also considering a possible spirituality center and is in the initial phase of creating an online formation experience.

Emily Vogel, campus minister at De La Salle Institute in Chicago, Illinois, attended the St. Yon retreat in April 2016.

“[The retreat] met and exceeded my expectations by reminding me why I am a teacher, the importance of teaching, especially in a Christian Catholic school, and by giving me an inner peace,” said Vogel. “[My Lasallian Companion] was so compassionate; he listened very carefully to what I had to say and had a way about him that relaxed me and got my mind to just slow down for a while and live in the moment. It was good to be ‘forced’ to take a moment and sit and breathe each day.”



When asked about the correlation between De La Salle’s time at Parménie and Lasallian educators today, Brother Michael shared, “De La Salle’s journey was a lifelong process and evolution. Parménie was a critical moment in this journey in which he reconnected with his own deep purpose and the will of God through the intervention of trusted counsel (Sister Louise) and the call of his Brothers. The man listened carefully, even when he was experiencing a moment of emotional and spiritual crisis. This is our model.”

As the opportunity to retreat only seems to be growing in these two Districts, it brings to life even more the personal journey and mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Just as he needed respite, quiet and solitude, so do we. And just as he was called to come back down from the mountain and return to the “care and general direction of God’s holy work,” so are we. ●

Anna Waddelove is the communications specialist at Christian Brothers Conference.

We Are Lasallian Christian Brothers Services



Rule of the Brothers
of the Christian Schools



The purpose of this Institute is to
provide a human and Christian
education to the young, especially the
poor, according to the mission which
the Church has entrusted to it.



Brother Joel Damian, FSC
Founder of Christian
Brothers Services

Christian Brothers Services began as an answer to the problem of expensive, and/or unattainable insurance coverage for Catholic organizations. In our 55th year, Christian Brothers Services has grown to administer 7 Trusts, which serve more than 2,000 Catholic organizations including religious orders, dioceses, colleges and schools.

- > Catholic School Management
- > Employee Health Plan
- > Employee Pension Plan
- > Employee Retirement Savings
- > Property / Casualty
- > Religious Health
- > Website Design/Board Portals

Christian Brothers Services is able to fully support Christian Brothers Conference and exemplify our Lasallian mission by understanding, protecting and guiding our members.



CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS
SERVICES

cbsservices.org 800.807.0100

Understanding
Protecting
Guiding

+ RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY +

A VOCATION: GIVEN, RECEIVED, SHARED



Celebrate the gift of Religious Brotherhood!

Give thanks to Brothers in your life!

*Inspire and invite young people to
consider the Brothers vocation!*

+

MAY 1, 2017

+



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2017

- 3 – 5 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Baltimore, MD
-
- 22 – 24 Regional Education Advisory Committee (REAC) Meeting, Covington, LA
-
- 26 – 29 Lasallian Volunteers Debriefing Retreat, Plano, IL
-

JUNE 2017

- 25 – July 8 Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, Riverdale, NY
-

JULY 2017

- 10 – 13 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America), Riverdale, NY
-
- 10 – 14 Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), El Paso, Texas, and Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
-
- 15 – 18 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest District), Winona, MN
-
- 17 – 19 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Washington, DC
-
- 20 – 23 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Duncans Mills, CA
-
- 21 – 30 Lasallian Volunteers Orientation, Romeoville, IL
-

AUGUST 2017

- 9 Novitiate Commences, Chicago, IL
-

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 25 – 27 International Symposium on Lasallian Research, Minneapolis, MN
-

OCTOBER 2017

- 12 – 14 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Duncans Mills, CA
-
- 15 – 17 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting, Montréal, QC
-
- 17 – 19 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Montréal, QC
-
- 19 – 21 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest District), Des Plaines, IL
-
- 26 – 28 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America), Pocono Manor, PA
-
- 26 – 29 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Ocean City, NJ
-

NOVEMBER 2017

- 14 – 16 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Denver, CO
-
- 16 – 18 Huether Lasallian Conference, Denver, CO
-



DeSales
TODAY

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20017

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, WI
PERMIT NO. 73

