

RELAF NEWSLETTER N° 31

Brothers of the Christian Schools



Lasallian Region of Africa



June 2019

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Editorial

The Superior general, Brother Robert Schieler, in his message in the form of an interview of April 7, 2019, says that with this year of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the death of the Founder, at the same time year of lasallian vocations, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves: "What are we being called to today?" He encourages the Brothers to understand that, as part of their vocation, they receive throughout their life successive calls to meet new needs emerging in their present days. For us Brothers, he says, this celebration is an opportunity to recognize, appreciate, support and encourage all the lasallian vocations of thousands of men and women. He urges the Brothers to creatively and courageously invite young people to live an experience of sharing our community life and to embrace the life of Brothers. This does not mean we are celebrating a memory but to have, in the footsteps of John-Baptist De La Salle and the first Brothers during their time, the courage embark on new paths. What are the new needs arising today? What is the context we are living in today? Let us have the same courage that De La Salle and the first Brothers had to meet the needs of our time.

We need all the more courage given that education is the place of a **spiritual fight**. In his book, "The strength of a vocation: Consecrated life today," Pope Francis strongly denounces ignorance.

"Ignorance is the Kingdom of Satan ... The devil always shows up in the darkness. And where there is ignorance, there is darkness, lack of light and clarity. Putting light in there and educating is to make the good grow in the person and to evict the devil". Every teacher, baptized or consecrated, must constantly make the choice of goodness, beauty, and truth. For the Pope "Whoever is uneducated and does not improve his capacity for goodness, truth and beauty opens a door to the devil". According to him, "To educate is to give weapons to win". For this reason, he emphasizes the need for an interaction between the head, the heart and the hand. "You have to teach people to think well, to feel good and to act well. And this, in a coordinated way: so that we think what we feel and what we do, that we feel what we think and what we do and that we do what we feel and what we think."

The Pope thus draws for us a perspective in which the clergy, consecrated persons and lay people can share in the same fight, in the same mission. Thus educators are "*warriors for light*"¹. But didn't we fall asleep? Are we not dozing while darkness spreads over the earth? And Brother Robert Schieler pushes us to ask ourselves: where are we today in our spiritual fight as educators? Do we continue to be open to what God asks of us and how are we open to respond? Dear Brothers, dear Lasallians, we have chosen the good fight. Let's take it to the end.

Bro. Pierre OUATTARA

¹Expression borrowed from a book by Paulo Coelho, « Warrior for light handbook ».

Report from the Congress in Mexico

Against all odds I received in July 2018, from the centre of the Institute, an invitation to participate in a World Congress on lasallian education to be held in March 2019 in Mexico City. In addition, I was expected as an expert to speak in the educational community. I was very emotional because I did not know if I could live up to what was expected of me. All in all, I trusted in the Divine Providence.

The preparation lasted several months and required work online. Regarding the bibliography and methodology, I could rely on my 2013 AIMEL prerequisites held in Rome, and on my participation in the Lasallian Women's Symposium that took place in Saltillo, Mexico in 2016. In order to prepare the work required, I worked intensely with the help of the Brothers of the Provincial House, in this case the District Brother Secretary who was of great help for the final correction and formatting of the document. The preparations for the Congress allowed me to know and understand the concepts of the lasallian educational community and the lasallian pedagogy.

The planning for this World Congress on lasallian education as part of the Tricentenary of the death of our Founder Saint John Baptist de La Salle was planned over a period of three (3) days, from March 14 to 16, 2019 at the University of Mexico. The trip Lomé-Mexico-Lomé lasted as many days with a five hour shift. I took more than three (3) weeks to get the visa at the Consulate of Mexico in Accra, Ghana.

This great gathering saw the participation of 600 Lasallian educators representing 27 countries coming from the 5 regions of the Institute. This meeting gave us the opportunity to revisit our lasallian heritage, the opportunity to renew our commitment to work to ensure the viability and vitality of the lasallian Educational Mission. Brother Pedro Alvarez Arenas, Visitor of Antillas Mexico-Sur, in his welcoming speech said that it is a "*congress of hope where love gives us the eyes to see everything by faith, a heart to feel and recognize God in what is happening and hands to work for justice and peace making true his transforming presence in the world*".

As for Brother Gustavo Ramirez Barba, General Councillor for the Association and the Mission, he noted that the "most significant character of our Assembly is that we are the expression and visible witness of an effective engagement with education as a path of personal, community and social transformation".

After the opening ceremony, the assembly closely followed Professor Francesc Pedro's first lecture entitled "*Retos internacionales en educacion: de las politicas a las aulas*" (International Challenges in Education: From Policies to the classrooms)

The speaker discussed the different lessons to be learned from the successes achieved by educational institutions and education systems that have been successful. He emphasized the role played by teachers and school supervisors. The conference was followed by a debate among the experts on the global context and educational challenges. There has been talk of global challenges that have the greatest impact on educational work today.

On Friday, March 15, the second day, after the prayer, was held the second lecture chaired by Adams Tracy, FSC, whose theme is "*Mission critical for a critical mission*". It was followed by a panel of experts on the Lasallian Educational Community in the face of global challenges.

On the third and final day of the Congress our attention was turned to Brother Carlos Gomez Restrepo fsc, from the University of Bogota, Colombia, who spoke to us about "*Quemar las naves y apostar los retos: a llamado a la utopia y la esperanza*" (Burning one's vessels and gambling on challenges: a call to utopia and hope). He presented the fundamental values of a lasallian namely: faith, fraternity and zeal. After this magisterial conference, a debate among the experts about lasallian pedagogy today took place.

Before the closing ceremony of the Congress, the participants took part in a mass concelebrated by 5 priests.

In his closing words, Brother Gustavo Ramirez declared: "Let's go beyond the borders where the presence of each and every one of you can make a difference in the lives of many children, adolescents, young people and adults".

The feeling I have at the end of this Congress is a feeling of gratitude and joy, because everything went well in Mexico. I have learned a lot about the international challenges of education in the 21st century, how to build the educational community in the 21st century, and lasallian pedagogy of the 21st century, among others.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the Institute for inviting me. To the Brother General Councillor in charge of the Lasallian Region of Africa, to the Brother Visitor of the District of Gulf of Benin, who has made every effort to ensure that the preparations and the trip take place in the best conditions. Special thanks to the District Brother Secretary for the time he has given for the follow-up of the work.

Edith TOUVI,

Spanish teacher at St. Augustine College in Togoville, Signum Fidei.

La Salle Celebrated in the Gulf of Benin

*H*onneur à toi glorieux de La Salle, apôtre des enfants et gardien de leur foi. Vainqueur de l'ignorance à l'âme si fatale, honneur à toi, honneur à toi.

The glory of Saint John Baptist de La Salle was sung throughout the world on May 15, 2019. In some communities of Brothers and educational communities of the District of Gulf of Benin, the wind of the Tricentenary of his birth in Heaven blowing this year was strongly manifested in various activities on the occasion of this lasallian festival. Three countries were involved namely: southern Benin, all of Togo and southern Côte d'Ivoire.

Chronologically, Ivory Coast kicked off the lasallian festival with a celebration on Sunday March, 03 2019, in the parish of the Good Shepherd of Abidjan in order to present Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the lasallian spirituality. This also involved the launching of indulgences. As part of the academic festivities, the CELAF-Institute organized on Thursday, May 09, 2019 a symposium on Training and Education Sciences whose theme was "*Education in Africa, integrating information and communication technologies for integral development*"; followed by the great Eucharistic celebration in honour of the Founder on Friday, May 10th, presided over by Cardinal Jean-Pierre KUTWAN. On this occasion, all the Brothers of the three communities in Abidjan, the students and the teachers of the CELAF-Institute, the religious men and women of various Congregations and other actors of the world of education shared the joy of having Saint John Baptist of La Salle, as Patron Saint to defend the causes of Christian educators in Heaven.

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, the Foyer Akwaba community did organize a discussion and sharing meeting between the Brothers of the communities in Abidjan and the families and close relatives of the Brothers. To mark the event, they offered guests scarves with the Centre's logo and other gifts, and shared a meal with them.



In Togo, De La Salle College in Dapaong, in the northern part of the country, organized a lasallian week characterized by a series of activities from Monday 13 to Friday 17 May 2019. The first day, a large caravan through the arteries of the Dapaong city and the Eucharistic celebration opened the festivities. The sports and cultural activities took place the following days. The Brothers, their lay collaborators, students and parents had great moments of prayer, sharing and conviviality to honour Saint John Baptist de La Salle. On the last day, students in the third grade received a blessing rite for the junior high school examinations that took place from 06 to 11 June 2019.

In Southern Togo, the Brothers' Community of the Provincial House celebrated the lasallian feast on Sunday, May 19, 2019 with a double event: the 69th anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint John Baptist de La Salle as the heavenly Patron of all Christian educators, and the Centenary of the entry into Heaven of Blessed Raphael-Louis RAFIRINGA, the first Malagasy Brother. The Eucharistic celebration at the Saint John Baptist de La Salle Secondary Outstation, a church dedicated to our Founder, the prayer and the fraternal meal in community marked the celebration. The Brothers, the choir members of the children's group and the other faithful, the religious and the parents of the Brothers living in Lomé shared the lasallian joy.

Finally, in Benin La Salle International Catholic School Bohicon (ICS), a bilingual school that was opened this 2018-2019 school year celebrated for the first time the feast of May 15. For the occasion, Brothers, teachers and school children of the Kindergarten carried out various activities: mass, communication on the life of the Patron Saint, fair-games and feasts.

At the end of this chronic that made us travel from Ivory Coast to Benin, it is right and just to continue singing the glory of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. *Ô toi que les élus comme nous, applaudissent et chantent triomphant, dans les parvis du ciel. Pour exalter ta gloire, ici nos voix s'unissent avec transport au cantique éternel.*

Honneur à toi...

Brother Jacques MONCHÉBI, Provincial Secretary, Lomé District of Gulf of Benin



Tricentenary in the Philippines.

The celebration of the Tricentenary of the birth in heaven of the Holy Founder in the Philippines sector was very colourful. It was a great experience for us to celebrate this great world event with the Brothers and the Lasallian family in the Philippines Islands. With a Lasallian family very committed to the mission and exercising the charism of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, each institution (schools, universities) organized this gigantic event in a special way.

This great celebration was an opportunity for us to see how Asian culture organizes parties and major events. To this end, all the Brothers and Lasallians of the island of LUZON participated in a Mass that was celebrated at the St. Mary Immaculate Cathedral in Manila (capital of the Philippines) by his eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio TAGLE. In his homily, the Cardinal emphasized the importance of the Brothers in the world and in the Philippines islands in particular. He invited the Brothers to continue to support the Church by giving a human, Christian and integral quality education to young people and in particular to the disadvantaged. He continued his speech by saying that the Brothers receive CHRIST every day in their life, in their mission and in their schools by welcoming poor children who come to ask for help. *"And whoever receives in my name a child like this, it is me he receives"* Matthew Mt 18,5

We must know that the relics of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, father and founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, will tour schools and Universities in the Philippines sector from April 07, 2019 to April 07, 2020, following a well-planned calendar.



A sanctuary will be built on the site of De La Salle University-Laguna campus to house the relics of Saint La Salle. This sanctuary dedicated to St. John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of teachers, will also be a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of good will in general and teachers in particular.

On Sunday, April 07, we attended the feast of the 300 years of the birth in heaven of Saint John Baptist De La Salle organized in the University De La Salle Dasmariñas (DLSU.D) where we are studying. This day was marked by mass in the main basketball hall (Animo Center) presided over by his Excellency LEONARDO, Bishop of the Diocese of IMUS. The afternoon was devoted to cultural activities organized by the students during which we watched songs and dances. What impressed us the most was the animosaic, which drew the portrait-face of Saint John Baptist de La Salle with the help of 7,000 people (Brothers, Teachers, partners and students) equipped with umbrellas. It is De la Salle University of Dasmariñas which broke the record of number of participants compared to some Schools to form the portrait-face of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

We are very excited to participate in this celebration in the Philippines of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Living these different celebrations gives you huge pride in being a Brother Disciple of John Baptist de La Salle and belonging to the great Lasallian Family. Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

Brother Sébastien MATUNDU

District of Congo-Kinshasa, Student in Dasmariñas (Philippines)

The Tricentenary in the District of Central Africa

Lots of memories and an evocation. Saint John Baptist De La Salle died three hundred years ago, but still lives through his works. After Kélo in Chad for the launching, it was in Douala that the Lasallians of the District of Central Africa gathered for the closing of the Jubilee Year. It is a celebration of life, but also of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that De La Salle founded in the year 1690 in France. Today, the Institute not only perpetuates the original mission of educating young people around the world, but also celebrates its missionaries, especially those of the District of Central Africa. Thus, twelve Brothers of the District celebrate their jubilee of 60, 50, 40, 30, 25 years of religious life at the service of the lasallian educational mission.



A celebration marked by the massive presence of Lasallians from the District, namely Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon, who came to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year with the Brothers. Several activities took place on May 17 and 18: sports, cultural activities (Miss and Mister Tricentenary), fair, and conference on the culture of Lasallian vocations...

Canonized in 1900, St. John Baptist De La Salle was later declared patron of educators. Today, more than one million young people in the world benefit from lasallian pedagogy for integral education. This commemoration was marked also by a solemn papal mass celebrated by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Douala, Archbishop Samuel KLEDA who administered the sacrament of confirmation to many Lasallians. They now carry in them the Holy Spirit and have the status of adult Christians in this year of grace. On the evening of May 18, it was through a gala evening that the end clap occurred.

Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI

Visitor of the District of Central Africa



Tricentenary celebration in the Delegation of Rwanda

On the rhythm and in union with the whole Institute, the Lasallian family in the Delegation of Rwanda experienced great moments of celebration of the Tricentenary of the death of our Holy Founder. This year, 2019, the Tricentenary was celebrated in two moments: the day of the Lasallian family in Rwanda and the celebration of the Tricentenary itself, accompanied by various joint celebrations.

Lasallian Family Day of the Delegation of Rwanda

The Brothers in Rwanda have a tradition of organizing during the year a day of meeting known as "the Delegation Day". It is an opportunity for all the Brothers of the Delegation to meet together, to discuss on different themes concerning the life of the Brothers and the educational mission in our works. This year, this day took place on April 27, 2019 in Byumba. It was organized in the orientation of the Tricentenary and instead of bringing together only the Brothers, it was a meeting of all the representatives of the lasallian family.

The Guadalupanas Sisters, the Alumni Committee, the representatives of the lay collaborators working with the Brothers in our 5 works, the young people in our formation houses, and postulants, joined the Brothers of the Delegation to spend a lasallian day.

On the agenda, there was a procession from the statue of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, erected within the Groupe Scolaire De La Salle, to the meeting room, with the insignia of the Tricentenary.

The conference organized by the Brother President was under the heading "**Association for an Educational Mission of the Poorest**". This conference was an opportunity to discuss and share experiences of one another, in the diversity and peculiarities that characterize our different works. These are: The De La Salle Byumba School preparing young girls and boys to become primary school teachers, the Nyundo School of Arts which trains young girls and boys in the fine arts, the only school in the country with this kind of training, the Academy De La Salle, the very first private school belonging to the Brothers since 2007, welcoming children from kindergarten, primary and lower secondary, the Intiganda Centre which welcomes street children for their school and family reintegration, the Saint John Baptist De La Salle School in Kirenge, a totally free school, taking care of children from disadvantaged families. After this conference, a festive and fraternal meal was shared, characterized by moments of more exchanges to get to know each other better. After taking the souvenir photos, the assembly met on May 18, the day the Rwandan delegation celebrated the Tricentenary.



T

he Celebration of the Tricen- tenary in the Delegation of

Rwanda

May 15 being a working day, Saturday, May 18 was chosen as the date of celebration of the Tricentenary.

This celebration included two other great celebrations namely the ceremony of perpetual vows of 4 Brothers: Fabien HABİYAREMYE, Jean de Dieu MASENGESHO, Jean Paul NIYONSHUTI and Lambert NGABONZIZA, as well as the silver jubilee of Brother Anaclet PAMBA KABAZA.

Surrounded by all the Brothers of the Delegation and a Brother from the District of Charles Lwanga for the occasion, as well as the Guadalupanas Sisters De La Salle, the Professed Brothers pronounced their definitive "Yes" to the Lord.



The day began with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Bishop Servilien NZAKAMWITA, Bishop of the Diocese of Byumba, a Eucharist celebration that lasted four hours following the many rich moments it covered. In addition to the vows and jubilee of the Brothers, 62 children and young people from our schools received the sacraments of Christian initiation.

The Mass, well sung by the Saint John Baptist De La Salle choir, was enriched by a good, simple and clear teaching from the Bishop on the three Vows. The same choir announced at the end of the mass the release of its first audio album on the occasion of the Tricentenary, and the assembly enjoyed one of the songs of the album dedicated to Saint John Baptist De La Salle.



The festivities continued on the vast compound of Groupe Scolaire De La Salle Byumba. The feast was honoured by the presence of various personalities, including the Rwandan Prime Minister Mr Edouard NGIRENTE, former student of the Groupe Scolaire De La Salle, Honourable Célestin SEBUHORO, Senator in the Parliament of Rwanda, former student of the same school, the Governor of Northern Province, the Mayor of Gicumbi District where Byumba is located, as well as a large representation of the lasallian family members in Rwanda, especially the families of the four finally professed Brothers .

The Prime Minister promised the school that the Rwandan government will financially and materially contribute to the development and renovation of its infrastructure and equipment to meet all the conditions of a school that train the best primary school teachers. Bishop Servilien, Bishop of Byumba expressed his concern for the teachers of the country who in general receive meagre wages and pleaded for special attention for those people whose mission so noble was clarified, strengthened and ennobled by St. John Baptist De La Salle in the Church.



The members of the alumni came forward to help financially the needy students of our schools, a gesture that provided a concrete illustration of the theme of the fraternal lasallian solidarity developed with the students during the preparations for the celebration of the Tricentenary.

The Brother President of the Delegation presented to the guests an overview of the lasallian mission in Rwanda, and thanked the Church and the government for their support and their good collaboration to make this mission possible. He emphasized the feeling of thanksgiving in the hearts of the Brothers for young people and children who, thanks to the lasallian mission, benefit from a quality education, a mission inspired by the great innovations of Mr. De La Salle in education. He asked for the support of all to make this mission more fruitful and useful to the Church and to the country.

The celebration of the Tricentenary continues in the Delegation and the lasallian family in Rwanda keeps in touch through various communication links, and sets its eyes and heart on the opening of a new lasallian work still under construction in Kigali.

The children of Academy De La Salle particularly embellished the festival with their dances during the Eucharist.

Brother Jean Bosco BIGIRIMANA

President of the Delegation of Rwanda



Celebration of the Tricentenary in Abidjan

As part of the celebration of the third centenary of the birth in heaven of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Brothers organized two celebrations in Abidjan. The first took place on Sunday, March 03, 2019 in the parish of the Good Shepherd. It was an opportunity to make known the holy founder and the lasallian spirituality, through a booklet of presentation and to launch the event of grace of the indulgences.

The second was hosted by CELAF-Institute and coincided with the end of the academic year 2018-2019 festivities.

During three days, the different actors experienced the event in different ways. On Wednesday, May 8 was organized the day called "CELAF clean". During this day, the different classes participated in a challenge, that of the cleanest class. Thus the various artists have put their talents into action, through decorations and paintings of the portrait of Saint John Baptist de La Salle on the occasion of his jubilee.

On Thursday, May 9 was devoted to the conference in Education and Training Sciences on the theme: **"Education in Africa, integrating information and communication technologies for integral development"**.

Prominent teachers, lay people, religious men and women, and priests have, in turns, presented their communications both enriching and scientifically sound on two axes. The first was related to "Teaching and Learning" and the second to ICT, with time and integral human development. The CELAF lecture hall, in the colours of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, served as a venue for this event with many participants from different backgrounds. The apotheosis of these activities of the Tricentenary was the mass on Friday, May 10th. It was presided over by Bishop Jean-Pierre Cardinal KUTWA. It began with an entrance procession including the Brothers of the Christian Schools in their religious habit. This celebration was lived in a great fervour by the Brothers of the three communities in Abidjan (Saint Miguel, Akwaba, and the Regional House), the various CELAF actors, the religious men and women of various congregations and the guests from the world of education. The Cardinal, during his homily, recalled first of all the goal pursued by true education which is to train the human person in the perspective of its supreme end as stipulated in an excerpt of the conciliar declaration on Christian education. , *Gravissimum Educationis Momentum*. Continuing his homily, the Cardinal invited lasallian students and trainers from Côte d'Ivoire to humility and wisdom while preserving the spiritual heritage of this great Saint in the history of the Church.



The General Director of CELAF, Brother Valère ADONSOU, in his vote of thanks, pointed out that this jubilee is *"a favourable moment to receive the spiritual and apostolic markers of the identity of Saint John Baptist de La Salle"*. He underlined the fact that *"the commitment of Saint John Baptist de La Salle was carried and nourished by four fundamental matrices: spirit of faith, zeal, fraternity and Church"*. The spirit of faith in which we have his last words, "I adore in all things the conduct of God towards me," reflects all the spiritual meaning of his existence.

"The spirit of zeal, of total commitment to the service of a school, as a theological place, that is to say, of experience and encounter with God, and which puts the means of salvation at the disposal of children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged".

"The spirit of fraternity that energizes an educational community" where is promoted, according to the recommendations of Christ, the sacrament of horizontal relations, that is to say, a place where "adults are brothers of one another and elder brothers to children entrusted to their care."

"The spirit of the Church deeply lived by La Salle who knew how to maintain openness, collaboration with the hierarchy despite the many hardships he experienced in his relationship with her". That spirit crowned by the words of his will invites the Brothers to not "disunite with the Church of Rome".

The Brother Director continued his speech by recalling the long chain of solidarity constituted by various links - of moral and physical personalities - in the construction of lasallian history since its beginning. They responded to the cries of distress of children deprived of educational means. Cries that, still relevant in our societies, *"calls us to go to them to meet new challenges by counting on new actors"*.

He thanked the assembly on behalf of the Brother General Councillor in charge of the African Lasallian Region, Pierre OUATTARA, who shared his communion with the participants, also the Brother Visitor of the District of Gulf of Benin and all the Brothers of the Christian Schools and their collaborators.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, a video of fifteen minutes was presented to the assembly on the different significant works of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Africa and the challenges to be met.

The sharing of the glass of friendship and fraternity in the presence of the Cardinal closed this day in a festive atmosphere. We must emphasize the perfect organization that has been put in place to mark this event.

May the first intuition and intention of Saint John Baptist De La Salle inspire us in the quest and identification of new paths of education in response to the realities and needs of our societies. And as Pope Francis invited the Brothers as he receives them in audience on May 16: do not be weary of *"going in search of those who are in modern" tombs "of confusion, degradation, unease and poverty to offer the hope of a new life."*

Brother Elisée LARE

Saint Miguel Scholasticate



Bobo Dioulasso: First Religious Profession

After two years of intensive formation at the inter-African Novitiate Our Lady of Grace of Bobo-Dioulasso, this long awaited Thursday, June 13, 2019 finally came for the Brother novices whose Patron saint is Saint Peter the Apostle. It is within the premises of the novitiate that eleven Brothers from four countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Madagascar and Burkina Faso) and entrusted to three Brother Formators walked in the faith and listening to the Holy Spirit by living intimately with Christ Jesus. At the end of this happy formation experience, they feel ready to give their lives for the proclamation of the Good News, with the world of education being their privileged field. It was on this day of June 13, 2019, when the Church-Family of God remembered St. Anthony of Padua that they engaged themselves in religious life through the first religious profession.

The celebration of this important event for our Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and for the whole Church began at 9:00 am in the community of the inter-African novitiate Our Lady of Grace. In this celebration, ten priests were present and concelebrated with Father Geoffroy Oscar SONDO (the main celebrant and teacher of Christology in the novitiate), the Brothers Pie NSUKULA and Julien DIARRA, respectively Visitors of the District of Congo-Kinshasa and the District of West Africa, religious men and women, relatives, friends and acquaintances who came in the name of kinship, friendship, fraternity.



After the proclamation of the Gospel, we witnessed the crucial moment that was the main focus of our gathering. Resolutely determined to confirm their choice to serve Christ, the novices came freely forward and confident that their Rock will never abandon them. Note that their calling song was that of Brother Bako Aymard from the District of West Africa (I will get up to answer your call...). It was so beautiful!!! After some series of dialogues with the Brother Visitor Julien DIARRA, our eleven Brothers pronounced their vows of poverty, obedience, chastity, association and stability. The whole assembly was delighted on hearing these words. Then at the end of the Eucharistic celebration, we continued our thanksgiving in the different halls with a fraternal meal and some dances.

Promptly, one of the new professed Brothers, Brother Donatien RAVONASANDRATRA and Brother Antoine Gilbert, formator in the novitiate left the banquet hall to travel to Ouagadougou because their flight to Antananarivo was scheduled the next morning. But this did not disturb the party because hearts were united.

We give thanks to God for this event that went on well as well as for the life of these young Brothers and we entrust them to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of all Consecrated Men.

*Brother Yves DRABO, First year Novice
District of West Africa*



District of Central Africa: Young Brothers' meeting

It is with great enthusiasm that the young Brothers of the District gathered around the Brother Visitor from 10 to 14 April 2019 in Londji, to reflect and discuss on a set of themes, among others: time management, regularity in the daily prayers, the figure of a young Brother vocational promoter, and finally a sharing on the message of the Brother Superior General.

The first day was marked by a recollection to entrust the meeting to the Lord. The theme was **"walks in my presence"**. Brother Jean-Marie, facilitator of the recollection, insisted that walking in the presence of the Lord today for us could refer to the idea of always being in the presence of God, an expression we already find in lasallian language: "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. And let's adore him." He then recalled that in life, one must never forget that God is always present even if sometimes times of crisis or storm do happen.

The second day was dedicated to the issue of time management. Brother Jean-Marie emphasized ten tips for managing time. For him, managing time means the ability to organize the day, the week, the month ... to make the most out of it. In other words, weekly or annual, in short, keep your calendar so you can evaluate your day, your week, etc. He stressed that in terms of time management, you have to know that there is always "before", "during" and "after" and that we always have to record appointments so that we lighten the memory. He advises to always plan activities in the short, medium and long term according to the priorities and their importance.

The Brother Provincial Visitor took over to dwell on the value of time. Time is usually irrecoverable when it is passed, as Claude DUGUETTE rightly said: *"Time is more precious than gold. It is always possible for you to increase your wealth, but you will never be able to acquire more time."* Going by this quotation, the Visitor invited the young Brothers to learn how to organize their time, to establish priorities by choosing between important and urgent activities; important but not urgent activities; activities not important and not urgent, and especially to pay attention to the "time killers".

The third day was devoted to the theme of **"the figure of the young Brother as a vocation promoter"**. The Brother Visitor presented the young Brothers their job description before inviting them to become aware of their responsibility in the actions to be taken to make more visible the lasallian vocations in general and that of the Brother in particular.

The last theme was a sharing on the message of Brother Superior to the Brothers on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the death of John Baptist De La Salle. Of the three constitutive elements of our vocation on which the Superior insisted, the point on the community life attracted a great attention. Let us quote the Brother Superior General: *"I always focus on community life because if there's going to be any positive response to the real needs today, it's not what Rome tells us to do: it's what we've decided to do in community, we need to be in dialogue with one another. We need to be a real community. This is not the case. We're not called to the common life. We're called to the community and that means we trust one another and we're ready to share our faith and our experiences of God with one another,"* end of quotation.

In the afternoon of the last day, we had a relaxing trip to the deep-water port of Kribi, an opportunity for young Brothers to discover and see for themselves this second largest port of Cameroon. It is on a note of satisfaction that the young Brothers left the villa Beausoleil and its beautiful beach. They will meet for the next edition in 2020.

Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI

Visitor of the District of Central Africa



Calendar of the Brother general Councillor

Dates	Events
July - October 2019	
21 June	Regional community Abidjan
	Passport - Ouagadougou
14 July	Vows Renewal of scholastics at Kodjoboué
16 to 22 July	La Salle Rumbek School / South Sudan
29 July – 11 August	CIL association and mission (AIMEL) Abidjan
18 August – 31 August	CIL Creative Fidelity . Abidjan
31 August	Abidjan-Rome
2 September to 11 October	16 th session of the general Council. Rome
12 October	Rome-Abidjan
November	
4-6 November	Conference of Brother Visitors in Nairobi
24-25 November	Abidjan-Rome
27-29 November	Board meeting Solidarity South Sudan. Rome
December	
26 – 31 December	District Chapter of West Africa

To visit the web sites of the Regions of the Institute

RELAF: Région Lasallienne Afrique-Madagascar. www.relaf.info

RELEM: Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée. www.relem.org

RELAL: Region Latino Americana Lasallista. www.relal.org.co

RELAN: Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord. www.lasallian.info

PARC: Pacific Asia Regional Conference. www.lasalle-parc.org