

Brothers of the Christian Schools

RELAF NEWSLETTER

N°15



La  Salle

May 2015



SUMMARY



Editorial **3**

Nairobi Novitiate : Prayer life **4**

CTIEAA welcomes 100 children **4**

DWA: Final profession **5**

DWA: Inauguration of a stele **6**

Tanà: Feast of St Joseph **8**

DWA: Training sessions **9**

New publication **10**

Defence of dissertation **10**

Celebration of Consecrated Life **11**

CTIE: Graduation Ceremony **12**

CTIE: Concert—Benefit **13**

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

B.P 1927—Abidjan 08
Côte d'Ivoire

Chief Editor

Br. Pierre OUATTARA,

Assistant Editors

*Br. Anatole DIRETENADJI,
Br. Gabriel ONWU*

Design and Editing

Br. Michel Zo TOLOJANAHARY





Editorial

This Newsletter appears at a timely moment when the Lasallian world is in the fervour of Saint John Baptist De La Salle. Indeed, it is around the date of May 15 that our different Lasallian educational communities have a tradition of celebrating the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the community of Brothers of the Christian Schools, Patron of all educators ...

When we Lasallians say feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, we know from experience what it evokes: cultural and sports activities, celebration of the Eucharist carefully prepared and well animated, sometimes a festive banquet where there are special guests, parents of students, religious and civil authorities, the teaching staff, former and new students ...

These are unforgettable moments of joy and communion. These moments help to strengthen links between Lasallians, build and enrich a common memory ... They offer an opportunity to discover our students in a different guise, sometimes pleasantly surprising... They can prove that the wealth of generosity and of ordinarily hidden dedication ... Our young, on such occasions, mani-

fest the qualities and talents that we would never believe in them ... Truly, these different events on the occasion of St. John Baptist De La Salle, deserve to be catered for, that is to be well prepared! But what guidance do we propose in this regard to our students, to our young people ?

What do we really celebrate on this occasion? The answer, as obvious as it is, still deserves time for personal reflection. No doubt it is important to know celebrating ... It is an opportunity to express our gratitude, to celebrate the recognition of who we are, all that we have received and are receiving and the One to whom we owe it ... Through this Lasallian celebration, we live a particular sense of grace, that of beauty, that of gratuity, that of God ... We can make out of it a great opportunity to deepen our identity as Lasallians, to cultivate a sense of self-giving ...

May each of our educational communities, through the intercession of John Baptist de La Salle, become the new humanity that the Lasallian tradition never tires to hope. May Jesus live in our hearts so that they may always be celebrating.

*Brother Pierre OUATTARA,
General Councilor for RELAF*

Novitiate Nairobi: Prayer life

The three first-year Novices Rezene Endale from Ethiopia, Samuel Aross from Kenya and Titus Abubakar from Nigeria as well as Bro Marc had the opportunity to deepen together God's wonderful gift of Prayer, Meditation and Contemplation that makes us more and more aware of God's loving, caring and healing presence in our lives, Communities and Lasallian Educational Mission. At the end of the Formation Session they asked God to give them the grace to become more and more men of prayer as it is shown in the lives of Jesus of Nazareth, of John Baptist de La Salle and of Mahatma Gandhi who wrote at the end of his life: I am neither a man of letters, nor of science – but I humbly claim to be a man of prayer. It is prayer that has saved my life. Without prayers I would have lost my reason a long time ago. If I did not lose my peace of soul, in spite of many trials - it is because peace came to me from prayer. One can live several days without food, but not without prayer. Prayer is the key to each morning and the lock to every evening. Prayer is the sacred alliance between God and man, in order to be delivered from the clutches of the prince of darkness. This is my sacred teaching: Let everyone try this experience and he will find out that daily prayer will add something new to his life, of which, there is no equivalent to anywhere.



CTIEAA caters for 100 children

Last February, the Christ the Teacher Institute for Education Alumni Association (CTIEAA) organized a celebration for approximately one hundred children (ten patiently pictured above) from Kuwinda, the little slum, a short walking distance from CTIE. Every Sunday, these children gather at the community of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, but for this Sunday, instead of snacks, they enjoyed a midday meal of rice, beef, vegetables and chapatti. During the morning, as the children played, the alums were busy cutting vegetables and preparing what was surely a festive, tasty, and most nourishing meal. Special thanks to the members of the Board of CTIEAA who were instrumental to the success of the day.

Source: CTIE Happenings



DWA: Final Profession



"We have found the Messiah" (Jn 1, 41), this is the word that now will guide the life of Brothers Denis Toua TRAORE, Tiowa David Venance KIENOU Karim KI Isaiah and Joshua TRAORE. These four young Brothers, moved by the Holy Spirit and believing in the love of God, have freely and joyfully consecrated to God for His glory and the salvation of the young. This was during a solemn Mass presided by His Lordship Bishop Joseph SAMA, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Nouna, on Saturday 14th, 2015. The final profession was attended by many people, religious, priests, lay collaborators, pupils, parents, friends of the Brothers and of course, the parents of the final professed Brothers.

We particularly noted the presence of Brothers Francis GOZE, Brice AKAGBO and Jean-Baptiste KOSSI, who came especially from the District of Gulf of Benin to show their fraternity to the Brothers of DWA, specifically to Brother Denis TRAORE who, for three years, studied contemporary History in Lome, residing in the Provincial House.

In his homily, Bishop Joseph SAMA said that the young Brothers have chosen the better part. He also recalled that the Church has always considered the consecrated life in the religious state [...] as the most powerful call to holiness, the more excellent way for the perfection of charity.[...]

He also recalled that Consecrated Life should be considered an apostolic life, intimacy of life with Christ for the pursuit of its mission to proclaim the Gospel, the Word of good news for salvation made available to mankind by God: Evangelization. [...]

Addressing the newly professed, he said: "Dear Brothers Denis, Joshua, Isaiah and Venance with your congregation, you have chosen the best part: that which Christ has given you, namely school, school education and youth education, as a ministry, your chosen apostolate. your Activity is of paramount importance, in the sense that you intervene directly on humans.

With the knowledge and intelligence you transmit, you will also transmit the formation of the mind, the heart, the conscience and the faith: knowledge of God. This option of evangelization through school education is the charism of your religious family[...].



From left to right: Brother Isaïe, Brother Josué, Brother Venance, Brother Denis

He continued: *"The Lasallian conception promotes a true communion between the members of the Church, a true communion between men and women of the world, on the same basis of equality, dignity as well as our human dignity and dignity as children of God. [...] Let us pray that God grant us many holy vocations of consecrated persons we need to learn more about Christ put us more to serve the world in the service of the poor in righteousness, in the search for communion, lived in solidarity for the salvation of Man. Amen!"*



While congratulating our four young Brothers for the audacity of faith, we entrust them to the maternal care of the Virgin Mary, so that they never lack flour. For it is said, *"Who has a mother never lacks flour."*

Brother Raoul TRAORE

DWA: Inauguration of a stele



On Wednesday, March 18, 2015, the ISSA BE-RI Professional High School Education in Niamey inaugurated the stele set up in memory of its first Director, Brother Paul ROUELLE called to God on August 18, 2014. The Alumni Association and the current administration of the School wanted to pay tribute to Brother Paul and through him to other Brothers who in 1966 laid the foundation of this School which is now the pride of Niger.

The ceremony was attended by alumni, representatives of the Ministries of Professional Teaching and Technology, parents of students, students and teaching staff.

The Catholic Church was represented by the two bishops of Niamey, the parish priests of Niamey.

Two speeches punctuated the ceremony. First the President of the alumni: He recalled the qualities of a builder, great worker, the rigor in the person of Brother Paul who forged these qualities in them and making them what they are today. Responsible and committed citizens. Then he thanked the Brothers and through them, the Catholic Church that works regardless of religion or social origin to the formation of the whole person.

After the Alumni President, followed the series of testimonies of elders.[...] Brother Paul had only one goal: *to live in brotherhood and to stand by the work of the sons of Niger from all regions of the country.*

The monument was set up where the Brothers' workshop used to be. It represents a hammer. Indeed, according to former students, Brother Paul liked to walk around the yard with this tool he preferred the most.

Bishop Michel Cartatéguy, thanked the School Administration and the Alumni *"for this happy*

initiative that touches us deep inside ourselves." Continuing, he said, "your will of gratitude to a man of the Church, because Brother Paul really was, and reflects the true feelings that motivate you toward those who give themselves body and soul, in the name of their faith, to people with the one and only desire to promote them for themselves, for the nation and for the glory of God".

Speaking of the work of Brother Paul, the Archbishop stressed that he dedicated his life to teaching. He served the young with passion and determination to being loved wherever he passed. He arrived in Niger and stayed for 27 years, in 54 years of life education.



According to Bishop, "the name of ISSA BERI is linked to the name of Brother Paul and it will be even more with this stele that recall what he was for this school." Then he added: "Once again everything speaks of Brother Paul, these class buildings which at the time had a taste of avant-garde and modern even if today they prove archaic to the new generation, Shrine windowless in a country with a scorching heat. For this original construction, he wanted to show us that there are other ways to ventilate a room. He loved the invention and novelty and loved transmitting them."



Bishop Michel also indicated that Brother Paul was a man of ecology. He passionately loved nature and all that lives and breathes it. He added: "Most of the trees that provide welcome shade for you today, were planted by him." For Bishop Michel Cartatéguy, Brother Paul, who died Aug. 18, 2014, is not dead; all in Issa Beri said he is alive with God, the Lord of creation.

Brother Paul had many qualities: wisdom of man in any situation, man of faith in God, but also the young, service man like his Master Jesus who washed the feet of his disciples to signify that the service has value when it is humble and free. Through Brother Paul, ISSA BERI School pays tribute to its pioneers, Brothers and collaborators.

Brother Julien DIARRA, Niamey



Antananarivo: Feast of Saint Joseph



Brother Désiré Rasamison, Director of the School

Saint Joseph Andohalo High School, first Lasallian school in Madagascar, celebrated the feast of her patron saint on Friday 20th March 2015. To honor the occasion, a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral, at which former students, representatives of parents, teachers and Brothers were invited.

At the Eucharistic celebration, Brother Director and Brother Visitor successively presented their best wishes to the entire education community of the Lycée Saint Joseph. The Mass was followed by a reception to which all communities of Brothers in Antananarivo and the guests were invited. Like every year, it was also an opportunity for students to receive traditional snacks - this time, sandwiches distributed to them by APEL (Parents' Association).



In the afternoon, guests were entitled to performance by students including dances and choreographies presented in the main hall of the School. Note that this year was launched the opening of the 150th anniversary of the Lasallian presence in the Great Island. As the first Lasallian work, no doubt that St. Joseph Andohalo (photo below) will be at the center of celebrations of the 150 years of Lasallian presence that will continue until the month of November 2016.



DWA: Training sessions on Child protection

85 teaching and administration staff from the Lasallian establishments of the District of West Africa took part in a training session in March 2015.

The session took place in two locations, March 22-25 in the Centre d'Accueil Marie Immaculée, Ouagadougou, and March 27-28 in the Centre Abel Sannon Bobo-Dioulasso.

In the spirit of the 45th General Chapter, participants were given information regarding the ill-treatment of children in Burkina and in Africa.

They made a commitment to combat such ill-treatment with all their strength.

The session was led by three experts:

Mr Cyrille GAMBO, Inspector of the Ministry for Social Action, who described the general situation.

Mme LOUGUE Hortense, coordinator of the Help Association for Girls, who explain the tragedy of sexual attacks in the school *milieu* in Burkina.

Mme SAWADOGO Djénéba, Juvenile Court Judge, who explained the law on child protection.

These experts were joined by the team of SMEL.

Brother Anicet PODA explained the nature of the teacher's authority as an educator, saying it was a matter of power, not the power to exploit children for one's own ends but rather the power to help children grow as human beings.

Brother Salvador AJANGUIZ described the policy of child protection in Lasallian establishments.

Each participant was given the text not only of every talk but also of the Code of Conduct of the Lasallian Teacher and the Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Attack.

Individually, the participants signed their declarations of commitment to the protection of children.



Bobo-Dioulasso group



Ouagadougou group



Nouna group



La Salle Badenya group

New publication



Brother Pierre Ouattara, General Councillor for RELAF, has just published a book titled: *The vow of association for the educational service of the poor.*

The identity of the Brother of the Christian Schools in the African context.

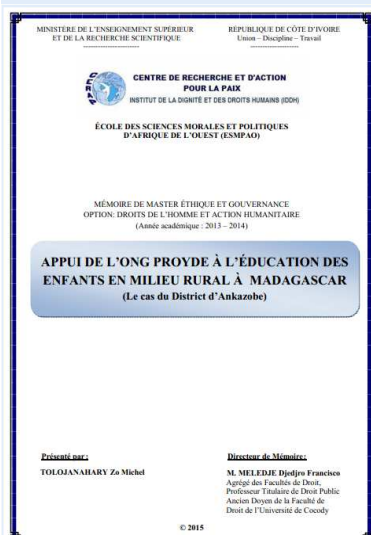
Brother Pierre notes in the introduction of this book that: « *In the African Church, which is not entirely exempt from clericalism and where the laity is increasingly aware of its importance for the Church, the identity of the Brother as a lay religious remains vague, not to say problematic. In such a context, in order to take possession of his identity, the Brother of the Christian Schools must take several elements into account. The goal of this present work is to show how the vow of association for the educational service of the poor constitutes the unifying element in that identity. Within the framework of this essay, the vow of association operates as the factor which integrates the various other elements of the Brother's identity* ».

May these pages, as the author hopes, contribute to « *a more profound understanding and appreciation of the meaning of our vocation in the African context* ».

Note that the English version will soon be available.

Congratulations to Brother Pierre for this new publication!

Defense of a dissertation



On Tuesday 7th April 2015, Brother Michel Tolojanahary presented his Masters dissertation *Ethics and Governance, Major : Human Rights and Humanitarian Action*, at the Institute of Dignity and Human Rights/Centre of Research and Action for Peace (CERAP-IDDH) in Abidjan—Côte d'Ivoire. The dissertation on the theme « *Support of PROYDE NGO to the education of children in rural areas in Madagascar : The case of Ankazobe District* » is the result of a research work of Brother Michel at the end of two years training at CERAP-IDDH.

It was before the Jury composed of Professor Sylla Lacine as the President, Professor Meledje Djedje, Director of memory, and Dr. Marie Thérèse KABRAN assessor, that Brother Michel presented his research work, in which he analyzes the problem of the international NGO support to the promotion of children's right to education in rural areas in developing countries. Having completed a three-month internship program in PROYDE last year in Madrid, as part of the same training, the choice of this theme was

motivated by his personal observation of the reality of rural education in his country and his personal experience during the internship. Thus, the dissertation analyzes the impact of PROYDE's contribution to improve access to quality education in rural areas in Madagascar. After deliberation, the Jury awarded him a score of 16/20 with honors.

Through this current issue of our Newsletter issue, Brother Michel reiterated his gratitude to all the Brothers, especially those of the Regional Team and those of Marqués de Mondejar community in Madrid, all the staff of PROYDE NGO as well as the De La Salle Sisters of Ankazobe community, for supporting him in completing this stage of formation with success.

Celebration of Consecrated Life

11

On Saturday 2nd May 2015, the deanery of Calavi met with religious men and women to celebrate Consecrated Life. Note that this activity falls within the deanery pastoral care, which marks, the year of the consecrated life, decreed by Pope Francis since December 2014. To this end, a Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Episcopal Vicar of the said deanery, Antoine METIN, in the parish of St. Teresa Adjagbo in Cotonou (Benin). All the priests of the deanery were present and the faithful from different parishes spared no effort to participate in this Church event.

Surrounded by the ecclesial warmth, the eight religious Institutes working in the deanery, reviewed the history of their foundation amplified by their charism and spirituality. These are: Sisters of Providence of Pommeraye; Brothers of the Christian Schools (F.S.C); Sisters of the Roman Congregation of Saint Dominic (CRSD), the Secular Institute "Presence and Life"; Oblate Sisters Catechists of the Little Servants of the Poor (OCPSP); the Apostles of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus (ASCJ); the Institute of Padre Pio Daughters; Amigonians.



The diversity of exchanges led to a mutual understanding and a profound spiritual enrichment. It is in this perspective that the homily has plunged us back in the theology of Consecrated Life from the mystery of the Incarnation; it is God who has chosen to incarnate; He is also dedicated to Man and not the opposite.

The Consecrated Life is understood in the Church that Christ willed Bride. We must therefore feel consecrated with the Church. In addition, all consecrated persons are invited to make this year, a time of God, a time of Eternity, and celebrate every day the consecrated life. Thus, everyone can engage in reviving Consecrated Life as indicated Perfectae Caritatis. The day ended in a jubilation around an agape. God bless Adjagbo parish for its hospitality.

Brother Guillaume YAME,



CTIE: Graduation Ceremony

12



At Saturday's graduation, fourteen graduates received a diploma, jointly offered from Tangaza University College and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, while nineteen received a B.A. from Saint Mary's. It was a beautiful celebration, beginning with an inspiring liturgy then followed by a well-organized, lively commencement ceremony. In his address to the graduates, Brother Paulos Welday, FSC, Director, expressed, "The theme you chose for the Class of 2011-2015 four years ago was 'Empowered to Empower.' Your choice of this powerful theme shows that, right from the beginning, you understood the meaning and power of education. Yes, education is power! Fortunately, now you have this power in your hands. As you already envisioned four years ago, we have no doubt that you will use this wonderful power you have acquired to

empower the powerless, particularly those children in economically and socially marginalized communities."

Dr. Rebecca Hopkins represented Brother William Mann, traveling 24 hours from Minnesota to preside at the graduation. In her address to the graduates, she said, "Throughout your educational journey, you have completed many assignments, passed difficult exams, thought critically, and re-flected. Beyond the academic award and the grades, however, what have you learned about yourself in the process? How have you changed and grown, perhaps in ways that cannot be measured by a grade? I would propose that you have grown in three important ways: knowing yourself, authentically knowing others, and developing a critical voice.

Source: CTIE Happenings



CTIE: Concert-Benefit

In our last issue, it was announced that there will be a Benefit Concert at CTIE, to support our students from the most humble of situations. It is now less than eight weeks away. Eric Wainaina is one of the leading musicians in East Africa. A music teacher at a prestigious secondary school near CTIE, he has a remarkable way of doing service to the community in addition to being a leading performer. In recent weeks, he has performed at a memorial for the victims of the Garissa attack, and he has organized with the Red Cross to assist in the Mathare slum.



His body of musical work includes “Daima, Kenya” a song about the colors of the Kenyan flag, and how all Kenyans share green, red, and black. His video of this song, shot with many Kenyan children, is very heart-warming. This Benefit Concert is a first ever at Tangaza University College. We know it will be a great evening for those in attendance. We hope that many will be present so that CTIE is able to assist our neediest students in a significant way.

Source: CTIE Happenings

Calendar of Brother General Councilor

April, 27 – 31	Symposium on Education of the Catholic University of OA / UUA. Abidjan
May, 1 – 5	Visit to Delegation of Rwanda
May, 6 – 22	Visit to District of Antananarivo
June, 24 – 27	3 rd Session of General Council - Rome