

RELAF NEWSLETTER N°44

Brothers of the Christian Schools



Lasallian Region of Africa



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EDITORIAL

Kindness in the school environment

After a few weeks' break, it is back to work everywhere. For some, it is the start of the new school year, for others, the start of a new academic year. The start of a new school or academic year is never a trivial act, as many things have to be done before the big day. Heads of schools and parents of pupils know something about this.

While parents are busy putting together the minimum requirements for their offspring, school heads are busy making their schools friendlier.

A friendly school is first and foremost a school where the working environment for staff and pupils/students is well designed, improved and therefore welcoming. It is a place where a good school climate is created by the school administration and the educators. This way of doing things refers to the Conduct of the Schools of St John Baptist de La Salle characterised by a concern for organisation: the organisation of learning, the organisation of school life and relationships; the distribution of tasks with a view to harmonious functioning...

A school principal, in addition to the material organisation, the distribution of time and space and the allocation of responsibilities, must make a point of honour of training in kindness. A good welcome, respect and appreciation of the identity of each person, without discrimination on the basis of sex, age or race; a healthy educational environment, a clean environment would necessarily make the difference between Lasallian establishments and the others.

Organising and ensuring a better way of working will not only help the learning and socialisation of students but also establish a relationship of trust and friendliness with them. The learners must be put at the centre of any educational project, this is the appeal of Pope Francis who asks the whole of humanity to subscribe to the educational pact by committing each one personally to undertake the seven paths, the first of which consists of putting the person at the centre, which is moreover one of the most important characteristics of Lasallian pedagogy.

It is therefore desirable, in addition to other competences specific to the profile of each educator, to train all the personnel in kindness as a common competence to be acquired by all teachers. Kindness understood as attention to the well-being of students can lead to academic success and this is in line with the idea that kindness is linked to pedagogy.

Thus, once acquired by all educators, kindness becomes a key to good pedagogy, essential for successful learning. Let us be clear, when we say success, it is not necessarily in terms of quantitative results or massive promotion from one lower class to the next or good results in the final national exams. Rather, it is first and foremost about success in the holistic formation of the person and the citizen: the student will become capable

of empathy and kindness. Clearly, kindness is not only a prescription in the teacher/student relationship, but also the ability to acquire knowledge, skills and culture by the students themselves.

These few explanations or reflections serve as a reminder to the heads of Lasallian institutions of the importance to be given to kindness as a constant and essential element of the education/formation provided in the educational or training centres. It is an invitation to make a nod to the Rules of Good Behaviour and Christian Civility of Monsieur John Baptist de La Salle.

It is better to train on human and Christian values for a non-violent, peaceful, polite and fraternal society than to worry about quantitative results to the detriment of quality. This is precisely what Pope Francis denounces when he speaks of the dictatorship of results.

Kindness remains essential, so it is good to work to raise awareness of it or preserve it because it promotes a good learning environment, human and professional development, mutual trust and the general well-being of all.

Happy start of the new school or academic year to all!

Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI,

General Councillor

REGIONAL COMMUNITY: FAREWELL AND WELCOME

The regional community had the joy of welcoming the new General Councillor, Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI on 24 August 2022. Brother Anatole came for the handing over of responsibilities at the Regional level with the former General Councillor, Brother Pierre OUATTARA. After working sessions between the two of them and all the members of the regional team, the regional community organised a thanksgiving mass for the service rendered by Brother Pierre during his mandate and entrusted the Lord with the mission of the new Councillor. This mass took place on 1 September 2022 in the community chapel and was presided over by Father Patrice AKE, Professor



of Philosophy at the University Félix Houphouët Boigny. After the mass, we had a fraternal sharing. It was also an opportunity for the Brothers in mission in Abidjan to meet again. The exchanges and talks focused on thanks to Brother Pierre OUATTARA for his 8 years of service to the Institute and the RELAF, followed by the "AKWABA" (i.e. welcome in a local language) to Brother Anatole, the new General Councillor.

As the vocation of a brother begins within a family, his mission is also carried out in collaboration with the family. This is why the regional community has



associated the families, friends and acquaintances with the thanksgiving for the mission of Brother Pierre OUATTARA. To this end, on the evening of 3 September, families composed largely of former students of the Brothers in Burkina and members of the families of the Brothers who live in Abidjan, met for a sharing at the regional house.

For Brother Pierre, it was also an opportunity to thank the Brothers and their families, friends and acquaintances. He said that nothing would have been possible without their support and collaboration. *"It has been a pleasure for me to live fraternally in this community and to collaborate with all of you Brothers and other collaborators. Thank you very much for your support during these 8 years of service. I ask you to continue to support me with your prayers and to support the new General Councillor. I wish you every success in the growth of the mission and let us always remain in union of prayer"*.

Brother Ferdinand BIZIYAREMYE

THE "NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES" COMMUNITY: DIVERSITY OF THE LASALLIAN EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The "Notre Dame de Lourdes" is a community of the Brothers of the Christian Schools located in a rural area in central Cameroon. It is composed of three Brothers and three Postulants. The community runs the Talba Rural Development Centre (CDRT). The CDRT is a complex consisting of the main Talba Health care Centre; a secondary health care centre in Voundou; a junior secondary school and a training centre for agriculture, animal production and fisheries.

The health care centre provides health education in the surrounding villages with activities such as general consultations, monitoring of pregnant women, growth monitoring of children from 0 to 59 months, people living with HIV, people living with epilepsy, deliveries, and home visits. A network of health workers assists in these tasks.

At the secondary school, general education is provided from the Year seven to the Year nine for young people, the majority of whom live in two separate girls' and boys' hostels.

The AFOP project, which is a support programme for the renovation and development of vocational training in the agricultural and livestock sectors, aims to train young people in order to contribute to youth employment and the inclusive and sustainable growth of rural areas in Cameroon. It is a two-year part-time training programme. At the end of the training, the young project holder presents his or her project for validation by an examination body. The validation of the project offers the learner the possibility to benefit

from state funding to start his or her production activities.

In addition to this, the community organises other activities such as animations, family visits, awareness raising and sharing in the households. In spite of the distances and the poor state of the roads which make the trips perilous and difficult, the Lasallians are dedicated and spare no effort to fulfil their mission with love.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

Madame Sthère MANGA

Moderator, MEL TALBA / DAC

MADAGASCAR: 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

A living witness.
This is how we
can call Brother

Vincent RABEMAHAHALY
for the love he bears for his
Congregation in the

following of Jesus Christ in the wake of Saint John Baptist de la Salle. In everyday language, a witness is someone who has witnessed, heard or seen a fact and who is able to recall all or part of it. Brother Vincent is a perfect example of what is a witness. Not only did he hear and see the life of the Brothers, but above all he lived and is still living it. He is celebrating 70 years of religious life (1952-2022) this year.

This article has two main purposes. On the one hand, it is to pay tribute to this living icon of religious life while he is still alive. This is to avoid the habit of paying tribute to men only after their death. To this end, a short biography will be given tracing his life's journey and the various great responsibilities he assumed. On the other hand, it is simply a question of sharing the ways in which this great event was celebrated in the District of Madagascar.

Brother Vincent was born on 26 March 1933 in Tapano-Imady (south-east of Madagascar). He was born into a family of six children, of whom he was the fifth. He entered the juniorate at the age of 15. He made his first vows in 1952, and 4 years later, in 1958, his perpetual vows. He has assumed many responsibilities. Among others as a Formator, he was the director of the Scholasticate, which was in Madagascar at that time. In 1966, at only 33 years of age, he was appointed Visitor of the District of



Antananarivo, a position he held until 1972 (two terms). After his first participation in the General Chapter, he was appointed General Councillor from 1976 to 1993. As Psalm 91 says, "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green", at 70 years of age, Brother Vincent was asked by the Bishops' Conference of Madagascar to ensure its secretariat from 2003 to 2009. In this year 2022, he is celebrating his 89th birthday and is in a retirement house.

The celebration of this anniversary of religious life, on 19 June 2022, was marked by two major events.



The first was a spiritual event, that is a Eucharistic celebration in the parish where the Brothers' retirement house is located. This celebration was presided over by the rector of the Catholic University of Madagascar, the Reverend Father Marc

RAVELONANTOANDRO. After the spiritual event, there was also time for a fraternal sharing. Thus the guests met in an area to share the meal together.

Above all, we give thanks to God, source of all life and grace, for having given Brother Vincent these 70 years of fidelity to his vocation as a Brother of the Christian Schools. To conclude, I would like to borrow the words of Brother Alberto Gomez, delegate of the Superior General for the Delegation of Belgium North, to the older Brothers of the Institute: *"You, as good and faithful servants of the Gospel, have been the builders of the Institute and of the Lasallian Mission which is still well alive and spreading in the world. Thank you for the witness of your life and the example of your fidelity to your vocation until the end of your days"*.

Brother ROGER HERINAINA Omard

HANDOVER AT THE HEAD OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL AFRICA (DAC)

On 13 July 2022, in the meeting room of the Provincial House of Yaoundé, took place the handing over ceremony between Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI, elected General



Councillor at the 46th General Chapter in Rome (19 May 2022), leaving his post of Provincial Visitor of the DAC vacant; and Brother Emmanuel MBOUA, newly appointed (5 July 2022) by Brother Superior General, Visitor Pro Tempore, at the head of the DAC. The ceremony took place under the chairmanship of the District Secretary, Brother Raymond Blaise NEUHA, in the presence of the Brothers present in the house as witnesses to the event.

As a preliminary to this handing over, the Chairman of the meeting expressed his heartfelt thanks for the good work and the community spirit that Brother Anatole has contributed to put in place in the District. He mentioned in particular the systematic meetings of the directors of the communities and works to share the common concerns related to our District and its evolution. After these words of gratitude, the Brother Secretary of the District read out in full and in English the Act of nomination of Brother Emmanuel MBOUA as Visitor of the DAC.

Then, the floor was given to the outgoing Brother Visitor. In his remarks, he made a point of recalling the highly important role of a Brother Visitor both on the civil and religious levels

for the construction and progress of our Lasallian works in Guinea, Chad and Cameroon. He then briefly presented the set of documents and acts, already worked on in private, in conformity with the Statutes and the manuals of procedures of the DAC. At the end of his presentation, the outgoing Brother Visitor handed over, in addition to the documents, the two symbols of the authority of the Brother Visitor which are: The Seal of the District and the register of the Vows pronounced by the Brothers of the DAC from 1954 to our days.

Before moving on to the signing of the Minutes of the handover, the incoming Visitor took the floor to give his first impressions before the Brothers present as witnesses. He made a point of recalling the place and the role played by the former African General Councillors within our Institute. After Burkina, Madagascar and Eritrea, it is now the turn of Central Africa to render this service to the Institute by letting Brother Anatole leave with joy for this new mission that the General Chapter has entrusted to him. It is in

this spirit of faith that Brother Emmanuel invites the Brothers and Lasallian women of the DAC to accept the departure of Br. Anatole, in spite of the many



great projects underway in the District. With regard to the vision for the District, the incoming Brother Visitor said that he would rely on his three qualities of perfectionism, legality and humility which he would put on display in his relations with the Brothers of the District. Also, he affirms that Brother Anatole

has produced many documents and procedures to deal with all that is arbitrary. He therefore engaged himself to put them into practice for the benefit of the DAC. Finally, the wish of the incoming Brother Visitor is that all the Brothers of the DAC accept to look together in the same direction with a view to the personal and community development and the growth of the DAC: it is this task of animation that the Lord, through the voice of the Brother Superior General, has henceforth entrusted to him as his mission.

After the signing by all the Brothers present of the Minutes of this official handing over of service, a photo session ended the ceremony in the afternoon of 13 July 2022 on the Mvolyé Hills, in Yaoundé/Cameroon. An appetiser offered by the Director of the community allowed the Brothers to discuss and exchange fraternally late in the evening of this memorable day for the DAC.

Brother Gilbert O, fsc
DAC



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH EDUCATION

What do we mean when we talk about the common good? The common good is more than a public good, which is concerned only with the management and distribution of material commodities in a political community. On the other hand, the common good incorporates what we usually mean by “public good”. In this article, I will use *Gaudium et Spes* (GS) as a guide to show the urgency of education for the common good in the context of the excitement about autonomy, freedom, individualism, nationalism, populism, indifference and material poverty.

The search for the common good is one of the consequences to be drawn from the message of the Second Vatican Council on the meaning of human community. Technical and scientific progress are not capable of enabling people to dialogue, to fraternise and to form community. According to the Council, "Christian revelation contributes greatly to the promotion of this communion between persons, and at the same time leads us to a deeper understanding of the laws of social life which the Creator has written into man's moral and spiritual nature [...]" (GS, 23 §1). The fraternal dialogue, the communion of persons, is more important than technical and scientific progress, because the first fundamental thing is the "communitarian character of the human vocation in God's plan" (GS, 24§1). The communitarian character of our vocation has seven consequences, which the Council Fathers have made explicit:

- The interdependence of the person and society (N° 25)

- The promotion of the common good (N° 26)

- Respect for the human person (N° 27)

- Respect and love for one's adversaries (N° 28)

- The essential equality of all people among themselves and social justice (N°29)

- The need to overcome individualistic ethics (N°30)

- Responsibility and participation (N°31)

We recognise here seven other paths of education to change situations of precariousness. These are the fundamentals without which any other action is impossible, useless and ineffective. The seven paths are variations on the common good. According to the Council Fathers, "the common good [is] the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment [...]" (GS, 26 §1). And what is this set of social conditions? The answer is given to us in the following paragraph: "Therefore, there must be made available to all men everything necessary for leading a life truly human, such as food, clothing, and shelter; the right to choose a state of life freely and to found a family, the right to education, to employment, to a good reputation, to respect, to appropriate information, to activity in accord with the upright norm of one's own conscience, to protection of privacy and rightful freedom even in matters religious" (GS, 26§2). When you read this paragraph, you can see that the educational programme is well laid out. All the elements mentioned constitute what is called the common good. Education itself is part of the common good to be provided for every mankind. Education for the common good is a powerful means to counter

individualism, selfishness, hatred, competition and unjust inequalities. Education for the common good is the recipe against the division of societies. The Lasallian practice of education has as its mission to make man capable of remaining human in the face of material and immaterial goods, in the face of his neighbour, the human person. How to educate for the common good?

I would like to quickly underline that Lasallians must first of all reflect on the choices of society that political decision-makers impose on us through the programmes that we implement. All our programmes aim at a kind of man to be formed, to be enrolled. Are these programmes appropriate to Christian anthropology? Are we not contributing to the formation of men and women who are the opposite of our expectations, our convictions and the lifestyle of Christ? My observation is that we are absent from the places of decision and reflection on education, or we do not have a say in evaluating and pronouncing on decisions and orientations on education. We prefer to wait for others to think for us because we present ourselves as "specialists in acting" in education and not as theorists. We are "practical" and therefore less critical and committed. Yet the Church has resources to enlighten reason with the light of Christian Revelation so that education is always oriented towards the good of "all of us". We have to use these documents to argue and oppose, when necessary, programmes, orientations or decisions that are contrary to our convictions. In all cases, it is a matter of contributing through joint reflection to making our convictions and proposals heard, even if it means that the political authority has to decide. We need a centre of reflection or a study office on Lasallian education

which engages Lasallians and propels them towards new horizons. Others cannot continue to do the thinking for us so that we simply implement their thinking without flinching. And yet, we do not always agree with them. How do we make this known? What do we propose instead of what we disagree with?

The common good as defined by the Second Vatican Council shows that our educational policies have other objectives than the common good. How can we educate for the common good? I will just indicate two points without developing them. The educational challenge that allows us to take up other challenges is this: learning to put the interest of others or of the community before my own. This means developing capacities, i.e. making people capable of promoting and protecting the common good. This capacity calls for others: first of all, education for the common good must begin with justice as its prerequisite and solidarity as its foundation. The Chapter Capitulants did well to raise the theme of solidarity (RELEN and RELAF). Secondly, an education in service and charity because justice and the observance of the law are not enough to promote a community of the common good. We need actions on people's behaviour, practical experiences that renew their outlook and their conscience. According to Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, "justice is inseparable from charity" (PP, 22) and Benedict XVI adds: "Charity goes beyond justice and completes it in the logic of giving and forgiving" (CV, 6§2). In short, the new direction (trendy effect?) is the common good. We need to increase the capacity to commit ourselves to serve mankind through the service of the common good. This good transcends individual freedoms and particular interests. Africa

needs upright men and women who are capable of promoting and protecting the good of "all of us". I remain convinced that we have the capacity to make the necessary changes to respond to the needs of young people in a concrete way in the context of the following challenges that I have identified: academic failure, school drop-outs, lack of housing for pupils and students (hostels), lack of libraries, lack of supply banks, training in professions, training in job creation, participation in associative movements; literacy for young people and adults, etc. These are some of the real problems of young people who call for the management of the common good. One obstacle to initiatives is that we are all too willing to accept the school curriculum. We have become

"slaves" to these curricula that have to be completed so that there is not enough room for other initiatives. All curricula should address issues of justice, solidarity and the common good in a transversal way. In addition, it would be good to consider local, national concerns in each country. How can we prepare young people for the change of power, for the rejection of corruption, injustice, violence during demonstrations, totalitarianism, fanaticism and terrorism?

Marc SOME, fec.

DILAO

FRATELLI'S FAREWELL TO BROTHER GILBERT

On Friday 24th June 2022, the team of educators, the Fratelli community, the Marist and Lasallian Brothers of Lebanon met at Rmeileh to express their gratitude to Brother



Gilbert OUILABEGUE, from the District of Central Africa, after a stay of four and a half years at the Fratelli Lebanon Project.

In fact, upon the constitution of the new community composed of 2 Lasallian Brothers, Maurice BURASA (Rwanda, arrived on 10 March 2022) and Guillermo MORENO (Spain, arrived on 27 August

2022); and 2 Marist Brothers, Juan Carlos FUERTES (arrived on 28 February 2022) and Esteban ORTEGA (February 2020), the first generation of pioneers of the Fratelli Lebanon Project is closing with the departure of Brother Gilbert to join his District. So, after a brief transitional stage, a new cycle of the Fratelli Project, after more than 5 years of existence, can begin.

The activities of the day of the 24th began at 9:30 a.m. with the arrival and welcoming of the Brothers from different communities, namely: Mont Lasalle, Kfariachite, Champville and the members of the Fratelli Association. Then a short coffee break and relaxation time allowed everyone to take a breather.

It was at 12 noon that all the guests gathered in the old chapel of the Marist School of Sidon to hold a first session of a religious nature, after its restoration in December 2019.

The director of the Project, Brother Juan Carlos FUERTES, took the floor to welcome the participants and also to express the purpose of the gathering in these few words: "We are gathered to say a "farewell" to our dear Brother Gilbert for his years of service to the Project of the Fratelli community. During the last few years, Brother Gilbert was Director of the community and then of the Project until I joined you here in Lebanon. It is therefore legitimate that we surround him today with our friendship and our gratitude on the eve of his departure to his District. Then he gave the following 6 points of the celebration of the day:

- 1) After this word of welcome, there is a time of silence during which each one is invited to remember the good moments or experiences (joyful or sad) lived in the company of Brother Gilbert during these years.

- 2) At the end of this silence, a bilingual prayer (Arabic and French) of thanksgiving for the occasion was shared and read in two choirs by the participants.

- 3) Then came the moment for those who wished to speak to share their feelings and memories of their time with Brother Gilbert. Six people spoke in Arabic, English, French and Spanish to point out the

very touching facts and some of the characters that they observed and shared with Brother Gilbert.

- 4) Then followed the moment of gift giving and



souvenirs to Brother Gilbert: the team of educators, through 3 representatives, came by to offer a bracelet with Brother Gilbert's name engraved in maple with a small cedar tree. Fratelli's sewing workshop made a set of traditional Arabic dress and a shirt with a greenish cedar patch on the heart. The Fratelli Centre in Bourj Hammoud had a cross hand-knitted to

remind Brother Gilbert of the efforts made in the Project for the sake of the beneficiaries and the employees. Finally, Brother Emile AKIKI, in the name of the Brothers of Lebanon and the Brother Visitor on the move, gave a small



cedar made of bronze saying that "Lebanon, represented by this cedar that Brother Gilbert certainly dreamed of before coming to live with us at the foot of the Cedars of Lebanon. This cedar welcomes under its shade so many refugees that today it suffocates. In receiving this cedar, Brother Gilbert



continues to think of us and to pray that people like you will offer to come and help us to educate the refugee children and to give their families the necessary help, without forgetting our Lebanese families who, today more than yesterday, are also in need of assistance.

- 5) The floor was given to Brother Gilbert to address all the Brothers and educators who had come to express their gratitude for so many services rendered. He noted the 5 lessons learned during these years of mission in Lebanon which are: trust, generosity, joy, religious openness and hope.

- 6) Then all the participants were invited to stay for lunch which was served as soon as they left the chapel. The buffet was ready for the 47 participants who shared in the joy of these fraternal agape well prepared by the members of the commission.

Before the cutting of the cake, a part of the dance called "Dbakeh" allowed the more adventurous to try out the most popular oriental steps and melodies.

At the end, the cutting of the cake gave the opportunity to express the visibility of the solidarity of the Marist and Lasallian Brothers of Lebanon by associating themselves with Brother Gilbert, symbol of their unfailing support for the mission and the Fratelli community, to make the gesture of cutting the cake together for this occasion. It was a very peaceful and jovial atmosphere that everyone ended this beautiful farewell celebration hoping for another meeting, God willing, with Brother Gilbert. Everything is grace in the life of God's children.

Brother Gilbert O.

BURKINA FASO : CLEF 2022

Due to the persistent insecurity in the region of the “Boucle du Mouhoun”, the eighth (8th) edition of the Lasallian Community for Fraternal Education (CLEF) (i.e. a holiday camp) was relocated to La Salle Bolibana in Bobo-Dioulasso. It was held from 7 to 17 July 2022. A total of fifty-five (55) children aged between 3 and 12 years took part in this edition. They were supervised by a team of twelve (12) animators. The main theme



was "Let's sow peace and transform lives".

On 4 July, the animators met for a 72-hour training and preparation sessions. This included training on child psychology, inter-religious dialogue, preparation of rooms and materials for each workshop.

On 7 July, from 8am, parents and children were present in the school yard. After the welcome and installation, we attended the opening ceremony. Following the introductory prayer, Brother Mathurin OUÉDRAOGO, Director of the Complexe Scolaire Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle of Bolibana, took the floor to welcome the activity in this school. Then the coordinator, Brother David OUÉDRAOGO, briefly presented the objectives of the CLEF, while thanking the parents and the F.E.C. communities of the District for the trust they have placed in them to conduct this activity. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the victims of terrorism and for the children of

Nouna deprived of the CLEF 2022 edition. Mr. Sylvestre TOÉ, Deputy Director of CLEF, presented the Rules of Procedure, the different facilitators and the different workshops. The ceremony ended after words of encouragement from Brother Visitor Julien DIARRA. The parents and guests returned to their homes while the "cléfistes" (i.e. the children) gathered in the courtyard for an animation session. Afterwards, each child took part in a workshop (drumming, tam-tam percussion, beading, drawing and colouring, decoration and manual embroidery).

The following days were very busy with a full programme from 7.30am to 5pm. The children adapted very quickly to the rhythm of the work. Each day, a half an hour talk was offered to the 'participants' on the sub-themes of peace, love, tolerance, dialogue, good example and eco-citizenship. Participation was lively.

Thursday 14 July was a special day. It was marked by an excursion for the participants of CLEF 2022. In



fact, they went in town to visit the Palace of Culture Bishop Anselme T. SANON then the Central City Hall of Bobo-Dioulasso; the old Mosque of Dioulassoba; the railway station SITARAIL and the Senoufo Museum. The of everyone' face were shining of joy. As Bolibana is a village on the outskirts of the city of Bobo, it was a great pleasure for the children from that place to go to the city centre



and learn more. After lunch, it was time to return to the camp site at 2pm.



The highpoint of the CLEF was on 17 July. The "clefists" and their parents were summoned for 10am. The massive participation of the parents at this closing ceremony is to be commended. At 10.30 a.m. the closing ceremony started with the prayer followed by the performance of the CLEF Hymn. Afterwards, the percussionists demonstrated their skills. The children's representative and the parents' representative respectively took the floor to thank the initiators and the animators. They also expressed their wish to see this activity perpetuated. The Director of the Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle School Complex in Bolibana and the Director of CLEF, Brother Josué TRAORÉ, also intervened to thank the parents for the trust placed in the Brothers. A family photo was taken with all the parents and guests. This was followed by a visit to the articles produced in the workshops. The beading workshop, led by Miss Rania YERE, made a

bracelet as a souvenir gift for each "clefist" and each animator. The CLEF was closed by a big fraternal meal at 12:30. The children and their parents returned home while the animators were busy tidying up and taking stock.

The holding of this edition of the CLEF was very uncertain because of the security situation in the country. Nevertheless, it was necessary to hold it given its usefulness to the growth and development of



young people. The 9th edition is

impatiently awaited by all, for the month of July of the year 2023.

**Brothers Josué TRAORE and
David Frédéric OUÉDRAOGO, fsc
DILAO**

**PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S THESIS DEFENCES
AT THE ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE TECHNIQUE (E.S.T.)
LA SALLE OF DOUALA**

The defence is a decisive moment which closes the period of research and writing of the thesis spread over a semester, under the supervision of experienced supervisors in the different fields of specialisation present: Electrical Engineering, Industrial Computing and Automation, Industrial Robotics, Building and Public Works, Network and Computer Security, Human Resources Management, Finance and Accounting, Logistics and Transport, Accounting and Control and Audit. The stakes are therefore enormous for these master's students, as the defence alone constitutes a teaching unit worth 30 credits. That is why, in their best clothes, the students were trying as best as they could to contain their stress: some were dripping with sweat despite the chilly temperature offered by the morning rain of Saturday 23 July 2022. Others, in a “noisy silence” were anxious, seeing the triumphant passage of their predecessors, wondering what would become of them.

It was also a solemn event during which the La Salle complex opened its doors to parents, friends and acquaintances from all walks of life. They were all dressed like for special occasions, to support their laureate and to take the opportunity to visit the campus and discover its many state-of-the-art facilities.

The presidents and members of the panel were for the most part from the University of Douala (Academic

Tutelage of EST La Salle) and consisted of eminent Professors and Doctors, who were joined by professionals in their respective specialities.



Results: for 116 students presented, 5 received a Very Good rating, with the congratulations of the examining board for having scored an average higher than or equal to 18/20; 60

received a Very Good rating for an average of between (16-18/20); 35 received a Good rating with an average of between (14-16/20); 14 deserved the Fair rating (12-14/20). However, two students had their thesis rejected for plagiarism.

The results are almost positive and can be seen in the satisfaction of the students who congratulated themselves for their hard work. One can observe it in the congratulations of the examining board and the comments of the members of the panels who appreciated the relevance and originality of the themes presented. Above all we noticed the successful implementation of the heuristic methods used by the students. The sighs of the teachers and members of the administration were satisfied for having been able to inculcate the contents and methodologies as well as the know-how to these students, hence their satisfaction for the work well done.

Also, the shouts, the clapping, the tears of joy and all the quality and quantity of the flower bouquets as well as the gastronomy did not hide the festive aspect of this meeting, at the base, intellectual.

Together, Let's Build Our Future!

**Doris BEUTCHOU,
Coordinator MEL/DAC**

FIRST INTER-SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA IN KISUMU CITY

La Salle School Homa Bay participated in their first expo and experience in inter-schools swimming Gala in Kisumu City last Saturday on 23rd Sept. This was a wonderful



experience as they had never before been exposed to such environment. They met many other children swimmers of their age and they were taken to task as they showcase their ability in aquatic skills in the pool. Since it was their first time, they participated in

guest category for the purpose of getting exposure, building their social skills with other children and learning from them. The event was very successful and few parents accompanied the team to Kisumu which was a great show of support. We are looking forward for more future events like this which will help to take them to the next level.



Brother Antone, fsc
Directeur