

# De La Salle TODAY

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

SPRING 2019

A photograph of two young girls sitting outdoors. The girl on the left is wearing a patterned sleeveless top and jeans, smiling at the camera. The girl on the right is wearing a light blue t-shirt with a graphic and jeans, also smiling and holding a red and green string, forming a heart shape with her hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

LASALLIANS: HEARTS ON FIRE



# De La Salle TODAY

Dear Lasallians,

As we continue to celebrate the Year of Lasallian Vocations, we bring to life Lasallian Reflection 4, "Lasallians: Hearts on Fire." Using the disciples' journey to Emmaus as a guide, the reflection encourages us to look at our journey as Lasallians. It reminds us that while we are on our own paths, we "move on together and by association, discovering that God walks alongside each Lasallian" (p. 5).

This issue starts by highlighting powerful examples of accompaniment, including graduate support programs at San Miguel-model schools. You'll hear from three graduates on the importance of continued accompaniment. We also look at a unique effort at Villa des Jeunes in Québec that invites back past participants of retreats and other programs. While the center's main purpose is to have a short, meaningful impact on the lives of teens, it has found a way to continue to walk alongside young people.

Next, we go "behind the scenes," introducing you to people and programs that stay more in the background but have a strong influence on the mission, such as board members and parents. You'll meet a board chair and the president of a parent association who share their stories of one step leading to another as they got more involved at their respective schools, and how they're having an impact touching hearts today. We also look at the long-standing formation program at La Salle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, which helps educators gain a deeper understanding of the mission.

We end this issue with a photo spread featuring important work being done by our global Lasallian family, including ministries that serve young people affected by civil war, drug trafficking, poverty and more. It shows how Lasallians are meeting "real needs" of today's world, as described in Lasallian Reflection 4 (p. 15).

We hope you enjoy learning more about these different aspects of how Lasallians touch hearts—and have their own hearts touched. You can download the reflection and access more resources on this theme on our website, [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info).

Live Jesus in our hearts ... Forever!



**ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE**

Editor

*Cover: Young girls at the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, an initiative that provides for refugees fleeing the war in Syria and religious persecution in Iraq. Courtesy De La Salle Solidarity International*

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](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO)  
[WWW.LASALLIAN.INFO](http://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

**STORY DEVELOPMENT**  
BOB CARREJO  
PHILIP DE RITA  
DENIS DE VILLERS  
ALEX VASILIADES

**TRANSLATION**  
DENIS DE VILLERS

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
JOHANIE CHABOT  
ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE  
ANNA WADDELOVE  
RYAN WALL

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL  
JOHANIE CHABOT  
JOSÉ ANDRÉS CUBILLAS, DISTRICT OF NORTH MEXICO  
RUTH CLEGG  
DE LA SALLE SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL  
DE MARILLAC ACADEMY  
DENIS DE VILLERS  
DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS  
LA SALLE ACADEMY, PROVIDENCE  
MIDWEST DISTRICT  
ELEONORA MUNARETTO  
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL  
SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL, CHICAGO  
ALAN SEDER  
DR. SUE SKINNER  
THE SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL OF PROVIDENCE  
EVAN VAUGHN  
BRAD WILLIAMS

**CREATIVE CONSULTANT**  
JOHN BURNS DESIGN GROUP

PLEASE EMAIL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO [COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO](mailto: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.





10 ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS BEYOND  
GRADUATION  
HOW SAN MIGUEL-MODEL SCHOOLS  
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ALUMNI  
BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

16 A BRIEF ENCOUNTER, A LASTING  
EXPERIENCE  
BY JOHANIE CHABOT  
TRANSLATED BY DENIS DE VILLERS

20 FROM A 'YES' TO A HEART ON FIRE  
HOW BOARD MEMBERS AND PARENTS  
SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR THE  
LASALLIAN MISSION  
BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

26 FORMING EDUCATORS TO GROW IN  
THEIR VOCATION  
BY RYAN WALL

30 ONE GLOBAL COMMITMENT,  
ONE LASALLIAN FAMILY  
BY ANNA WADDELOVE

---

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2 NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

36 CALENDAR OF EVENTS







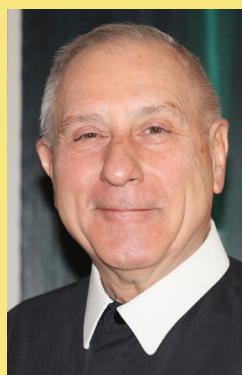
*Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, visited Colegio Regis La Salle in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, in November 2018 during his pastoral visit to the Región Latinoamericana Lasallista (RELAL). Courtesy José Andrés Cubillas, District of North Mexico*

## SUPERIOR GENERAL TO VISIT RELAN

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, will return home to the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) for a pastoral visit with the General Council. The visit will begin in October 2019 and conclude in April 2020. Brother Robert will make stops in all four Districts with the goal of learning about the vitality and viability of the mission in the Districts and the Region as a whole. During his trip, he will meet with key leadership structures, such as mission and District councils, visit with Brothers in the community setting, and spend time with educators and students in ministries. The Superior General conducts one pastoral visit to each Region during his term. RELAN will be the fifth and final pastoral visit for Brother Robert.

## NEW MIDWEST DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

The Midwest District will have a new Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor this summer. Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, has announced the appointments of Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, as Visitor and Brother Chris Englert, FSC, as Auxiliary Visitor. They will serve four-year terms that will begin on July 1, 2019. Brother Michael has served the Church and the Brothers in a variety of roles, including as an Auxiliary Visitor for the Midwest District from 1995-2001. He currently serves as the District's director of Lasallian formation. Brother Chris served as president of Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee, for nearly 30 years.



*Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC. Courtesy Midwest District*



*Brother Chris Englert, FSC. Courtesy Midwest District*



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

EMAIL US AT  
[COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@LASALLIAN.INFO)



# NEWS

CONTINUED

## YEAR OF LASALLIAN VOCATIONS UNDERWAY

Lasallians around the world are marking the Year of Lasallian Vocations, which started December 2, 2018, and will conclude on November 24, 2019. The Year of Lasallian Vocations highlights the 300th anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's entry into eternal life and celebrates the impact of the mission he started.

A number of celebrations, gatherings and efforts, such as publications, artwork and building the theme into existing programs, are being offered internationally. A few wide-reaching efforts have included an international formation session hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2018 to address topics of youth, youth ministry and vocation ministry with the theme "Walking with Young People: A Gospel Adventure," the Lasallian gathering at World Youth Day in January 2019 in Panama City, Panama, and the World Congress of Lasallian Education hosted in March 2019 at Universidad La Salle in Mexico City with the theme "Lasallian Education for the 21st Century."

The goals of the year are: to 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; to renew our commitment to respond to the reality and needs of today through promoting our mission, charism and founding story; and to share our hope for the future within the unity and diversity of Lasallian vocations by witnessing the movement of the Spirit in our lives and ministry.

More information and resources for the Year of Lasallian Vocations are available at [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info). Resources include prayer services, posters, a special font for use by the Lasallian family, a new biography, a music video and more.



*Participants at the international formation experience in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2018. Courtesy Eleonora Munaretto*





# NEWS

CONTINUED

## RELAN BROTHERS ASSIGNED TO ROME



**Brother George Van Grieken, FSC.** Courtesy District of San Francisco New Orleans



**Brother Stephen Markham, FSC.** Courtesy Midwest District

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, has assigned two RELAN Brothers to roles at the Generalate in Rome. Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, of the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), will serve as secretary for the Lasallian Research and Resources Service effective September 2019. Brother George will split his time between SFNO and Rome, and he will continue to serve as director of the SFNO Lasallian Resource Center. Effective February 1, 2019, Brother Stephen Markham, FSC, is serving as mentor and assistant resident director for students during the Lasallian Universities Center for Education (LUCE) program, which is housed at the Generalate. While in Rome, Brother Steven is continuing his role as director of Brothers vocation for the Midwest District.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LASSCA 2019

The Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) held its 15th annual conference February 24-27, 2019, with the theme

“One Heart. One Commitment. One Life.” More than 120 principals, presidents, board members, District and Regional leaders and others gathered in Houston, Texas, for enlightening addresses, breakout sessions, networking, prayer and more. Speakers highlighted topics including our vocational call, making personal connections in the workplace, best practices for preventing attacks, and how a culture of vocations and formation can enhance the Lasallian dimension in schools. As part of opening night, La Salle Catholic College Preparatory in Milwaukie, Oregon, received the Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence for its San Miguel Scholars Program, which provides comprehensive financial assistance and academic/college readiness support to economically disadvantaged students. The award recognizes excellence in a Lasallian secondary school program that represents admirable values, standards and passions. Visit [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info) for more on the LASSCA Conference.



**The annual Brother Michael Collins Award of Excellence was presented to the San Miguel Scholars Program at La Salle Catholic College Preparatory in Milwaukie, Oregon, at the LASSCA Conference. From left, Barry Lieske, AFSC, who presented the award, and Andrew Kuffner and Matthew Winningham, recipients.**





*The Buttimer I class in 2018. Courtesy Alan Seder*

## SUMMER FORMATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPEN

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 23 – July 6, 2019. The third cohort of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice will start in the summer with gatherings by District. This two-year program focuses on deepening participants’ understanding of De La Salle’s story and vision, Lasallian pedagogy, the Lasallian promotion of justice and Lasallian spirituality while utilizing contemporary texts to inform and influence current and future Lasallian practice. The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 23-28, 2019. In partnership with Common Ground Relief, LSJI will explore issues related to wetlands and other environmental issues that arise in ecologically sensitive areas, such as the Louisiana coast. Registration for all three programs will close in mid-May. To learn more and register, visit [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info).

## CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION OF BROTHER JAMES MILLER

Pope Francis has recognized the martyrdom of Brother James “Santiago” Miller, FSC, who was killed February 13, 1982, in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, while repairing a wall at the school. The Vatican announced in November 2018 that Pope Francis issued the decree which clears the way for Brother James’ beatification at a date and time to be announced. Brother James will be the first De La Salle Christian Brother from the United States to be beatified. Resources and more information can be found at [www.cbmidwest.org](http://www.cbmidwest.org).



*Courtesy Midwest District*

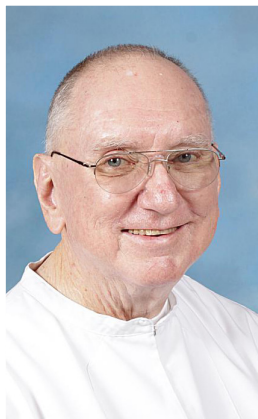


# NEWS

CONTINUED

## REMEMBERING BROTHER JEFFREY CALLIGAN, FSC

Brother Jeffrey Calligan, FSC, a longtime presenter at the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies (1988-2017), passed away February 15, 2019, at the age of 79. Brother William Mann, FSC, a current Buttimer instructor who was part of the group that founded Buttimer in 1986, shared, “Whether he was regaling us with tales of his many trips abroad or imparting his passion for all things Lasallian—and especially his fondness for the growing association of laity and Brothers for mission—Jeff was a vital life-force who inspired countless Lasallians over the course of 30 years as a presenter at the Buttimer Institute. I’ll miss him.”



**Brother Jeffrey Calligan, FSC.**  
*Courtesy Saint Paul’s School,  
Covington, Louisiana*

Brother Jeffrey, from the District of San Francisco New Orleans, was known both internationally and throughout the Lasallian Region of North America for his many contributions to the mission. He served at Christian Brothers Conference as director of Formation and Religious Life Services (2000-2004), a role that focused on formation and catechetics. During

that time, Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, served as director of education, one of several times Brothers Robert and Jeffrey worked and lived together. “Jeffrey had a passion for his students, for teaching and for learning,” recalled Brother Robert. “The District, Region and Institute have lost a good man and Brother. He was a gifted formator. Jeff contributed not only to the sharing of the Lasallian heritage with Lasallian Partners and Brothers but

also challenging us to understand and open the charism in new and exciting ways.”

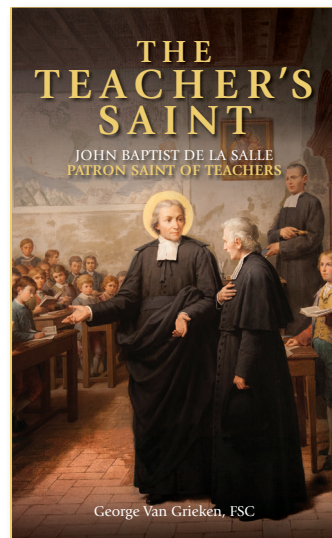
Over the years, Brother Jeffrey held a number of teaching and administrative positions at Saint Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico; De La Salle High School in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Saint Paul’s School in Covington, Louisiana. He also served as Auxiliary Visitor for the former District of New Orleans-Santa Fe (1987-1988, 2004-2007) and on the staff of Lasallian Education Services in Malvern, Australia (2007-2014).

## NEW DE LA SALLE BIOGRAPHY TO BE RELEASED IN RELAN

In light of the anniversary year, a new short biography of Saint John Baptist de La Salle is being made available, entitled *The Teacher’s Saint*. Written by Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, this pocket-sized book offers a

succinct overview of De La Salle’s life and his unplanned journey of educating the poor, which led to the establishment of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The book recounts the struggles and successes of De La Salle’s journey

and shows how his innovations continue to shape the educational world of today in ways he could not have imagined. Published by Christian Brothers Conference, the book will be available for purchase this spring through Saint Mary’s Press at [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org).





# NEWS

CONTINUED

## SUPERIOR GENERAL RECEIVES SIXTH HONOR FROM RELAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC, received an honorary doctorate of educational leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona, during a Founder's Day celebration on March 12, 2019. The honorary doctorate recognizes Brother Robert's dedication to the Lasallian charism, especially his service to the poor and his commitment to education.



*Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, receives an honorary doctorate of educational leadership. Courtesy Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*

With the presentation of this honor, Brother Robert has now received honorary doctorate degrees from all six Lasallian colleges/universities in the United States. In spring 2016, Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, and Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, bestowed the honor to Brother Robert. In autumn 2015, the Superior General received doctorates from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, California.

## LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Lasallian Volunteers (LV) will open its 30th anniversary year in July 2019. During the course of the 30 years, Lasallian Volunteers have made an impact at ministries in 19 states throughout the United States, as well as internationally in Kenya, Palestine and Jamaica.

More than 775 individuals have experienced and been formed in the program's three core values of faith, service and community. Over the past three decades, the impact LVs have provided to ministries and communities has far outlasted their one or two years of service.



The 30th anniversary invites those touched by the care and service provided by volunteers to celebrate with those who have served as Lasallian Volunteers and continue to renew their commitment to touch the hearts of those entrusted to their care. Throughout the anniversary year, LV Alums, Brothers and supporters will host local gatherings to celebrate. Visit [www.LasallianVolunteers.org](http://www.LasallianVolunteers.org) and connect on Facebook (@LasallianVolunteers) and Twitter (@LasallianVols) as Lasallian Volunteers looks back at its history and shares stories of how the LV experience has impacted Alums.



*Lasallian Volunteers in 1989*



# APPOINTMENTS

**KATIE BAUSER**, Recruitment Coordinator, Lasallian Volunteers, Washington, DC, effective October 29, 2018

**RAUL CARDENAS, JR., PH.D.**, President, Mullen High School, Denver, CO, effective June 1, 2019

**BROTHER CHRIS ENGLERT, FSC**, Auxiliary Visitor, Midwest District, effective July 1, 2019

**BROTHER MICHAEL FEHRENBACH, FSC**, Visitor, Midwest District, effective July 1, 2019

**MATT GOLINSKI**, Development Assistant, Christian Brothers Conference, Washington, DC, effective January 14, 2019

**PAUL KELLY**, President, De La Salle High School, New Orleans, LA, effective March 10, 2019

**BROTHER DENNIS MALLOY, FSC**, President, La Salle Academy, Providence, RI, effective July 1, 2019

**BROTHER STEPHEN MARKHAM, FSC**, Mentor/Assistant Resident Director, Lasallian Universities Center for Education (LUCE), Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rome, Italy, effective February 1, 2019

**BROTHER DAVID POOS, FSC**, President, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN, effective January 1, 2019

**BROTHER GEORGE VAN GRIEKEN, FSC**, Secretary, Lasallian Research and Resources Service, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rome, Italy, effective September 2019

## 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.*

## DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

**FRANK CAFARO, AFSC**, Director of Guidance and Lasallian Animator, St. Peter's Boys High School, Staten Island, NY

**DONALD J. KAVANAGH, AFSC**, Principal, La Salle Academy, Providence, RI

**ANNE MOSCINSKI, AFSC**, Associate Executive Director for Program Management, LaSalle School, Albany, NY

## MIDWEST DISTRICT

**MICHAEL JORDAN, AFSC**, President, Christian Brothers College High School, St. Louis, MO

**DR. JEANETTE MINES, AFSC**, Academic Associate to the Provost, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**

[FACEBOOK.COM/LASALLIANRELAN](https://www.facebook.com/LASALLIANRELAN)

[TWITTER.COM/LASALLIAN\\_RELAN](https://twitter.com/LASALLIAN_RELAN)



# SAVE THE DATE!



---

## HUETHER

LASALLIAN CONFERENCE

---

NOVEMBER 21-23, 2019 • MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

We invite you to mark your calendar to join Lasallians for an insightful conference focused on Lasallian Reflection 4, "Lasallians: Hearts on Fire." The Huether Conference will also celebrate the close of the Year of Lasallian Vocations.

More information to come this summer at [www.Lasallian.info](http://www.Lasallian.info).





*Nancy Valdivia, front row, third from left, graduated from De Marillac Academy in 2015. Courtesy De Marillac Academy*





# ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS BEYOND GRADUATION

HOW SAN MIGUEL-MODEL SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ALUMNI

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

**“THEY HAVE MY BACK. THEY’RE NOT GOING TO ABANDON ME.”**

That’s the feeling graduate support programs at San Miguel-model schools want their former students to have and one that Nancy Valdivia knows very well. Valdivia, now a high school senior, is a graduate of De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, California.

De Marillac and fellow San Miguel-model schools provide quality education to underserved middle school students in small classes with extended-day hours. The schools continue to accompany students beyond their middle school years through graduate support programs. While the programs vary school-to-school, they typically include services such as help with the high school transition, academic support, emotional support, assistance with college applications, career development support and more. The goal is to continue to “move on *together and by association*,” as encouraged in Lasallian Reflection 4 (p. 5), and offer students a supportive community as they navigate their next steps in life. The programs not only offer help, but also teach young people how to help themselves.

“Even though I’m not in De Marillac, every single day I feel like they’re helping me,” Valdivia said. “Even though they’re not physically with me or telling me what to do, I feel like I have support.”

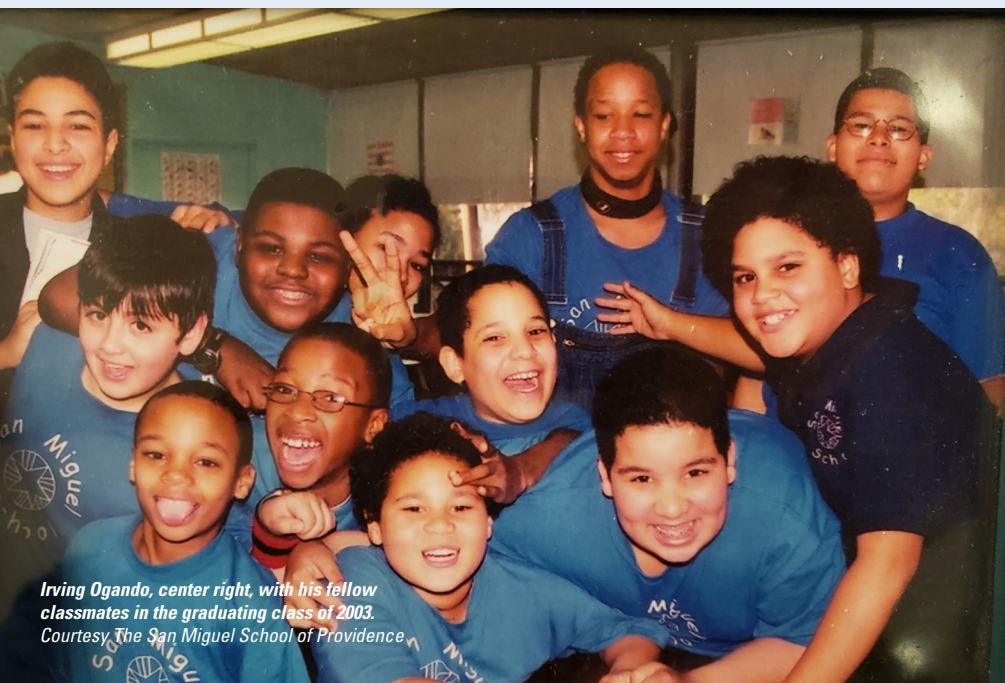
That feeling extends to a number of graduates of similar schools, such as college freshman Dulce Morales, a graduate of San Miguel School in Chicago, Illinois, and Irving Ogando, director of graduate support at The San Miguel School of Providence in Rhode Island, his alma mater.

## SETTING THE FOUNDATION

For Valdivia, Morales and Ogando, the strong connection to their respective schools started with a strong foundation set during their middle school years. Morales recalled the morning check-ins at San Miguel Chicago, when teachers would make it a point to talk with students who reported unhappy feelings on their morning worksheet.

“It was really special to know that they were so understanding about how, even though we’re little kids and we might not completely understand everything that’s going on, that they help us understand exactly how to handle stuff and know how we’re feeling, and

## ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS BEYOND GRADUATION CONTINUED



*Irving Ogando, center right, with his fellow classmates in the graduating class of 2003. Courtesy The San Miguel School of Providence*

know about what to do,” said Morales. “They were strict, but they also built this foundation of trust and openness. ‘You can trust me. I’ll be here for you, even if you don’t have anything to talk about right now.’”

That sense of support comes not only from teachers, it’s built between students as well.

“Just the same way you come in and you’re a little brother, by the time you’re in eighth grade, you’re a big brother,” recalled Ogando, adding that he still feels like a big brother in his graduate support role at the all-boys school.

That combination of support from teachers and students had a meaningful impact on Valdivia, who was learning English when she entered De Marillac. She found support through her teachers, tutors and fellow fourth graders.

“I was kind of terrified they were going to judge me [because of my English], but I felt better because of the great community there,” she said. “I didn’t feel behind. I actually felt like I was the same level as other students because they were taking the time to help me develop my English.”

## EXTENDING THE SUPPORT

After graduating, Valdivia, Morales and Ogando knew they could each return to their schools and experience that sense of support again, whether they needed help adjusting in high school, were struggling with a certain subject, or just needed someone to listen.

“The environment that they made for us, it felt safe to come back and tell them, ‘Hey, I know I’m not at San Miguel anymore, but this is where I’m struggling,’” said Morales. “They would put everything aside, and be like, ‘I’m here. I’m listening. What do you need help in?’”



*Dulce Morales graduated from San Miguel School in Chicago in 2014. Courtesy San Miguel School, Chicago*





*Nancy Valdivia, right, spends time with fifth graders at De Marillac Academy. Courtesy Evan Vaughn*

“Having a person who was still invested in my future and was able to communicate things to my parents about things that I needed to be doing, keeping an eye on my grades and making sure that I was still working as hard as I could,” said Ogando, who attended La Salle Academy in Providence after middle school. “Coming into La Salle and visiting with us, stopping to have lunch. ‘How are things going? How are you fitting in?’ All of those things. Specifically, being available to answer questions and being a resource to help make transitions to every next step is probably the most important thing that I received in graduate support.”

Graduate support programs sometimes offer incentives to encourage graduates to come back for help. At San Miguel Chicago, graduates who come back are able to attend yearly retreats as high schoolers at Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center in Marine on Saint Croix, Minnesota, the site of popular retreats they attended in middle school.

## GIVING BACK

Their experiences as students and as recipients of graduate support motivate the graduates to give back. After graduation, Ogando volunteered at summer

camp for incoming fifth graders and tutored after school. He even went on to serve as the first alumnus on the school’s board of directors, and he did not hesitate to apply for the graduate support position, a role previously held by a friend and fellow alumnus. Now, he is once again immersed in San Miguel, helping current students with the high school application process and reaching out to alumni for simple check-ins and by helping them with everything from deciding which calculator to buy, to tutoring, to resume updating and job interview preparation, to hosting an annual alumni reunion.

“It was very important for me—for all of us—that an alumnus take this role. Simply because I feel like it’s my duty to give back the way that others took time to give to me,” he said. “The help I received ultimately led to me making this decision to be back here again, so it all comes full circle.”

Valdivia, whose brother now attends De Marillac, will often go to the school to do her homework before taking her brother home. While there, she supervises students who are playing outside and helps teachers with whatever they need.

“I don’t wait for them to ask. I just help,” she said.



## ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS BEYOND GRADUATION CONTINUED

Morales will intern at San Miguel in the fall, likely working with graduate support, and has a summer job lined up at Dunrovin, where she hopes to accompany San Miguel students on retreats. She currently volunteers at school, including reading to students, during which she mirrors the support she received.

"I would have the chance to talk with them and say, 'Hey, how is this project going? I remember doing it when I was in sixth grade,' or 'How is the high school search going?' It's just nice because they learn from our experiences," she said.

### ACCOMPANIMENT ON THE JOURNEY

From their days in the classroom to their experiences with graduate support, the schools have positioned Morales, Valdivia, Ogando and fellow graduates for lives of success and service.

"Every time I go to graduate support, I feel like they are trying their best to help me out in my life," said Valdivia. "They tell me, 'Whatever you decide is the thing that you're going to be.'"

As Ogando shared, he feels called in his vocation to accompany graduates, relating to Lasallian Reflection 4, "We are called to accompany one another in our communities without sparing means or resources. If we want to grow, we must walk along with someone, moving on together as we share our lives" (p. 7).

"Our strength is our community, is the fact that we have each other," Ogando said. "When you have something positive to celebrate, it's that much better when you can share that success with somebody else. And when you have a challenge or an obstacle to overcome, it's that much easier when you have someone to help you overcome it." •

*Elizabeth Moors Jodice is the director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference.*

*Irving Ogando, left, and John Wolf celebrate at the San Miguel Gala in 2017. Wolf, current executive director at The San Miguel School of Providence, was Irving's seventh grade math teacher. Now, they are colleagues. Courtesy Ruth Clegg*







# EXPLORE

YOUR PURPOSE

YOUR PASSION

YOUR CALL



*“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**

As De La Salle Christian Brothers, we are passionate about our mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially those on the margins.

Together in community, we live out the Gospel and our Lasallian charism through the ministry of education.

*De La Salle*  
**BROTHERS**  
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Connect with us online at [BrothersVocation.org](http://BrothersVocation.org) to learn more.

# A BRIEF ENCOUNTER, A LASTING EXPERIENCE

BY JOHANIE CHABOT

TRANSLATED BY DENIS DE VILLERS

Located in the Québec City area, Villa des Jeunes offers a memorable environment and outstanding experiences for young people. In operation since 1971, the center welcomes between 8,000 and 10,000 teenagers every year for training sessions and retreats.

A multidisciplinary team develops, prepares and leads formation sessions in response to the needs of schools and parishes, in addition to providing tailored training sessions for educators. Whether it's a bullying prevention program for special needs students, reflection on citizenship and inclusion, leadership workshops, or self-esteem and perseverance programs, there are nearly 200 groups that benefit from Villa expertise each year. Although these teenagers are just passing through, this short time at the Villa impacts them deeply and transforms their lives.

While the purpose of the Villa is to have a short but meaningful impact, the center offers opportunities for continued accompaniment. As Lasallian Reflection 4 encourages, "We are called to accompany one another in our communities without sparing means or resources. If we want to grow, we must walk along with someone, moving on together as we share our lives" (p. 7).

The Villa invites past participants to return and continue to share their lives through events such as organizing a Christmas celebration with a meal, activities and gifts for their less fortunate neighbors. Wanting

to take the accompaniment a step further, Johanie Chabot, an animator at Villa des Jeunes, decided to organize a gathering for college students who attended a few Villa programs as high school students. So, the Villa team developed a retreat with activities to challenge them, touch their hearts, and allow them to grow in both personal and spiritual ways.

*The retreat offers time for creativity.*

*Courtesy Johanie Chabot*

*Un moment d'arrêt et de créativité de la retraite. Gracieuseté de Johanie Chabot*





This first-of-its-kind retreat at the Villa took place in December 2018 welcoming back the “Clan of the Elders,” as this group of past participants is affectionately known. More than 40 young people took part in the retreat, which was an opportunity to recharge their batteries and enjoy a break from the stress that comes with the final weeks of a college semester. Participants were moved by the welcoming atmosphere filled with sharing, trust and openness.

“No one feels judged,” said participant Gabrielle Guillemette. “We know that we can be listened to and understood, even by pure strangers. I felt so welcome, so at peace. I think I was just looking for this listening, in addition to a release of a weight that I had on my shoulders.”

To have that sense of acceptance echoes a sentiment in Lasallian Reflection 4: “The journey seems endless when we feel sad, discouraged and lonely, but it becomes lighter when someone comes along with us” (p. 7).

“Over time and confidences, we were surprised to open up. To laugh. To cry. And we cried so much. Cries of relief and pain, but necessary cries,” participant Éric Labonté described. “The acceptance, tenderness and communication of the people of the Villa will most likely mark me forever.”

Participants like Sabrina Cloutier found it comforting to be with the “family of elders.” She said the activities gave her time to think about herself and ask questions that she hasn’t addressed with anyone. For others, like participant Melissa Faucher, the strongest moment in the retreat was the moment of silence in the morning. Faucher shared that even though she has faith, she did not remember the last time she took a moment in complete silence when she needed it so much.

For Chabot, she appreciated seeing the young people have such powerful experiences.

“I was moved to see these young people engage in confidence and then leave happily, in peace,” said Chabot. “Like the young people who pass through the Villa, they feel that they are loved as they are. These ‘elders’ have had the privilege of discovering the precious gift they have in them.” •

*Johanie Chabot is an animator at Villa des Jeunes. She organized the December 2018 retreat.*



*Sabrina Cloutier uses a creative activity to express her thoughts.  
Courtesy Johanie Chabot*

*Sabrina Cloutier s'exprime par le biais de la créativité. Gracieuseté de  
Johanie Chabot*

# UNE COURTE RENCONTRE, DES VIES TRANSFORMÉES

PAR JOHANIE CHABOT

Située en banlieue de Québec, la Villa des Jeunes offre un environnement et un lieu inoubliable pour les jeunes. Depuis 1971, la VDJ reçoit entre 8 000 et 10 000 jeunes personnes par année dans le cadre d'animations variées.

Une équipe pluridisciplinaire développe, prépare et anime différentes formations en lien avec les besoins des milieux scolaires, paroissiaux et pour des équipes d'éducateurs. Que ce soit pour un programme d'éducation face aux formes de harcèlement que vivent les jeunes à défis particuliers, un programme de réflexion sur l'inclusion, d'ateliers de leadership ou d'estime de soi et de persévérance, c'est tout près de 200 groupes qui bénéficient de l'expertise des animateurs de la Villa chaque année. Et bien que tous ces adolescents ne font que passer, ce court moment à La Villa les marque profondément et transforme leur vie.

Alors qu'un des objectifs de la Villa est justement d'avoir un impact significatif malgré la courte durée de séjour des groupes, le Centre offre maintenant des possibilités d'accompagnement qui se prolongent dans le temps. Comme la réflexion lasallienne 4 nous invite à le faire, « Nous sommes appelés à nous accompagner mutuellement en communauté sans compter les moyens ou les ressources. Pour notre croissance personnelle, nous devons cheminer avec quelqu'un, marcher ensemble et partager notre vie. » (Page 7)

Et c'est ainsi que, depuis quelques années, la Villa des Jeunes invite d'anciens participants à revenir parmi son équipe d'éducateurs pour poursuivre l'œuvre du Centre au travers d'activités caritatives telles l'animation d'une fête de Noël pour les jeunes démunis de la paroisse St-Roch. Pour renforcer ce lien, l'une des animatrices, Johanie Chabot, a eu l'idée de rassembler les anciens qui sont maintenant devenus de jeunes adultes. Avec leur concours, Johanie a élaboré un temps de ressourcement pour toucher leurs cœurs et leur permettre de grandir sur le plan personnel et spirituel.

Ce « Clan des Anciens » a fait un pas de plus le 20 décembre dernier, en vivant à la Villa une retraite, temps d'arrêt et de repos pour charger des batteries très sollicitées par le stress et la frénésie d'une fin de session collégiale ou universitaire. Les participants ont été profondément touchés par l'atmosphère d'accueil tout empreinte de partage, d'ouverture et de confiance.

« Personne ne se sent jugé. » Mentionne Gabrielle Guillemette, une ancienne. « On sait que l'on peut être écouté et compris même par de purs étrangers. Je me suis sentie tellement accueillie, tellement en paix. Je pense que je venais justement chercher



**Le Clan des Anciens réuni pour  
le premier ressourcement les 20  
et 21 décembre 2018. Gracieuseté  
de Johanie Chabot**

**The "Clan of the Elders"  
gathered for its first retreat  
December 20-21, 2018. Courtesy  
Johanie Chabot**

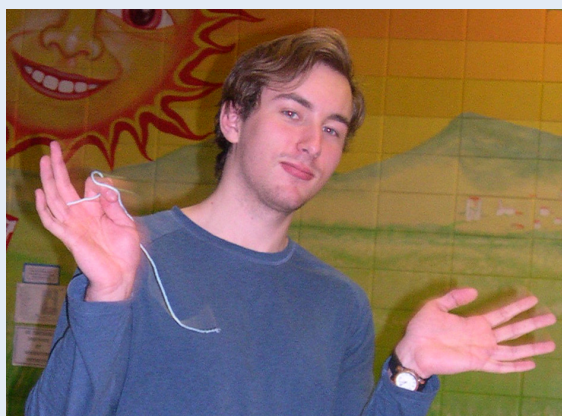


cette écoute en plus d'une libération d'un poids que j'avais sur les épaules. »

Ce sentiment d'acceptation de l'autre trouve un écho dans la Réflexion lasallienne 4 : « Quand en chemin nous nous sentons tristes, découragés ou seuls, il nous semble que le voyage dure bien plus longtemps. » (Page 7)

Quand quelqu'un nous accompagne, le voyage devient plus agréable.

« Au fil des heures et des confidences, nous nous sommes surpris à nous ouvrir. À rire. À pleurer. À tellement pleurer. Des pleurs de soulagement et de douleur, mais des pleurs nécessaires. » Partage



**Le temps de ressourcement fut une révélation pour Éric Labonté Gracieuseté de Johanie Chabot**

**The retreat had a powerful impact on Éric Labonté. Courtesy Johanie Chabot**

Éric Labonté, un participant. « L'acceptation, la tendresse et la communication des gens de la Villa me marqueront fort probablement à tout jamais. »

Pour les participants comme Sabrina Cloutier, il est très réconfortant de se retrouver avec la « famille des anciens ». Elle croit qu'elle avait justement besoin de penser un peu à elle et que c'est à travers les différentes activités proposées qu'elle a réussi à le faire. Pour d'autres, comme Mélissa Faucher, le moment le plus fort du ressourcement a été le moment de silence du matin. Mélissa confie que, même si elle a la foi, elle ne se souvient pas de la dernière fois où elle a pris un temps de silence complet à un moment où elle en avait tant besoin.

Johanie Chabot est fière d'avoir vécu ces moments intenses avec les « jeunes anciens » devenus adultes.

« J'ai été émue de voir ces jeunes se livrer en toute confiance puis repartir heureux, en paix. À l'instar des jeunes qui passent par la Villa, ils sentent qu'ils sont aimés tels qu'ils sont. Ces « Anciens » ont eu le privilège de découvrir le don précieux qu'ils ont en eux. » •

**Johanie Chabot est animatrice à la Villa des Jeunes, et organisatrice du ressourcement de décembre 2018.**





*Christian Brothers School serves students in grades pre-kindergarten to seventh on two campuses. Courtesy Christian Brothers School*

## FROM A 'YES' TO A HEART ON FIRE

HOW BOARD MEMBERS AND PARENTS SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR THE LASALLIAN MISSION

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Rocky Daigle and Oufreez Argenta have a lot in common. They are both devoted parents who are passionate about education, do not hesitate to get involved, and take their involvement to the next level.

Daigle is chair of the board of trustees at Christian Brothers School in New Orleans, Louisiana, where his two sons attended. Argenta is vice president of the Parent Association at Benilde-St. Margaret's School in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, where her daughter and son are current students.

For Daigle and Argenta, their journeys to serve started with just saying "yes." Little-by-little, they found their hearts touched by the mission, as described in Lasallian Reflection 4: "[De La Salle and his first companions] let God touch their hearts, which started beating in unison with the hearts of poor children and



and young people. God touched the depths of their being and enabled them to walk along with others to set their hearts on fire" (p. 11).

## ROCKY DAIGLE: FROM PARENT TO BOARD CHAIR

Daigle's "yes" came when he was asked to join the Christian Brothers Foundation, which financially supports the school and the Brothers.

"Initially, I got involved because I thought it was such a cool place. The magic that we have at that school, I didn't not want to be involved," Daigle recalled. "And then I started learning all about the mission."

From there, his knowledge and commitment grew during his service on the board of trustees, which is responsible for overseeing the performance of the school president.

"We do an extensive amount of training," said Daigle, describing the Association of Board Chairs in the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO).

"The Brothers have done an incredible job of ensuring that the lay leaders that they're entrusting, like our president and me, are provided with the tools necessary to carry the mission forward."

Tools include Lasallian readings, reflections and prayers, which the board reviews at each meeting as a way to frame decision-making on finances, policies and mission.

"It's like setting the course," Daigle explained. "By virtue of doing that, we are hopefully allowing the faculty and staff and everyone else to touch the hearts of the kids."

And the school works to touch the hearts of board members. As Joey Scaffidi, AFSC, Christian Brothers School president, explained, "By connecting our trustees to the daily experiences of CBS, we can foster the relationship between the trustees, the faculty and the young people entrusted to CBS. So, when they are here for a board meeting, there is time created and crafted for the trustees to interact with the faculty at lunch or to observe some classrooms. Just

*Joey Scaffidi, AFSC, left, and Rocky Daigle, collaborate on keeping the mission at the forefront at Christian Brothers School. Courtesy Christian Brothers School*





*The Argenta family celebrates at the banquet for the Benilde-St. Margaret's School swim team. Courtesy Brad Williams*

get a taste of what the daily operations are like. That's when they start to have that meaningful connection to the mission with which they've been entrusted."

This connection helps drive difficult decision-making, such as in 2016 when Christian Brothers School had to transform from a middle school for boys to a co-educational elementary-middle school to comply with the strategic plan of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. In response to what seemed like an impossible task, Scaffidi and the board thought about the mission.

"So, the board said, 'What would the Founder do? The Founder would respond to the needs of those around him.' When we asked that question, then our perspective changed completely," Scaffidi recalled.

"We recognized the opportunity we had to pursue the mission even further," Daigle said.

Daigle remembers the process going from reacting to a mandate to having a realization that they could serve more families. Today, Christian Brothers School includes two campuses, the long-standing City Park campus, which continues to serve boys in grades five to seven, and the Canal Street campus, which is co-ed for pre-kindergarten to fourth grade and girls-only for grades five to seven.

The successful transition was only possible because the board kept the mission in mind, as suggested in Lasallian Reflection 4, "We have freely received a charism as a gift for those whom God has entrusted to us, and who are at the center of our mission: our students, especially the poorest among them" (p. 11).

## OUFREEZ ARGENTA: CONTINUING HER 'YES'

Argenta might not have realized that she was being welcomed into a mission when she said her first "yes" at Benilde-St. Margaret's School (BSM). Argenta didn't know anyone at BSM when her daughter started seventh grade there, so when a fellow parent invited her to attend a school function, she immediately accepted.

"One thing sort of led to another, and by the end of the school year that mom and I had become friends by virtue of the fact that our daughters were friends," Argenta recalled. "She asked me if I wanted to assist in one of the roles that Parent Association does called Parent Ambassadors, which basically functions to welcome new families to the school."



## FROM A 'YES' TO A HEART ON FIRE CONTINUED

Feeling that the role was a perfect fit, Argenta agreed and found herself continually accepting more invitations to get involved. That includes when she was asked to join the Parent Association board as vice president, knowing that would lead to a three-year board commitment.

"That one gave me a lot of pause. I actually said 'no' in the beginning," laughed Argenta.

But her "no" turned into a "yes," and her journey continued. As part of the Parent Association, she has assisted with a number of activities over the years, including faculty/staff appreciation events, student recognition events, welcome gatherings for new families, fundraisers, breakfasts for students during finals week, Father-Daughter Dance, Grandparents' Day, faith and wellness activities, and so much more.

"It all goes toward creating a supportive environment for all concerned," said Argenta. "There are different tangible things like that that go a long way to make the kids feel the love and support."

Those efforts bring to life the "concrete expressions of our Lasallian zeal" mentioned in Lasallian Reflection 4: "It is not an abstract love made of intangible feelings, but a concrete commitment expressed in words, gestures, attitudes and actions" (p. 12).

Having parents so involved in school life is something Becca Meagher, BSM campus minister, says provides a richer experience for students.

"We see [parents] as partners in their child's education," said Meagher. "We know that BSM as a community is not just about the education, but

*The Parent Association at Benilde-St. Margaret's School provides strong support for students and staff. Courtesy Benilde-St. Margaret's School*





## FROM A 'YES' TO A HEART ON FIRE CONTINUED

it's about everything in between as well that the students get."

"As volunteers, we are there to support the school in their mission of educating the whole child," said Argenta.

As parents work to support the students and school, the school is intentional about accompanying parents by offering opportunities for them to gather and extending an open welcome to visit the school.

"This community is as much theirs as it is their son's or daughter's," explained Meagher. "I think that the connection that they make as they begin to build a network of friends or companions or partners in faith with one another, then they start to feel really rooted in who we are as a school."

## HEARTS ON FIRE

Argenta and Daigle both credit positive interactions at their respective schools as motivating them to give back. Those interactions don't happen accidentally. The schools take seriously the importance of touching the hearts of those not present in buildings

each day and, in turn, this collaboration creates more meaningful experiences for students. As Lasallian Reflection 4 states, "Moving people's hearts is both a gift and an art" (p. 12). •

*Both Christian Brothers School and BSM are multi-charism schools. In addition to the Lasallian charism, Christian Brothers School includes the Dominican tradition, and BSM includes the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Benedictines.*

**Elizabeth Moors Jodice is the director of communications at Christian Brothers Conference.**

*Students at Christian Brothers School participate in a spelling bee. Courtesy Christian Brothers School*



*Volunteering at Benilde-St. Margaret School's Mardi Gras appreciation event is one way Oufreez Argenta, right, gives back at school. Courtesy Dr. Sue Skinner*







La  Salle  
RELAN

# LASALLIANS HEARTSONFIRE

Are  
you willing  
to let  
**RELATIONSHIPS**  
change you in  
a positive  
way?

What  
is **GOD**  
**ASKING FROM**  
**YOU** at this  
time in your  
life?

Do you  
take moments  
to **ADMIRE THE**  
**TREASURE** hidden  
in others?

How  
can you be a  
**WITNESS** to the  
tenderness  
of God?

How do  
you need to be  
**ACCOMPANIED**  
on your walk  
through  
life?

How  
do you  
**AVOID PREJUDICE**  
and **ACCEPT**  
**DIVERSITY?**

What  
do you do  
to **TOUCH THE**  
**HEARTS** of others  
in your  
ministry?

How  
do you help  
others to discover  
**JESUS AT**  
**THEIR**  
**SIDE?**

How  
can you  
help others  
discover their  
**VOCATION?**

How  
do you  
**LIVE FOR GOD,**  
**WITH GOD AND**  
**IN GOD,** like St. John  
Baptist de  
La Salle  
did?

# FORMING EDUCATORS TO GROW IN THEIR VOCATION

BY RYAN WALL

It's a chilly Wednesday afternoon at La Salle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, and Charles da Silva is wrapping up his religion classes for the day. As the final bell rings at 1:40 and students begin to pack up for their weekly early dismissal, da Silva prepares himself to join his fellow teachers in a La Salle Academy rite of passage: the Lasallian Formation Program.

The program is intended to acclimate new faculty and staff to the Lasallian mission while providing continuous education for their more experienced colleagues. All courses are taught by faculty and staff, creating a community-based approach to professional (and spiritual) development that lasts the duration of one's tenure at the school.

"We're learning how to be Lasallians. We're getting introduced to this whole community, step by step. It's been an excellent experience for me, and it's been very helpful to me in my vocation as a teacher, and developing my vocation as a Lasallian," da Silva explained.

*The formation program has helped give Charles da Silva a deeper understanding of the Lasallian mission. Courtesy La Salle Academy*







*Brother Frederick Mueller, FSC, second from left, helped introduce the formation initiative, which became a formal program in 2005 after nearly 20 years of similar programming at the school. Courtesy La Salle Academy*

Held once a quarter in place of a weekly faculty development meeting, participants take a mandatory core curriculum for their first seven years, and then have the option of exploring other programs and electives. Offerings include courses like “An Introduction to the Lasallian World,” “The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher,” and “Evangelization in a Multi-Religious Context.”

It has helped many teachers, like da Silva, find their calling and “develop internal harmony and a purposeful life,” in the words of Lasallian Reflection 4 (p. 17). Now in his sixth year as a teacher, da Silva feels it has given him a deeper understanding of his role, both inside the classroom and out.

“It starts simple: Who was this guy, John Baptist de La Salle? What was his charism? How did that translate into this bigger world? The idea that we’re part of something bigger is something we don’t think of, but it’s nice to know we’re part of a global network,” da Silva explained.

He isn’t alone in his sentiments—the formation program is something both new and veteran teachers look forward to. Courses are coordinated by the Lasallian Ministry Team, led by Brother Frederick Mueller, FSC, coordinator of Lasallian formation and Lasallian animator.

“I would characterize the formation program as having three key guidelines: taking a holistic approach to Lasallian spirituality; creating a culture of developmental progression as one explores their vocation; and encouraging all levels of accompaniment, from our first-year teachers to those who’ve been with the school for decades,” Brother Frederick said.

He would know—he helped found the program.

“The program is structured so it educates all parts of our community: family, students, staff, board members and alumni are all involved. With sessions being led by over 30 people, we’re able to help show that the Lasallian pedagogy is about more than just teaching—it’s a lifestyle,” explained Brother Frederick.

Such a lifestyle ties in closely with the teachings of Lasallian Reflection 4, which states that a crucial way to develop an inner energy is through communal enlightenment: by “experiencing fraternity and building it together. Being supportive of our students and our fellow travelers along the Lasallian way ... Respecting their personal process and pace and helping them move forward. Building relationships that are full of compassion, kindness and dialogue ... And helping others to discover their own vocation” (p. 17).

## FORMING EDUCATORS TO GROW IN THEIR VOCATION

### CONTINUED

"We're not trying to set up any expectations," Brother Frederick noted. "Living a Lasallian life is a process, and we must respect the pace each member of the community has set for themselves. We can't throw information at anyone and expect them to grow. In this light, the formation process helps us to become better teachers, but more importantly better Lasallians."

Michael Pereira is a math teacher at La Salle Academy. Having attended the school himself and watching his father work there, he grew up with an understanding of Lasallian values. Since coming back to teach at La Salle Academy, he's developed a deeper appreciation of those values.

"The formation program does a great job educating those who haven't had any sort of La Salle background, or any Catholic teaching experience, so that they can become acclimated into our community and really understand what it means to be Lasallian," he said.

"It's helped me grow mentally—I feel like I'm more informed about the Lasallian world," Pereira added. "It's helped me as a teacher. So many of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's practices are still applicable today, from his teaching practices to his methodology to his willingness to help the individual. All of those things provide me with better tools to be a teacher in a 2019 classroom."

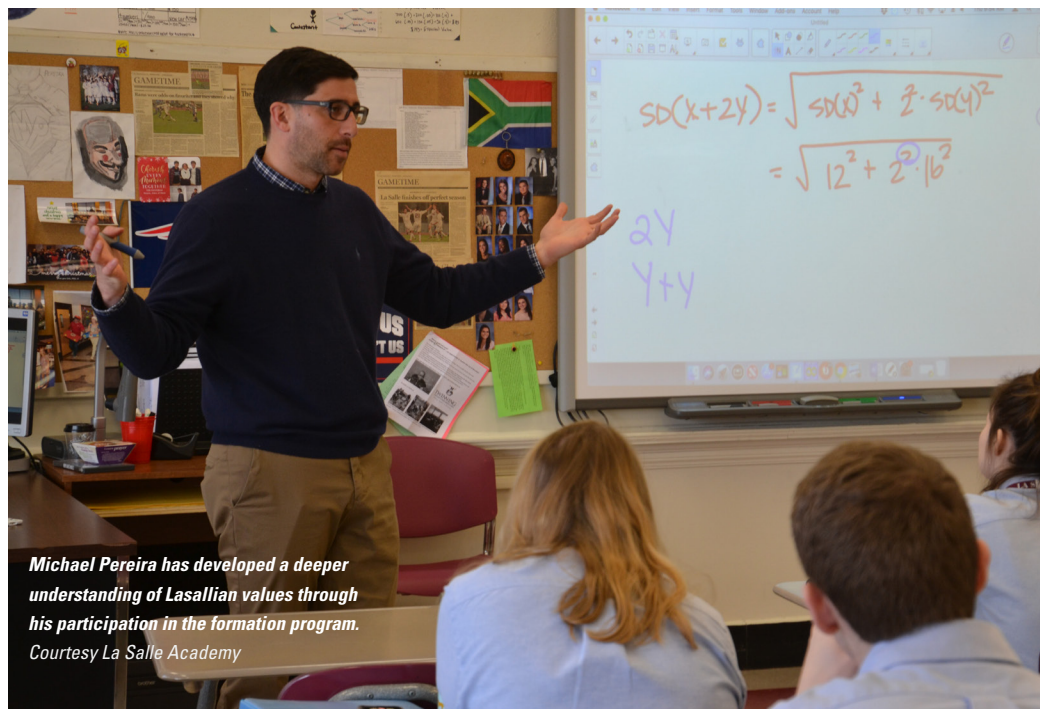
Most importantly, though, Pereira noted that the formation program has helped him grow in his vocation.

"It's helped me grow personally in so many ways. It's really solidified what I'm doing, where I am, and that this is really the place I want to be," he said.

Lasallian Reflection 4 acknowledges that vocation is dynamic, constantly growing and changing (p. 15). In that spirit, the formation program has grown over the years, launching formally in 2005 after nearly two decades of similar (but less structured) programming at the school. Brother Frederick helped build it up over time, to the point that the environment of "teaching as ministry" has become ingrained in the culture of La Salle Academy. Over the years, it has evolved to address relevant social issues, like human trafficking, immigration and at-risk students.

As a presenter within the program, Christine Estes, director of Campus Ministry, works hard to make offerings dynamic and timely.

"There's a lot of freedom about how we present material, and I like being able to come up with creative ways to discuss different topics. We've had traditional reading-based discussions, but we're allowed a flexibility to go beyond that," Estes explained. "For example, one time we watched a spoken word poem



*Michael Pereira has developed a deeper understanding of Lasallian values through his participation in the formation program. Courtesy La Salle Academy*





*Christine Estes, left, is a presenter in the La Salle Academy's formation program. Courtesy La Salle Academy*

and had a powerful reflection on its meaning and how it fits into a Lasallian context. It ensures that the program stays current."

One way the formation program does that is by inviting colleagues at La Salle Academy to present on topics they find interesting. On a regular basis colleagues who participate in the yearly Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), a formation program of the Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference, are able to reflect on what they have learned by hosting semester-long offerings.

"When people get back from these trainings, it gives them a chance to show what they learned and take ownership of a topic," Estes said. "They're passionate about it, and that creates a sense of excitement in the discussions. That's how people learn."

This "inner energy" guides us as we "develop internal harmony and a purposeful life," Lasallian Reflection 4 teaches. Like many of her colleagues at La Salle Academy, Estes is confident that it has allowed her to grow her vocation, which in turn allows her students to develop a deeper connection with her.

"The formation program has caused me to take a step back and really reflect upon how teaching in the Lasallian sense of the word is really about opening yourself up to the presence of God in the community and in your students," said Estes. "My students aren't necessarily going to remember the specifics of what I teach them, but they're always going to remember the kind of relationship I cultivate with them. Developing that awareness through the formation program makes our community special: we truly are 'together by association.'"

*Ryan Wall is a 2018 graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*





Children smile for the camera at the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, an initiative inspired by the 45th General Chapter. The Fratelli Project welcomes refugee children who fled the war in Syria and religious persecution in Iraq. Courtesy De La Salle Solidarity International



# ONE GLOBAL COMMITMENT, ONE LASALLIAN FAMILY

BY ANNA WADDELOVE

IN THE 300 YEARS SINCE HIS ENTRY INTO ETERNAL LIFE, SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE'S MISSION HAS SPREAD GLOBALLY.

While the work that is being done by Lasallians may be in different languages, spread across geographic borders, and woven into various cultures, what remains the same, internationally and here in the Lasallian Region of North America, is our shared commitment to young people, and our membership in one global Lasallian family.

As Lasallian Reflection 4 reminds us, the spirit of our Founder lives in us today: "It is our duty to guarantee its relevance by meeting the real needs of children, young people and adults" and we express our Lasallian commitment, "together and by association, with clear attitudes of selflessness, respect for diversity and dialogue; aiming at justice, peace and the integrity of creation; [and] in active solidarity with the poor of our world" (p. 15).

An example of "meeting the real needs" can be seen through the work of De La Salle Solidarity International with support from the La Salle International Foundation. In September 2018, the foundation

released a new project entitled *One Year in Mission Together: a Prayer for Each Project, a Project for Each Week*, which highlights 52 Lasallian ministries in all five Regions of the Lasallian family, offering a brief summary of each work as well as a prayer. The aim of the publication is to increase awareness of our Lasallian international presence, strengthen connections, invite Lasallians to pray for one another, and show the diversity of ministries responding to local needs.

On the following pages, we invite you to learn more about the positive impact the foundation is making in the lives of our Lasallian family.

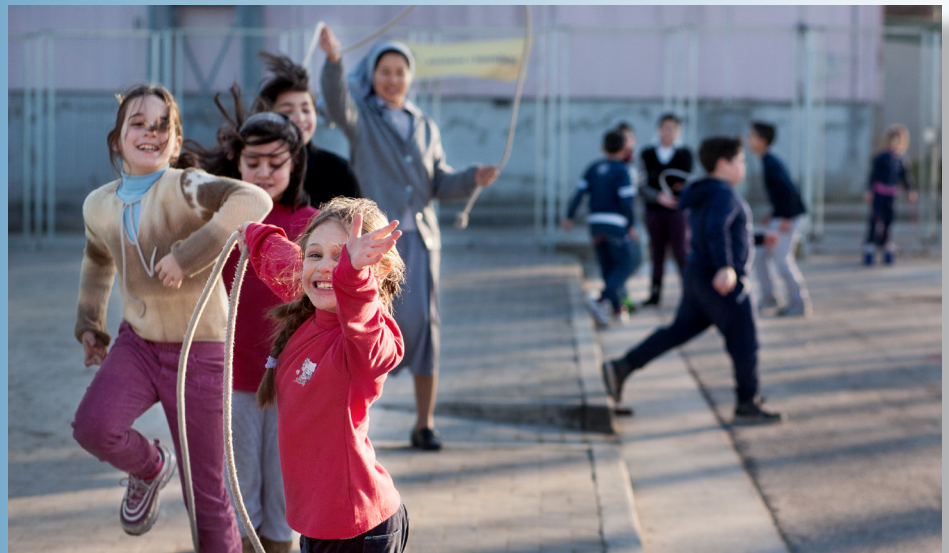


## HOUSING ON TURTLE ISLAND, HAITI

Turtle Island (Île de la Tortue) is a small, deeply poverty-stricken island off the coast of Haiti. It is home to around 40,000 people, many of whom are young, single mothers and their children, who struggle to survive. The shacks in which the women and children live are unstable, often constructed of sheet metal, cardboard and palms. The Brothers are building housing for them, which is improving their quality of life and will better protect them during natural disasters, like hurricanes.

## CASARCOBALENO, ITALY

CasArcobaleno provides an integrated and multi-faceted program to the young people of Scampia who live in marginalized conditions and often prematurely leave school. This is due to a harmful combination of challenges linked to the area in which they were raised, such as drug trafficking, prostitution, violence, high crime and unemployment.



## LA SALLE ENGLISH-MEDIUM SCHOOL, SRI LANKA

This school provides English instruction to children from the Tamil minority, who have been impacted by a decades-long civil war. This group has had difficulty accessing higher education and employment due to their minority status and linguistic isolation. The school teaches English to provide greater opportunity.





## UTOPIA, COLOMBIA

Utopia is a university campus dedicated to agronomy and engineering in the agri-food industry. It welcomes young people from areas affected by political violence, drug trafficking and poverty. The program's goal is to offer students productive activities for sustainable development and enable them to become peacemakers when they return home.

## FOYER AKWABA, IVORY COAST

The streets of Abidjan are home to 30,000 children, many of whom have left their families for reasons related to poverty. They are frequently victims of abuse or abandonment. Foyer Akwaba offers these children sleeping facilities, nutritious food, medical attention and personalized education. At the heart of the center's programs is the reconstruction of family ties between the children and their relatives.



## LA SALLE HOME, ROMANIA

La Salle Home provides both residential and daily care for adolescents who have been referred by social services. La Salle Home hosts 16 adolescents. It also has a component that is non-residential, which serves around 30 young people with learning disabilities, whose families lack the means to support them.





### HAGAZ AGRO-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, ERITREA

Hagaz Agro-Technical School was constructed in response to a government request to the Brothers to bring education to areas with increasing jihadist activities. The school is not only focused on providing quality education and facilitating opportunities for employment, but also promoting peace between diverse cultural groups. All 200 students live on campus where they study agriculture, animal husbandry and food processing.

### REFERENCE CENTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BRAZIL

This initiative provides psychological assistance and workshops for adolescents and young adults who have been exposed to various types of violence due to the poverty in which they were raised.



### BAMBOO SCHOOL, THAILAND

The Bamboo School is located on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Originally constructed of bamboo, the school welcomes children of immigrant families who have no rights and are considered stateless. These children are denied access to Thai schools, so the Bamboo School is their only access to education. Tuition is free.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**7<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
OF THE WORLD  
UNION OF  
LASALLIAN FORMER  
STUDENTS (UMAEL)**



**NOVEMBER 21-23, 2019**

**Radisson Blu Minneapolis Downtown  
35 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN**

Alumni of Lasallian ministries worldwide are invited to this UMAEL gathering, themed "#300LaSalle: Exploring and Deepening our Lasallian Vocation, Reimagining our Impact." This international congress is being held in the United States for the first time and marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UMAEL.

This gathering is sponsored by UMAEL with support from Christian Brothers Conference. Visit [www.lasallian.info](http://www.lasallian.info) for more information.



**Inspire & invite young people  
to consider the Brothers' vocation.  
Give thanks for the Brothers in your life.  
Celebrate the gift of Religious Brotherhood.**

**MAY 1**

**+RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY+**

Share what you & your community do to mark the day

#RELIGIOUSBROTHERSDAY   



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL 2019

- 4 Regional Finance Committee (RFC) Meeting, Washington, DC
- 8 – 10 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD
- 8 – 11 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Linthicum Heights, MD

### MAY 2019

- 24 – 27 Lasallian Volunteers Debriefing Retreat, Plano, IL
- 27 – 31 Brother James Miller Pilgrimage (Lasallian Volunteers), Stevens Point – Ellis Point, WI

### JUNE 2019

- 23 – 28 Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), New Orleans, LA
- 23 – July 6 Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, Riverdale, NY

### JULY 2019

- 8 – 11 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (DENA), Riverdale, NY
- 13 – 16 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest), Romeoville, IL
- 18 – 21 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (SFNO), Duncans Mills, CA
- 19 – 28 Brother Charles Kitson Institute for Formation of Lasallian Volunteers, Romeoville, IL
- 22 – 24 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Napa, CA
- 22 – 26 VEGA, Memphis, TN

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- 20 – 22 International Symposium on Lasallian Research, Minneapolis, MN
- 27 – 29 Lasallian Volunteers Advisory Board (LVAB) Meeting, Chicago, IL

### OCTOBER 2019

- 6 Lasallian Volunteers FSC Awards, Mont La Salle, Napa, CA
- 10 – 12 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (SFNO), Duncans Mills, CA
- 11 – 14 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Chicago, IL
- 14 – 16 Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 17 – 19 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (Midwest), Des Plaines, IL
- 21 – 23 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Québec City, Québec
- 24 – 26 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice (DENA), Mount Pocono, PA

### NOVEMBER 2019

- 1 – 5 Pastoral Visit of Brother Superior General to Francophone Canada
- 7 – 20 Pastoral Visit of Brother Superior General to District of Eastern North America (DENA)
- 8 10th Anniversary of DENA
- 19 – 21 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
- 21 – 23 Huether Lasallian Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- 21 – 23 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Union of Lasallian Former Students (UMAEL), Minneapolis, MN
- 24 Year of Lasallian Vocations End

### DECEMBER 2019

- 6 Regional Novitiate Postulancy Committee (NPC) Meeting, Napa, CA
- 8 – 10 Lasallian Publications Committee (LPC) Meeting, Napa, CA
- 31 Lasallian Jubilee Year Ends



# 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 Salle* **TODAY**

## **CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE**

415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20017

