

Mambu Magazine

A PUBLICATION OF THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



LASALLIAN SUPERIOR GENERAL VISITS PORT MORESBY

From the 24th to 26th April, we were blessed with a visit to Port Moresby by the Superior General of the Lasallian Family, Br Robert Schieler. Br Robert is the 27th successor of St John Baptist De La Salle as leader of the Lasallian family around the world.

Brother Robert's visit commenced with a cultural welcome at Jackson's International Airport, prepared by students from Lasallian schools in NCD and Central Provinces. Following this, Brother visited the Lasallian Colleges in Port Moresby, and met with Lasallians from both Port Moresby and around the country.

"Beginning with our arrival at the Papua New Guinea airport, the welcome we received was a wonderful display of hospitality and culture. In the meeting following the combined cultural program at Hohola, we were deeply touched by the personal stories of Lasallian women and men and their sense of mission and dedication to the mission and their own Lasallian vocation. Since 1946, PNG has been blessed with Brothers representing 12 different nationalities. This "beyond borders" experience shaped their Lasallian

vocation. What was true then is true now, as Lasallian Partners share their stories of how they came to the Lasallian family and fell in love with the mission. The Lasallian family in Papua New Guinea has grown in ways never imagined. It is without question that the influence of the Lasallian presence around the country through the Brothers, student teachers, students, staff, and administrators have touched the lives of many."

Brother Robert noted in particular the growth of the Lasallian Family around the nation; the contribution of Lasallians to teacher education in Papua New Guinea,

"The Lasallian family in Papua New Guinea has grown in ways never imagined."

Br Robert Schieler

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MAMBU (the pidgin word for Bambu) has sustained lives in Papua New Guinea for thousands of years. It is a very useful plant to have in the garden. It is useful for building a house, making a fence, carrying and storing food and water, and building bridges. It grows anywhere in the country, starting off as a small shoot and quickly growing into a clump. Likewise, LASALLIANS are very useful. We strengthen schools in many ways, using our position as *teachers* for the good of all, especially the children entrusted to our care. LASALLIANS build up strong, positive relationships in the community. We share our LASALLIAN story and others can learn about De La Salle and join our Lasallian Family.



Part of the welcoming ceremony for Br Robert at Lasalle Technical College, Hohola



Different cultural performances from across Papua New Guinea were performed for Br Robert

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Mission & Vision

MISSION

To provide a human and Christian education to young people, especially the poor, in the context of each area in PNG.

VISION

By 2018 the Lasallian Family in PNG, on fire with the Spirit of Faith and Zeal, will:

- ◆ take ownership of the association ensuring its financial sustainability.
- ◆ revitalise and energise effective teaching and learning.
- ◆ ensure formation and professional support for all Lasallians, especially those in remote areas.
- ◆ be actively involved in education and educational policy in PNG.
- ◆ support Lasallian projects for young people.
- ◆ have increased its membership ensuring a stronger influence in schools and will increase the number of associated schools.

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particularly at Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart Teachers' Colleges; the establishment of the Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service; and the quality of education evident in the Lasallian schools he visited.



Port Moresby Lasallians meet with Br Robert during his three day visit.

On this, his first visit to Papua New Guinea, Br Robert's time with us was restricted, and as a result he was unable to visit the Lasallian Mission outside of Port Moresby. However, we did take the opportunity to invite Br Robert to come back again, where he will hopefully have the opportunity to experience first hand the vitality of the Lasallian Mission across Papua New Guinea.



One of the many cultural performances to welcome the Superior General to Papua New Guinea.

Br Robert was accompanied on his visit by Br Ricky Laguda (General Councillor), Br David Hawke (Visitor), Br Shazad Gill (Auxillary Visitor) and Br Chris Gorringe (PNG Sector Leader and Auxillary Visitor).



From left to right: Br Ricky Laguda (General Councillor), Br Shazad Gill (Auxillary Visitor), Br Robert Schieler, (Superior General), Br David Hawke (Visitor)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT WRITES

A TIME OF CELEBRATION

By Grace Wraikia

PRESIDENT, LASALLIAN FAMILY PNG

Prayerful greetings Lasallians

It is truly a pleasure to be writing to you all after a long time since the last Mambo publication. So much has happened since and so much is happening now as well.



Before I continue, I wish to take this time to say thank and congratulate each and every one of you for keeping the Lasallian Fire burning throughout our country. Whatever it was that you did, it is a tremendous contribution to the growth of our PNG Lasallian Family. In the words of our saint, Saint John Baptist De La Salle, God Be Blessed, for all we are doing in our classrooms and schools to help our students prosper not only in this life but in the one after this.

This Jubilee Year of Mercy, marks a great year for the PNG Lasallian Family. Great things are happening. The De La Salle Brothers in PNG are celebrating 70 year anniversary since their establishing at Bomana in 1946. Their story has become our story and therefore it is right that we all celebrate this milestone in our history. It is a time to celebrate and thank God for being so merciful to this, for being kind and patient with us.

Therefore, I invite and welcome you all to come for the National Lasallian Gathering on the 10th to the 13th of July at Hohola in Port Moresby. It would truly be a wonderful experience if you all come and we celebrate and thank God together.



So I look forward to meeting you all.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

Ever thought of being a Brother?



Becoming a De La Salle Brother isn't the first life choice most people consider. Not many of us are seeking a life of adventure and challenge - a life less ordinary. Being a Brother isn't for everyone. **Is it for you?**

Contact us for more information on the vocation of a De La Salle Brother.

Br Luke Warvanuk,
Vocations Coordinator
Phone/Text: 7125 6152

A NEW CHALLENGE AS THE AGENT OF CHANGE



Ms Schola Manembe, Project Officer
Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service

Schola Manembe had been teaching for 32 years, and most of those in St Mary's School Wewak. At the end of 2012, Schola retired from teaching. She enjoyed teaching, but was looking for a new challenge in education. Her passion and love for teaching remained steadfast.

When Schola heard of the advertised position for a Project Officer for the Lasallian Remote Schools Support Service, she knew straight away that this job was for her. "I have been teaching for 32 years, and many of those years as a senior teacher. I have developed knowledge, skills and resources over the years that I could share with many others" she said.

Born out of a realisation of a great need for support for teachers in remote schools in Papua New Guinea, the Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service (LRSSS) officially commenced operation in August 2015 supporting primary and elementary schools in five villages in the East Sepik province: Tarawai Island, Walis Island, Moshu Island, Turubu and Ibab.

The overall Goal of the LRSSS is to provide focussed resourcing, support and professional development for teachers in remote schools. The model involves a small group of primary and elementary schools, supported by a Project officer who works with the teachers in each of the schools, providing resources and support.

Schola has embraced the role of Project Officer for the remote schools service. She hit the ground running, and just a few weeks after her appointment, hosted the first workshop for all teachers of the project schools on Kairuru Island.

"Meeting the teachers was the best thing." Schola reported. "They were so excited to be coming together for something new. There was a great sense of excitement."

Quickly, Schola endeared herself to the teachers. Her gentle, humble approach immediately filled the teachers with confidence and trust.

"She is like our mother", said one of the teachers from Tarawai. "She is really interested in us and what we are doing. She makes us feel good about our vocation to the students in these remote schools."

Following the workshop, Schola set about travelling to each of the schools, to meet with the teachers in their schools and prepare a needs analysis for each school. She was amazed at what she found.

"I have never been to Tarawai or Walis before", she said. "My heart sank when I saw the condition of the schools and the lack of resources. No one from the department ever comes to visit these schools. They are forgotten. This is what makes my work meaningful. I can do something to change this."

Schola returned from her school visits and immediately set about gathering resources that could assist teachers in each of the schools.



The 'bush material' elementary classroom on Tarawai island

"I keep in touch with the teachers, mainly through 'WhatsApp'." she said. "Keeping in touch with them and encouraging them in their vocation is an important part of my job."

In a short time, Schola has had an enormous impact of the teachers, and the teachers have had an enormous impact on her. As the agent of change in these remote schools, she is finding that she herself is also being changed.

"I have started keeping a journal. There is just so much for me to reflect on. It is having a big impact on me." Schola confided. "I have a sense that I am part of something very big. I have a new outlook on life, and I have a new purpose. There is something I can do that makes a difference."

One of the teachers on Tarawai Island is Otto, a young teacher determined to make a difference in the lives of his students.

Tarawai has a small Island off the coast of Wewak in the East Sepik Province. No wider than three Kilometers at its widest point, and with an elevation of no more than 11 meters at its highest point, Tarawai is a beautiful island, surrounded by



Tarawai Island Village

white sand and shaded by coconut trees. The population of Tarawai fluctuates through the year, with an average population of around 200 people.

In August, Otto heard that the newly formed Lasallian Remote Schools Support Service was interested in providing services to the schools on Tarawai Island. He was curious, and decided to attend the Workshop held on Kairuru Island to see what it was all about. Part of the requirement for the workshop was that all teachers attending had to have a smart phone. As Otto didn't have a smart phone, he attended the workshop and paid the K100 subsidised cost to buy one.

Delsie Maulangi, IT Lecturer from Holy Trinity Teachers' College facilitated the workshop. It was designed to educate the teachers as to how to use the smart phone to send and receive email, to communicate with each other, and to surf the internet. By the end of the workshop, all teachers had an email account, were using the social networking site,

'WhatsApp' to connect with each other, and even had some idea about how to find resources on the internet.

"During the workshop, Otto listened intently," recalled Schola. Schola visited Otto's school on Tarawai Island a few weeks later. She was amazed by the lack of basic resources.



Teachers learning to use their new smart phones at the workshop

"There was no furniture in the room," Schola recalled. "Children all sat on the sand floor. Otto had two or three resource books to work from and that was all."

"I was pleased to see how Otto had been using the internet on his Smart Phone to access teaching resources," Schola recalls. "It has really given him a new confidence,

and his students are really benefiting."

LASALLE NATIONAL GATHERING PNG

HOHOLA, NCD
10 – 13 JULY 2016



REGISTRATION FEE

- K120 for NCD and Central
- K50 for all Lasallians travelling by air

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bishop Rochus Tatamai
LaSallian Teachers: Merciful Like the Father

Br David Hawke
This Work of God is Also Our Work

Mr Gary Burrows
Classroom Management the Lasallian Way

WORKSHOPS

- Effective teaching strategies
- Smart phone in the classroom
- Managing Student Behaviour
- Engaging Lasallian Youth
- Effective Classroom Language Teaching
- Lasallian Leadership

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY JUNE 24

To register your interest or for more information, contact:
Your Area Coordinator
LaSalle National Office: Text/Phone 7036 5650; 7551 2707

NEWS FROM LASALLIANS AROUND THE COUNTRY

By Aileen Saleu & Schola Hori

LASALLIANS FROM WABAG AND FATIMA

Dear Lasallians,

In October of last year, Schola Hori and Aileen Saleu were invited by Father Andrew to run a three-day workshop for teachers in the Ambullua Outstation in the Jimi District.

Ambullua is a very remote place. From Fatima, we travelled for seven hours along a very bad road until we reached Kol Parish. From Kol, we walked for twelve hours along a track until we reached Ambullua. We did not reach Ambullua until after nightfall, and the last hour of our walk was by torchlight.

We ran a workshop for the teachers in Ambullua that included the life of the Founder, Lasallian Pedagogy and Lasallian Spirituality. We also worked with them on planning and teaching Religious Education lessons. The teachers enjoyed it very much and are keen to be Lasallians.

At the end of the workshop, we were able to get on the Mission plane and fly back to Mt Hagen—a twenty minute flight!

We enjoyed very much our time with the teachers in Ambullua, and would like to go back. It was enjoyable and rewarding sharing with them the Lasallian spirit.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



Above: Aileen and Schola take a break during the difficult 12 hour walk. Below: Aileen and Schola with some of the teachers at the workshop



By Karen Mondo

LASALLIAN AREA COORDINATOR—SIMBU PROVINCE

Dear Lasallians,

From 18-20 April we held the Highlands Regional Lasallian Gathering. Lasallians came from Enga, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Simbu and Eastern Highlands to be present. There were 300 of us—200 Lasallian Youth and 100 Lasallian teachers.



Organised by our National President, Grace Wrakia, the gathering was held at Rosary Secondary School, Kondiu. The Principal, Mr Kua, staff and students welcomed us. We were able to use the dormitories to sleep and the food was very good.

The Lasallian Youth participated in their program, which was facilitated by a number of Lasallian teachers. The teachers participated in a separate formation program, which was also facilitated by a group of Lasallian teachers. Br Dave, Br Rory and Br Luke also assisted us. The two groups came together for prayer, Mass and meals. We also had a wonderful concert on the final night, which was one of the highlights of the gathering.

By the end of the gathering, new friends had been made, and the Lasallian spirit at the gathering bound us together as one family of Lasallians.

We are all very excited to go to the National Gathering in July, where many of us will meet up again.

In the meantime, we return to our schools re-energised with the Lasallian spirit, ready to make a difference.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



Bus taking Lasallian students and teachers from Ialibu in the Southern Highlands to the Highlands Regional Gathering

By Casper Ruary

LASALLIAN AREA COORDINATOR—EASTERN HIGHLANDS

Dear Lasallians,

It has been a busy time for Lasallians in the Eastern Highlands. Over the past months we have facilitated a Lasallian formation and induction program for education students at the University of Goroka; participated in a retreat for Lasallians in the Eastern Highlands held at Kafamo Diocesan Centre; and have made a school visit to Yonki, running a Lasallian formation program for teachers at the school.

Lasallians from Eastern Highlands have also been involved in the Highlands Regional gathering both as participants and facilitators. We are now preparing for National Catholic Teachers Day on May 15, where we will celebrate the life of our Founder. We are looking forward to participating in the National Gathering at Port Moresby in July.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



Small group discussion and sharing led by Flora Teng at the Eastern Highlands Area retreat

By Gideon Able

LASALLIAN AREA COORDINATOR—NEW IRELAND PROVINCE

Dear Lasallians,

I graduated from Holy Trinity Teachers' College in 2014 as a Lasallian teacher and came to New Ireland Province with one of my classmates, organised by Br Dave. We have been placed in Sekunkun Primary School on Lihir Island.

At Sekunkun we have had a number of formation sessions on Lasallian pedagogy and spirituality, supported by our Head Teacher, Mrs Kasalman, and encouraged by a proud Lasallian Mr James Lakatan. Many of our teachers are now Lasallian, and we have a Lasallian Youth Group in the school. Teachers from other schools in our area are also becoming interested in being Lasallian. We are looking forward to the National Gathering in July.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



Welcome sign at St Mathias Sekunkun Primary School, Lihir Island, New Ireland Province

By Br Shashi Abrar FSC

LASALLIAN AREA SECRETARY—NCD

Hi members of the Lasallian Family!

The Lasallian Family in NCD has been very busy so far this year preparing to welcome the Superior General.

Earlier this year, a Lasallian formation program was held for all NCD Lasallian schools, facilitated by Br Antony and me.



We are currently preparing for a Lasallian Cultural show, which will be held on June 11 for all Lasallian schools in NCD. They will participate together as part of our celebration of the 70 years since the Australian Lasallian foundation in Papua New Guinea. We are also preparing for a number of celebrations during the year.

We are looking forward to the National Gathering in July.

God bless.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

By Aloysius Jalapuin

LASALLIAN AREA COORDINATOR—EAST SEPIK

Dear Lasallians,

In the first term holidays, Lasallians from East Sepik area participated in a school visit to Dagua. We ran a formation program for teachers in Dagua, presenting on the life of the Founder, Lasallian pedagogy and Lasallian spirituality.

It was a very enjoyable experience, with many of the teachers in Dagua joining our Lasallian Family.

Lasallians in East Sepik are now focused on celebrating the feast of our Founder on National Catholic Teachers Day and fund-raising to assist us in getting to the National Gathering in July.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



Lasallians at Dagua following the three-day Lasallian Induction workshop

WHAT TO DO WHEN A STUDENT REFUSES TO DO WORK

“I teach a grade six class. One of the girls in my class sometimes stops working. She does not disrupt the class. She just sits there and does no work. When I walk up to her she picks up her biro and pretends to be doing something. I tell her to get on with her work, but it makes no difference.”

Teachers know very well that even the best lesson plan will go wrong if the students refuse to engage in your planned activities.

All too often, teachers ask me, “What should I do when a student just refuses to do the work I set?”

What a great question! We have all experienced this in the classroom. Here are a few suggestions.

1. **Start by talking with the student.** Talking with the student, even just briefly, can help a reluctant student to get working. If you notice a student hasn't started working after giving the class directions, go over and ask if he has any questions. Sometimes they do and sometimes it's the reminder they need to start working.
2. **Mark the work accordingly.** Whether it's a lower participation grade on the term report, or simply an incomplete for the task, the student's grade should reflect the level of effort. Be sure to give appropriate feedback when you correct students' work.
3. **Make up the time.** Some teachers tell their students that if they don't work during work time, then they have to work during recess or lunch time, and they miss recess or lunch. Of course, even then sometimes the work doesn't get done, but at least there are consequences to help them understand. Make sure you warn them beforehand.
4. **Find a quiet spot.** Can you create a special spot for that student to work? Some students shut down because they become distracted. If you can find a quiet spot somewhere in the classroom, they can move in order to focus and do their work.
5. **Don't get on them.** It's ineffective and will use up your energy. Quietly go to students like this and let them know their options: do work now, or lose a privilege. Then walk away and let them make their choices. Don't nag. Students almost always make the right choice. Applaud them for it and make sure they know they've done the right thing.
6. **Consider the level.** It may be that the student is lacking the skills needed to complete the task. Give the student a more basic task, and see how she/he does with that.
7. **Break up the work.** It might be the whole of the task seems overwhelming for the student. Break the task up into two or three parts and give the smaller parts to them to them one by one. That might help them feel less overwhelmed. You could say something like, “I'll be back in ten minutes to check numbers one through five.”
8. **Set goals.** Use a goal sheet and have the student set a goal of a specific number of problems they can get done in the amount of time given to the students to work. Five minutes before the rest of the class's time is up, check back in with the student and discuss the goal. Readjust until the student can start to set higher goals. The goal is not to make students do the most work; the goal is to have the students show improvements and make learning happen at each student's level. It works!
9. **Understand your limitations.** At the end of the day, you can't make a student do anything that he or she refuses to do. If you try every strategy and nothing's working, make a note of what's happening, and move on.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER

By Dagiā Aka

NATIONAL LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER



Dear Lasallians,

My name is Dagiā Aka and I am from a mixed parentage of West New Britain, Central and Gulf. On the 13th of January this year I started my term as the new Lasallian Youth Minister for Papua New Guinea, following in the footsteps of Elizabeth Aribi and Desma Kombe, Youth Ministers before me.

My journey began with a trip to Sydney, Australia, to participate in the Youth Ministers Induction

Programme and the Lasallian Student Leadership Seminar for the District of ANZPPNG. It was at these two programmes that I had the chance to learn about what it means to be a Youth Minister in the context of our District and a few very important skills on how to engage with the students entrusted to my care. The trip was very much my first lesson about who to be a Lasallian Youth Minister. It also opened my eyes about what lay ahead of me as the Lasallian Youth Minister for Papua New Guinea.

I left Australia after 10 days with so many plans on how I could bring the Lasallian Youth Ministry in Papua New Guinea to a whole new level!

Upon my return I immediately begun preparations for the Student Leadership Seminar for Papua New Guinea, a follow to the District seminar for our local student leaders. Two weeks before the seminar was scheduled to take place, I received word from Australia that the Volunteers who normally travelled to PNG to help run the seminar would not be able to make it this year and that I had to put a team of Papua New Guineans together because we were to run the seminar on our own.



I was obviously nervous at first! But after a few days of extra planning and hunting for volunteers to assist with the programme, everything was set for the Student Leadership Seminar for Papua New Guinea!

The Seminar took place at the end of February and had a total of 150 people present. Not only was that the largest

number the seminar had ever seen but it was also history in the making because the entire seminar for the first time ever was run by a full Papua New Guinean team, made up of former students of the NCD based Lasallian Schools. It was the most amazing weekend for all who were present!

The following weeks were jam-packed with class visits and student inductions, which normally took place at De la Salle Catholic Secondary School Bomana and Student Welcomes, Big Brother Big Sister Welcomes and Its Cool to be Lasallian Sessions that took place at La Salle Technical College and Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.



Towards the end of the term I was able to run four Lasallian Encounter Camps, which are basically Formation Camps with the Students of Jubilee Catholic Secondary School. They were such a blessing for me!

All the while throughout the whole term I was able to spend one day per week at each of the Lasallian Schools in NCD so that the presence of Youth Ministry in the school will continuously grow.

Now that the second term as finally come around, the focus of Youth Ministry is the rest of Papua New Guinea with trips planned for Mainohana, Wewak, West New Britain and the Highlands Region. I look forward to being of service to the Lasallian Youth of Papua New Guinea and to light a fire of passion for being Lasallian wherever I go! Lasallian Youth Ministry for Papua New Guinea is on the move and I am very honoured to be the Youth Minister.

LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER

The Youth Minister 's office is located at Hohola. There are three main roles of the Lasallian Youth Minister:

1. To provide Youth Ministry services to Jubilee Secondary, De La Salle Secondary and Lasalle Technical College;
2. To establish a post-school Lasallian youth group in Port Moresby which meets on a regular basis;
3. To provide resource support to Lasallian Youth Coordinators, who are predominantly teachers leading Lasallian youth groups throughout Papua New Guinea.

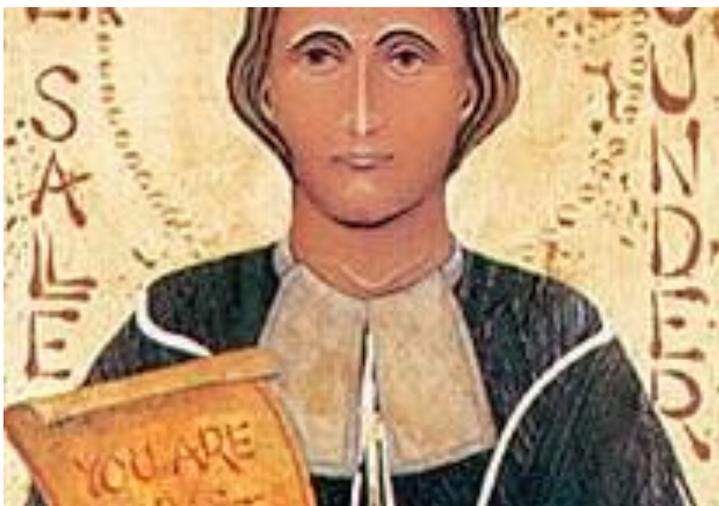
Please contact the Lasalle National Office for more information on 7036 5650 or 7551 2707.

ON BEING LASALLIAN: REMEMBERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

If there is one prayer that is familiar to Lasallians everywhere, it is “Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.” This prayer originates from St. John Baptist De La Salle himself, who insisted that these words be prayed at certain times throughout the school day. In the Founder's time it was used in the school situation as a reminder, usually voiced by a student, to the teachers and students of the significance of what they were doing in the classroom.

We say this prayer so often, perhaps we have grown to take it for granted, so let us take this time now to think about what it is we are asked to “remember”.

The prayer is authentically Lasallian because it so reflects the distinctive spirituality of John Baptist de La Salle. It might be said of De La Salle that he was constantly aware of the presence of God. Like Jesus himself, De La Salle often withdrew into solitude to devote long hours to prayer in the presence of God, either alone late at night or before the Blessed Sacrament, or during the spiritual retreats that he frequently made. In a list of resolutions he made on one occasion, he determined that every time he travelled to a new location he would spend fifteen minutes concentrating on the presence of God in that place. When the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris threatened him with exile, he made no objection, saying that he could find God anywhere. He saw God's presence in the events that affected him, whether for good or for bad, exclaiming “God be blessed!” On his death bed he prayed, adoring God present as a guide in all the events of his life.



The Founder considered the presence of God as one of the four interior supports of his Institute. He urged the Brothers to begin their prayer by remembering the presence of God, suggesting to them six ways in which to think of God as present:

1. God is present everywhere;
2. God is present in the community gathered in God's name;
3. God is present in ourselves keeping us alive;
4. God is present in us by grace and the Holy Spirit;
5. God is present in the Chapel or Church where we gather for prayer;
6. God is present in the Blessed Sacrament.



De La Salle's spirituality was especially focussed on the presence of God in persons, first of all in themselves, and then in a special way in the students entrusted to their care. The Lasallian symbol of the star is a constant reminder of the Founder's meditation for the feast of Epiphany. Since it was by faith that the

Three Kings could recognise the presence of their King and God beneath the swaddling clothes and humble circumstances of the birth of Jesus, De La Salle writes: “Recognize Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children who you have to instruct. Adore Jesus in them.”

It is important to remember that the teachers De La Salle was addressing were simple men. They were barely educated without the formal training required of today's teachers. They were quite young, busy all day preparing lessons, with religious and household duties in the community house, and then teaching in classrooms that might have had as many as 80 or 100 students. Yet De La Salle did not hesitate to ask them to regularly recall the presence of God in the community house, in the school, and in their lives.

The often repeated, “Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God” is a reminder that sharing the mission includes sharing a constant awareness of the presence of the God in whose name the mission is carried out. It is an invitation to put God at the center of what goes on in the principal's office, the classroom, at staff meetings, or Lasallian gatherings of any kind.



Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. In what ways do you see God present in your life?
2. How can you help the children you teach contemplate the presence of God in their lives?
3. De La Salles spirituality was focussed on the presence of God in persons. In whom do you see God's presence?
4. How can remembering the presence of God help us in our Lasallian mission?

Perhaps you could meet with other Lasallian teachers in your school or area and read the article together and share with each other your reflections on these questions. This could be a good way to help light the fire of Lasallian spirit across the country.

For copies of De La Salle's meditations, phone or text the LaSalle National Office on 7036 5650 or 7551 2707.



LASALLIAN FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
in your loving Providence,
You have chosen us to be Signs of Faith
in the midst of this world so full
of confusion and uncertainty.

Kindle in me and in all Lasallian Family members,
a deep spirit of Faith
and generosity in our apostolic commitment, which,
through the example of St. John Baptist de La Salle,
will inspire us to commit ourselves
and to bring the Gospel to the educational world.

Bless the work of our brothers and sisters
wherever they may be so that,
together and by association,
and inspired by the enthusiasm for your spirit of Love,
we shall become more and more the salt of the earth
and the light of the world,
especially among the poor
and among those farthest from the salvation you offer.

Receive into your embrace our brothers and sisters
who have gone before us with the sign of Faith
and who now sleep in your peace.
We ask these through Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your beloved Son, Amen.

Recognising the Presence of God

"Recognise Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children whom you have to instruct; adore him in them. Love poverty, and honour the poor, following the example of the Magi, for poverty ought to be dear to you, responsible as you are for the instruction of the poor. May faith lead you to do this with affection and zeal because these children are members of Jesus Christ. In this way this divine Saviour will be pleased with you, and you will find him because he always loved the poor and poverty."

St John Baptist De La Salle



THE LAST WORD...

By Br Dave

DIRECTOR, LASALLIAN FAMILY

Dear Lasallians,

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! (1 Corinthians 1:2-3)



It has been a while since the publication of the last edition of the Mambu Magazine—due to a problem caused by the departure of James and Delsie from the Lasalle Office. Hopefully we will be back to normal now! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

70 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Two years ago we celebrated 100 years since the establishment of the first Lasallian community at Vunapope in 1914. This was a community of German Brothers, who returned to Germany after the war in 1921. Twenty-five years lapsed before the Brothers returned to Papua New Guinea, this time from Australia, establishing a school at Bomana. Since this time, the Lasallian family has grown in ways no one could have anticipated. We invite all Lasallians to join with us in celebrating all that has been achieved in 70 years—a marvelous legacy of commitment to the education of young people in Papua New Guinea.

LASALLE NATIONAL GATHERING

Excitement is starting to build over the National Gathering to be held at Hohola from 10-13 July. I encourage all members of the Lasallian Family to be a part of this special event. Not only will it be an opportunity to renew friendships and to celebrate the 70 Years since the Australian foundation of the De La Salle Brothers at Bomana, but this gathering promises excellent guest speakers and workshops that will provide you with practical ideas and resources for the classroom.

Please be in contact with your Area Coordinators or the National Office to register your interest before June 24.

HIGHLANDS REGIONAL GATHERING

April 18-20 saw the first Highlands Regional Gathering, bringing together both Lasallian Teachers and Lasallian Youth. There were approximately 300 participants at the gathering, and the spirit generated by all those participating was nothing short of extraordinary.

Thank you to all the organisers, in particular our National President, Grace Wrakia, for her thorough organisation of the gathering—attending to every detail. Special thanks to

Mr Raphael Kua, the new Principal of Rosary Secondary Kondiu, staff and students at Rosary for being most gracious in hosting us.

EAST SEPIK LASALLIAN GATHERING AT DAGUA

At the same time the Highlands Lasallians were gathering at Kondiu, Lasallians in East Sepik Province were gathering at Dagua Primary School. Organised by Area Coordinator, Aloysius Jalapuin, Lasallians enjoyed three days of Lasallian formation, sharing, and enjoying one another's company with the teachers from Dagua. From all reports, it was a wonderful experience, appreciated by all. Thank you to the East Sepik Lasallians for your commitment to the Lasallian mission.

LASALLIAN MISSION

I am proud of Lasallians who are taking up the challenge to lead Lasallian formation programs around the country. This is exemplified in the Highlands and East Sepik gatherings; Schola and Aileen who went off to Ambullua; the Eastern Highlands Lasallians who have run a Lasallian Induction program for the Goroka University students followed by a Lasallian formation program at Yonki. This is truly 'Sharing the Mission.' I am proud because **this work of God is also ours**. Together, we are taking ownership of the Lasallian Mission in PNG.

LASALLE REMOTE SCHOOLS SUPPORT SERVICE

The Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service reported in this edition of Mambu is ours! It belongs to the Lasallian Family in PNG. It is unique—and has been established out of a recognition by Lasallians of a real need to support teachers serving in remote areas of the country.

I wish to acknowledge all Lasallians in the East Sepik Province, who have taken it upon themselves to nurture the LRSSS, providing support to the new Project Officer, Schola Manembe, and encouragement for the project as a whole. Your support and encouragement has been invaluable.



Some of the teachers from schools participating in the Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service

Bishop Joe of Wewak is keen that we establish a second LRSSS in his Diocese and we are currently exploring Bongos Mission Station in the upper-Sepik region for this. In addition, Bishop Bill of Kimbe is also keen for the establishment of a LRSSS in his Diocese. We are currently in the process of identifying a suitable location to begin this work.

Lasallians, thank you for all that you do. Together, we are making a difference.

I look forward to seeing you at the National Gathering. I do hope you are able to come.

Jisas, yu stap long lewa bilong mipela, oltaim!