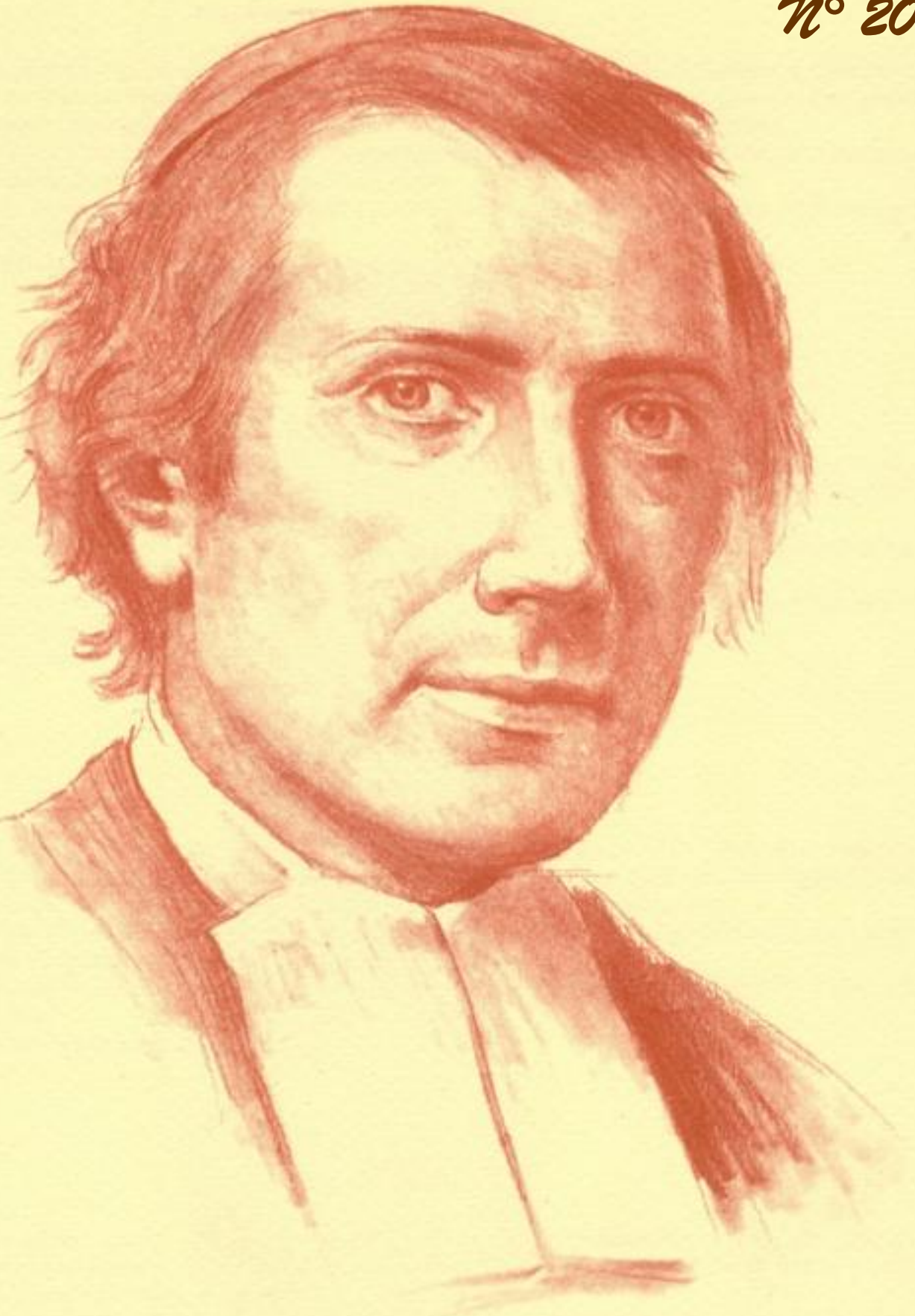
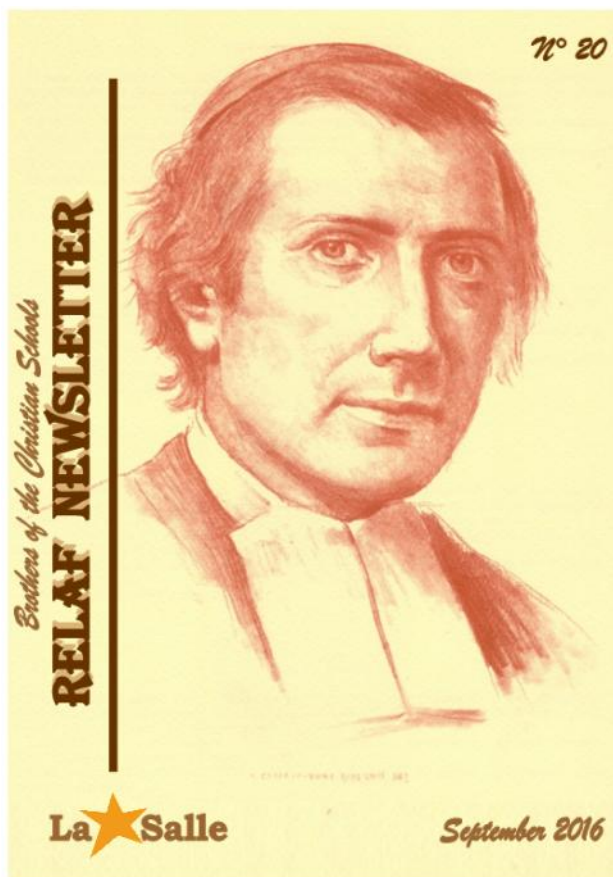


Brothers of the Christian Schools

REILAF NEWSLETTER





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RELAF Newsletter is a publication of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by the Regional Team B.P 1927—Abidjan 08 Côte d'Ivoire

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Editorial

Dear Brother, Dear Lasallian

After the visit of the Pacific Asia Region (PARC), the general Superior, Bro Robert Schieler begins the visit of our region (RELAF)... This visit, in the coming three months, will concern the Delegation of Rwanda, The Central Africa District (Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and Chad) and lastly the District of Antananarivo which celebrates this year the 150th anniversary of the Brothers' presence. In solidarity with this district, the annual conference of the Brother Visitors will take place just before the pastoral visit.

The general Superior, before taking off to Rwanda, will participate in the canonization celebration of Brother Solomon. He will thus begin the visit in our region with hands full of graces from this canonization.

The means of communications cannot replace the pastoral visit which is a direct dialogue between the Centre of the Institute and the different Districts and Delegations. The pastoral visit is an integral part of the animation and accompaniment service expected from the general Superior and his Council. It offers opportunities of proximity, meetings, careful listening and interaction allowing the general Superior, accompanied by the general Councillor, to participate in the Brothers' daily life at the local level, to perceive the commitment level of the different partners in the mission, to touch the diversity of concrete realities of the lasallian educational mission. It thus offers means to express and to reinforce the unity and the solidarity with a particular region.

This pastoral visit, not only honours us, but also opens a time of graces. How do we organize ourselves to receive it? The opportunity is given to us, through it, to celebrate our vocation of Brothers of the Christian Schools and of Lasallians, as well as the charism received from the Holy Spirit specifically for the salvation of the most disadvantaged. Shall we know how to take advantage to **deepen the conscience** of our vocation for a fraternity without borders, of a lasallian mission going beyond our current educational works and of a lasallian family open to all?

This visit can only bear fruits only if, like blessed Oscar Romero used to say, it finds us with wide open eyes, burning heart, full of God and of the Gospel, and also the feet on the ground...

This time of grace begins with the establishment of a new regional team. I express here not only my gratitude to Brother Gabriel Ownu and Brother Michel Tolojanahary, but also the joy I have had to working with them. My thanks to Brother Anatole Diretenadji for the wonderful accomplished work and for the continuation of the regional bursar service for three further years. Welcome to Brother Ferdinand Biziyaremye. As a replacement of Brother Gabriel Ownu, he will play the role of regional coordinator in the secretariat Association for the Lasallian Educational Mission... He is furthermore the region delegate in the International Council for Lasallian Educational Mission and Association (ICLEMA) in replacement of Brother Balthazar. Welcome to Brother Pierre Aymard Bako, the new regional Secretary and the Coordinator of the Young Lasallians. Mr. Javier Larios from CARLA projects Secretariat and from the African Lasallian Network Confederation of Associations is also part of the regional team.

Be pleased oh Lord that the general Superior pastoral visit to be the opportunity of abundant graces.

Brotherly yours in de La Salle, Pierre Ouattara, regional councillor.

Abidjan: Formation on the Rule at the scholasticate...

[...] What has been the journey leading towards the endeavor of a revised Rule? An answer to this question was the subject of the second part of our sharing with Brother Anatole Diretenadji, Administrator and Bursar for RELAF.

It all began with the publication of the Document "Aggiornamento" after the Vatican Council II whereby the Church asks congregations to revise and update all that concerns their Rule of life. In 1966, the Brothers, in order to comply with the request of the Council, will begin to work in two major phases, starting from the option of a revised Rule, intended for the description of the ideal Brother.

After this introduction part, Brother Sante Ramarosan, from the District of Antananarivo, introduced us to the structure of the revised Rule, explaining how to read it. He presented the various chapters of the revised Rule in comparison with those of the 1987 Rule [...]

The sharing with Brother Michel Tolojanahary, the Regional Secretary, was organized in three phases. The first was to present briefly the new realities that led the Institute to revise the Rule. The second phase focused on the trilogy of the Institute. That is: *Consecration-Community-Mission*. Note that the scholastic Brothers worked more on this. Each set had indeed a theme to present. The first years worked on *Consecration* (cf. Lasallian Themes 1, page 133), the second years on *Community Life* (cf. Lasallian Themes 3, page 39) and the third years on *Mission* (cf. Lasallian Themes 2, page 79). The third and final phase focused on some major changes in the revised Rule.

For this we focused on the use of certain concepts such as "from the origins to the present, inspired by the same charism ..." and the way we conceptualize our mission as: *testimony, service and communion*.

Our Lasallian course on the revised Rule ended with Brother Pierre Ouattara's presentation, the General Councillor for RELAF. His sharing focused on the centrality of the vow of association. If the idea of the association is listed among the changes observed in the Institute, it is because the vow of association is seen with a much larger vision than before. Indeed, the vow of association is now perceived as the center around which the other four vows of the Institute are lived. It aims at community life, unity and communion. To live in community, each Brother has to cultivate humility so that he may be able to associate with others. In this sense, humility is seen as the virtue of the Brother for a fruitful association in his mission. And to have a successful mission, the Brother is required to perceive the association as a place of grace of hospitality. That is to say, by pronouncing the words "live Jesus in our hearts," his heart is destined to become a more welcoming heart to those with whom he lives and works.

At the end of this formation, we are grateful to Saint Miguel community, specifically the Formation Team, to have come up with this initiative to enable the Scholastic Brothers to be informed on the living realities of our Institute. We had the impression that we also participated in another regional CIL for the Scholastic Brothers. We also thank the Brothers who willingly accepted to share the fruits of the August 2015 Regional CIL. May the Lord to whom you consecrated your life transform your dedication into grace for His glory and the salvation of the children for whom he called you.

*Editorial Team
Saint Miguel Scholasticate*



Nigeria: Update from Mount La Salle College

In my recent update of Mount La Salle College, Naka (See update 4), I brought to your notice that the school had one more major event to accomplish before the end of this session. The event in question is the 2016 graduation.

The event took place on the 9th of July, 2016. Sixty-three (63) students graduated. The ceremony was marked with enthusiasm and expectation, amidst joy and happiness. The graduands appeared in their colourful attires. They identified themselves as set OLSM16 (Old Lasallian Student Mount La Salle 2016).

In his welcoming speech, the Principal of the College, Br. Obam Patrick FSC congratulated the graduands on their achievements. He urged them to be good ambassadors of the school as they were about to leave it. The speech, he titled 'Live by the Spirit of Faith'. He reiterated the school commitment to support the graduands in their life pursuits. He said that the end of one thing is the beginning of another and he prayed that the doors of success would open for them wherever they might find themselves. Also, he urged the graduands to look back to their former school in order to support its growth. Br. Obam Patrick commended the efforts of the set to unite themselves together to achieve their desired goals. He congratulated the valedictorian of the year, OLSM16, Igbashal Joshua and encouraged him to do more so as to achieve greater things.



In the later development, the school also witnessed the visit of Brother Amilcare Boccuccia and Brother Ghebreyesus Habte to Mount La Salle College, Naka. They inspected the school property and the buildings and expressed dismay at what they saw. In the words of Brother Amilcare, "The school has not met the requirements of what can be called Lasallian School."

The places they inspected include; the vast land, Science Laboratory, Library, Computer Lab, Classrooms, Basic Technology Workshop, Staff room, Dormitories and some offices. They encouraged the Management to upgrade the school to the Lasallian Standard. Their encouragement and comments gave the Staff and Students hope of a "New Mount La Salle College". The Principal of the School, Brother Patrick Obam thanked the Visitors and expressed readiness to do all he can in his power to see a positive change in the school. He solicited assistance from the District and the Centre of the institute to come to the aid of the school. He said that some efforts have been put in place, though little, to ensure sustainability of the school facilities and to upgrade them

*Brother Patrick Obam FSC
Sector of Nigeria*



Central District of Africa: Training seminar



Faced with its huge project, that is to contribute to the continuous improvement of accounting and financial environment, to achieve a professional practice and contributing to the self-financing, the District of Central Africa organized a seminar / workshop whose objectives were firstly on the "financial Review and profitability" of our works, and on the other hand the "coaching and ongoing transformation of actors from financial chain and accounting value."

This seminar was held from 31st July to 6th August 2016, at Okola, a village thirty kilometers from Yaoundé, capital of Cameroon. Directors and Financial Managers of Lasallian educational works and Lasallian Volunteers in the District took part in this seminar.

To help participants achieve the objectives of the seminar, the District requested the services of the Cabinet "Africa Resources & Development". Mr. Pierre Tientcheu, accountant and Dr. Boniface SIMO were the presenters.

The seminar took place in two phases, the plenary and workshops in groups (managers/accountants, Directors). To reflect on concrete issues, the participants gathered in groups according to their educational works worked on their administrative and accounting documents. This exercise highlighted the limitations of our records and our traditional ways of working. These are not adequate means of achieving financial performance and self-financing of our works.

The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to broaden their knowledge in order to have a clear administrative and financial management.

The District will continue its action in the ongoing financial transformation and performance of its work in making available all the information on accounting standards and accompanying each actor in the mission entrusted to him.

*Br Emmanuel MBOUA
Central District of Africa*



Blessed Brother Raphaël Louis Rafiringa: Figure of the Lasallian Mission



The previous issue of our Newsletter reminded us the origin of the name of our Blessed in the article entitled *From Firinga to Brother Raphael Louis Rafiringa*. Following up on the idea of getting to know more this great figure of the Lasallian mission in the Great Island, we propose to you in these few lines a brief history of how Raphael Rafiringa became a school teacher, an evangelical adventure under the conduct of his master Brother Gonzalvien.

The Young Teacher Raphaël Rafiringa

Some extracts of Blessed Raphael Louis Rafiringa's Biography give us some testimonies of his childhood, a period during which he had admiration for the three pioneers. These extracts reveal that the young Firinga was profoundly attracted by their attitude and teaching [...] Brother Gonzalvien, his school teacher is the one who most marked the future hero, and was later his mentor throughout his life. Between 1869 and 1871, Firinga was first admitted to study in Mahamasina school where he received the sacrament of baptism with the name Raphael [...]. He was later among other young school teachers, accompanied by Brother Gonzalvien. The latter urged his students to virtue and piety; He was entirely dedicated to his students whom he also treated well.

In 1871, Brother Gonzalvien transferred the young Raphael Rafiringa in Ambodinandohalo where the Saint Joseph school Andohalo is located today. Observing his master Brother Gonzalvien every day, morning and evening, in church, in class, in the courtyard, he is struck day by day by his hard work, his humility, his prayer life [...] Brother Gonzalvien inspired Raphael serious conviction on the Christian religion ...

Raphael also saw Brother Ladolien similar to Brother Gonzalvien [...]

The life of the young Raphael took a drastic turn when Brother Yon, one of the three Lasallian pioneers, was victim of typhoid fever and died in 1874. Thus the idea to ask Raphael Rafiringa to become their collaborator by being an assistant teacher came to Brother Director Gonzalvien. Raphael then replaced Brother Yon. He was guided and trained in the mission as school teacher by his mentor, Brother Gonzalvien. Soon, the young teacher Raphael Rafiringa gets a virile formation. It is what, according to his biographer, Father Ramahery, that helped Raphael to become "*hardened to resist temptations of all kinds.*" Many of his friends saw him then as "*a simple teacher, little complex, rider, polite, gentle, hardworking, hard and pious.*"

We cannot end these lines without mentioning the dream of the three pioneers who came to the Great Island. Their dream was to have good Catholic teachers. Thus, the aim of their dedication in training school teachers was to prepare good teachers for the Mission in Madagascar.

*Br. Michel Tolojanahary
District of Antananarivo*

CLAF 2016 in Toussiana

The African Lasallian Centre (CLAF in French) for the preparation towards the final vows took place from 3rd to 28th of August in Toussiana, Burkina Faso, under the theme *Living as Brothers our vocation joyfully*. Fourteen Brothers, from the Delegation of Rwanda (3 Brothers), the District of Congo Kinshasa (3 Brothers), the District of Central Africa (3 Brothers), the District of the Middle East (2 Brothers) and the District of West Africa (3 Brothers) attended this session.

The opening ceremony was held on Friday, August 5, 2016. Following the rite of the Mossi people, the Brothers were announced with the beating of the drum. The Brother Visitor of the District of West Africa, Julien Diarra, 'The local Chief', welcomed them with good wishes. The Brothers drunk the *Zoomkoom* which is a millet juice used as water to welcome visitors in the culture of Mossi people. The colours used for the ceremony were the white symbolizing the faith, the blue for fraternity and the yellow for service.

During the first three weeks, the Brothers were taught on the following topics:

Topic 1: *Consecrated to the Holy Trinity to make visible the face of Jesus-Brother*, presented by Father Dominique Sawadogo, a Carmelite religious.

Topic 2: *Fraternity, a gift for the communion*, presented by Sister Maria Jose Vallejo, Little Sister of the Assumption

Topic 3: *The mission, place to practice the fraternity of Jesus-Brother*, presented by Brother Marc Some, Brother of the Christian Schools

Topic 4: *The planning method applied to the personal life project*, presented by Brother Jacques Monchebi, Brother of the Christian Schools

During their stay, the Brothers travelled to Bobo Dioulasso to greet the Brothers in the Provincialate House and the Brothers in the Noviciate. They travelled to Diebougou to greet the Brothers and the aspirants and participated in the Feast of Assumption Mass on 15th of August in Dissin. They lastly travelled to Banfora and to Beregadougou to greet the Brothers in the CLIMA community.

Finally, the silent retreat took place from 21st to 27th of August 2016. The predicator was Brother Sylvain Zoungrana, Provincial of the Holy Family Brothers. The retreat theme was: *Being Brothers today, prophets for our time*. There were three sub-themes: *faithfulness to the consecration, faithfulness to the communion and faithfulness to the mission*. The retreat ended on Saturday, August 27 with the Eucharistic celebration. On the last day of the CLAF, that is, on August 28, the Brothers proceeded to the concluding ceremony during which a recap on what had been done was read. Through procession, the Brothers walked towards the community chapel, carrying candles, the Bible, the Rule, The Founder's portrait and the cross. On Monday, August 29, 2016, the Brothers began the journey back. It was tourism day in the capital Ouagadougou on Tuesday, August 30.

Br BAKO Pierre Aymard
District of West Africa
Original Text from Br Louis Mjalli



Burkina Faso : torrential rains in CLIMA

On Wednesday, August 10, 2016 will be remembered in the history of CLIMA. We had a heavy rain from 8am to 1pm! More than 120 millimeters of rain and the two rivers that surround one part of CLIMA overflowed their banks. On the East side, we had the water level exceeding the safeguards of the bridge at the entrance of CLIMA and the water was about 10 meters away from the community. The torrent was carrying tree trunks, torn trees and crops and devastated everything in its way. We helplessly watched the unparalleled devastation!

After the rain we walked around to see the damage of which include: the two third of the first banana plantation devastated yet it had been the pride of CLIMA and gave us a lot of hope in terms of income! And the pipes set for irrigation were taken off almost 0.5 hectares. The ponds were flooded and two ponds were emptied of their fish. Fields of beans and corn half devastated. The bridge at the entrance of CLIMA took a hit! The foundations were slightly furrowed and the riprap slope protection. You can pass there without any problem but reparation work has to be done... The large bridge at the entrance to the city by Orodara road is about to fall apart and passing over has been prohibited. We are therefore victims and landlocked!

We can no longer go to Banfora by car and to go to Bobo Dioulasso, you have to pass through Orodara, which prolongs our ride 40 km with 35 runways. Short and long term consequences will be: the isolation of CLIMA; which will affect the marketing and the budget of CLIMA; the harvest will be worse than expected; the basin emptied of fingerlings and fingerlings lost, it has to be rebuilt; there will be a delay in the rehabilitation of basins, additional costs in building of ponds and other ongoing construction project; A land rehabilitation project will be required...

Given the extent of the damage, dismay could be seen on our faces. In addition, it was necessary to manage the extraction of a crocodile brought by runoff in a basin. In fact, we spent all day in the presence of traditional leaders and environmental agents to empty our basins of fingerlings, catch the crocodile and transfer it to another water source. Good news, however: there is no loss of human life. The poultry and hog barns have escaped this devastating fury. No damage was found in the big field. Currently a quantitative estimation of the recorded damage is ongoing and we will inform you as soon as possible. We rely on your prayers to find faith and strength to continue.

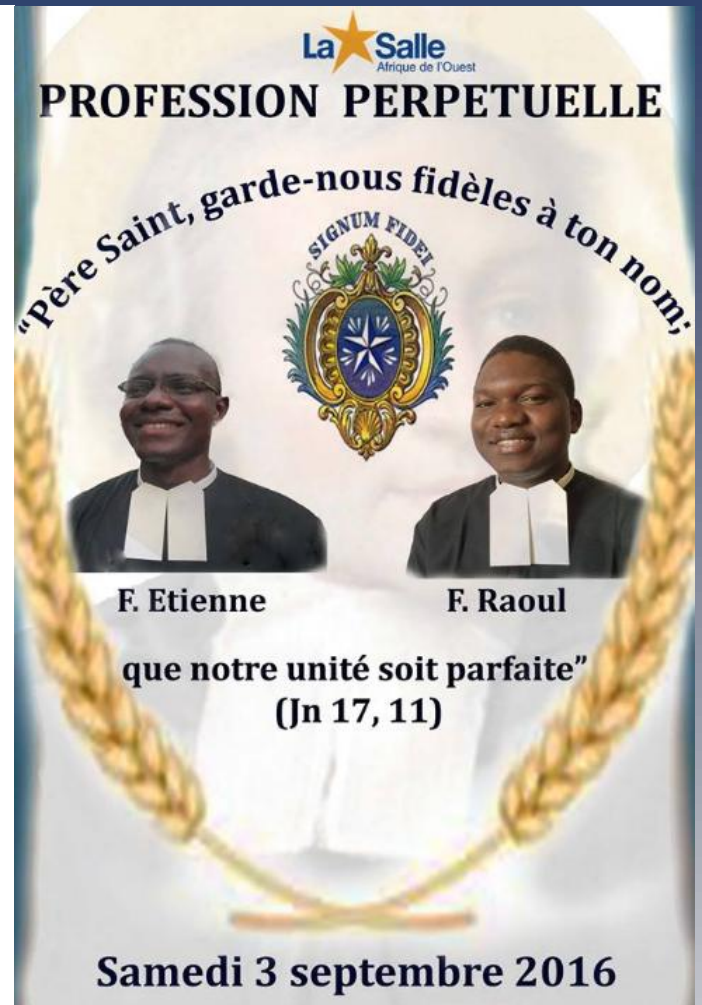
*Br. Hermann KABORE
District of West Africa*



"Holy Father, keep us faithful to your love; may our unity be perfect "(Jn 17, 11). This biblical verse chosen by Brothers Etienne and Raoul for the day when they would say yes definitely was very much appreciated. Indeed, Bomborokuy our Lady of Rosary parish located in the region of Nouna in Burkina Faso, shuddered with joy on Saturday, September 3, 2016 during the Eucharistic celebration of the perpetual vows emission of Brothers Etienne Sombéwendé SAWADOGO and Téfio Raoul TRAORE.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the parents of the professed, religious, friends and acquaintances who came from all corners of Burkina Faso and beyond. During the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop Joseph Sama, Bishop of Nouna, The parents of Brothers Etienne and Raoul expressed publicly their joy regarding the definitive engagement of their sons. After a dialogue with Brother Julien Diarra, visitor of the District of West Africa, the two Brothers pronounced the vows before God and before men by consecrating themselves to the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. After the Eucharistic celebration, a festive meal gathered in family all the witnesses of the consecration of our two Brothers. It was a day full of graces and blessings.

*Br. BAKO Pierre Aymard
District of West Africa*



Nairobi: CTIE's 25th academic year

CTIE's 25th academic year opened last week. In August, a total of 42 new students were enrolled, most eager to begin their Bachelors' degree journey, but five embarking upon their Masters' road. Meanwhile, the retention rate continues to hold at nearly 100% as students have worked hard during the long break (most students finished their last semester four months earlier) to raise funds so that they could resume their studies.

For the past 3 years, Tangaza University College (which previously had been Tangaza College) has been in the process of becoming a full-fledged university. It is hoped that the Charter will be granted to Tangaza to become Tangaza University this academic year. At that time, CTIE will become one of the three schools of the new university. Standing alongside the School of Theology and the School of Social Arts and Sciences will be the School of Education. However, the School of Education will also continue to be called Christ the Teacher Institute for Education, surely a fitting name for this great Lasallian teacher training university. Your editor will be relocated to DENA for this academic year, but CTIE happenings will continue to happen periodically so that we all may keep abreast of this exciting anniversary year for CTIE.

*Br. Dennis Lee
In CTIE Happenings*

District of Antananarivo: MEL Formation

Educating young people and children today requires not only the will but mostly, initiative, availability and spirit of understanding. This is why the District of Antananarivo through its MEL team, proposed a ten-day training for educators and teachers from various Catholic schools in the city of Toamasina. The training had three main components: First, the Lasallian pedagogy and spirituality, then the laws on the rights and protection of children entrusted to educators and teachers.

In the first part, talking about pedagogy and spirituality is essential. Please, note that participants will afterwards have the heavy task in their turn to form their colleagues. Thus, Br. Josean Villalabeitia, Brother of the Christian Schools of the District of ARLEP focused his presentation on pedagogy and Lasallian spirituality. John Baptist de La Salle is the patron saint of teachers, from him and his writings, the presenter explained all about Lasallian pedagogy and spirituality and make it understood.

As for the second part, two lawyers presented after Brother Josean. They had the role to explain and show what laws and rights of children mean. These rights are not respected because they are unknown. So it is for educators and those responsible in education to be informed and inform, first of all the senior people before the youth and children. Several cases were presented and discussed so that participants could benefit more from training.

It should be noted that they were highly motivated, given the importance of the themes for their field. Finally, to end this training session, two social workers spoke about the protection of children. Given the vulnerability of children, they need protection. And with different poor social and environmental influences, young people and children without protection and prevention are disadvantaged and get lost. Parents do not consider themselves fully responsible and entrust this task to educators and teachers. So it is upon the latter to accomplish the difficult task of informing children of their rights. It is the reality in developing countries. It is what makes education more and more difficult and requires strength of character to provide it.

In conclusion, this training has given new working horizon to participants. It will also give them the courage to share with colleagues what they learned. And what else to ask them for! Knowledge sharing is a gift of God. Let us hope that there will be more of this kind of training and that beneficiaries will increase in number for the greater good of all young people and children around the world who need support and mentoring.

*Br. Minoosa Roberson
District of Antananarivo*



Rome: CIAMEL meeting



From September 13 to 15, 2016 in the Hall of Martyrs in the Generalate in Rome took place the meeting of the International Council of the Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission (CIAMEL). In a spirit of prayer, the session was opened by the Superior General, Brother Robert Schieler. He took the opportunity to welcome the presence of all the representatives of the various Lasallian Regions and particularly the one from RELAF who is participating for the first time. In his welcoming address to the Council members, he reminded us the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians that says we are different members of one body. Being from different backgrounds, men and women, Brothers and Lay people, we represent different voices to the same call which is that of the Lasallian educational mission. "*Each in his role and together, you represent the worldwide Institute,*" he explained.

The previous meeting was held in May 2015 and Mrs Nanema Dala Rose from the District of West Africa, appointed by the Superior General as a member of CIAMEL, took part in it. RELAF as a Region was not then represented; Bro Balthazar couldn't come to Rome for he did not get a visa. During these three days of intense work and sharing of experiences, the Councillors for CIAMEL Brothers and Lasallians from all parts of the world where the Institute is present took time to see the different educational programs that embody the Lasallian Mission today.

It was at the end of the second day that members of CIAMEL met with the Superior General and his Council. Having known the various sharing that enriched the planning of the Educational Mission, they encouraged the CIAMEL members to continue to have concern for the Lasallian Mission that is more necessary today.



To the entire Lasallian family through various communication channels, we are invited to be concerned each day about this mission, particularly the preparation and active participation in the International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission in 2020.

Br. Ferdinand BIZIYAREMYE
Coordinator AMEL/ RELAF

One Call, Many Voices: Sustaining Spirituality Amidst Secularization

1. “The search for God and the search for the human cannot be separated.”

A monk in his travels found once a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveler, and when he opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. The monk did so readily. The traveler departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of the precious stone that was enough to give him wealth and security for the rest of his life. However, a few days later he came back in search of the monk, found him, gave him back the stone and entreated him: “Now give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is. Give me that which enabled you to give it to me” (Anthony De Mello, SJ).

In a world of many voices and values, we are tempted by the allure of the apparent good. Possessing or controlling it seems to offer a deep satisfaction. Yet, it often proves to be unworthy of its promise. In the end we learn it is temporary, lacking salt or sustenance. As we grow, we learn that what does satisfy our deep human hunger is generosity; we learn the profound satisfaction of giving in joyful freedom. To live a life of generosity and freedom is to respond to a call in the depths of the heart. This response is met in a lifelong quest to first locate the divine spark within ourselves and then to allow it to ignite our hearts and enflame us with the love of our Creator. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Brothers and of the Christian Schools, was seized by this call. His lifelong quest, undertaken in joyful freedom, led him to share the totality of his person with those in greatest need. For De La Salle, the human person is made in the image of God, “just a little less than God” (Psalm 8.5). The human is a reflection of the mysterious goodness and generosity of God.



His life gave birth to our association that today draws from the deep wells of his encounter with the living God.

As in De La Salle’s day, we face social forces that threaten and attack the dignity of the human person, especially those most vulnerable: young people living in poverty. Our association impels us to support and accompany the young in their own quest toward generosity and freedom, and ultimately to God.

Central to our accompaniment is a spiritual premise that, according to Brother Michel Sauvage, informed the conciliar movement and the Founder’s quest. Namely, that the search for God and the search for the human cannot be separated—for, the human is the only path of the human to God (*The Fragile Hope of a Witness*, p. 326).

In the
whirlwind of
the French
Revolution



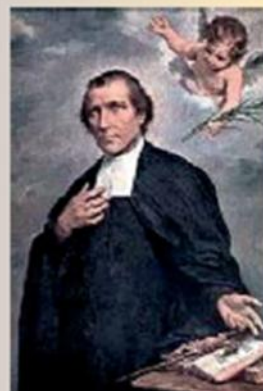
Brother
SOLOMON LECLERCQ

First Martyr of the
Brothers of the Christian Schools
SAINT

Brother SOLOMON

In the frenzied fury of the French Revolution

Brother Solomon always showed a great love for people and a great attachment to his work. At the outbreak of the French Revolution he refused to take the oath supporting the Civil Constitution of the Clergy which would make priests and religious state functionaries. He lived alone in Paris in secrecy. Many letters he wrote to his family



during that period remain; the last one is dated August 15th, 1792. On that day he was arrested and imprisoned together with many others in the Carmelite monastery which had become a prison. On September 2nd almost all of the prisoners, among them Brother Solomon, were killed by sword blows in the monastery garden. They were beatified by Pope Pius XI on October 17th, 1926 together with 191 other victims of the September massacres. Thus Brother Solomon was the first Lasallian to die a martyr for Christ, followed by three other Brothers who died on the prison ships of Rochefort as a result of the French Revolution. They were beatified in 1995.

At 10:30 a.m. on March 3rd, 2016, the Doctors Consultation of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared **INEXPLICABLE** the survival of the child MARIA ALEJANDRA HERNÁNDEZ (Venezuela) bitten by a poisonous snake. The admitted "miracle" occurred through the intercession of Blessed Brother SOLOMON LECLERCQ.

He was canonized on **October 16th, 2016**.

16 ottobre 2016

Papa Francesco

dichiara SANTO

Fratel SALOMONE LECLERCQ

dei FRATELLI DELLE SCUOLE CRISTIANE



PROGRAMMA - INVITO

Sabato 15 ottobre 2016, h. 17.00

Chiesa di San Luigi dei Francesi

RIFLESSIONE E PREGHIERA

- *Contexte politique et religieux en France aux temps du Frère Salomon Leclercq*
Mr. Jean Bourrousse
- *Itinéraire humain du Frère Salomon, apostolat et martyre*
Fr. Dominique Cellier

Presenti: S. Em. il cardinale DOMINIQUE MAMBERTI
prefetto del Supremo Tribunale della Segnatura Apostolica,
e S. Em. il cardinale JORGE UROSA SAVINO, arcivescovo di Caracas.

Coro Basilica di San Pietro: Dir. M^o Temistocle Capone, Org. Gianluca Libertucci

Domenica 16 ottobre, h. 10.00

Piazza San Pietro

S. MESSA DELLA CANONIZZAZIONE
celebrata da S. S. Papa FRANCESCO

Lunedì 17 ottobre, h. 17.00

Casa Generalizia dei Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane

S. MESSA E TE DEUM DI RINGRAZIAMENTO

Presiede S. Em. il cardinale PIETRO PAROLIN
Segretario di Stato di Sua Santità

Coro CANTICORUM JUBILO, Istituto Pio IX dei FSC, Dir. M^o Maurizio Scarfò

New regional team...

The new Regional Team is getting settled: the new Regional Secretary, Brother Bako Pierre Aymard from the District of West Africa; Brother Ferdinand Biziyaremye is the new Regional AMEL Coordinator.

Beginning of the Superior General's Pastoral Visit in RELAF

As planned, the Superior General will be on a pastoral visit in RELAF throughout the year 2016-2017. For the next three months, he will consecutively visit the Delegation of Rwanda, the District of Central Africa, the District of Antananarivo and possibly Eritrea and the District of Congo Kinshasa.

Brother Visitors' Conference in Antananarivo - Madagascar

The next Brother Visitors' Conference of RELAF will take place as planned in Antananarivo (Madagascar) from 9 to 11 November 2016. The members of the Conference will have the opportunity to take part in the 150th celebration of the arrival of the Brothers in Madagascar to be held from November 12 to 13.

Calendar of the general Councillor for RELAF

September 2016

From August , 29 to October 6 : General Council 7th session

September 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 : Visit in South Soudan

September, 30 Juba-Rome

October 2016

October, 06 Rome – Abidjan

October 15 Abidjan—Kigali

October 17 to 24 General Superior' s pastoral visit in the Delegation of Rwanda

October 25 -November 7 General Superior' s pastoral visit in the District of Central Africa

November 2016

November 9, 10, 11: Brother Visitors' Conference in Antananarivo. 150th Anniversary celebration ... November 12 – 13. General Superior' s pastoral visit from November 14 to 18.

December 2016

November 30 – December 2 : Assembly South Sudan / Rome

December 1 to 5 General Superior' s pastoral visit in Eritrea

December 6 to 15 General Superior's pastoral visit in the District of Congo Kinshasa