

Journal

La Salle ANZPPNG

“Think highly of your work”

- Meditations for the Feast of Saint Matthew



Brother David Hawke's Message

“Deeply moved by the human and spiritual distress “of the children of artisans and of the poor”, and in response to the call of God, John Baptist de La Salle and his first Brothers made a lifelong commitment to him to provide these children with a human and Christian education, and so extend the glory of God on earth. They reformed the kind of schooling available at the time to make it accessible to the poor, and to offer it to all as a sign of the Reign of God and as a means of salvation” (Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools 1).

The above quote from the recently Holy See approved Revised Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools takes us back to the origins of the Institute in Reims, France where John Baptist de La Salle and his first Brothers responded to the needs of children at the time. Education then and is today the tool which “touches hearts, teaches minds and transforms lives.”

As we move into the latter quarter of 2015, Lasallians across the District are invited to respond to the question; **“Where is the Reims in my Lasallian ministry today”** or collectively as communities of Lasallians we could ask; **“Where is the Reims in our work today?”**

The District Chapter of January 2015 called for a review of the District Plan 2013-2016 and requested that the District Council and Lasallian Mission Council undertake the review. Focus 1 of the District Plan; Association for Mission in its second strategic priority states:

Setting specific annual goals directed to the service of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized young people.

Asking the question; “Where is the Reims in our work today?” reminds us of the District’s strategic priority in favour of the poor. The current world-

wide crisis involving increasing numbers of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers is a phenomenon that we Lasallians cannot ignore and challenges us in terms of our priorities as stated in the District Plan. This crisis is one of the “new forms of poverty” that demands a response from Lasallians.

The above being said, across the District Lasallian schools and other works have for years enrolled migrants, welcomed them and offered them scholarships and other resources to assist them with their education.

Pope Francis in his recent address to the United States of America Congress urged people “not to be afraid of fellow human beings, not things that can be discarded just because they are troublesome.” He proposed a response which is “always humane, just and fraternal.”

Let us all reflect upon **“Where is the Reims in our work today?”**.

David Hawke FSC
Visitor

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New Mission Action Plans for PNG

The Lasallian Mission Council has helped convene a new Mission Action Committee aimed at strengthening teacher training and youth programs in remote parts of Papua New Guinea.

The new committee, which met for the first time this month, will bring together representatives from across the four main regions of PNG: Momase, Highlands, New Guinea Islands and Southern Region.

In a country marked by poor telecommunications with little or no access to telephones and internet in some remote areas, the new committee will help ensure all Lasallians in PNG can have a say on key programs in the country.

There are currently four Lasallian schools, two teachers colleges and a youth development centre in Papua New Guinea, all of which struggle with poor resources.

“It’s a bold and creative way of rethinking the way we work in PNG”, one of the Brothers in Mount Hagen explained.

“The new committee will help us focus our efforts on training new teachers in the country and stay in regular contact with them as part of their formation as Lasallians”.

The move comes after the launch earlier this year of a Lasallian Remote Schools Project in PNG.

The Lasallian Foundation has been working alongside the Sisters of Mercy to strengthen support services for teachers in rural and remote parts of the country.

Through the project, a new support worker, Schola Manembe has been employed in Wewak who sends worksheets and classroom resources to teachers in the field.

Uptil recently, these teachers had to do their day to day jobs with no textbooks, forcing them to rely solely on a curriculum manual issued by the PNG Government, explaining what they had to teach.

One of the PNG Brothers who recently returned from a visit to New Ireland



Province said he was appalled over the poor conditions in many schools there. “Some of the schools are built out of bush material, roofs are in need of repair and the walls are rotting”, he said. “In one of the schools, some of the classrooms couldn’t be used because the floorboards were rotting away and if you walked across the floor, you’d fall straight through it.”

The Lasallian Mission Council is working to help broker twinning arrangements whereby an Australian school could form a partnership with a number of schools in a PNG province to try and improve their facilities and teaching resources.

In a country with a marked teacher shortage, especially in secondary mathematics and science, it’s hoped the twinning arrangements could also in time lead more Australian or New Zealand teachers to travel over to PNG and strengthen the schools there. “The biggest resource we have in PNG are our teachers”, said one of the De La Salle Brothers in Mount Hagen.

“But they have to work in extremely difficult circumstances and if we can help to better resource and upskill them, then we are making an enormous contribution to the future of education in Papua New Guinea”.

BoysTown hosts Lasallian Leadership Conference

BoysTown's CEO Tracy Adams has urged Lasallian leaders to inspire their colleagues to live by the values of honesty, trust and accountability as part of their mission to reach out to the marginalised and the disadvantaged.

Ms Adams delivered the opening address at a two day Lasallian Leadership Conference at the BoysTown centre in Brisbane in September.

The conference brought together over 20 school middle managers and BoysTown staff from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

It included subject and year coordinators, telephone counsellors and social workers.

Ms Adams told the gathering, good leaders foster strong working relationships with their employees based on a culture of openness and trust.

"It's all about authenticity and putting the Lasallian mission into action. We don't accept that social disadvantage has to be entrenched and we are firmly focused on achieving positive outcomes for children and young people", Ms Adams said.

The BoysTown CEO said the challenge ahead for Lasallians was

to ensure all aspects of the mission, whether it be through schools or welfare programs were united in a shared vision for the future.

"I think the purpose of the Lasallian mission is integrated and we need to work really hard to make sure that it is lived out that way through the models that we have in place", Ms Adams said.

Lasallian Mission Services' Director of Formation Brother John Cantwell led a discussion at the conference on the leadership style of St John Baptist De La Salle.

He said modern Lasallians should continue to draw inspiration from the Founder and his highly consultative leadership style and emphasis on accountability.

"St John Baptist De La Salle wrote regularly to the Brothers, seeking their feedback and following their progress and he didn't hold back if he had any concerns", Br John said.

"He also set out a clear succession plan so future leaders could build upon his legacy".

All conference participants presented reports on their work in schools and on welfare projects and there was time set aside for

networking and group discussions around what makes a good Lasallian leader.

The Principal of St Michael's College at Henley Beach in Adelaide, John Foley told the gathering, Lasallian schools need to be student-centered, inclusive and respectful of human differences.

"It is a rich legacy where teachers work in supportive environments where they can get the best possible outcomes for their students", Mr Foley said.

He said all Lasallian schools have a distinctive mission to reach out to the vulnerable and the marginalised in their communities and around the world.

Year 7 Coordinator at De La Salle College Revesby, Chris Leonardi said the conference was an invaluable opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from fellow Lasallian managers.

"I've learned a lot more about the work of Boys Town and it's given me a fresh perspective on the Lasallian mission and how it is playing out in our schools", he said.

"There were some great ideas shared at the conference around fundraising and mission outreach work and we learned so much from each other".



Prominent Theologian joins Lasallian Formation Team

Distinguished New Zealand-born theologian Shane Dwyer has been appointed Assistant Director of Formation and took up his new position earlier this month.

Shane is a highly respected figure in adult faith education and spirituality and has held senior positions in a number of dioceses and tertiary institutions across Australia and New Zealand.

He comes into the new role after working for the past five years as Adult Faith Education and Spirituality Formator with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Diocese of Wollongong.

Shane was also Academic Dean of the Broken Bay Institute and a Director of Academic Resources at the Sydney College of Divinity.

Lasallian Mission Services Director of Formation, Brother John Cantwell said Shane's appointment would greatly enhance Lasallian programs in the years ahead.

"It's wonderful to be able to welcome Shane to our team", Br John said.

"Every aspect of his background and experience will enrich our programs of professional development and formation".

Shane began his theological work in New Zealand as a Faith Educator and Spiritual Director at the Marist Seminary and the Good Shepherd Theological College in Auckland.

He holds postgraduate qualifications in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and has had extensive experience in the delivery of distance and online education through the Broken Bay Institute in Sydney.

Br John said Shane's experience in this field will be invaluable.

"We are expecting to use the Broken Bay Institute's online platform to allow participants in our programs to follow up face-to-face meetings and to extend their accreditation hours", Br John explained.

"Having Shane now involved in our planning with the institute will be a bonus".



Conference participants



BoysTown CEO Tracy Adams

New International Leader for Young Lasallians



Canadian-born Antoine Beland took up his position as the new International Coordinator of the Young Lasallians last month. He took over from the

movement's first coordinator, Malta-born Joseph Gilson who served in the role for six years.

How did you get involved in the Young Lasallians?

My journey is not a typical one. Where I come from (Québec, the French-speaking part of Canada), the Brothers are not involved in schools anymore. They run retreat centres, summer camps and after-school programs. So I was a volunteer at Camp De-La-Salle when I was young and then gradually took up leadership roles at the camps. After my first summer there, I was invited to a District event, and from that point I was hooked.

What led you to take up the position of International Coordinator?

In February 2014 I had the amazing opportunity to participate in the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians at the Generalate, in Rome. I suppose I did well, because the following summer I was invited to become a member of the International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL), which coordinates the Young Lasallians movement throughout the Institute. Working in this Council convinced me that I wanted to get involved as much as possible in the

growth of the Lasallian Educational Mission among young people. So when I was asked if I was interested in applying for the job, I immediately said yes, and after a long selection process, I had the honor of being chosen.

One of your first tasks in the new role has been to promote the International Lasallian Days of Peace from 21st September through to 21st October. How significant an event is this for Young Lasallians?

This event is gaining more and more momentum every year, and there is no coincidence here. The world needs peace, now more than ever, especially the youth, as they are bombarded everyday by news of wars, human crises and terrorism. The International Lasallian Days for Peace are an opportunity to remind us that, despite all this, peace is possible, that every action counts, and that every single person has the power to do something, to the extent of his or her means. I think that's very significant.

You'll be coming to Australia in November to attend the Young Lasallians inaugural district conference. What are your hopes for our district of Australia New Zealand Pakistan and Papua New Guinea in the broader Lasallian family?

First I hope that I will be able to learn as much as possible about your district and from those who are a part of the Lasallian Family in Australia, New Zealand Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. ANZPPNG has been a pioneer in investing for the future, developing programs which are creative and an answer to the needs of today and involving youth at every level and in every area of the Lasallian Educational

Mission. This upcoming conference, along with the excitement that surrounds it, is a great example of the vision which moves your district forward. Your district plays and has to continue to play an important role in the broader Lasallian Family as a model to follow.

One of the challenges for the Young Lasallians has been reaching the 18-35 age group who may have attended Lasallian schools, but may have lost contact with the Lasallian family. What strategies do you believe are needed to reach this group?

That's a challenge that I take very seriously, because there is a great need all across the Institute to come up with creative initiatives to tackle this challenge. Coming from a background where we didn't have any captive audience at all, and therefore were always forced to be creative to find new ways to connect with the young, I am aware that it's not always easy. It is a complex issue. First, I think that we have to approach it a different way. If this transition is prepared appropriately while those young people are in the schools, we can fix the problem before it even appears. When students graduate, their schedule changes, their needs change, their life changes! We have to not only be aware of that, but fully embrace it and know exactly what are these other needs to which we will have to respond. If we have something to offer them, not only will they keep contact, but they will go even further on their Lasallian journey. Moreover, some schools and institutions are doing a terrific job at keeping their alumni in the Lasallian Family. Let's share the success stories and tackle this together!



St Mary's University offering Masters in Lasallian Leadership

St Mary's University of Minnesota is offering a Master of Arts in Lasallian Leadership through its Institute of Lasallian Studies.

The 32 credit point course includes coursework in Lasallian formation and leadership communication.

It is available through a combination of face to face classes and independent study or online learning and covers a broad range of electives including educational administration, theology and spirituality and curriculum and assessment.

For more information, please contact the Director of the Institute for Lasallian Studies, Dr Roxanne Eubank- email: reubank@smumn.edu

St Mary's University of Minnesota was founded in 1912 and has been guided by the De La Salle Brothers since 1933. More information on its courses is available on its website-www.smumn.edu

Young Lasallians Conference

For all Young Lasallians aged 18 - 35

November 20 - 22, Melbourne, 2015 - Cost \$220

God Has Chosen You to Do His Work

Come along to rediscover your passion for the Lasallian Mission

Next Round Registrations Close October 12th

For a Registration Form please contact Br Tony Cummins at anthonymcummins@delasalle.org.au

La Salle College Bankstown Goes Coeducational

After a long history as a largely all-boys school, La Salle College Bankstown is accepting girls into its Year 7 class next year, with plans to become a co-educational school by 2021.

The shift has been driven by concerns from local parents in an area with a shortage of Catholic secondary schools.

The move is expected to more than double the student numbers at La Salle College from 500 to 1100 students over the next six years.

The school's principal Michael Egan says he believes the shift towards co-education is long overdue.

"It's been at the behest of the parents because the largest all girls school is a long drive away in Milperra. Parents will find it a lot more convenient to drop their children off at one school", Mr Egan said.



La Salle College Principal Michael Egan and Director of Transition Leonie Dowd

The shift towards co-education will broaden the range of subjects on offer to Year 7 students, including dance and drama.

The school has appointed a Director of Transition, Leonie Dowd to help oversee the changes.

Ms Dowd has had extensive experience in girls education as a former Assistant Principal at Mary MacKillop College, Wakeley.

She says there will be some subtle curriculum changes introduced at La Salle College from next year.

"For example, in Technology and Applied Studies, Year 7 students will be able to make a jewelry box rather than simply a tool box", Ms Dowd said.

"In science, they will be able to learn about female role models like Marie Curie and there'll be a broader range of novels studied in English classes", she added.

Principal Michael Egan believes the shift towards co-education will help raise the academic standards of the school as well as it broadens the range of subjects on offer.

The school is also introducing a Solomon Opportunity Class in Year 7 next year to cater for intellectually gifted students.

Mr Egan says the expansion of the school will help it cater more effectively for a growing Catholic population in Sydney's south-west.

"In actual numbers, there are more Catholics in this area than there have been before. So we're looking forward to having a facility that will meet the needs of that growing community in the years ahead", he said.

Caringbah marks Founder's Day

Students and staff from a number of Lasallian schools in Sydney have joined in the celebrations and fundraising to mark Founder's Day at De La Salle College in Caringbah.

The day began with a mass at Our Lady of Fatima church which brought together De La Salle Brothers from across the city together with members of the local parish community.

Senior students from De La Salle College Revesby and their Principal Tim Logue were also at the mass and the morning's celebrations.

13 students from the Caringbah school were sworn in as Lasallian youth lead-

ers and Brother Paul Rogers from the Karlaminda community at Kensington delivered an address to the school community on what it means to be a Lasallian.

He called on the students at the Year 7-10 boys' school to draw upon the inspiration of St John Baptist De La Salle and reach out to the marginalised and the disadvantaged.

Br Paul, a former Principal of De La Salle College Malvern, urged the Sydney students to reject today's disposable society and to contribute generously to the school's Mission Action Day.

De La Salle Caringbah Principal Chris Agnew said the school expected to raise at least 10 thousand dollars which would be directed towards the Lasal-

lian school at Balgo Hills in Western Australia's Kimberley region.

Youth Minister Ruby Crowe said a number of graduates from De La Salle Caringbah have undertaken volunteer programs at Balgo during their senior years at De La Salle Cronulla.

As part of their fundraising efforts, the students helped set up cake and popcorn stalls in the playground and jumping castles in the college oval.



Volunteer programs thriving at Balgo

Senior students from Lasallian schools in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria have been giving up some of their spring holidays to help volunteer in the remote Indigenous community of Balgo Hills.

The town in W-A's Kimberley region is home to Luurnpa Catholic primary school which educates around 120 students from the local Kututja community.

Around 20 students and eight staff members from La Salle College in Perth and St Michael's College Henley Beach have travelled to Balgo Hills in

an immersion program, reaching out to their fellow Lasallians there.

The Perth and Adelaide students have been involved in a variety of community service projects in the remote Indigenous community, including handywork, cleaning, mowing the lawns and sports programs with the local students.

A group of Year 10 students from St James College in East Bentleigh were also involved in a similar program at Balgo last month.

La Salle College Middle Swan Coordinator, Shonnie Murphy said it has given the students a much deeper understand-

ing and appreciation of everyday life in a remote community.

"It has helped to forge an ongoing bond between students from our school and the community at Balgo Hills", Ms Murphy said.

"We have a long standing connection to Balgo with around 20 students currently from that community who are boarders in our Indigenous boarding house at La Salle College", she added.

"It's an important part of our social justice program as Lasallians to reach out to the community at Balgo and it's great to see so many schools from around the country pitching in to help those in need".

St James Walkathon for PNG

At their Mission Action Day, students from St James College East Bentleigh have pitched in to raise thousands of dollars for a training centre in Papua New Guinea through a seven kilometre walkathon.

Students were asked to raise a minimum of 30 dollars each in sponsorship as part of their fundraising efforts for the Hohola Youth Development Centre in PNG.

The Lasallian run centre provides vocational training for senior students to help them break out of the cycle of poverty and unemployment in Port Moresby.

The school has set itself a target of 20 thousand dollars this year to help the training centre.

The Principal of St James College, Stephen Pooley said he was proud to see some students raise as much as 700 dollars towards such a worthy cause.

"Alongside the walkathon, students also organised a Hohola Cup Indoor Soccer tournament, raffles and sausage sizzles", Mr Poole said.

In previous years, the money St James College has raised has been directed towards purchasing a bus to help students get to the Hohola Centre safely for their classes.

The Melbourne school has also helped fund new computers and sporting equipment for the PNG centre.



New Plymouth students pitch in for Cancer Charity

Students from Francis Douglas Memorial College in New Plymouth have raised over 18 thousand dollars for a charity which gives hope to children suffering from cancer.

Starlit Hope was started in 2014 by 13 year old Gabby Devine who was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and sadly passed away in May this year.

Gabby started the charity to help cheer up sick children in oncology wards at Starship and Taranaki Base Hospital by giving presents to them and their parents.

Gabby has inspired many New Zealanders through carrying out more

than 1000 random acts of kindness when she was in hospital and her charity has grown to reach out to sick children across the country.

Student leaders at Francis Douglas Memorial College nominated Starlit Hope as their charity this year and have held fundraising dinners, raffles and auctions to support the worthy cause.

Senior students presented a cheque for \$18,023.10 to Gabby Devine's parents, Sarah and Roland at a school assembly in late September.

School Captain Louis Poole said he was proud by the fundraising efforts of the all boys Lasallian school.



"It was so amazing to see the generosity of the students and how Gabby's work inspired them to perform random acts of kindness for others", Louis said.

"It is always a good feeling when you know that by putting in a bit of work for others, you can dramatically improve their situation and bring them happiness".

More information on Starlit Hope and its fundraising projects is available on its website- <http://starlit hope.org.nz/get-involved/>



Creating a Culture of Vocations

In a letter sent to Brothers and Lasallian Partners earlier this year, Provincial David Hawke appealed for a renewed effort on promoting the vocation of the De La Salle Brother to young men in our district.

That effort is expected to grow over coming years in the lead up to 2019, which has been declared the Year of Lasallian Vocations.

This coincides with the 300th anniversary of the death of St John Baptist De La Salle.

At the forefront of vocations ministry is a team of sector directors across Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea who are working through schools and youth ministry teams to promote this mission.

Among them is Brother Colin Griffin who chairs the Formation/Vocation Commission at the De La Salle Provincial Office in Sydney.

Br Colin has decades of experience in schools and youth ministry in Australia and New Zealand and was the Founding Principal of Casimir College in Marrickville.

He was also Principal of De La Salle College Mangere East and a Mentor to the Signum Fidei group in Rotorua.

Educated by the De La Salle Brothers himself, he believes Lasallian schools need to be at the forefront of promoting vocations to religious life.

"The Brothers at my school in Marrickville had a very big impact on me", Brother Colin explained.

"It was a time when you'd go into a school and all the teachers literally were Brothers and I was impressed how they cared for us and showed an interest in us as individuals", he said.

Through his work in vocations ministry, Brother Colin has been encouraging fellow De La Salle Brothers to regularly visit Lasallian schools, particularly for important events like Mission Action Days.

But he also believes there is great potential to promote vocations through the Young Lasallians and through university chaplaincies.

Brother Colin said Lasallian universities in the United States and the

Philippines had been highly successful in this area and our district could learn a lot from them.

"Tertiary institutions are where vocations are going to come from in the long run", he said.

"We don't have a strong presence there, so we need to keep sowing seeds for potential vocations in Lasallian schools".

Brother Colin said the current Year of Consecrated Life had helped to raise greater awareness around the need for religious vocations.

He said there were some encouraging signs within our district.

"In Pakistan, we're certainly getting vocations and there are two young men there who are going into the postulancy", Brother Colin explained.

"They're going to the Philippines and have been doing an aspirancy in Pakistan in their last few years of high school".

Brother Colin said there were also some aspirants in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia.

"But our youth ministers need to keep promoting vocations for young people in their first few years after leaving high school. That is the time with the greatest potential to draw them in".

Former St Michael's Student honoured at the Vatican

St Michael's College Henley Beach alumni Fr Michael Trainor was among those personally recognised by Pope Francis recently for their work in interfaith dialogue.

Dr Trainor is the 2nd Vice President and an Executive Board Member of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ)

The Adelaide priest was granted a Papal Audience at the conclusion of the ICCJ conference in Rome in July.

Fr Trainor joined fellow Vice President of the ICCJ, Liliane Apotheker, in presenting a Kiddush Cup (Jewish cup of blessing) to the Holy Father.

Dr Trainor is also a Member of the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations and a Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Australian Catholic University.





A Champion for Catholic Education - Br Sir Patrick Lynch

over recent decades to ensure that Catholic schools got the financial support they needed from successive New Zealand governments.

“Sectarianism and suspicion of Catholics was present in the bureaucracy and it took a while for us to convince them that the laws that were passed in the mid 1970s were clear and we should be treated as equals”, he explained.

The veteran De La Salle Brother and former President of the Secondary Principals Association of New Zealand said Catholic schools were now publicly lauded for their strong commitment to academic achievement and values-based education.

“Our schools had always felt like Cinderella schools and we had to overcome that image by convincing a whole group of people that we had evolved”, Br Sir Pat said.

“The former Labour Prime Minister Helen Clark asked me ten years ago, why do kids come from the same street and similar homes but go to your Catholic schools and simply achieve at a higher level?”

“I told her, Prime Minister, we believe in a spiritual dimension to education, we have high expectations for our students and we don’t back away from excellence in achievement”, Br Pat said.

Speaking from his Wellington office, Br Sir Pat has always taken an inter-

nationalist view on education and has served on UNESCO education committees for over twenty years, involving frequent meetings in Bangkok and Paris to discuss the direction of global education.

“You realise that nobody has a monopoly on enlightenment”, he explained.

“To be able to interact with people from countries such as Mozambique, Brazil and Russia is really a great gift and it’s been a great networking forum for people at the forefront of education around the globe”.

While retiring from his current role later this year, Br Sir Pat will continue to hold board positions at four De La Salle schools across Australia and New Zealand.

He takes special pride in the progress the three Lasallian schools in New Zealand have made in promoting Maori and Pacific Islander education and is hopeful about the future for Catholic education.

“What I’ve always believed in strongly is that education is a passport to a successful life and if you don’t believe that, then you shouldn’t be in education”.

“We’ve been able to open 16 new Catholic schools in New Zealand in the past 15 years and governments are now realising that we’re all in this together”.

The CEO of the Catholic Education Office in New Zealand, Brother Sir Pat Lynch will leave very big shoes to fill when he retires after 20 years of transforming the face of Catholic schools in the country later this year.

Br Sir Pat was made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his 50 years of services to education both in his home country and internationally through the United Nations’ body, UNESCO.

The veteran educator attended De La Salle College Mangere East and has drawn heavily on the inspiration of St John Baptist De La Salle throughout his work.

“He was a revolutionary educator”, Br Pat explains.

“He believed in the training of teachers and teachers visiting childrens’ homes and finding out why they weren’t at school and when you think of that vision four hundred years ago, he was incredibly ahead of his time.”

Br Sir Pat said he drew upon the Founder’s example of reshaping the status quo through his campaign



Touching hearts and transforming lives in Pakistan

Auxiliary Visitor and Principal of La Salle High School in Faisalabad, Br Shahzad Gill has urged all Lasallians to reach out to people of different religious faiths during a visit to Australia.

Br Shahzad visited a number of Lasallian schools during a visit to Sydney in September.

The Pakistani Brother said he was overwhelmed by the warm welcome he received at De La Salle Colleges in Ashfield and Caringbah and Casimir College in Marrickville.

He has played a pivotal role over many years in promoting interfaith harmony between Christians and Muslims in Pakistan through a network of Lasallian schools and youth organisations.

“We don’t try to convert people, but our motto is to touch the hearts, to teach the minds and transform their lives”, Br Shahzad said.

“That’s what Lasallian values are all about.”

Br Shahzad has also helped expand girls’ access to secondary education in the country, giving many Pakistani women an opportunity to pursue university studies.

With financial support from the Lasallian Foundation and other lay partners, the De La Salle Brothers have established a number of secondary girls high schools in Pakistan.

“In Faisalabad alone, there are three girls high schools we’re running and we also run a girls high school in Multan”, Br Shahzad explained.

“There is a real focus on encouraging the girls to pursue science subjects and later enter universities”, he said.

Br Shahzad said while there are security challenges for Lasallians in Pakistan, he remains optimistic about the future.

“As we look ahead to our first Lasallian Youth Gathering this year, we are reaching out across religious differences in Pakistan, so that we live together as one Lasallian family”.

The Lasallian Foundation teams up with Shopnate

As growing numbers of consumers turn to online shopping, the Lasallian Foundation has found a novel way to capitalise on this trend and promote worthy foreign aid projects.

It’s called Shopnate and allows you to direct a commission from your online purchases with major retailers towards your nominated charity.

And you don’t pay a cent more with the retailer paying the commission

which is then passed on directly to the Lasallian Foundation.

Hundreds of big name retailers have signed up to Shopnate including David Jones, Coles, Booktopia, Interflora and Dan Murphys.

All you need to do is go to www.shopnate.com.au/charity/lasallian-foundation and register “Lasallian Foundation” as your favourite charity.

You then choose your online shop of choice through the Shopnate site. www.shopnate.com.au/charity/lasallian-foundation

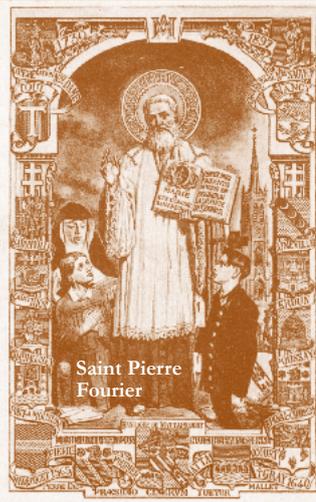
Happy Shopnate shopping!



De La Salle learns from the Notre-Dame sisters

By Br Gerard Rummery fsc

It is important to realize that innovator as he was, St Jean Baptist De La Salle's success in establishing an enduring system of good schools came from his willingness to take good educational practices wherever he found them. From this point of view, he was obviously influenced by his contact with the Notre-Dame Congregation¹ founded in Lorraine



Source: Archives Congrégation de Notre-Dame – Montréal

by Saint Pierre Fourier and Blessed Alix Le Clerc in 1618 to provide free schools for girls, poor or rich, Catholic or Protestant. As their convent and school were almost opposite the house where he went almost every day to say Mass and meet with the Superior, Françoise Duval, we can assume that he would have gone there also occasionally to see his sister, Rosette.

The Notre-Dame convent and school in Rheims, opened in 1634, would, in De La Salle's lifetime, have 58 nuns, 12 of them running a school for about 200 girls, four nuns looking after a small boarding school within the convent enclosure and the others

¹ Known today as the Canonesses of Saint-Augustine

leading a contemplative life. The names of some 15 Maillefers, La Salles, Lespagnols and Moets, all related, could be found in this convent where Rose-Marie de La Salle entered after the death of her parents. John Baptist, as we know from his account books, kept close touch with his second sister and probably adopted and adapted the following aspects of their teaching methods which we assume he would have seen:

- teaching gratuitously, rich and poor;
- teaching a whole class with all following the same lesson at the same time e.g. reading;
- teaching both reading and writing;
- teaching in French and not initially through Latin as was the custom.

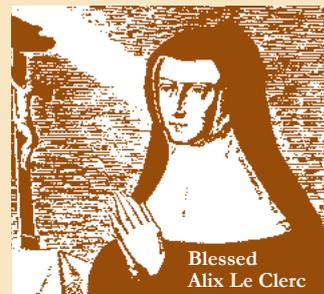
We need to remember that elementary teaching had always been done as pupils came in turn individually to recite their lesson to the teacher. De La Salle was certainly not the first to try and teach in separate classes according to ability, but we don't know whether it was Nyel, from his own experience, or De La Salle who first tried to implement this teaching of a whole class as he would have seen in the school of the Notre-Dame Sisters. Blain, De La Salle's first biographer, devotes many pages of his biography² to the difficulties these first, largely untrained teachers encountered:

It is not difficult to understand, therefore, that these young Brothers – brash and botheaded even though fervent and sincerely pious – ... soon made mistakes which lead to more disorder and trouble... Parents came to complain bitterly to De La Salle about the punishments inflicted by the Brothers.

² Book 2, pp.193-194

De La Salle and his Brothers are rightly honoured as the developers of the 'simultaneous method' of teaching, especially as set out in *The Conduct of the Christian Schools*, compiled by De La Salle himself after extensive consultation and practical suggestions from the Brothers between 1706 and 1717. This classic of western education, printed in 1720, extended what Fourier's Sisters had done by extending the class method to the teaching not just of reading but of the whole elementary curriculum – teaching in French instead of Latin, reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, catechism – by grouping pupils according to their ability – not age – and coordinating various activities under the one teacher in the same classroom. The largely silent Brother supervised and controlled multiple activities by the pupils in what was a remarkably silent classroom. De La Salle's historical heritage and his founding of the Brothers, as acknowledged by historians, was his insistence on the initial training of teachers and their careful apprenticeship under experienced teachers for the first three years of their teaching.

In the principles of education, derived from Alix Le Clerc and set out on



their Congregational website today, we read that the pupils should feel themselves loved, understood and given confidence, that the teachers should be gentle, patient and respectful, and that values should

be passed on with respect for the individual and personal freedom. All of these attitudes find their expression in the evolution of the final form of the Brothers' Rule in 1718.

In contrast to the situation described by Blain above, the Brothers would eventually in their Rule of 1718 prescribe that 'corporal punishment is absolutely forbidden in this Institute.' Pupils would 'always be addressed by their first name' – not surname – and it would be forbidden to use 'unsuitable expressions' or call them by any other name. The virtue of 'gentleness' would have the longest development, almost one third in length, in the later development of De La Salle's list of the 'Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher' by his 5th successor, Brother Agathon, just before the French Revolution.

De La Salle's close contact with Françoise Duval and the four schools in which the founding women of this convent taught, and his awareness of the Notre-Dame principles of education were evidently important influences in developing his own principles of training his Brothers. We can speculate at least, that in the correspondence of which we have copies, De La Salle has written eight letters of spiritual direction to women who were religious. As there are usually no names given, we don't know who these women were, but it seems at least possible that some of these women were from the Convent of the Child Jesus or from the Notre-Dame convent. We do have one such letter written to his niece, Jeanne-Remiette, daughter of his brother Pierre, from the Notre-Dame convent. We can be sure that De La Salle was grateful for what he had learned from many different women as the direction of his life changed unexpectedly from that first encounter with Adrien Nyel.



CCI to sponsor Lasallian Educators Conference

The Lasallian Mission Council would like to express its great

appreciation to Catholic Church Insurance which has agreed to sponsor participants from Pakistan and Papua New Guinea to attend the Lasallian Educators Conference in Perth next year.

The conference from 17-20 April will be held at La Salle College in Middle Swan and will feature a keynote address by the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, Br Robert Schieler.

As a district-wide event, the generous offer of sponsorship from CCI will allow a group of teachers from Pakistan and PNG to attend next year's conference.

Br Antony Swamy will deliver a presentation on Lasallian works in Papua New Guinea and Br Shahzad Gill from Pakistan will speak about the challenges and joys in operating Lasallian schools within a Muslim society.

There will also be a keynote presentation from the CEO of the Lasallian Foundation Miranda Chow and a presentation by BoysTown staff member John Dalgeish on easing the school to work transition.

The LMC is looking for further sponsorship for the event and if you are interested, please contact Operations Manager Julie Alibrandi via email-juliealibrandi@delasalle.org.au

Q & A

Modern Lasallian Leaders Marie Dorrington

After a distinguished career as a school principal, Marie is currently a Director of the Lasallian Mission Council Board and chairs its Formation Committee.

She is also the first Lay Chair of St Michael's College at Henley Beach in Adelaide.



Q What led you to pursue a career in education?

A For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. Both my parents were teachers and my two sisters went into teaching as well. Two of us have been school principals. I've always had a love of learning and an appreciation of how it can change peoples' lives, so teaching seemed to be the right career for me.

Q You worked as a school principal for 18 years and then as a senior advisor in Catholic education. What are some of the key challenges you see for women in leadership roles?

A When I went into teaching in the late 1960s, women weren't paid as highly as men in education. Not long after that, I got married and I then was made a temporary employee of the South Australian Department of Education. At that time, I didn't appreciate what a precarious position

I was in. Fortunately not long after that, those arrangements were changed through the feminist revolution.

But I still find today that women face more obstacles than men in entering leadership roles, especially as they tend to face more pressure balancing work and family life.

Q What changes do you believe are needed then to the workplace culture to help encourage more women into leadership roles?

A I've been inspired by the work of Sheryl Sandberg, the Chief Operating Officer of Facebook, who has written a number of books on female leadership. In her book, "Lean In", she calls on highly successful men to sponsor talented women into leadership roles. Women are generally less likely than men to take risks. They are less likely than men to put themselves forward for a promotion unless they're really sure they've got a strong chance of

succeeding. Once they take up leadership roles, women also need ongoing support in their workplaces because they tend to have a greater fear of rejection than men.

Q What does being a Lasallian mean to you personally?

A This is the third charisma I've worked in through my career in education. I was Principal of a Dominican school and then I worked in a Marist school for five years. What stands out with the Lasallian charisma is the really practical support it gives to who you are as a person and your spirituality. So the commitment to education takes on a new and different focus and while we've always had a focus in Catholic education on the poor, I think there is so much wonderful modelling from St John Baptist De La Salle and the Lasallians and that then easily becomes part of who you are as an educator.

Q What is your vision for Lasallian formation?

A I recently completed a course in Rome on Animating Lasallian Communities. I think the understanding that teachers and school staff have of being a Lasallian is critical to the success of the school as a Lasallian school. The deeper their understanding is of this, then the better the school will be.

My dream now would be for all the people working in schools and in other areas such as BoysTown should see themselves as Lasallians and not simply as someone who works in a Lasallian school or on a Lasallian project and to have a commitment and love for the role they have.

We may make different choices in how we want to live our lives, but we are all united as Lasallians, inspired by the work of St John Baptist De La Salle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia 2015

General Councillor Br Ricky Laguda's visit to Australia
October 28-November 10

Our Lasallian Heritage: Then and Now. Formation program, Brisbane
22-24 November

Young Lasallians Conference, Melbourne
November 20-22
Audience: Ages 18-35

Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Adelaide
December 3-5
Audience: Ages 16-25

2016

Lasallian Leaders' Gathering, Melbourne
February 14-16
Audience: Principals and Leaders

Lasallian Educators' Conference, Perth
April 17-20
Audience: All Educators

Pakistan 2015

Youth Gathering-Faisalabad
October 29-November 1
Audience: Lasallian Students and Alumni

Formation Program for School Middle Managers-Faisalabad and Multan
December 7-8-Faisalabad
December 10-Multan

Recollection Day-all schools
December 12
Audience: Lasallian teachers

2016

Principals Retreat-Multan
February 6
Audience: All Lasallian school principals in Faisalabad

Induction Program-Faisalabad and Multan
March 26
Audience: Newly appointed teachers in all Lasallian schools

Papua New Guinea 2015

Recollection and Walkathon- Jubilee Catholic Secondary School Boroko
October 16-17

Retreat- Lasallian Leaders-Hohola Youth Development Centre
November 6-8

De La Salle End of Year Mass- De La Salle Secondary School-Boroko
November 21

New Zealand 2016

NZ Heritage Programme
April 26-28

Buttimer 2016
June 26 – July 8

NZMAC
March 19 @ De La Salle College

Nov 5 @ Francis Douglas Memorial College

Annual NZ Lasallian Gathering
September 17

In next month's issue:



- General Councillor Br Ricky Laguda's Visit to Australia
- Lasallian Youth Gathering in Pakistan
- Around Kensington: Q&A with Br Michael Johnson
- Women in the life of De La Salle-Br Gerard Rummery

To contribute to the newsletter, please contact, Michael Kenny
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