

# RELAF NEWSLETTER N° 28

## Brothers of the Christian Schools



## Lasallian Region of Africa

La  Salle

September 2018

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**T**en Brothers have just finished a month of preparation for perpetual profession. We thank the Delegation of Rwanda who hosted and organized this special month. Article 27 of our Rule is one of those texts to meditate upon during this time of grace. It says: *"Following the example of John Baptist de La Salle and the first Brothers, the Brothers today take the vow of association for the educational service of the poor. This vow, together with that of stability in the Institute, **expresses the specificity of the religious consecration of the Brothers for the glory of God: it unites each Brother strongly with the other Brothers, while also extending and strengthening the spirit of belonging to, and in solidarity with, the whole Institute.**"*

It continues, ***"This charismatic dynamism stimulates the creativity of the Brothers to provide the best possible and lasting response to the needs of those who benefit from their mission It leads them to understand and live out their other vows from this same perspective."***

As long as we take make efforts to meditate and deepen it, the understanding of the vow of association opens for us a path to the original meaning of our consecration of religious, Brothers of the Christian Schools. Living this vow, in a continually dynamic way according to the times and the contexts, the Brothers participate **in building together the same body** and constitute, **at district, regional and world level**, a living Institute.

At the same time, the Brothers are constantly striving to **make a concrete community** in order to run local schools within the reach of the poorest children.

The other vows of poverty, obedience and chastity precisely give him more strength. In fact, they appeal to attitudes and virtues that orient us in the perspective of associating ourselves ever more closely with one another, and finally with Christ. Thus, the vows do not have an isolated meaning and are cannot be separated from each other. They ought to be integrated into the same dynamism of an association at the service of the education of the poor.

The association of the Brothers is not the only type today to carry on the Lasallian educational mission. At the local level, lay people collaborate; there are associations like that of the Lasallian Volunteers of Cameroon, Signum Fidei ... We, Brothers, must know how to accompany them in the discovery of their personal vocation and the development of their own intuition as an association and take them into account in decision-making structures concerning our common mission. Dear Brothers, dear Lasallians, many of you at this time are facing the hassle of a new school year. I wish you a happy school year by assuring you of my prayers.

*Fraternally your brother, Pierre.*

*Pierre*

# Rwanda: CLAF 2018

A session of the African Lasallian Centre (CLAF) to prepare Brothers for final vows took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 2nd to the 29th of August, under the heading «Being De La Salle Brothers without Frontiers». There were ten Brothers participating in the session coming from six countries of Africa. They were led by Brothers Desire Murengerantwari, Aloys Ndimukihe and Emile Onana.

The opening ceremony took place during a Mass on Thursday evening, August the 2nd. Brother Jean Bosco Bigirimana, President of the Delegation of Rwanda as the «local chief», opened the session formally with words of welcome and a brief presentation of Rwanda, the country of a thousand hills. The Mass was followed by a glass of reception for the Brothers and other participants who were present.

The first three weeks of the session were devoted to input on the following topics: religious consecration as De La Salle Brothers and Lasallian Guadaloupiana Sisters; citizens of the world beyond our frontiers; discernment on crossing new frontiers; looking at the present and towards the future.

During the session, the weekends were devoted to visits to the communities and establishments of the Brothers, notably Byumba, Kisaro, Nyundo and Butare which is the location for the Intiganda Centre (for street children

In additions, the CLAF session included a scattering of events (happy and otherwise) which were commemorated or celebrated.

The session concluded with a retreat from August the 23rd to the 28th, based on the theme «the role of religious in an outgoing Church». This silent retreat was led by Mgr Kizito Bahujimihigo, who reminded us that, as we reach out to others and witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are emptying ourselves and so we need to know how to «recharge our batteries» so as to avoid suddenly finding ourselves ineffective. He also talked in depth about the signs Jesus insisted on, which would enable every Christian and every religious to share in the Resurrection experience like Thomas, Peter and the disciples in Emmaus etc. These signs are prayer, worship, mass and the sacrament of reconciliation. The bishop also spoke about religious vows in an outgoing Church, focussing especially on what we gain by living according to the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Finally he spoke about the Virgin Mary as a model and a witness to the Resurrection of Christ, developing his ideas by mentioning the apparitions of Our Lady on the hill of Kibeho.

There were of course times for prayers, reflections, meditations and adoration to help the Brothers in their recollection. There were times for Mass, the rosary, the Divine Office and the sacrament of reconciliation, as well as times when the Brothers shared their experiences of faith.

The CLAF 2018 session concluded with an evaluation and a closing ceremony, with Mass followed by a fraternal meal. The Brothers returned to their Districts, Delegations or Sectors on August the 31st, looking forward to future meetings of RELAF or of the Institute internationally.

The participants in the CLAF were:

4 Brothers from the Delegation of Rwanda  
HABIYAREMYE Fabien

MASENGESHO Jean de Dieu

NGABONZIZA Lambert

NIYONSHUTI Jean Paul

2 Brothers from the District of Central Africa:

HARAYETNA Clement

ONDOUA ABANDA Bertrand

1 Brother from the District of West Africa

SEKONE Abel

2 Brothers from the District of Antananarivo

RAKOTOHASINORO Joseph Norbert

RAKOTONIRINA Olivier

1 Brother from the Sector of Mozambique

MARIO Cristiano

*Brother Abel SEKONE  
District of West Africa*



# Abidjan: Promotion of vocations in the diocese of Yopougon

On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, the Regional Community of the Brothers, which at that time was reduced to two Brothers: Ferdinand and Joan, participated in a very important meeting in Aboisso, a city located at about 100 km East of Abidjan. The encounter is as a result of the initiative of Mr. Roland YAO, the person in charge of CARLA. He introduced us to young people from the diocese of Yopougon who were having their annual meeting in Aboisso. They were about 300 young university students or high school students. Mr. Roland had been for many years, animator of this same movement called JEC (Catholic Student Youth movement). The youth were closing their ten-day training session. The goal was to give a vocation opportunity to these young people who are wondering about their future. We told them about our Institute of Brothers, the Lasallian charism as well as the works and activities of Lasallians in the world and in Africa. We showed them a short video which helped draw their attention and get to the point with simple words and symbolic images. After a few minutes of talk, we had some time to respond to a bunch of questions. We could see from the questions that majority of them did not know about the existence of Lasallian Brothers and Sisters.



The Lasallian charism was a discovery for them. We had a friendly meeting with the diocesan chaplain of the JEC. He encouraged us to make ourselves known to his bishop for deeper and richer dialogues with the young people of his diocese. On our way back to Abidjan, accompanied and guided by Mr Roland, we had a chance to admire the exuberant landscapes of this part of Cote d'Ivoire and we thank the Lord for this beautiful meeting with the young people. We have seen a first fruit as a result of this meeting; the visit of a young man of the movement - and already a teacher - who came shortly after to meet Brother Ferdinand. His concern: how to integrate the Lasallian charism into the life of a teacher? Brother Ferdinand did his best to listen and accompany him and God will do the rest.

*Brother Joan SALA COLL*

*Regional Bursar*

# The twelve virtues of a good student and of a good parent 5

Dear Lasallians, distinguished educators,  
 In writing the book on the twelve virtues of a good student and of a good parent, I was inspired by the twelve virtues of a good teacher listed in 1706 by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and later developed by Brother Agathon, the fifth Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (1777-1795).

Since there are three main actors in education, namely parents, the student and the teacher, I thought it appropriate to add something on top of the "Twelve virtues of a good teacher", by writing two articles, one on "The twelve virtues of a good student" and the other on "The twelve virtues of a good parent". I am convinced that the triad of virtuous parents, virtuous students and virtuous teachers can only lead to an all rounded child.

May this effectively contribute to the viability of the Lasallian educational mission, so that the school and the society may do well.

*Brother Pie Nsukula Bavingidi*

*Auxiliary Visitor of the District of Congo-Kinshasa*

	<b>I. The twelve virtues of a good teacher</b> (By Saint John-Baptist de La Salle, developed by Br. Agathon)		<b>II. The twelve virtues of a good student</b> (Listed and developed by Br. Pie Nsukula B.)		<b>III. The twelve virtues of a good parent</b> (Listed and developed by Br. Pie Nsukula B.)
1.	Gravity	1.	Discipline	1.	Responsibility
2.	Silence	2.	Docility	2.	Vigilance
3.	Humility	3.	Listening	3.	Listening
4.	Prudence	4.	Respect	4.	Affection
5.	Wisdom	5.	Punctuality	5.	Firmness
6.	Patience	6.	Honesty	6.	Tenderness
7.	Reserve	7.	Determination	7.	Self-denial
8.	Gentleness	8.	Attention	8.	Exemplarity
9.	Zeal	9.	Emulation	9.	Perspicacity
10.	Vigilance	10.	Mutual aid	10.	Patience
11.	Piety	11.	Humility	11.	Humility
12.	Generosity	12.	Gratitude	12.	Piety

# Cameroon: Who are the Lasallian Volunteers?

## Our Lasallian ideal

For nearly 12 years, we, Lasallian Volunteers of Cameroon (VLC), work in the city of Mbalmayo, in the District of Central Africa. Our actions, like St John Baptist De La Salle and the Brothers, are oriented towards the Educational Service of the young, especially the most disadvantaged. We give them our time and support so that they can learn a trade and integrate into society, to know and love God.

## Our place of Mission

Our apostolate is in Saint Mutien-Marie School and today we are solicited by about 280 young people and more than 50 adults. St. Mutien-Marie School consists of a college (general and technical education) and a vocational training centre for adults. These young people, given the generally high tuition fees for the poor locality of Mbalmayo, do not have easy access to studies; so these young people are our priority. We teach catechesis to our students and prepare them for the sacraments. We teach them mainly the maxims of the Christian faith given our attachment to our Lasallian values.



## The Association

The Association has more than 80 members, supporters and aspirants. A good number of the VLC members in service in our works take turns every year for the accomplishment of this mission. Some live in community and others outside. Our community life is punctuated by morning and evening prayers and our commitment to living as a welcoming small Lasallian community. And like any association, we have a statute that governs our functioning. Each member of the association contributes directly or indirectly to the radiance of the association by promoting its ideals wherever they are.

## Local and International Collaboration

We participate in activities organized by the District of Central Africa and other Lasallian works, the Catholic chaplaincy of the youth of the diocese. In addition, during the summer holidays we receive a group of Spanish Lasallian Volunteers (VLE) supervised by PROYDE and us. They come to share and live the Lasallian mission through construction work, learning sessions, sharing and entertainment with the youngest for a better fulfilment. They also visit the children's homes and the central prison of Mbalmayo. We also receive every year the visit of several Brothers of the Christian Schools and the pastoral visit of our Brother Visitor of the District of Central Africa. Despite our enthusiasm, we are still a group that continues to grow and learn. If you are visiting Cameroon, visit us! We will be happy to welcome you.



*Written by the Lasallian Volunteers of Cameroon*

# Education: Metaphor of Lasallian educators

**L**asallian educators are persons whom God calls and blesses and puts on the road to Jericho, where they can meet with the wounded man. From that perspective, Lasallian educators are the Good Samaritan, and the wounded man is the young person in need. Lasallian educators, like the Good Samaritan, might have a sensitive heart that will move them with compassion for their students. They might be able to come to their students and identify their different needs or wounds,



whether physical, affective, financial, social, or spiritual, in order to bind them by pouring on the oil of charity. Lasallian Educators might go beyond the immediate needs or wounds of their students by paying more attention to what is going on in the daily life of their students, just as the Good Samaritan promised to come back or to return and see the wounded man later. Lasallian Educators are not alone in this service of needy students; they might work together with others. This represents the inn in the Good Samaritan's story. At this point, Lasallian Educators might be able to collaborate with other Lasallians in order to build a strong community together and by association for the good of the mission. Lasallian Educators as a Good Samaritan are faithful and charitable persons able to rescue, help, and encourage a needy stranger or those who are injured or ill such as students, homeless, delinquents, and immigrants through human and Christian education.

May God help all the educators whether Lasallians or not to be "Good Samaritans" for those entrusted to their care.

*Brother Guillaume Yame.*

*Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*



# Calendar of the Brother general Councillor 8

Dates	Events
<b>September-October-November 2018</b>	
2 Sept to 13 October	13 <sup>th</sup> Session of the general Council/Rome
17 October	Trip Rome-Paris
20 to 22 October	Paris Autumn University
23 October	Meeting RELEM & RELAF / University project
24 October	Paris - Rome
24 October	Rome - Abidjan
1st to 4 November	Conference of the Brother Visitors
5 November	Abidjan - Nairobi
5 to 16 November	CIL Session. Nairobi
19 to 23 November	Meeting of those in charge of pastoral ministry of vocations. Nairobi
24 November	Nairobi - Rome
27, 28, 29 November	Board meeting SSS /Rome (assembly the 28 <sup>th</sup> )
30 November	Rome - Abidjan

To visit the web sites of the Regions of 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)