

## ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL GUJRANWALA

Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, Br Shahzad, George Gill, Br Christie Dorus, Brothers and all here at St Joseph's. On Sunday the De La Salle Brothers celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St John Baptist de La Salle who died in Rouen, France on Good Friday in 1719.

It is very significant that today the De La Salle Brothers commence their ministry and open a community here in Gujranwala at the invitation of Archbishop Shaw. This Tercentenary Year is also designated the Year of Lasallian Vocations in our international Lasallian Family. In Pakistan, we are blessed with vocations to the Brothers' life which is one expression of the Lasallian Vocation. I am delighted that we can share the gift of our Lasallian vocations with you in the name of Br Christie Dorus, Principal, Br Peter Abraham Director of the Brothers' community and Brothers Naqash and Amir. Our communities of Brothers are becoming more international with two of the Brothers here well experienced from Sri Lanka and two Pakistani Brothers.

I want to say something first to the young people here for St John Baptist de La Salle founded schools for young people "far from salvation." As you discover more about our Lasallian Family, you will learn about the three Lasallian values of FAITH SERVICE COMMUNITY. Today I encourage you, young people of St Joseph's, to have faith in their God, faith in themselves and faith in others. Be young people of service; serve others in your school, family and society. Community is an important dimension of being Lasallian as together as a community we can achieve so much.

And now to the educators present.

Our Superior General, Br Robert Schieler in introducing our Tercentenary theme: One Heart One Commitment One Life wrote:

**One Heart** reminds us that as educators we have a responsibility to touch the hearts of children. It also reminds us that like the first Brothers we are communities of educators associated from the heart.

**One Commitment** renews our call to provide a human and Christian education to the poor, the young and adults entrusted to our care and try to be good educators in all that we do.

**One Life** shares our hope for the Lasallian mission and brings to mind how we should follow De La Salle's footprints by answering God's calls in our lives just as De La Salle did in his day.

I invite educators to reflect personally and collectively on this theme and may it become more than a slogan for you. May it be engraved on your hearts.

St Joseph's is a well-known school in the Archdiocese of Lahore. The De La Salle Brothers thank Archbishop Shaw's for his invitation to take up the Administration of the school. Please, God, the Brothers will build on what has been established here building on the good work of those upon whose shoulders they stand. I am sure that you will give the Brothers' community all the support they need as they ease into this new ministry in the Archdiocese.

I wish you well, and God bless you.

Br David Hawke FSC

Visitor (Provincial)