

De La Salle TODAY

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



SPRING 2018

LASALLIANS WITHOUT LIMITS



Dear Lasallians,

Borders. Sustainability. Demographics. Community. Discernment. These are just some of the topics discussed in Lasallian Reflection 3, the reflection for the 2017-2018 liturgical year Lasallian theme, "Lasallians Without Limits." 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."

In this issue, we look at ways in which ministries in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) are living out calls in Lasallian Reflection 3. The reflection starts by looking at a change in demographics, including the fact that a growing number of people no longer identify with any religion (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 5). This is something that has also caught the attention of Saint Mary's Press in Winona, Minnesota. Read how Saint Mary's Press reaches beyond the numbers and into the stories of young people who have disaffiliated from the Catholic Church.

Lasallian Reflection 3 also focuses on sustainable communities and encourages us to think beyond the borders of our surroundings and protect the Earth (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 6). Christian Brothers University (CBU) in Memphis, Tennessee, is doing this through its new Surface Water Institute. You'll see how CBU is going beyond the borders of campus to partner with outside agencies and address surface water problems in its community.

The reflection reminds us that going to new borders requires determination and discernment (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 14). It means discerning when to support and maintain what we have, and when to let go and move on (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 15). The District of Francophone Canada takes us through the discernment process it underwent to open the Saint-Michel Lasallian Center in Montréal, Québec.

To end our look at Lasallian Reflection 3, General Councilor Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, invites us to discern as he reflects on the "Lasallians Without Limits" theme. He reminds us why discernment is important, shares examples of initiatives in RELAN that inspire him, and poses questions to help us discern our roles in the future of the mission.

Our final story gives you a look at plans for the Year of Lasallian Vocations. The Year of Lasallian Vocations marks the 300th anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's entry into eternal life and gives us the opportunity to celebrate our heritage, renew our commitment to the mission, and look to the future with hope.

As part of the Year of Lasallian Vocations, we will publish a special issue of *De La Salle Today* in autumn 2018. For now, we hope these stories on "Lasallians Without Limits" help to inspire you as we celebrate this theme. To find more resources on the theme, visit www.lasallian.info.



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
Editor

Cover: *Gorete Aruda, staff member at Saint-Michel Lasallian Center, helps a student with her homework. Courtesy Denis de Villers*

De La Salle TODAY

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

GENERAL COUNCILOR, RELAN
BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR LASALLIAN EDUCATION
MARK JOHN FREUND

EDITOR
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

ASSISTANT EDITOR/LAYOUT AND DESIGN
ANNA WADDELOVE

TRANSLATION
DENIS DE VILLERS

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC
DENIS DE VILLERS
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE
CHRIS SWAIN

PHOTOGRAPHY
RICARDO ACCILAIRE
CAMP DE-LA-SALLE
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY
CITY OF MEMPHIS
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE "OAKLANDS"
DE MARILLAC ACADEMY
DENIS DE VILLERS
DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS
DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVES
MARYANN DONOHUE-LYNCH
BROTHER JAVIER HANSEN, FSC
INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
LASALLIAN HIGHER EDUCATION COLLOQUY
MIDWEST DISTRICT
SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY
SAINT MARY'S PRESS

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.



8 LISTENING TO THEIR
SACRED STORIES
WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DISAFFILIATING
FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

14 CBU: LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY
BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

20 A CALL THAT MADE ITS WAY TO THE
HEART OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED
DISCERNMENT LEADING TO THE
FOUNDATION OF THE SAINT-MICHEL
LASALLIAN CENTER
BY DENIS DE VILLERS

26 DISCERNING HOW TO BE
'LASALLIANS WITHOUT LIMITS'
IN RELAN
BY BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

30 1719-2019: A CHARISM AND
MISSION WITHOUT LIMITS
BY CHRIS SWAIN

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2 NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

36 CALENDAR OF EVENTS





Brothers from around the world gather with the Generalate staff during the Intercapitular Assembly. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service

BROTHERS GATHER AT INTERCAPITULAR ASSEMBLY

The Intercapitular Assembly took place at the Generalate in Rome, Italy, March 4-17, 2018. The gathering brought together the Superior General, General Councilors, Brother Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors at the mid-point between General Chapters, which happen every seven years. Purposes for the gathering included reviewing the progress made in implementing the vision of the 45th General Chapter in 2014 and paying attention to the emerging priorities leading to the 46th General Chapter in 2021. The Intercapitular Assembly was not legislative, but offered a chance to share success stories and identify shortcomings in order to continue the momentum initiated by the chapter. Find out more about the experiences at the Intercapitular at www.lasallian.info.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY JOINS LASALLIAN FAMILY

Saint John Paul II Academy in Boca Raton, Florida, joined the Lasallian family on February 21, 2018, as part of the District of Eastern North America. The celebration included signing the Lasallian Covenant Agreement, which capped a six-year discernment period. Saint John Paul II Academy is a Catholic coeducational college preparatory high school in the Diocese of Palm Beach.



Saint John Paul II Academy officially joins the Lasallian family with the Covenant Agreement signing. Courtesy Saint John Paul II Academy

NEWS

SFNO VISITOR, AUXILIARY VISITOR RE-APPOINTED



Brother Donald Johanson, FSC.
Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans

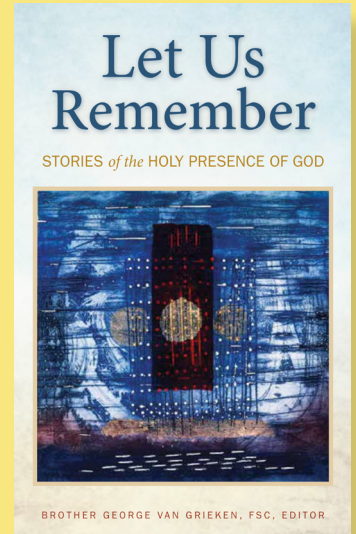


Brother James Joost, FSC.
Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, has announced the appointment of Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, to a second four-year term as Visitor of the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) and Brother James Joost, FSC, to a second four-year term as Auxiliary Visitor of SFNO, effective June 30, 2018. Brothers Donald and James have served in their roles since the District was inaugurated on July 1, 2014. Prior to that, they served in the same roles for the former District of San Francisco from 2011 until 2014.

LPC RELEASES FIRST BOOK, *LET US REMEMBER: STORIES OF THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD*

The Lasallian Publications Committee (LPC) for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) will release its first book on May 15, 2018, entitled *Let Us Remember: Stories of the Holy Presence of God*. It is a compilation of 52 stories that reflect different ways people experience the presence of God among the daily details of Lasallian life. LPC member Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, served as the project manager and editor. The book will be available in printed and digital formats. Visit www.lasallian.info after its release in May for details on how to order your copy.



Formed in 2016, the purpose of the LPC is to determine what kind of publications are needed and how to make them accessible to: academic and research efforts; education and evangelization efforts; growth and formation of individuals and educational communities; and external audiences. The LPC is working on several other projects, including developing a series of publications and presentations on the significance and meaning of being an educator in the 21st century, and creating listings of available resources that are available focused on certain popular Lasallian topics.

The Lasallian Publications Committee includes (back row, from left) Denis de Villers, Mark John Freund, Greg Kopra, Brother Jack Curran, FSC, Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, Elizabeth Moors Jodice, (front row, from left) Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, and (not pictured) Brother William Mann, FSC.



NEWS

CONTINUED



Terry Voss, who leads the Company of Singers at Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, Minnesota, is presented with the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence at the LASSCA Conference. From left: Cheri Broadhead, then-president of LASSCA and principal of Totino-Grace, Voss, Barry Lieske, AFSC, president of DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Craig Junker, president of Totino-Grace.

LASSCA 2018 CHALLENGES ADMINISTRATORS IN TODAY'S CHANGING WORLD

The Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) held its 14th annual conference February 25-28, 2018, in Orlando, Florida, with the theme, "Lasallians Without Limits: Overcoming the Barriers to Success." Principals, presidents, board members, District and Regional leaders and others gathered for days of keynote addresses, breakout sessions, prayer, discussion and more. During the opening night, Terry Voss, who leads the Company of Singers at Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, Minnesota, received the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence, which recognizes excellence in a Lasallian secondary school program that represents admirable values, standards and passions. During the closing session, the administrators released a statement on behalf of LASSCA showing their support for young people in light of recent gun violence in schools. Visit www.lasallian.info for more on the LASSCA Conference.

SFNO BROTHER PARTICIPATES IN PRE-SYNOD IN ROME

Brother Javier Hansen, FSC, of the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), was one of three American youth delegates who participated in the Pre-Synod that took place in Rome, March 19-25. The delegates were selected on the basis of their local and national connections to the life of the Church, their work with other young people, and their representativeness of the cultural and vocational diversity of the Church in the United States. Brother Javier, 27, serves as a religion teacher at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas. Read about his experiences at the Pre-Synod at www.lasallian.info.



Brother Javier Hansen, FSC, meets Pope Francis at the Pre-Synod gathering in Rome.

Courtesy Brother Javier Hansen, FSC

NEWS

CONTINUED

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER FORMATION PROGRAMS



Buttimer returned to Manhattan College in 2017.

Registration is open for summer formation programs offered by the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference. The Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, a three-year program that studies the life, work and spirituality of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian mission, will be hosted at Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, June 24 – July 7, 2018. For the first time, the Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) will focus on community responses to urban challenges. It will take place at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 23-27, 2018. Registration will close in mid-May. To learn more and register, visit www.lasallian.info.



LSJI focused on immigration issues in 2017.

'LASALLIANS WITHOUT LIMITS' RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Resources are available to help Lasallians celebrate the 2017-2018 liturgical year theme, "Lasallians Without Limits." New resources developed in the past few months include a poster that poses questions to students based on the theme's reflection (pictured below). The intent is to help students bring the theme to life by reflecting on questions that can relate to their lives as young people in Lasallian ministries. Christian Brothers Conference created the poster, which is available in five languages. Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, created a prayer card with reminders on how to be Lasallians without limits. These resources and more are available at www.lasallian.info. If you have resources to share, please email communications@lasallian.info.

What do you need to do to be a citizen of the world?	Bring the Theme to Life and Join Lasallians by Considering:	How can you overcome prejudice?
	Join Lasallians Worldwide in Celebrating LASALLIANS WITHOUT LIMITS Lasallian Theme for the 2017-2018 Liturgical Year	Is your heart open to consider a religious vocation if God calls you? What does it mean to you to embrace diversity?
In what ways can you help your school to be a welcoming community?	What can you do to go beyond your borders – geographic or comfort zone – to serve others?	How can you be open to the ideas of others?
How can you grow stronger in your faith?	Do you think about how your decisions will impact others?	



The 2017-2018 LVs gathered in January for their Midyear Retreat.

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS IN FINAL MONTHS OF SERVICE YEAR

The 2017-2018 Lasallian Volunteers (LVs) are in the final months of their service year. This year's cohort includes 35 LVs, with 24 first-year LVs and 11 second-year LVs. New this year, LVs took part

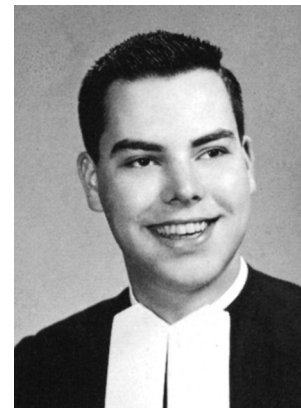
in monthly video calls with LV staff for professional development and formation. This year also saw the

transition to an exclusively online application process. LVs gathered for their annual Midyear Retreat in January and will come together one more time as a cohort for the Debriefing Retreat at the end of May. The 2018-2019 cohort of LVs will gather for the Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers in July to kick off their service year. The deadline to apply to serve as an LV is June 1. Visit www.lasallianvolunteers.org to learn more.



CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION OF BROTHER JAMES MILLER MOVES FORWARD

The cause for the beatification of Brother James Miller, FSC, is moving forward. A theological commission composed of nine theologians met to consider the case on March 20, 2018. Brother Rodolfo Meoli, FSC, Postulator General for the De La Salle Christian Brothers, reported that the commission voted in favor of declaring Brother James a martyr of Christ. At the time of this publication, the Vatican had yet to release details. The latest information will be posted on www.lasallian.info. An American missionary, Brother James was killed in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, on February 13, 1982.



*Brother James Miller, FSC.
Courtesy Midwest District*

The cause for beatification was undertaken by the Diocese of Huehuetenango in 2009 and received the Decree of Validity in Rome in July 2010, when he was designated a Servant of God.

APPOINTMENTS

KEVIN BEIRNE, Principal, Montini Catholic High School, Lombard, IL, effective 2018-19 school year

BETH BIXBY, CEO, Tides Family Services, West Warwick, RI, effective February 1, 2018

ROGER CARTER, President, San Miguel Middle School, Tulsa, OK, effective July 2018

PAUL EVRA, CEO, Saint-Michel Lasallian Center, Montréal, QC, effective March 1, 2018

CHRISTOPHER FULCO, Ed.D., President, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, NY, effective July 1, 2018

MOST REVEREND LEOPOLDO GIRELLI, Chancellor, Bethlehem University, Bethlehem, Palestine, effective September 2017

DAVID HOLQUIN, President, Justin-Siena High School, Napa, CA, effective January 15, 2018

JEFFREY M. HOWARD, Principal, Mullen High School, Denver, CO, effective June 1, 2018

BROTHER DONALD JOHANSON, FSC, Visitor (second term), District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective June 30, 2018

BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor (second term), District of San Francisco New Orleans, effective June 30, 2018

FATHER GARY KASTL, President, Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa, OK, effective December 22, 2017

LAWRENCE PUCK, President, Saint Mary's College High School, Berkeley, CA, effective July 1, 2018

BROTHER MICHAEL REIS, FSC, Chief Visionary Officer, Tides Family Services, West Warwick, RI, effective February 1, 2018

CHELLSEA RIVERA, Principal, De Marillac Academy, San Francisco, CA, effective July 1, 2018

DR. MELINDA LAWLOR SKRADE, President, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco, CA, effective July 1, 2018

JAMES SPILLMAN, Principal, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, NY, effective July 2018

DAVID WALLACE, Executive Director, LaSalle School, Albany, NY, effective March 13, 2018

HONORED AS AFSCs

The following Lasallians have received Letters of Affiliation (AFSC), meaning they have been formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served the Lasallian mission in an extraordinary way.

MIDWEST DISTRICT

GARY OBERSTE, AFSC, dean of student activities at Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, OK

MARIANNE STICH, AFSC, recently retired as the longtime director of campus ministry at Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, OK

DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

THEODORE (TED) TSUKAHARA, AFSC, longtime professor at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga and friend of the Brothers, who has provided financial and personal support for students in need and served in a number of capacities for the District and on the boards of trustees at various schools

**WANT TO RECEIVE EMAILS
WITH LASALLIAN NEWS?**

EMAIL US AT
COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO





Unless noted, all photos in this story are from videos in which young people share their sacred stories, found on the Saint Mary's Press Catholic Research Group website, catholicresearch.smp.org. Courtesy Saint Mary's Press

LISTENING TO THEIR SACRED STORIES

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DISAFFILIATING FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Given the reality that more and more young people are leaving the Catholic Church, as Lasallians, we have to ask ourselves how we can serve as communities of faith where we deeply listen to their stories about their relationships with God, faith, the Church and religion.

The Lasallian Reflection for the 2017-2018 liturgical year, "Lasallians Without Limits," highlights changes in demographics, including the role of religion in society. "The number of adults who do not identify with any religion is growing. In almost half of the countries, including those traditionally considered Christian or Muslim, 'non-members' are now the second largest religious group. Among those of the 'Millennium generation' one in three now consider themselves unaffiliated to any religion" (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 5).

LOOKING BEHIND THE STATISTICS

Concerned by studies showing those declining numbers, Saint Mary's Press in Winona, Minnesota, wanted to hear the voices behind the statistics. So, Saint Mary's Press teamed up with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown

University for a national study that examines why young people in the United States are leaving the Church and shares their reasons in their own voices.

The research resulted in the publication of *Going, Going, Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics*, which was released in January 2018 and unveiled at a symposium near Baltimore, Maryland. The gathering started with a nondenominational discussion with more than 200 people, which was moderated by and presented on Minnesota Public Radio, followed by two days of discussion with nearly 65 leaders in Catholic ministry from across the country, including a number of Lasallians.

John Vitek, president and CEO of Saint Mary's Press and co-author of the report, felt it was important to hear from young people in their own words – uncensored and unfiltered – and to be ambassadors of their stories.

LISTENING TO THEIR SACRED STORIES

CONTINUED

“There are a lot of assumptions that adults make about why young people leave the Church that are really not accurate. So, we felt it was important for two reasons: one, when you hear the words ‘the stories of young people in their own words,’ it’s really hard to dismiss it. It’s really hard to say, ‘well, that’s not true’ or ‘young people don’t really think that.’ So, I think it was about accuracy,” Vitek explained. “It was about honoring and respecting the lived experience and stories of young people. In that sense, it really was a reflection of our Lasallian charism, of seeing these stories as sacred stories.”

In order to gather those stories, researchers surveyed 204 people and invited 15 for in-depth interviews to get a sample of the 5.4 million people in the United States who are former Catholics between the ages of 15 and 25. The study found that of those who have left, 35 percent no longer belong to any religion, while 46 percent have joined another religion. An additional 14 percent report being atheists or agnostics (*Going, Going, Gone!*, page 6).

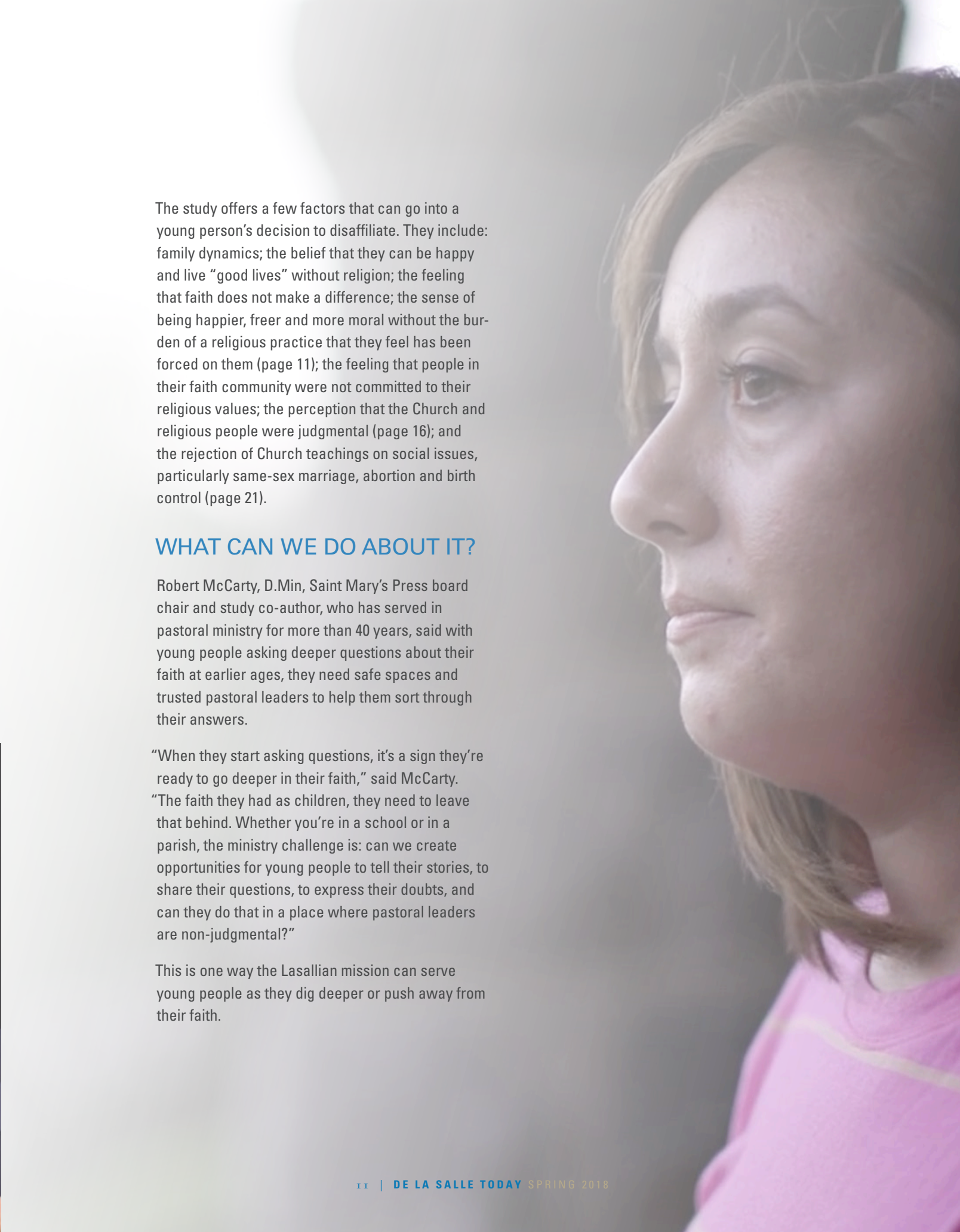
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Stories featured in *Going, Going, Gone!* explain why young people left the Church: “I guess I stopped identifying as a Catholic after high school because I wasn’t forced to go to Mass anymore” (Fran, page 19) and “I began to realize there were so many other religions, each teaching something a bit different. Who is to say this one is right, and this one is wrong?” (Chris, page 26). They also explain how they felt after leaving, such as, “I felt like there was a burden off of me” (Barb, page 27).

For young people like Fran, Chris and Barb, disaffiliation was not a quick decision. As the report reveals, disaffiliation happens over time and is not the result of one single reason. It is typically prompted by a series of events or unresolved questions, and it starts at a young age. Seventy-four percent of those surveyed said they no longer identified as Catholic between the ages of 10 and 20, with the median age being 13 (page 6).



Panelists took part in a conversation on religion and disaffiliation to kick off the January 2018 symposium. Courtesy Saint Mary's Press



The study offers a few factors that can go into a young person's decision to disaffiliate. They include: family dynamics; the belief that they can be happy and live "good lives" without religion; the feeling that faith does not make a difference; the sense of being happier, freer and more moral without the burden of a religious practice that they feel has been forced on them (page 11); the feeling that people in their faith community were not committed to their religious values; the perception that the Church and religious people were judgmental (page 16); and the rejection of Church teachings on social issues, particularly same-sex marriage, abortion and birth control (page 21).

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Robert McCarty, D.Min, Saint Mary's Press board chair and study co-author, who has served in pastoral ministry for more than 40 years, said with young people asking deeper questions about their faith at earlier ages, they need safe spaces and trusted pastoral leaders to help them sort through their answers.

"When they start asking questions, it's a sign they're ready to go deeper in their faith," said McCarty.

"The faith they had as children, they need to leave that behind. Whether you're in a school or in a parish, the ministry challenge is: can we create opportunities for young people to tell their stories, to share their questions, to express their doubts, and can they do that in a place where pastoral leaders are non-judgmental?"

This is one way the Lasallian mission can serve young people as they dig deeper or push away from their faith.

LISTENING TO THEIR SACRED STORIES CONTINUED

"In Lasallian communities, we walk with the young person. We offer a trusted space where there's conversation free of judgment, free of imposition, even free of answers. We accompany," said Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America, in his closing address at the January symposium.

Going, Going, Gone! references that notion of community through a quote of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, an international religious leader and philosopher: "'Community,' he notes, is that place 'where they know who you are and where they miss you when you are gone'" (page 8).

Those are two points the study's authors consider to be critical topics for pastoral leaders – and points lived out in Lasallian ministries, as referenced in the Reflection, "There is nothing more transformative than the witness of a welcoming community" (page 19).

"I think the welcoming begins with just honoring and respecting the lived experience and story of the kids, the young person in front of us," explained Vitek. "Focus on the here and now. What is the gift we can impart in this time we have with them? And trust in the Spirit that whatever is imparted in this brief time we have with them will serve as a foundation for the rest of their lives no matter where their journey takes them."

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

In an era when an increasing number of young people view religion as a burden, look for a sense of community and identity outside of the Church, and express feeling happier when they leave their faith, McCarty says pastoral leaders have to be more humble and more vulnerable.

"The Church will have to make a choice," McCarty said. "Are we looking at the disaffiliated as a problem

to be solved, or are we looking at the disaffiliated as a grace? What's the grace that the disaffiliated are bringing to the Church? I think of the disaffiliated as a mirror. They're holding a mirror up to the faith community. What is the Holy Spirit telling the Church through the lived experiences of these young people?"

Saint Mary's Press plans to continue to explore that question. Releasing this study was just the beginning. Saint Mary's Press continues to host workshops and presentations, is developing print and web-based training resources to support pastoral ministers, and is inviting more young people to share their stories.

Vitek believes that the truthfulness and candor in those sacred stories could help the Church develop meaningful solutions.

"For me, the stories are the seedbed to start the right conversation," said Vitek. "And it's only in conversation that insight and understanding can emerge, and it's out of understanding that we shed our ignorance." •

"DISAFFILIATION FROM THE CHURCH IS LARGELY A THOUGHTFUL, CONSCIOUS, INTENTIONAL CHOICE MADE BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN A SECULARIZED SOCIETY WHERE FAITH AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE ARE SEEN AS ONE OPTION AMONG MANY. IT'S A DYNAMIC PROCESS THAT UNFOLDS OVER TIME AND AFTER A SERIES OF EXPERIENCES OR CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT" (*GOING, GOING, GONE!*, PAGE 11).

Visit the Saint Mary's Press Catholic Research Group website, catholicresearch.smp.org, to purchase a copy of *Going, Going, Gone!*, watch videos of young people sharing their stories, and listen to the audio from the January discussion.

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is the director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference. She can be reached at ejodice@cbconf.org.





CBU: LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Christian Brothers University (CBU) in Memphis, Tennessee, is at the forefront in developing solutions to address environmental sustainability in its community. In October 2017, CBU launched the Surface Water Institute (SWI) as part of its Gadomski School of Engineering. The SWI is an inter-agency research center that tackles complex surface water issues facing the Memphis area.

The Lasallian Reflection for the theme for 2017-2018 liturgical year, "Lasallians Without Limits," highlights the importance of sustainable communities in terms of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Through the SWI, CBU is bringing to life several calls found in the Lasallian Reflection, including the need to "think beyond the borders of our immediate surroundings and analyse planet Earth as the common home that we must protect" (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 6).

Branching out from the CBU campus, the SWI partners with government agencies and firms in the private sector. Dr. L. Yu (Louie) Lin, a CBU civil and environmental engineering professor, serves as the SWI director. Lin described the major tasks of the SWI as facilitating and coordinating the various agencies, bringing them together to discuss needs, and working on joint projects.

"Through this kind of process, we can help the City of Memphis," said Lin. "We will help this region to resolve a lot of the surface water issues."

The Memphis area has a history of surface water issues, and it struggles with inadequate handling of storm water runoff, which causes flooding. With its launch, the SWI began two projects to help address this critical issue: a drainage plan study with the City of Memphis and a floodplain mapping, response and education effort with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to serve the community of Arlington, Tennessee, which experienced devastating flash flooding in June 2016.

The drainage study continues work that the City of Memphis started in 2014, which involved 18 basin studies to identify flood-prone areas. Chee Chew, senior design engineer for the City of Memphis, said the SWI used the results of the drainage study to identify the critical flooding area. The SWI is helping the City of Memphis to determine alternatives and/or to prioritize the alternatives for the Drainage Capital Improvement Plan.

CBU: LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED

“Over the years, CBU has been recognized as the leader by the engineering community in the City of Memphis and in this region for matters related to water resources,” said Chew.

David Berretta, chief of the Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch for the Memphis District Corps of Engineers, agrees with Chew’s assessment of CBU’s leadership.

“Throughout its history, CBU has been a recognized leader in the engineering community for creativity and innovation,” said Berretta, who is working with the SWI on the USACE project focused on the Arlington floodplain and serves on the Science and Water Resources Advisory Board.

The project will give the town information to help leaders properly manage roads and public structures in areas where the storm drainage system could flood. In the 2016 flood, water reached homes and businesses in higher elevations that had never previously flooded and lacked flood insurance.



Christian Brothers University students assemble a HydroDrone for work with the Surface Water Institute. Courtesy Christian Brothers University

“Education of the public about the impacts of flash flooding from high intensity, short duration storm events, like what occurred in June 2016, and options to mitigate the risk from such events, is the goal of the project,” explained Berretta. “Several public meetings supported by Corps modeling, NWS [National Weather Service] discussion of climatological changes (more frequent rain events), and flood insurance education will reduce the financial risk these storm events pose to the community.”

In addition to benefiting the larger community, these projects also serve as hands-on learning experiences for CBU students. The projects help students put their education into practice by collaborating with and learning from professionals to solve real-life issues that impact their neighbors. The partnerships also lead to internships and jobs for students and opportunities for faculty, as well.



*Pictured at the launch of the Surface Water Institute (from left): Dick Gadomski, Dr. John Smarrelli (CBU President), Manny Belen (City of Memphis, Chief Engineer), Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, Dr. Louie Lin (SWI Director), Steve Dunavant (CBU Board Chairman), Dr. Siripong Malasri (CBU Dean of Engineering), Robert Knecht (City of Memphis, Public Works Director), David Berretta (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and Hugh Teaford (City of Memphis, City Civil Design Engineer).
Courtesy Christian Brothers University*



The Surface Water Institute works to address issues to prevent flooding in Memphis and the surrounding area. Courtesy City of Memphis (first and last photo). Courtesy Christian Brothers University (center photo)

“We have a curriculum talking about sustainability,” said Lin. “It’s not only lectures, but now we’re putting it onto action. We provide more and more support to the different projects.”

Currently, the SWI is working on proposals for several new projects, including efforts to address watershed issues, illegal dumping and construction site runoff.

The establishment of the SWI is not the first time CBU has partnered with the community to address water issues. As CBU President Dr. John Smarrelli Jr., explained, the university partnered with the City of Memphis in 2009 to design and build an innovative storm water detention pond under its soccer field on campus.

“It was the first time that anyone had tried to make a dual-use facility for storm water in Memphis. Because of its success, the city has moved forward with other such projects. CBU is proud to have been an original part of this creative solution,” Smarrelli said. “The Surface Water Institute is one of the latest examples of CBU stepping up to provide assistance, expertise and support to our community and to its local government.”

Jim Belles, meteorologist in charge of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service office in Memphis and member of

the Science and Water Resource Advisory Board, hopes the SWI can create a “water resource success story for Memphis.”

“Our vision is about collectively applying our knowledge base to help solve the various water resource problems that the Memphis community faces,” Belles said. “The can-do attitude of CBU is our biggest asset. It’s an essential spirit that allows the board members to come together to help solve our water resources challenges.”

That collaboration mirrors a call outlined in the Lasallian Reflection, which encourages Lasallians to create sustainable communities by “facing challenges not with fragmented approaches but with coordinated solutions, and doing this with a broad perspective” (page 6).

With the momentum behind the SWI and its upcoming projects, CBU will continue to find innovative ways to collaborate and respond to that call.

“There are a lot of surface water issues,” said Lin. “We will have the tremendous opportunity to work with the different agencies and organizations to solve the surface water issues.” •

Elizabeth Moors Jodice is the director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference. She can be reached at ejodice@cbconf.org.

+ RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY + MAY 1 +



Celebrate the gift of Religious Brotherhood!

Give thanks to Brothers in your life!

Inspire and invite young people to consider the Brothers vocation!



#RELIGIOUSBROTHERSDAY



“ The Brothers are convinced that their fraternity, demonstrated in community and educational ministry, as lay religious, is a prophetic sign for the Church and for the world ”

Rule of the Brothers

TEACHING MINDS ★ TOUCHING HEARTS ★ TRANSFORMING LIVES

DeSales
BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Connect with us at BrothersVocation.org to learn more

SAVE THE DATE!



HUETHER

LASALLIAN CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2018 • MINNEAPOLIS, MN
MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

We invite you to mark your calendar to join Lasallians for an insightful conference focused on Lasallian Reflection 3, “Lasallians Without Limits.” The Huether Conference will also celebrate the beginning of the Year of Lasallian Vocations.

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

A CALL THAT MADE ITS WAY TO THE HEART OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

DISCERNMENT LEADING TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE SAINT-MICHEL LASALLIAN CENTER

BY DENIS DE VILLERS

In 2004, following the guidance of the District Mission Assembly, the Francophone Canada District Chapter adopted the proposal of “PROMOTING THE PROJECT OF A NEW STYLE OF COMMUNITY, COMPOSED OF ASSOCIATES, BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE, CENTERED ON A MISSION FOR THE SERVICE OF THE POOR” (District Chapter proposition four).

After adopting the proposal, a team of Brothers gathered at the invitation of then-Visitor Brother Louis-Paul Lavallée, FSC, to pray together, to brainstorm about the future of the District, and to discern the will of God on this audacious project. The discernment that led to the founding of the Saint-Michel Lasallian Center in Montréal, Québec, anticipated the points outlined in “Lasallians Without Limits,” the Lasallian Reflection for the 2017-2018 liturgical year: “Lasallian discernment broadly follows three steps: becoming aware of personal and local reality; shedding light on that reality by the Word of God through prayer and dialogue with prudent people; and making decisions aware of the personal and community implications” (Lasallian Reflection 3, page 17).

Experts were brought in to pinpoint a location where one would find young people most in need. From the beginning, the objectives of the project were very clear:

1. Work with young people living in a socially, financially and/or culturally disadvantaged community to achieve a mission of human and Christian education;
2. Develop an apostolic work that challenges the imagination and which announces Jesus Christ;
3. Meet the needs of youth in imaginative ways;
4. Offer young people a positive environment outside of school and home; and
5. Group teenagers for pastoral, cultural and joyful activities implementing the fundamental values of faith, brotherhood, service, social justice and other issues that concern young people, like peace and the environment.

The Saint-Michel district in Montréal was selected as the location for the ministry based on the circumstances of that area, which include:

- The average annual family income is the lowest in all of Montréal (\$US 26,181) with parents working long hours to make ends meet;
- Half of families are single-parent families;
- The quality of housing is poor, with little interaction outside of the local area;
- Catholics account for 56 percent of the population;
- The geography of the area makes it difficult to get around, with it being cut in two by huge limestone quarries and a busy urban boulevard;
- Half of young people under 20-years-old never graduated from high school, they were bullied, they lack basic skills needed for jobs, and gangs try to recruit them;
- There are no locations for sports and cultural activities;
- Because of the high crime rate, citizens avoid going out at night, and police officers refuse to patrol alone; and
- The neighborhood offers little attractions and has a poor reputation.

CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

At that time – and even more so today – the reality of the Brothers in Québec was not conducive to beginning this ministry, with their average age being 78 years old and the majority living in assisted and nursing care communities. Several works, now run by Lasallian Partners, rely on financial support from the District to survive.

That reality clearly mirrors the Lasallian Reflection: “To think in sustainable communities, Lasallians face the tension between supporting, maintaining and caring for what we have; or detaching ourselves, letting go. Going beyond also means leaving something behind” (page 15).

It would have been easy for the Brothers to leave everything behind and to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Rather, they chose to hear another call, a powerful one that came from the International Mission Assembly in 2006, which also brought a bud of hope: “The strength and the vitality of a District will depend in large measure on the existence of these prophetic communities at its very core, and of the significance these communities have or the influence they exert on the overall District” (Bulletin 250, page 121).



Students spend time doing homework with their friends at Saint-Michel Lasallian Center. Courtesy Denis de Villers



From left, Brother Leonel Volmar, FSC, volunteer from Haiti, Marie Edèle Luc, receptionist, and Brother Daniel Berlay, FSC, volunteer from Mexico, help keep Saint-Michel Lasallian Center running smoothly. Courtesy Denis de Villers

The 2007 General Chapter invited Lasallians to “form international Lasallian Communities that are signs of fraternity and of the universal mission of the Church” (Circular 455, page 21). The same year, in his pastoral letter, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, then-Superior General, recalled the report of the 2006 International Mission Assembly and asked Lasallians to consider “service of the poor and the promotion of justice as the heart and the cause of the strengthening of the Lasallian mission in the world” (page 11).

A new type of community was born out of this momentum, and a group of Brothers moved into a house in the neighborhood. Like Saint John Baptist de La Salle in his beginnings, they teamed up with a lay associate and got in touch with the authorities of the Sainte-Lucie Parish to offer complementary activities to the parish’s pastoral work and sacramental preparation. They also created a welcoming place for young people in the basement of the church, made themselves known to community organizations, prepared to welcome foreign Brothers to help serve in the ministry, and prepared the team for pastoral care. As they were settling into their new home, Brother Richard Dupont, FSC, and Pierre Ménard, a longtime Partner, took care of Lasallian formation for the educators at the center.

PUSHING BEYOND THEIR LIMITS

Each member of this small first community went beyond his personal limits to follow Jesus Christ by accompanying young people in this new environment. The initiative was so successful that it quickly outgrew its facilities. It moved out of the church basement in 2015 and into a new building more suited to continue the work and allow for expansion in the future.

Today, hundreds of young people each year visit the welcoming environment made for them. They find a lot of resources to promote their physical, psychological and spiritual well-being – for example, in cultural or sports activities, pastoral work, homework support and drop-out programs. This strong and ambitious call allowed the fulfillment of a courageous dream that touched the hearts of the Francophone Canada Lasallians and brought them closer to the poorest young people. •

Denis de Villers is the communications adviser for the District of Francophone Canada. He can be reached at ddevillers@delasalle.qc.ca.

UNE PAROLE QUI FAIT SON CHEMIN VERS LE CŒUR DES JEUNES DÉMUNIS

LE DISCERNEMENT MENANT À LA FONDATION DU CENTRE LASALLIEN
SAINT-MICHEL

PAR DENIS DE VILLERS

En 2004, l'Assemblée de la mission éducative lasallienne suivie du Chapitre de district du Canada francophone adoptait la proposition de

« PROMOUVOIR LE PROJET D'UNE COMMUNAUTÉ, FÛT-ELLE DE STYLE NOUVEAU, CENTRÉE SUR UNE MISSION AUPRÈS DES PAUVRES ET ACCUEILLANT À CET EFFET LES DEMANDES D'ASSOCIÉS, DE FRÈRES ET DE LAÏCS INTÉRESSÉS »

(Proposition 4 du Chapitre de district).

En 2004, des frères se réunirent donc à l'invitation du Visiteur, Frère Louis-Paul Lavallée, pour prier ensemble, pour réfléchir à voix haute sur l'avenir du District et enfin discerner la volonté de Dieu sur ce projet audacieux. Discernement vécu selon ce qui est décrit dans la réflexion Lasalliens sans frontières, partie III, deuxième point « Le discernement lasallien suit de façon générale trois étapes: prendre conscience de la réalité personnelle et environnante; illuminer la réalité avec la Parole de Dieu à travers la prière et le dialogue avec des personnes sages et décider en assumant personnellement et communautairement les implications » (la réflexion Lasalliens 3, page 17).

Un mandat fut ensuite donné à un consultant expert pour qu'il trouve le lieu où étaient les jeunes les plus démunis. Dès le début, les objectifs du projet étaient très clairs :

1. Travailler avec des jeunes de 12 à 18 ans d'un milieu socialement, financièrement, culturellement défavorisé et propice à un ministère visant l'éducation humaine et chrétienne des jeunes ;

2. Exercer un travail apostolique qui fait appel à l'imagination et qui se situe dans une perspective explicite de l'annonce de Jésus-Christ ;
3. Chercher à répondre aux besoins des jeunes de façon imaginative ;
4. Offrir aux jeunes un milieu qui se situe entre l'école et leurs familles ;
5. Regrouper des adolescents pour des activités pastorales, culturelles et ludiques, mettant en œuvre les valeurs fondamentales de foi, fraternité, service, justice sociale et d'autres préoccupations des jeunes comme la paix et l'environnement.

Le quartier Saint-Michel de Montréal fut reconnu comme lieu privilégié pour l'implantation du projet. En effet, les indicateurs parlent d'eux-mêmes :

- Le revenu annuel moyen familial est le plus bas de tout Montréal, soit de 33 376\$. La moitié des familles sont monoparentales ;

UNE PAROLE QUI FAIT SON CHEMIN VERS LE CŒUR DES JEUNES DÉMUNIS

SUITE

- La qualité des logements est mauvaise, il y a peu d'interactions entre les communautés et la société québécoise. Les catholiques comptent pour 56% de la population ;
 - Le territoire est désorganisé au plan physique, coupé en deux par d'immenses carrières et un boulevard urbain achalandé, le transport en commun y est difficile ;
 - Les parents sont peu présents à leurs jeunes, ils travaillent de longues heures pour boucler leur budget, les plus vieux gardent et font l'éducation des plus jeunes ;
 - La moitié des jeunes de 20 ans n'ont pas obtenu leur diplôme d'études secondaires, ils sont décrocheurs, sous-stimulés à la réussite scolaire, victimes d'intimidation et n'ont pas les aptitudes de base pour accéder au marché du travail. Les gangs de rue sont là pour les recruter ;
 - L'offre d'activités sportives et culturelles est déficiente, il n'y a pas de lieux physiques pour cela ;
 - À cause du haut taux de criminalité, le soir et la nuit, les citoyens, qui vivent dans un climat d'insécurité, se privent de sortir. Même les policiers refusent de patrouiller seuls dans leur auto de police ;
 - Le quartier St-Michel offre peu d'attraits et présente une image peu reluisante.
- À cette époque, et encore davantage aujourd'hui, la réalité des FEC au Québec n'était guère favorable à la naissance de cette œuvre, la moyenne d'âge étant de 78 ans et la majorité d'entre eux vivant dans les 2 infirmeries de Québec et de Laval. Plusieurs œuvres, maintenant dirigées par des partenaires lasalliens, comptent par ailleurs sur le soutien financier du district pour survivre.
- Cette situation exprime très clairement ce qui est évoqué dans la réflexion Lasalliens sans frontières, partie III, premier point « Nous Lasalliens sommes confrontés à la tension entre soutenir, maintenir et prendre soin de ce que nous avons ou nous en détacher, lâcher et laisser tomber » (page 15).



*Des jeunes du Centre nettoient le voisinage de l'Église Sainte-Lucie.
Photo gracieuseté de Ricardo Accilaire*

Young people from the Saint-Michel Lasallian Center clean the neighborhood around Saint Lucie's Parish. Courtesy Ricardo Accilaire



L'édifice du Centre Lasallien St-Michel. Photo gracieuseté de Denis de Villers

The Saint-Michel Lasallian Center responds to the needs in its neighborhood. Courtesy Denis de Villers

Il aurait été facile pour les Frères de tout abandonner et de profiter d'une retraite bien méritée. Mais ils choisirent plutôt d'entendre une autre parole percutante, issue celle-là de l'Assemblée Internationale de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne en 2006, venue s'imposer comme un bourgeon d'espérance « La force et la vitalité d'un District dépendront en grande partie de l'existence de ces communautés prophétiques en leur intérieur, et de leur signification, ou de leur influence sur l'ensemble du District » (Bulletin 250, page 121).

Le Chapitre général de 2007 aura raison des doutes qui subsistaient et nous invitera à collaborer pour « constituer des communautés lasalliennes internationales qui soient signes de fraternité et de la mission universelle de l'Église » (Bulletin 251, page 21). La même année, c'est Frère Supérieur Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría qui demandera « que le service des pauvres et la promotion de la justice soient considérés comme le cœur et la cause de renforcement de la Mission lasallienne dans le monde » (page 11).

Une communauté d'un type nouveau allait naître de cet élan en 2007, alors qu'un groupe de frères s'installera dans une maison du quartier. À l'image de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle à ses débuts, ils feront équipe avec un associé laïc et prendront contact avec les autorités de la paroisse Sainte-Lucie pour offrir des activités complémentaires à la pastorale, participer au travail de pastorale sacramentelle, créer un lieu d'accueil pour les jeunes dans le sous-sol de l'église, s'insérer dans le milieu, se faire connaître des organismes communautaires,

préparer la venue de frères étrangers et les initier à la vie québécoise et enfin compléter la préparation de l'équipe dans le domaine de la pastorale. Parallèlement à cette implantation dans le milieu, Frère Richard Dupont et M. Pierre Ménard, associé lasallien de longue date, prenaient en charge la formation lasallienne continue des intervenants, élément essentiel de développement au sentiment d'appartenance de l'équipe éducative.

Cette petite communauté de départ est allée au-delà de ses frontières personnelles pour oser Jésus-Christ dans l'accompagnement des jeunes du milieu. Le succès de cette initiative fut tel que les installations de départ, devenues rapidement trop petites et désuètes, ont été abandonnées en 2015 au profit d'un pavillon nouvellement construit et parfaitement aménagé pour la poursuite de l'œuvre et de ses objectifs.

Aujourd'hui, des centaines de jeunes chaque année fréquentent ce milieu de vie fait pour eux. Ils y trouvent des ressources qui favorisent leur bien-être physique, psychologique et spirituel, par exemple les activités socioculturelles ou sportives, la pastorale, l'aide aux devoirs et le soutien aux raccrocheurs. C'est ainsi qu'une parole forte et ambitieuse est devenue l'aboutissement d'un rêve courageux qui a touché le cœur des lasalliens du Canada francophone et les a amenés à se rapprocher des jeunes les plus pauvres. •

Denis de Villers est le conseiller en communication du district du Canada francophone. On peut le joindre au ddevillers@delasalle.qc.ca.

DISCERNING HOW TO BE 'LASALLIANS WITHOUT LIMITS' IN RELAN

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY COLDWELL, FSC

The 45th General Chapter in 2014 called for a profound revitalization of the life of the Brothers and the life of the Lasallian mission. The Brother Superior and General Council sought for a way to respond to this call, and introduced annual themes to provoke dialogue that would feed and sustain this revitalization. At the heart of this worldwide engagement is the invitation to gather around the Lasallian Reflections in order to discern together.

As discernment in the Lasallian ethos is a communal engagement, it is less for the transformation of the person than for that of the community. Sharing aspects of the Lasallian method of interior prayer, there are three movements in community discernment. In brief: first, educators bring to the table personal and local experience and identify “the signs of the times”; then, the Word of God is brought into relationship, in prayer and dialogue, with these experiences and signs; finally, out of this deep listening to the signs and the Word, preliminary outlines of personal and community responses emerge.

When the community gathers to learn and reflect we “do this in memory” of Jesus Christ, the human face of God, who loved the poor and challenged the leaders and structures who oppressed the poor. We focus on the needs of those most vulnerable in our society and educational community. Done well, our discernment also draws from the deep wells of

mystical and prophetic traditions that have reflected on the Word of God.

“Lasallians Without Limits” is a reflection at the service of discernment. It first leads us to look carefully at the trends, global and local, that shape our lives, but especially the lives of families and young people who are poor and vulnerable. It then challenges us to build communities that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable – that is, healthy and resilient now and into the future. What makes this more than a social analysis leading to a strategic plan is the critical role of “charism.”

Charism, as we use the term in our family of educational communities, is God’s gift of love, purpose, imagination, energy and innovation to us, that we might transform lives through educational work. When informed by the charism that fueled Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the original community





in their day and which we believe does the same in our day, we ask “How might we use this charisma to respond to God’s call in our day?” “Lasallians Without Limits” challenges us to bring this charismatic dynamism to bear in order to build sustainable communities.

I am always energized and gratified when I see this charismatic dynamism in process. Two years ago, when Camp De-La-Salle in Québec was no longer financially sustainable and on the brink of closing, a network of past and present camp counselors, District leadership, alumni and local officials formed. This mobilization led to an intensive discernment to ensure the sustainability of the summer camp’s mission for the disadvantaged. From this discernment

came a fresh collaboration to maintain its strong emphasis on care for the environment.

The tuition-based nature of the Lasallian school network in the United States presents ongoing challenges to maintaining financial sustainability. In the past year, the District of San Francisco New Orleans has dedicated time and resources to a forensic study of each school’s present practice and how that provides for long-term viability. District and school leadership are bringing the data into dialogue with the human faces in the mission. The upshot is a heightened awareness of how critical it is to follow financial practices that are responsive to projections.

In January, Saint Mary's Press sponsored a "National Conversation on the Dynamics of Disaffiliation Among Catholic Youth" to introduce the results of its research with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University on the personal stories behind disaffiliation, published in *Going, Going, Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics*. The event was held near Baltimore, Maryland, and included a discussion on disaffiliation with more than 200 people, followed by two days of sessions with nearly 65 national ministry leaders. This discernment didn't end with the gathering. John Vitek, president and CEO and co-author of the report, was adamant that Saint Mary's Press will honor "these sacred stories" and issued a call for more young people to share their stories so that the Church will find new ground for the future vitality of the faith community. (See page 8 in this issue for more on this study.)

Also in January, a colloquy brought together leading voices at Lasallian colleges and universities in the United States under the theme, "Exploring the Intersections: Racial Justice, our Lasallian Heritage and the Catholic Tradition." Organized by the higher education mission officers in the Lasallian Region of

North America, this colloquy explored how three life-giving streams for the health and resilience of the human community flow together: racial justice, diversity, inclusivity and related concerns; the Catholic intellectual and social teaching traditions; and our shared Lasallian educational mission and heritage.

I hope these examples give you the same inspiration and courage they give me, and the impetus to ask some fundamental questions. What is happening in your educational community that is equally forward-looking? How are you networking? How are you collaborating – within the Lasallian network and within the Church and your neighborhood and city? How are you "growing" the charism? How are you attentive to entrusting a living charism to the next generation?

In different ways, these efforts compel us to ask how to ensure healthy and resilient communities that guarantee dignity for each person and justice for the environment – for the long term – and inspire us to be Lasallians who place no limits on what we might do for one another! •

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, is the General Councillor for RELAN. He can be reached at tcoldwell@cbconf.org.



The Lasallian Higher Education Colloquy is now an annual event that brings together faculty, staff and administrators from all Lasallian colleges and universities in RELAN, as pictured at the January 2018 gathering. Courtesy Lasallian Higher Education Colloquy

Below: As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Brothers' continuous presence in Louisiana, we remember the boarding and day students at Saint Paul's School in Covington, Louisiana, in the early 1900s. Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans Archives

1719-2019: A CHARISM AND MISSION WITHOUT LIMITS

BY CHRIS SWAIN

“YES, I ADORE IN ALL THINGS THE GUIDANCE OF GOD IN MY REGARD.”

These were his last words, but saints do not die. They live on in eternity in the blessed vision and experience of God. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, in particular, lives on through the Institute he founded – the Lord’s work, as he liked to call it – that he left as his legacy to the Church and the world
(*The Work is Yours*, Brother Luke Salm, FSC, page 188).





*RELAN Brothers at the Intercapitular Assembly in March 2018 look ahead to the Year of Lasallian Vocations.
Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools Communications Service*

The Year of Lasallian Vocations will mark the 300th anniversary of De La Salle’s entry into eternal life. That moment in the founding story gave the early Brothers an opportunity to look forward and embrace De La Salle’s charism and mission as their own, so this year invites the Lasallian family to look to the future with hope.

“The Lasallian mission continues to be characterized by the creativity and innovation of the Founder and first Brothers who responded to God’s call to serve children and youth,” said Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC.

INITIATIVES PLANNED WORLDWIDE

Throughout the Institute, events, programs and publications are being planned to emphasize this opportunity to celebrate our common heritage, renew our commitment to respond to the needs of today, and witness to the unity and diversity of Lasallian vocations.

“The celebrations for the Year of Lasallian Vocations are an opportunity to draw attention to the impact that faith and zeal still have in the world today,” said Brother Robert. “The various events of the year can be occasions for us to renew the belief in the power of our unique vocations, while at the same time encouraging young people to respond with courage and generosity to the ongoing calls from God.”



Lasallians from RELAN take part in an International Lasallian Center (CIL) session in Rome. Courtesy Maryann Donohue-Lynch

The Year of Lasallian Vocations will open in December 2018, with the start of the new liturgical year (December 2, 2018 – November 24, 2019). An opening prayer service will be shared so Lasallians can start the year by praying in solidarity.

During the year, a number of gatherings will take place, including solemn Masses in Rouen (the place of De La Salle’s passing to eternal life), in Reims (the place of his birth), and in Rome at the Generalate. Additionally, Young Lasallians will gather at World Youth Day in Panama, an international education congress will take place in Mexico City, and an International Lasallian Center (CIL) session on youth and vocation ministry will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, highlighting the internationality of the charism and mission today.

The Institute will release a new popular biography of De La Salle in an e-book format, along with a new iconography of De La Salle and the founding story.

PLANS IN RELAN

In the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), a special issue of *De La Salle Today* will be published in the autumn of 2018, and Regional programs will highlight the Year of Lasallian Vocations, including the Huether Lasallian Conference in November 2018 and a VEGA gathering in the summer of 2019.

“[The gatherings will] provide Lasallians the opportunity to learn about De La Salle’s life and spirituality and how his vision continues to inspire us today,” said Sarah Laitinen, director of Lasallian programs, Office for Lasallian Education, Christian Brothers Conference. “When we begin to learn about our Founder and his journey, we can find ourselves in the founding story, and this renews our commitment to our vocational calling from God.”

In the Districts, a variety of publications, programs and events will also mark the Year of Lasallian Vocations. The District of San Francisco New Orleans will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Brothers’ continuous presence in Louisiana and the 150th anniversary of the Brothers in California. The District of Eastern North America (DENA) will mark the 10th anniversary of its founding.

“One dimension of the 2018-2019 celebrations that I find exciting is that the entire Institute will be engaged in a global celebration of the Lasallian mission and of Lasallian vocations,” said Maryann Donohue-Lynch, associate executive director, DENA Office for Mission and Ministry. “It will be a great time to creatively discover what it means to live this mission ‘together and by association’ as we strive to faithfully respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, both as an Institute and as a Lasallian.”



The 2018 Huether Lasallian Conference will highlight the Year of Lasallian Vocations.

In the Midwest District, a pilgrimage following the footsteps of the Founder is being organized, as well as a new online formation program.

“The upcoming anniversary becomes a portal into the journey of the Founder and another way to introduce people to the man who embraced his own journey, joys, struggles, challenges and lived into a personal integration that was his vocation – with the help of a lot of trusted advisers and friends,” said Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, Midwest District coordinator of Lasallian formation for faculties and staff.



In the District of Francophone Canada, Lasallian vocations will be the focus of formation sessions in 2018-2019, and Lasallians will be invited to share how their encounters with Brothers were significant in their lives.

“Thinking that, for 300 years, passionate Lasallian educators continue to reinvent ways to open youth’s minds, to touch their hearts, and to reveal their talents makes me proud to be Lasallian and gives me the energy to carry on,” said Denis de Villers, communications adviser for Francophone Canada.

‘OUR HEARTS ARE BURNING WITHIN US’

During the Year of Lasallian Vocations, the Lasallian theme for the liturgical year will be “Our Hearts Are Burning within Us,” which Brother Robert describes as a metaphor for a meaningful and purposeful life.

“That sense that each life has a divine meaning and significance is what we mean by a culture of

vocations,” said Brother Robert. “The story of John Baptist de La Salle is one of meaning and purpose. Despite the challenges he faced, his understanding of responding to God’s invitation provided the motivation to see his project through to the end. The Road to Emmaus eventually led the disciples back to Jerusalem to share the Good News. For De La Salle, the road led to the schoolhouse gate and a new insight into the vocation of teaching. The same dynamic happens today and countless Brothers and other Lasallians experience their hearts burning in their day-to-day encounters. We hope that the events of 2019 will assist the Lasallian family to continue to see the world with the eyes of faith and a burning heart.”

The numerous opportunities presented during the Year of Lasallian Vocations will invite all in our Lasallian family to continue to deepen their commitment and call, as the first Brothers did, embracing the charism and mission as their own, and looking to the future with hope. •

Chris Swain is the director of the Office of Lasallian Vocation Ministry at Christian Brothers Conference. He can be reached at cswain@cbconf.org.



The administration at Camp De-La-Salle, pictured with Brother Robert Lavallée, FSC, second from right, develops innovative ways to continue to serve young people in need. Courtesy Camp De-La-Salle

GOALS FOR THE YEAR OF LASALLIAN VOCATIONS



- CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS FOR OUR COMMON HERITAGE AND OUR VITALITY THROUGH OUR ASSOCIATION FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE HUMAN AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG, ESPECIALLY THE POOR.
- RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO THE REALITY AND NEEDS OF TODAY THROUGH PROMOTING OUR MISSION, CHARISM AND FOUNDING STORY.
- SHARE OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE WITHIN THE UNITY AND DIVERSITY OF LASALLIAN VOCATIONS BY WITNESSING TO THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES AND MINISTRY.

RELAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

DENIS DE VILLERS

MARK JOHN FREUND

MARYANN DONOHUE-LYNCH

BROTHER JAMES JOOST, FSC

BROTHER MICHAEL FEHRENBACH, FSC

SARAH LAITINEN

CHRIS SWAIN

Visit www.Lasallian.info to learn more about the Year of Lasallian Vocations or to connect with a member of the planning committee.



De La Salle **TODAY**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2018

- 23 – 26 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD
- 23 – 27 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD

MAY 2018

- 21 – 23 Regional Education Advisory Committee (REAC) Meeting, Ocean City, NJ
- 25 – 28 Lasallian Volunteers Debriefing Retreat, Plano, IL

JUNE 2018

- 9 Lasallian Volunteers FSC Awards, Minneapolis, MN
- 24 – July 7 Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, Riverdale, NY

JULY 2018

- 9 – 13 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Regional Gathering), Romeoville, IL
- 20 – 29 Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers, Romeoville, IL
- 23 – 25 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Napa, CA
- 23 – 27 Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), Philadelphia, PA

SEPTEMBER 2018

- 21 – 23 International Symposium on Lasallian Research, Minneapolis, MN
- 23 – 25 Regional Education Advisory Committee (REAC) Meeting, New Orleans, LA

OCTOBER 2018

- 11 – 13 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of San Francisco New Orleans), Duncans Mills, CA
- 18 – 20 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest District), Des Plaines, IL
- 21 – 23 Lasallian Volunteers Advisory Board (LVAB) Meeting, Ocean City, NJ
- 23 – 24 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Ocean City, NJ
- 25 – 27 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (District of Eastern North America), Marriotsville, MD
- 29 – 30 Lasallian Publications Committee (LPC), Romeoville, IL

NOVEMBER 2018

- 15 – 17 Huether Lasallian Conference, Minneapolis, MN

DECEMBER 2018

- 2 The Year of Lasallian Vocations Commences



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 58th 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
- > BMT Management and Financial Consultants
- > 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.



De la fallé
TODAY

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20017

