

Trinity Sunday 2019



Dear Brothers,

Fraternal greetings as we celebrate Trinity Sunday in community. The Br Superior's introduction to the Rule states:

"May this revised Rule, the result of our collective discernment, be a symbol of determination to joyfully live our Lasallian vocation with love and a renewed vision in service with the poor and vulnerable, and the calls of the Church and world for which our Institute remains very much needed. May it strengthen the contemplative dimension of our life with a passion for God and for humanity. And may it help us appreciate all the more the gift of our life **together** in fraternal community." And the opening to Chapter 4 on Community Life states:

45. John Baptist de La Salle was led to found a community of men who, enlightened by God and sharing in his plan of salvation, joined **together** to respond to the needs of young people who were poor and far from salvation. Even today, every community of Brothers finds in this event a fundamental source of inspiration.

45.1 For each Brother the community is the privileged place to evangelise his life, to develop as a person, and discern educational needs. By their presence and their active participation, the Brothers build up a consecrated and fraternal community, dedicated to the mission.

Rule #45 reminds us of the origins of the Institute and that our foundation was based around community for mission; not community for the sake of community. However, on this Trinity Sunday we could well reflect upon our life in community. While "together and by association" is our hallmark, I have been reflecting this year on the "**together**" word in "together and by association." While reading Br Michael Meister FSC in his 'Reflections on the Rule of 2015' I was prompted to look more closely at expressions of together in community as reflected in the Rule.

Communion among the Brothers is both the source and the fruit of the mission they carry out. Each one carries out his apostolate as a member of a community by which he knows he

is recognised, supported and sent. **Together** with his community, he reviews the joys and difficulties of his ministry. This communion extends to all who are committed to the mission. (Rule #18)

Trinity Sunday is an appropriate time to reflect on “**together**” for Brothers in community and how I live this out personally with my Brothers for surely it means more than being together for prayer and meals! If we turn to the Rule there is much food for thought. A cursory glance at the index of the Rule sees “together and by association” mentioned six times in various place while the Vow of Association rates eight mentions not to forget our association with Lasallian Partners.

If we delve a little further into the pages of the Rule, “**together**” is mentioned 27 times! In Chapter 4 “Community Life” we read: The Brothers pray **together**. **Together** they hear the Word of God and meditate on it. **Together** they recognise that they are sinners before God and participate in the Eucharist. **Together** they seek and find God (Rule #47). And the community is for the Brothers their home. There they live **together** (Rule #49)

Rule #49 reminds us also about “active presence”. What does that mean for me or for my community? We could well benefit from sharing with each other what “active presence” means. Some communities in the annual CAP process and the revision of it outline strategies for being actively present and together. Many of us spend a considerable amount of time alone, often in our bedrooms where modern means of electronic communication invites some of us to be alone. An increasing number of communities are using social media apps such as “whats app” as another means of being present to each other. However, if this is the primary means of communication, one would be concerned. As one whose ministry is itinerant I value this form of contact with the “Parmenie” community, but nothing replaces the brother-to-brother communication.

As we reflect on our life in community this Trinity Sunday, the words of St John Baptist De La Salle come to mind:

“Union in a community is a precious gem, which is why Our Lord so often recommended it to his apostles before he died. If we lose this, we lose everything. Preserve it with care, therefore, if you want your community to survive” (91.2).” And as Br Alvaro, former Superior General reminded us “our greatest treasure is to be Brothers.”

Best wishes and prayers for Trinity Sunday.

Your fraternally,



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Visitor

