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RELI AF NEWSLETTER

Brothers of the Christian Schools

La  Salle September 2017

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**D**ear Brothers, dear Sisters, dear Lasallians,...

The Congregation for Catholic Education presented this 22 September 2017, in Rome, a new document. This document, entitled "Educating to the humanism of solidarity in order to build a civilization of love", contains important guidelines. It will be sent to all the Episcopal Conferences. It should reach to the 215000 Catholic schools, welcoming more than 60 million students of any faith and ethnicity as well as to the 1760 Catholic universities on the different continents... It was developed on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the conciliar Declaration on Christian education *Gravissimum educationis* (1965-2015) and of the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (1967-2017). It is the manifesto document of the mission of the Church in the era of globalization. It could usefully nourish your reflections and discussions.

The era of globalization is also the era where everything is accelerating. Under its influence, we risk confusing haste and speed, progress and growth... All things that undermine our spirit of contemplation. There is a generalized haste which spares no field. Some would like to be rich before working, to know everything before taking time to learn, to visit everywhere even before leaving their home, to live love and friendship before knowing one another...

In short, we no longer know how to wait and be patient. Hurried, without knowing why sometimes, hurried by habit, we live under the pressure of the various professional and social immediate commitments... We are usually so much "in a hurry" that we end up having no "juice"; we become therefore "dry" in our relationships with others... We do not find much to tell them if not a few "dry words", less fraternal and less nourishing for the interior and fraternal life.

The education of our students will fail if we do not learn to walk toward their most interior space and dwell in this interior silence, which is a preparation for prayer, if not a prayer already. John Baptist de La Salle recommends us mental prayer as our first and primary activity of the day to show that salvation comes to us not from the outside, but from the inside... Therefore, let us learn to save time to listen to God in order to have an interior life, a family life, a community life ... When the outside world tends to weary us, to therefore weaken us, we have the duty to resist by creating a reserve, an intimacy, where to save our spiritual resources. Courage to each one of you, on the paths of our different schools... Present and united to you in prayer and in the Eucharist.

Your Brother Pierre Ouattara

1. Cf. Zenith Issue 22 September 2017
2. Vatican II, "Education, an issue of great importance"...
3. "The development of peoples".



# Abidjan : Meeting of bursars of Districts and the Delegation

From 24 to 26 July 2017, was held the meeting of bursars and accountants of the different Districts and delegation of RELAF. It was held in Saint Miguel community in Abidjan. The general bursar, Brother Ambrose Payne, accompanied by Brother Francisco Lopez, former general bursar and Brother Antoine Salinas, interpreter, wanted this meeting in order to explain the input methodology of financial information, essential for consideration by both the Intercapitular Assembly (March 2018) and the International Investment Committee (ongoing).

During these three days, the Brother bursars and the lay accountants of the Districts and the Delegation listened carefully to the presentation of the general bursar on the current financial structure of the Institute and the different financial activities, i.e., cash and money market, bonds, equities, hedge funds, commodities and real estate funds. It should also be noted the presentation on the real estate and the debts, both short term and long term debts.

Other presentations made by the participants themselves have also been recorded during these three days. There was presentation on the statements of synthesis according to SYSCOHADA, the structure of the financial statements and a presentation on the importance and the usefulness of the Manual of Administrative and financial procedures.



For reminder, SYSCOHADA is a system of business laws and implementing institutions adopted by seventeen West and Central African nations. OHADA is the French acronym for "Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires", which translates into English as "Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa"

Lastly, the outgoing regional bursar, Brother Anatole Diretenadji made a presentation to explain the basis for the calculation of the contributions of the Districts and the Delegation to the running budget of RELAF regional Office.

*Brother BAKO Pierre Aymard*

*Regional Secretary*





# Abidjan: 2017 regional CIL

"Association and Lasallian Educational Mission and Youth Pastoral Ministry" was the topic of our regional CIL which took place here in Abidjan from 31 July to 19 August 2017. This CIL came to meet the various proposals of the 45th General Chapter, of RELAF Strategic Plan and of the preparation of the International Assembly of the Lasallian Association and Educational Mission (AIMEL 2020).

These were three weeks of discussions between Brothers and lay lasallian collaborators of all the Districts and the Delegation of RELAF. This topic, very complex, has been subdivided into three other sub topics.

In a fraternal atmosphere, during the first week, the participants were invited to follow the steps of Saint John Baptist de La Salle so as to update and enliven the lasallian tradition today. This update may only be possible "Together and by Association" for a lasallian Mission in Africa.

The second week was marked by questions at the kick-off and then, some elements of answers. How to transmit and what human and Christian values to transmit through catechesis and religious instruction, that is to say, what type of Christian education should be transmitted in a secular State? We must know how to conjugate faith and reason. With these questions, some elements of answers and a catechesis didactic were given to the participants so that they can nourish and improve their practices.

How to associate to the vocation culture and to the youth pastoral ministry that of lasallian vocations? That was the centre of interest of the third week. This same week was also marked by the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The participants had the opportunity to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro and the Home Akwaba where Brothers have their mission with children gathered from the streets of Abidjan.

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the topics presented and the fraternal discussions during socials. They have thanked the various presenters as well as the organization team. They went back to be:

The palm tree; the symbol of life

The calabash which contains the star; gesture of giving and receiving in the faith

Ravilana (the traveller's tree in Malagasy language); a symbol of harmony and hospitality

The hands that hold each other and shake; symbol of union and force

A tree that grows and gives a lot of fruit whose root is Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

We cannot fail to express our thanks to the Centre of the Institute whose support has made this formation possible. Our thanks also go to the Districts and the Delegation for their contribution to the success of this regional giving and receiving.

*Brother Ferdinand BIZIYAREMYE*  
*AMEL Coordinator /RELAF*

# Tchad: CTAP De La Salle N'djamena; history 3

## *Brothers' answer to the letter of Bishop Charles Vandame*

In the second episode, we unveiled the new request of the Archbishop of N'Djamena addressed to the Brothers. In this episode, it is on the one hand, the Brothers' answer to the request of Bishop VANDAME and on the other hand, the reality of the professional training in Chad at this time. Nine months after the new request, the community was strengthened with the arrival in September 1985 of two Brothers: Jean Claude GAGNON and Jean JOHNER. These two Brothers had the mission to think about the launching of the Technical Professional Centre, in accordance with the request of the Archbishop.

## *First reflection on the project*

The Brothers thought immediately to give training in automobile mechanics to young people; there were two reasons behind this: The first is the potential of Brother Claude Gagnon, who not only was qualified in mechanics, but had sufficient tooling. The second is that there was a need among apprentices employed in garages. In agreement with the Brother Jean Paul Glevarec, in addition to the disabled, they added other young people and other mechanics already qualified (for continuous training). For this first location, the choice was focused on the site of Chagoua in the southern part of the city. The required level at this time was the Intermediate accompanied by an aptitude test. The priority was given to the disabled employees at the apparatus of prostheses centre. Finally, the new technical centre was attached to the Ministry of Work, employment and professional training.



## *The reality of the professional training in Chad*

Following the various surveys beforehand conducted by the Brothers, this is what came up: the technical industrial teaching was virtually non-existent because of the war, except that there was a technical school in Sarh which trained students for diplomas and High School certificate in general mechanics, automobile mechanics and electricity with 150 students. The results of the investigation conducted by the Brothers showed that there was a strong demand for training among craftsmen: carpenters, mechanics, welders, plumbers and electricians in the city of N'Djamena. As a result of these investigations, the Brothers came to the following conclusions:

The centre will only open in the afternoons because the apprentices hired in the garages could not free themselves in the morning to take classes. It was necessary to collaborate with Chadian Professionals who completed the CAP (Certificate of Professional Competence) or working in the garages of international organisms.

## *The dream becomes true*

On 13 January 1986, under the name of "auto mechanical evening classes", the first Brothers' technical centre opened its doors in N'Djamena. The number of students for this first year of trial was 70: 25 in literacy, 30 in automobile mechanics and 15 for the upgrade. We were in 1988 when the Chadian Government gave its official recognition to the Brothers' educational work. The project then took a serious turn and a decisive face for a real implementation in Chad according to the wish of the Archbishop of N'Djamena. The "auto mechanics evening classes" changes its name and becomes the "Technical Private Centre" (C.T.P). Meanwhile, Misereor (a German NGO) had signed a contract with the diocese and had accepted to take charge of the financing of the project of the Technical Centre for the account of the Catholic mission. On the same note, the Brothers proposed to diversify their offer in training, because the needs were there. The Centre could then train mechanics, electricians, refrigeration sector and, at the end of the training, issue a Certificate of Apprenticeship, authenticated by the Professional Leadership of the Ministry of Work. A few years later, the C.T.P will become the C.T.A.P (Technical Centre for Learning and Development). This will be the topic of the next article.

*Brother Pascal Mbaby  
District of Central Africa*



# USA: Formation experience at the Buttimer Institute

From June 25 to July 7, 2017, was held the lasallian formation Buttimer Institute. Buttimer is the name of Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, the first elected American Brother Superior General from 1966 to 1976. Buttimer Institute is in fact, a training program running on three years, which brings together Brothers and lay people and includes intensive courses that stretch over two weeks. Topics are spelled out for the three years. The first year deals with the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle (SJBDSL) and the vocational itinerary of the lasallian educator. The second year focuses on the lasallian pedagogy; and the third year focuses on the lasallian spirituality. Begun since 1984, the formation at the Buttimer Institute is always held in California. But for this year, the formation took place in Manhattan (New York). Besides the courses, there is a community life that is organized around each year of the But-



timer Institute; this makes it three communities, each with a director (Buttimer1, 2 and 3). The community life is animated by prayers, mass, retreat and socials. The year 2017 summoned hundred and seven participants and a staff of sixteen members. The participants came from Australia, Hong Kong, Kenya, New Guinea, Nigeria, New Zealand and the United States of America. It is therefore a melting pot in terms of cultural diversities and also in terms of experience as consecrated people or educators. Living together during two weeks is a great opportunity to mutually enrich each other through discussions in class or during community socials. In Revisiting the life, the pedagogy and the spirituality of De La Salle for some and being initiated to it for others, we identified ourselves and recalled a common goal, that of being lasallian educators. Indeed, we are convinced that to be a lasallian is to live in community and to be dedicated to the service of the poor, to be a professional of the lives of young people, to be aware that we are not alone, to be overflowing with zeal and to have the spirit of faith, to work with passion, to be courageous, to be for the cause of God and to be his companion.

Long live the lasallian mission and fraternity.

*Brother Guillaume Yame, Buttimer1*



# Burkina Faso : 2017 national awards of excellence

*The winners of the lasallian schools network in Burkina Faso*

Five students of our schools stood out by their academic performance during the 2017 national examinations. This includes the first award in the Junior High school certificate known as BEPC and the first national award in the High School Certificate option D (Mathematics- Life and Earth Sciences). This ceremony took place in the presence of the President of the Republic and his Prime Minister.

**College of Toussiana: Siè Victor TRAORE**, First national award for BEPC

**College of Tounouma/Bobo-Dioulasso: Ouleymatou Elza Ouedraogo**, First national award for Baccalaureate option D

**College De La Salle / Ouagadougou: ZONGO Cédric**, Second national award for Baccalaureate option D

**Stella Kèmi VODOUNHESSI**, Fourth National award for Baccalaureate Option C (Mathematics -Physics)

**La Salle Badenya/Ouagadougou: Jean Ghislain BILA**, Sixth National award for BEPC

*Brother Julien Diarra*

*Visitor District of West Africa*





# Abidjan: 2017-2018 academic year opening at CELAF-Institut

Training citizens for the recognition of their dignity and their vitality, training the elites, such are, among other things, the objectives the Catholic schools in Africa want to achieve. These objectives are also those of the CELAF-Institute.

Indeed, at the opening of its doors for the academic year 2017-2018, the CELAF- Institute organized an inaugural lesson, as usual, on Thursday, 14 September 2017. The topic was entitled "The contribution of the Catholic Church in the training of African elites". It was presented by Mr YAOBI Ernest, an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Felix Houphouet Boigny of Abidjan and a lecturer of Church history in the CELAF- Institute. As a historian, he made the past present through his presentation of good works carried out by the Catholic Church, precisely in Côte d'Ivoire, of which he is conversant with. From his historical presentation, we note the foundation of the first Catholic primary schools by European missionaries around the 1910s in Côte d'Ivoire and schools of Catechists founded later, which have contributed to the emergence of the Ivorian executives.

Before listening to the conference by Professor YAOBI Ernest, the students, lecturers and the assembly enjoyed two speeches, that of Brother Valère Adonsou Anani, the new general Director of CELAF-Institute, and that of Brother, Paulin DEGBE, Visitor of the District of Gulf of Benin and president of CELAF executive committee.

These speeches and this conference allowed us, on the one hand, to understand better once more the objectives to be achieved by the CELAF- Institute which, moreover, celebrates its silver jubilee at the service of the training of Christian educators in Africa, and on the other hand, to acknowledge the important actions of the Catholic Church in Africa in the field of education, especially in Côte d'Ivoire.

However, we find that the actions of the Church do not cover all social strata and all the levels. What strategies or methods could the Catholic schools develop in order to take into account all social strata, at all levels, especially with the advent of new technologies?

*Brother Séverin  
The Scholasticate Saint MIGUEL*





# Nairobi : Annual sports day at La Salle School Nairobi



La Salle school Nairobi organized a full day for sports with an aim of developing an active sporting spirit in the pupils and granting them the opportunity of displaying their physical prowess in sports. The event was held in the school playing ground late last month.

The atmosphere of the school took a festive look and a great interest was observed among pupils, staff members and guardians who were in attendance. “We came in large numbers, and we are here to enjoy this great day with our children”, one of the parents commented.

The event kicked off with the national anthem, then the school’s song and prayer. Later, there was a scout parade and the school Director, Br. Antone Oloo was invited to inspect the guard of honour, which he gladly accepted. These activities were well coordinated thanks to the master of ceremony, Mr. Kyale.

The Deputy Director, Mr. Muoki gave the opening speech and declared the 2017 annual sports day officially opened. This was then followed by a warm up session for those in attendance. The competition was gruelling considering that the four different school houses; Red, Blue, Yellow and Purple houses, were determine to win.



The competition was not easy for parents and staff members either. But all were determine to do their best and win. The participants competed in the following categories: 100m race, 200m race, world building game, Hula hoop competition, 400m race, Tug of war for pupils, Basketball drill, 800m race, water filling competition and tug of war for parents and staff.

The best overall house was Purple which was presented with a trophy for the winning team, followed by Red house in 2<sup>nd</sup> position. Yellow house came in 3<sup>rd</sup> position and lastly Blue house in 4<sup>th</sup> Position. All the houses got trophies for their respective positions.

The winners in different categories were also awarded with medals in line with their performance. The event was partly sponsored by African Touch Safaris (ATS) Travels who provided the medals. The school administration provided some financial support as well.

The judges for the day; Mr. David Busuru, Mr. Simon Kamau, Ms. Alice Njeri, Mr. Raphael Mutua and Mr. Michael Oduor were prepared for the task ahead and so were the people at the recording desk namely Ms. Winfred Muriuki, Ms. Gladys, Mrs. Elizabeth and Mr. Muoki.

The event ended successfully thanks to La Salle Administration for their financial support and the ATS Travels as well as the pupils, staff members and parents who took part in making the day a success. “

*Bro. Michael Otieno*

*District of Charles Lwanga*





Dates	Events
<b>September 2017</b>	
	Publication bulletin N° 257 RELAF Visit
September 1 to October 14	10 <sup>th</sup> session of the general Council (News from the general Council)
September 16 at 6:00pm	Meeting Solidarity with South Sudan (short list)
September 26	Job interviews Solidarity SS
October 15 – 16	Rome- Conakry
October 20	Conakry- Abidjan
Friday 27 October	Thanksgiving, farewell to Br Anatole
<b>November 2017</b>	
1, 2, 3, 4 November	Conference of Brother Visitors. Bobo Dioulasso Noviciate
	Book dedication and renewal of passport Ouagadougou
28, 29, 30 November	Board meeting Solidarity South Sudan/Rome
<b>December 2017</b>	
	7 to 16 December District Council meeting Antananarivo
	23 December District Chapter Gulf of Benin

To visit web sites of the Regions in the Institute

RELAF: Région Lasallienne Afrique-Madagascar. [www.relaf.info](http://www.relaf.info)

RELEM: Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée. [www.relem.org](http://www.relem.org)

RELAL: Region Latino Americana Lasallista. [www.relal.org.co](http://www.relal.org.co)

RELAN: Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord. [www.lasallian.info](http://www.lasallian.info)

PARC: Pacific Asia Regional Conference. [www.lasalle-parc.org](http://www.lasalle-parc.org)