

Nº 06

Brothers of the Christian Schools

RELAF NEWSLETTER



La  Salle

December 2012



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RELAF Newsletter is a publication of the De La Salle Brothers by the Regional Team.

B.P 1927—Abidjan 08
Côte d'Ivoire

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*The Regional
Team of Relaf
wish you*

Merry Christmas



St Augustin School - Togoville

Back to School: 2012-2013



Previously scheduled in September 24, 2012, the start of the new school year was finally held in October 8, 2012 due to the delay by the Ministry officially to enable parents to better prepare.

Indeed, Monday 8th October, 2012, all teachers and students have gone back to school. As we have always done for the last few years, the first day of school is always marked by a ceremony. This return was celebrated with great joy, emotion and symbols. At 8 pm, all students, teachers and Brothers came together at the school apartment for the gathering. After the opening prayer made by the presenter, we were entitled to the presentation of some symbols that will guide us throughout this school year.



For us, Brothers, teachers and students, Saint John Baptist de la Salle is an icon. A figure that inspires us all. The reason why the image of Saint John Baptist de La Salle was the first symbol presented. Two students made a procession with the image of St. John Baptist de la Salle, with background music (hymn to St. John Baptist de La Salle). The presenter invited all the teaching staff and students to use it for this new school year.

After the image of our founder, we have two other students presented the new theme of the year. It reads: "Accompaniment + Rigor = Result."

After all the presentations, some students have



been awarded and registered in the School honor roll for the good official exam results of the previous school year. They were a total of four: one in "Troisième", one in "Première" and one in "Terminal". All the four students scored an average of greater than or equal to 14/20, one way to stimulate other students to do the same. Last but not least was the presentation of teachers and various information. The ceremony ended at 9 am 30 with the performance of the hymn to St. John the Baptist de la Salle.

*Brother Brice AKAGBO, Togoville
District of Golfe of Bénin,*

De La Salle School - Akassato

A rendez-vous with the succes.

Recognizing that education is a common task in which *together and by association* unfold, the administration of the college has not shirked the traditional meeting of parents. After the beginning of classes effective on October 1, it was for the parents to meet for their first General Assembly. It was held on Saturday, October 27, 2012 in the Library. Parents came many, but not all. The occasion was beautiful and good to meet, know, express, inform, criticize and suggest.

[...] In the various interventions, what characterise the Lasallian school is the guarantee of a quality education and therefore the insurance for the success of their children. This is a trust that parents have in the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and many of our colleges can be sacred for the cause of better academic performance and thus the generation of senior executives for the various mission in our country. For parents, it seems that the successful curriculum is updated in the Brothers'schools.

[...] A successful education is a concern of all, it is a "*everyone has his turn*": the school, the family, the child. Putting parents faced with their responsibility has been well elucidated by Brother Paco FALLADO, the Director. Solomonian wisdom weighed in all his interventions, whether it positive, negative or excuses. A parent, strengthened by the testimony was so touched and said these words: « *This Brother (Paco is a great man, his religious spirit has convinced me* »

Before the Assembly ends, the parents met and interacted with class teachers. Finally, the director invited the parents to be optimistic about the future of the school and keep this new gem, students, teachers in their prayers.

Then, sandwich with refreshing drinks were served to strengthen brotherhood.

May the Lord through the saint educators inspire us for more renovated and adapted pedagogy to perpetuate the Lasallian school spirit which we are the heirs.

*Brother Guillaume YAME,
District of Golfe of Benin*



RELAF Conference

RELAF conference for the year 2012 was held from 5 to 7 November 2012 at St Miguel in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It normally gathers all visitors Region RELAF, but this time, all the Bursars also attended to reflect on the District selfsufficiency.

Invited to the conference were: the Formation Secretariat (Brother Jesus Rubio and Joseph Fernando), who gave a report on their visits to our formation houses and preparation of the Young Brothers' Assembly to be held in Manila in 2013; Solidarity and Development Secretariat (Brother Amilcare Boccucia and Miss Angela Mutilla) who facilitated a workshop on District projects, child protection policy and the role of the Visitor and bursar in the District; Br.Jorge Gallardo, General Councilor, residing in Rome, who shared some information such as the preparation of various assemblies and the 45th General Chapter.



It was also an opportunity for Brother Anatole Diretenadji, Bursar of the RELAF to present a report on his visits to the Districts, sectors and Delegation RELAF during the period of June and October 2012.

He encouraged Visitors and the Bursars and recommended the change of mentality on some points deserving special attention, namely: the economic and financial situation, the use of management tools, participation of Works to the running of the District and the District Plan strategic.

After the Conference, all the Bursars met from 8 to 9 November to continue their reflection and share experiences in their Districts on the management and initiatives to achieve self-sufficiency.



*Participants at the RELAF Conference, November 5—7, 2012
St Miguel Scholasticate, Abidjan—Côte d'Ivoire*

Secretariat

First of all the Solidarity and Development Secretariat, grateful for the invitation, want to thank the RELAF members as well as the CELAF Institute and the Scholasticate for hosting us.

We would like to underline some very positive aspects of this Conference: the participation of all the Visitors and Presidents, with the exception of Equatorial Guinea, and the fact that the meeting has been enriched by the active presence of the Bursars.

The Abidjan Conference proved to be an important step forward in the direction undertaken by the Visitors during the meeting held last year in Addis Ababa.

We would like to highlight some important encouraging aspects that emerged during the Conference:

- * *Focus on the need to proceed towards self-sufficiency,*
- * *Strong commitment by most of the members to the elaboration of District/Sector Strategic Plan.*
- * *Effort to clarify the ownership of the properties and the acquisition of the property deeds,*
- * *Study of new income generating projects and/or reports on projects already under realization,*
- * *The effort to centralize the administration that in some Districts is already under way and the effort to maximize the internal resources.*

We also have to acknowledge that a sense of discouragement is spreading. This feeling comes from the difficulty that is more and more perceived as an insurmountable challenge of finding funds to implement projects that could push the Districts out of the dependency status. This is because of the fact that bank loans are impossible due to the conditions for reimbursement and also from the fact that the Institute is not in position to help even through a loan.

One of the most urgent requests of the Conference to the Secretariat was to study this situation and try to find a possible solution to overcome this uncomfortable impasse.

Some Districts perceive their effort to create a strategic plan, acquire properties on the Brothers' name and setting the conditions that will lead to self-sufficiency represents a sort of re-foundation of the Institute in those regions.

Finally there is a common appreciation for the responsibility that the Regional Office is assuming. Having the Regional Team Job description and budget approved, constitutes an important sign of the efforts done by the Visitors and Bursars. Surely it is a good step forward, but it is important to keep working to strengthen the office for the good of all the RELAF.

From the Solidarity and Development Secretariat we wish you all a peaceful Christmas and all the best for a fruitful New Year.

From Solidarity and Development Secretariat



Brother Bursars of RELAF

From left to right: Br Emmanuel (Antananarivo), Br Anatole (RELAF Bursar), Br Frédéric (Congo Kinshasa), Br Juvénal (Rwanda), Br Marek (Douala), Br Ocbamariam (Lwanga), Br Paulin (Gulf of Benin)

Towards the International Young Brothers' Assembly - 2013

From 19th to 23th November, the Preparatory Commission for the International Young Brothers' Assembly, 2013, met at the retreat center De La Salle Dasmarinas, Manila Philippines, where the Assembly will take place from 29 August to 07 July 2013. The purpose of the meeting was essentially to continue the preparation among others the various activities to be organised, schedules and responsibilities before and after the Assembly.

We should recall that the RELAF Conference last November decided that each District or Sector and the Delegation organizes Young Brothers' gathering or assembly during the period between November 2012 and May 2013. The reflections of these assemblies will be put together and shared by the representatives of the RELAF.

RELAF region will be eight (8) two representatives of the Brothers Lwanga, one from Antananarivo, one from Congo Kinshasa, one from Gulf of Benin, one from DAO, one from Douala and one from Delegation of Rwanda.

The Preparatory Commission has already sent a letter to representatives of RELAF to make contact with them and start the preparation process so that they have sufficient time to start the process related to their travel documents.

Let us keep in our prayers all the initiatives of Districts, Sectors and Delegations that are preparing for this International Assembly.



*Members of the Preparatory Commission for
The International Young Brothers' Assembly, 2013
From left to right:
Br. Chris Patino (RELAN), Br. Michel Tolojanahary (RELAF), Br. José
Andres (RELEM), Br. Richie Y (PARC)*

Lwanga: Preparing the Assembly

On the occasion of the yearly Brothers' Solidarity Assembly that is held in each Sector, the participants express their hopes and dreams for the years to come, their positive experiences in Personal Life, Communities, Apostolates, Sector and/or District, as well as their less positive experiences in Personal Life, Communities, Apostolates, Sector and/or District. The Brothers' Solidarity Assembly in South-Africa has already taken place on November 22nd, 2012, and the one in Kenya from December 5th to 7th, 2012.

The Brothers in each Sector will be informed on the outcomes of the Brothers' Solidarity Assembly that was organised in their respective Sectors. This process should help us to become aware of the hopes and dreams of Young Brothers, to appreciate their positive experiences and to remedy, whenever possible, to their less positive experiences.



*Official Logo for the International Young
Brothers' Assembly, 2013*

Delegation of Rwanda



*Brother Maurice BURASA,
Appointed President of the
Delegation of Rwanda by
the Superior General last
September*

Two substitute councilors were also elected namely: Brother Aloys NDIKUKIHE and Brother Juvenal NIYONZIMA BANGA.

Brother John Bosco BIZIMANA RWASA is the new Bursar of the Delegation of Rwanda, replacing Brother Juvenal NIYONZIMA BANGA this position .

From November 29 to December 2, 2012, the 8th chapter of the Delegation of Rwanda took place in Kisaro , in the presence of Brother Gabriel SOME, General Councilor for RELAF and three other Brothers invited: Brother Jorge Gallardo, General Councillor, Brother Jesus RUBIO, Secretary of Education and Brother Esayas Tsegay, Visitor of Charles Lwanga District.

A new Council has been elected to assist Brother Maurice Burasa, the President appointed by the Superior General in September 2012. The new Council is composed of: Brother John Bosco BIGIRIMANA Brother John Bosco BIZIMANA RWASA, Brother and Brother Pierre Célestin NTAGISANIMANA Ferdinand BIZIYAREMYE.

Brother President appointed two Councillors to complete the required number of six Councilors. These are Désiré MURENGERANTWALI Brother and Brother Anaclet PAMBA K.



At the end of the chapter, Brother Emmanuel MUHAYIMANA and Ernest TUGANEYEZU and renewed their vows, which were received by Brother SOME Gabriel, General Councillor for RELAF and Delegate of Rwanda, .

*Brother Maurice BURASA
President of the Delegation of Rwanda*



Agricultural Exhibition in Tami



Maize: one of the harvested crop in Tami

On Saturday, 24th November 2012, took place at the agricultural exhibition in Tami.

Beyond the educational character of the exhibition, we emphasize that the biggest goal is to enhance the farmers through what they produce and encourage them to improve these crop production with more suitable means. So this exhibition concerns only farmers who tried to put into practice the courses and methods learned at the center.

Like every year, we noticed a large crowd of participants from diverse backgrounds to experience this great event. Among the crowd were 24 young people from "De La Salle" and "St. Athanase", two brothers Dapaong colleges. It should be noted that 14 of them were member of the "Lasallian Youth." This is to say how young people are interested in this great event.

[...] Around 11:00 am, after the kick off given by the Director of the Center, we started visiting exhibitions. This has enabled us to discover many food products, such as corn, sorghum, millet ..., products from crafts amongst others traditional clothes, mortars, hand crafted seats.

[...] Our stay at this center ended with the words thank the director of the center. We then said goodbye by giving us an appointment next year, for those who are still in the area, to live another agricultural exhibition in Tami.

The administration Tami change, but the tradition remains and it is this which is a good thing. For the Brothers must serve and serve people regardless of race or religion. That's what brothers are trying to implement the center. May God continue to generate good will to help the center to continue its mission.

May St. John Baptist de La Salle, who calls us to follow him in this path helps us so that ignorance is suppressed in the most remote corners of our towns

*Brother Stanislas KUTOLBENA
District of Gulf of Benin*



Source: Tami website

http://servidor1.lasalle.es/tami2/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=59&lang=fr

Initial Formation: Bobo-Dioulasso

From 5th to 12th September was held in Toussiana the retreat beginning the second year of Blessed. John Paul II Group. It was led by Brother John Palmier LUTEMONA and focused on the theme: "*GOD SEEKS YOU*". It was a catechesis of the Christian vocation from chapter 21 of the Gospel according to St John. There was highlighted how the believer seeks God and called to be his servant and witness.



The new group of, 10 novices, is placed under the patronage of Blessed John XXIII. The groupe prepared their entry to the Noviciate by a retreat which took place at *Brother Theophilus Elola Toussiana Sanou Spiritual Center*, from 09th to 14th October. It was hosted by Brother Valerius ADONSOU.



The general itinerary for this Group is to make the novitiate as a true "RITE OF PASSAGE", as defined in its three phases in anthropology: Separation (death), seclusion (transformation), reintegration (resurrection) for a life of religious FEC). Being in the year of faith the novices were invited to all the "reframing" required for an evangelical vision of existence from the teachings of faith of the Gentiles [the centurion (Lk 7, 1-10), the Syrophoenician (Mt 15, 21-28, the Centurion Cornelius (Acts 10, 1-41)].

The motto for their itinerary is "*Only say a word ...*" (Lk 7:7)



The entry to the novitiate, which was at the same time the ceremony of taking the habit, was celebrated on November 1. Formation Secretaries (Brother Joseph FERNANDO and Jesús RUBIO, visiting the novitiate led the ceremony. Brothers of nearby communities and all stakeholders including Teachers also took part.

Brother Valère ADONSOU
Noviciate Director

Initial Formation: Lwanga

The District Formation Coordinator visited once again the Formation Houses during the month of September.

At the International Scholasticate as well as at the International Novitiate he met personally with 23 Brothers: coming from Rwanda (7), Nigeria (5), Kenya (4), Ethiopia (4), Burkina Faso (2) and Madagascar (1). One of our Nigerian Scholastics started his University Studies in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

This internationality experienced in our Formation Houses with all its cultural richness, challenges and witness to the universal Brotherhood of the De La Salle Brothers will continue being promoted by the arrival of 11 Postulants at the beginning of the year 2013 at the Novitiate in Nairobi. They will come from Nigeria (6), Kenya (3) and Ethiopia (2).

In September 2012 the Ethiopian Postulancy started its Formation Program with 10 Postulants and the Nigerian Postulancy with another group of 10 Postulants. We hope that next year, i.e. in September 2013, we could welcome once again Postulants from Kenya and from South-Africa in addition to the ones from Nigeria and from Ethiopia.

We should not forget our beloved Brothers in the Eritrean Sector. They are animating and administering several Formation Houses with limited

human resources: a Juniorate, a Postulancy, a and Novitiate and a Scholasticate. We can assure them that they continue to be remembered in our thoughts prayers.

The second annual meeting of the District Formation Commission took place at the beginning of October at the Novitiate. We appreciated once again the friendly, open-minded and participative character of these meetings. It was the last meeting of Brother James Thiongo, Director of the Scholasticate, after having been involved for so many years in the animation and administration of our Formation Houses as a fully dedicated, generous and much appreciated Formator. We wish him all the best and God's choicest blessings for his new assignment as the Headmaster of Rongai Agri-Tech High School, starting at the beginning of the year 2013. We are grateful to Brother Taddele Negash for having accepted in a spirit of faith the appointment as the new Director of the Scholasticate. He has already played an important role as Sub-Director in the improvement of the spiritual, community and study (apostolic) life at this International Formation House.

*Brother Marc Hofer
District of Charles Lwanga*



A partial view of the Scholasticate in Nairobi, Kenya

Other echoes from Lwanga

Ethiopian Sector: Celebration of a 25 Year of Anniversary in Meki

Brothers and Lay Associates in the Sector celebrated a 25 year anniversary of selfless service and educational excellence on October 11, 2012 in Meki. Right from the arrival of the Brothers, 25 years ago, Meki Catholic School has been utterly transformed. Today, the school community enjoys a standardized Library and Multipurpose Hall along with quality education.

De La Salle Brothers are highly recognized for their reputable services and for completely changing the history of the school. Meki Catholic School is currently categorized among the top schools within Oromiya Region.

The celebration was quite colourful and some remarkable programs were presented by the Lasallian Youth. Br Esayas Tsegaye, Provincial Visitor of the Charles Lwanga District, along with several other Brothers from the Sector, some long serving Lasallian teachers representing the various schools and the Bishop of Meki took part in the celebration.

South-African Sector: Lasallian Youth activities in Johannesburg

Our Lasallian Youth Group at Victory Park, Johannesburg, continues to meet every Monday afternoon. It is engaged in a number of Outreach Projects leading up to Christmas and a week-end camp is being organized from the 9-11 November.

Eritrean Sector: Workshop on Child protection and Project Management in Keren

From 13th of September to 17th of September, a workshop on Child protection and Project Management was facilitated at St. Joseph's school Keren. The workshop was initiated and organized by Br. Amilcare Boccuccia for the apostolate in Eritrea but later the invitation expanded to all Catholic Schools and Dioceses of Eritrea. 55 trainees from all over Eritrea, 31 on Child Protection and 24 on Project Management participated in the workshop.

*Brother Marc Hofer
District of Charles Lwanga*



Inforcentre De La Salle: 20ème anniversaire

December 01, 2012 LA SALLE INFONCENTRE in Soavimbahoaka celebrated its triple celebration under the patronage of Brother Rasamison Desire, Visitor of the District of Antananarivo. It marked the beginning of a new academic year 2012-2013, the graduation of the 19th Group named VALIHA Group (Value Integrity and Honesty) and the closing of its 20th anniversary.

Historically, INFOCENTRE DE SALLE was created on December 22, 1991 through the initiative of the late Brother Visitor RASOLOARISON Celestin. It was at first based at the Saint Famille Institution Mahamasina and called INFONCENTRE INFOGESTION. The first students came to the Institute in January 1992. The late Brother Anselm RAZAFIMAHERY was the second Director.

Note that in 1995, the INFONCENTRE was among the first Higher Institutes in Madagascar whose training has received approval from the Ministry of Higher Education since its goal inherited from our Founder Saint John Baptist de La Salle was clear and unavoidable. Following the decisions taken by the district council of Antananarivo and through the Brother Visitor of the

time, this institution is now managed by a committed lay person named SOLOFOSON Rosa.

Thanks to him that in 2010, the institute extended and opened the Master Program. Currently, the Institute is known as INFONCENTRE DE LA SALLE.

Since its foundation, many young people continue to enroll in the Institute. They are about 562. At the Graduation of the 19th Group named VALIHA, the Director of this institution has guaranteed that these young people are able to directly confront the world of work. They were trained to be able to meet new challenges. They are now Managers able to create their own company which is now encouraged.

In short, many things such as the particularity of the formation, pastoral animation, team teaching and teaching methods may be said on this occasion of the closing of the 20th anniversary of the INFONCENTRE LA SALLE but we contented simply to focus its history and the various steps taken by the institution and its intention to exploit other areas of the country.

*Brother Jean de Dieu RANDRIANASOLO,
District of Antananarivo*



From CELAF Institute



CELAF Institute was established in 1991. Celebrating its 20th anniversary during the 2011-2012 academic year, we organized workshops reflections to evaluate the process quality of formation:

- expectations of religious congregations who send young people to study in CELAF,

- The academic requirements of the Higher Institutes of Religious Sciences (ISSR) - Reform of formation curricula according to the LMD system as required by Madagascar and the African Council of Higher Education (CAMES) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire (MESRS).

The reason why, since September 2012, adjustments and innovations have been made in academic areas.

The Centre for Religious Studies and Teaching (CERP), established by the Conference of Major Superiors of Côte d'Ivoire, which provided training spread over two (2) years. CERP training now offers diploma for students who enroll with Bachelor of Secondary Education or an equivalent qualification that allows access to university. The academic curriculum is now spread over three years. Its designation becomes Sciences Institute of Religious Life (ISVR).

At the undergraduate level, the Higher Institute of Pedagogical and Religious Sciences (ISSPR) offer 'licence' in Pedagogical Sciences at the end of training for students who meet all the academic obligation.

Since September 2012, students have the opportunity to orient themselves in License 3 in Religious Studies or Pedagogical Sciences.

In addition to these innovations, in order to promote the flow and reach a wider audience, including lay people, CELAF opened the second cycle (Masters) in Management in Economy and Law (IGED). Thirty-seven (37) students are enrolled.

As part of the development of the training program according to the LMD system, CAMES has accredited the diploma titles that we provide, as well as the content of the formation training.

In the dynamic requirements of the Higher Institutes partnership with their supervisory ministry, we submitted the record of the ISSPR to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for approval. The result should be out sometime in January 2013.

Today, rereading the history of CELAF Institute highlights three major challenges related to the changes and innovations that we bring. The first is *to ensure that every member of the CELAF community, whether student, teacher or member of the administration, finds his place within the CELAF and participates in dynamic continuity and reconstruction.* The second challenge is *to be sensitive to the action of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of the changing world and the needs of different congregations.* The third challenge relates to the internal functioning. *It is to have permanent teaching staff.*

Brother Emmanuel MBOUA
CELAF Director

Calendars

Regional Councillor's Calendar

05 Dec. 12 -05 Janv. 13	Burkina Faso
05 Jan.—18 Jan. 13	Abidjan
19 Jan.—25 Feb. 13	General Council in Rome
26 Feb.—	Abidjan

Regional Bursar's Calendar

17—25 Dec. 2012	District of Congo Kinshasa
25 Dec. —	Abidjan

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