

# RELAF NEWSLETTER N°45

## Brothers of the Christian Schools



**Lasallian Region of Africa**



December 2022

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# EDITORIAL

## **Our news is not always good!**

**E**ach day that passes brings with it its share of desolation and misfortune. Not a day goes by without bad news from home. The home is my own country, my village, my region, my Africa, etc. The news is not always good: repression of demonstrators here, floods there, jihadist attacks on the other side, people swallowed up by a landslide on this side, people forced to leave their homes to escape the massacres and looting of the advancing rebels, repeated coups d'état of all kinds.... Added to this are the chronic, structural situations of misery and poverty aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to have a negative impact on the economies of our country, which are already on the ground. Only darkness! When will the light of hope appear? "People who walk in the long night," we humbly acknowledge before God. Has the man of today become a follower of darkness as in the old days? It is becoming more and more apparent that it is here and now the long night of humanity, the long night of the peoples where we do not know or ignore Jesus. Yet, we fervently wait for Him some weeks ago. it

In a few days' time, we will welcome the King of love as a little child. He whom the Prophets have announced since the beginning of time. In reality, he has already come and we are waiting for him to come again.

This long night of waiting needs the watchers whom the Lord himself must make firm in faith, joyful in hope and effective in charity for "if the foundations are destroyed,

What can the righteous do?" Ps 11.

In the face of so much suffering in our midst, Advent is a favourable time to awaken our weary hearts, to shake off our spiritual torpor, to seek to listen again to the whispers of the Spirit of the Lord who prays watches and hopes in us.

Thanks to this Spirit, it is possible to revive our expectation, the active vigilance of our faith, in order to commit ourselves wherever life is scorned; love trampled, hope threatened, man despised. For the One we are waiting for and who is coming has justice as "a belt around his waist ". "With justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth ", he will inspire the fear of the Lord, he will make it so that "the wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard may lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together...", Is 11, 1-10. Let us try to be watchmen who not only prepare but also hasten the advent and ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God, that of the reign of Love where justice and peace grow, and that the news that will reach us from home will finally be good news from time to time.

May Jesus, "The Lord saves" and Emmanuel "God-with-us" be our shield and protector throughout the coming New Year.

Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI,

General Councillor



## Y. L. OF KONGOUSSI: LASALLIAN WEEK FOR PEACE

In the same perspective as the other groups of Young Lasallians (YL) throughout the world, the Kongoussi YL (DILAO/Burkina Faso) organised from 14 to 19 November 2022, the "Lasallian week for peace". The highlights of this week included Tuesday 15 November, when we said a prayer for peace in Burkina Faso and in the world. The afternoon of Wednesday 16 November, we had a conference-debate between young Lasallians. The theme was "Role of the young Lasallian in the process of recovering peace at the national, international and worldwide level". After this presentation, we had a projection of the film entitled "Aladdin and the magic lamp".

We focused this activity on our slogan: "Lasallians with a burning heart star of the youth". Through this, we wanted to remind the young people that their main mission is to be a "light" for other young people, inspired by the elements of the Lasallian charism: FAITH, SERVICE AND FRATERNITY. During this meeting, we decided to organise a session of visits to



the sick and internally displaced persons in the days to come. On Saturday 19th, from 9 to 10 am, we had several performances of sketches, dances etc. Many young lasallians and their fellow students have attended this activity. In the afternoon, a football match opposed the JL/Kongoussi to the Scouts. The final score was four goals to two, in favour of the Scouts.

To close this beautiful week, the Young Lasallians of



Kongoussi opted for the planting of "peace trees". These are two types of symbolic trees: a flowering tree (the flamboyant) to symbolise life and lasting love; and a fruit tree (the avocado tree),

symbolising the fight against hunger in the world.

It was with great joy that the Young Lasallians and their leaders ended this week. We made a special mention to the Young Lasallians of the Middle School, for their unfailing dynamism during this week dedicated to peace.



Bro. Josué TRAORÉ

## EDUCATION TO FRATERNITY

Fraternity as one of the Christian virtues is part of the five elements that make up the Lasallian Star. In the Saint John Baptist de La Salle KIRENGE School, one of the works of the RWANDA Delegation, we wanted to inculcate this virtue in the school life of our students in a practical way.

We had based all our activities on our motto: "Many small things done by many small people, in many small places, can change the world."

Thanks to the newly created "Young Lasallians"



Movement in our school, we organise different hubs every Saturday during the after-school activities. These

workshops bring together

young people between the ages of 6 and 16.

This education to fraternity is not only theoretical but also practical. First, we prepare the different discussions focused on listening to each other through our different life experiences. We attach great importance to the meaning of fraternity in our school life and even our social life as a whole. Through this education to fraternity, we want to have a look of a brotherly love towards our classmates. In addition, through this fraternal love, we want to be a leaven in our school, transformed into a family that cares for the well-being of the other, in order to discover in him the Image of God. Spontaneous prayers of these young Lasallians illuminate all these activities.

In the second stage, we look at the practical aspect. Through this practice, we want to consolidate our fraternal relationships through visits to the sick and the

elderly and through mutual help in our different school activities.

Driven by this same spirit, on 5 November this year we



organised a charity event. Through this activity, we made an awareness campaign that resulted in the collection of various

donations to help two of our classmates from the same family who lost their mother (who passed away at the age of 29 after a long illness). During our visit to this family, we took the time to share with our two classmates and their families this painful event. It was a moment of comfort and relief for the whole family.

In the Rwandan culture, firewood is very significant in a family that has lost a member. "The departure of a loved one leaves the other members cold. They need firewood for warming up". We did not only bring wood, but also a candle. This candle serves to light the family so that "it does not remain in the shadow created by death". It is also a sign of communion and fraternity. In the education of fraternity and sensitivity to social life, our young people brought various gifts of food and firewood to the family in need.

**Bro. HABINEZA Jean René**

# BURKINA FASO: THE SCHOOL YEAR START AT LA SALLE BADENYA PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL



It is a tradition at Lycée Privé La Salle Badenya to organise pedagogical workshops a few weeks before the start of the school year. This, with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of the teaching staff, to better face the new school year. This year, these pedagogical workshops took place on 15 and 16 September 2022. The speaker, Mr. VALEA, presented us with the theme of "Exercise of authority and educational style in schools".



The school year 2022-2023 started on 1 October 2022. The programme was very special on that day. The bell rang at 7.45 a.m., marking the gathering and settle-in of all participants. The official ceremony began at 8.00 a.m., with the playing of the national anthem and the raising of the flag. Afterwards, in a spirit of faith, we said prayers to entrust to God the new school year that is beginning, as well as all the actors of education. We also asked God for peace in Burkina Faso in particular, and in the world in general. After the prayer, it was time for

speeches. The President of the Parents' Association, the Headmistress of the primary school and the Brother Headmaster took turns to welcome, encourage and wish success to all for this school year 2022-2023. They did not fail, each in his own right, to give advices for a better achievement of the objectives of the education. The theme of this school year, "Let us live fraternity in humility", indeed speaks volumes.

After the ceremony, the students went back to their classrooms to receive their books and read the internal regulations.

On Tuesday 04 October, Lycée Privé La Salle Badenya launched the Rosary prayer with the inclusive participation of the staff and all students. These Rosary prayer sessions have been a precious moment for us. They have indeed enabled us to entrust our school year into the gracious hands of Heavenly Father.

**Mrs NANEMA Rose L.**

**Headmistress of the primary school**



# GUINEA: START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR TERTIARY, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES

The technical education and vocational training students who have been waiting for a long time have resumed their studies on Wednesday 2 November 2022.

The CFP De La Salle Conakry opened the doors of



the centre on this day.

At 8am,

the

electronic bell of the

centre gave the starting signal. All the students, both existing and new from all streams, gathered around the flagpole for the raising of the colours. We played the national anthem while rising the flag. Afterwards, the Acting Director of the centre, Brother Juan Duran, took the floor to give some instructions to the incoming students. These instructions were also reminders for the former students. It was an opportunity to introduce the teachers and the subjects they teach. Let us note that we could not give the number of the first-year students in all field because of the new reforms of the ministry in charge, which requires that all candidates opting for technical and vocational training should imperatively register on a platform called “parcours pro”. Only the final registration of the candidate on the platform gives the right to receive the formation in the chosen school. The CFP De La Salle does not have to worry about its numbers because the authorities themselves appreciate the quality and dynamism of its services. On the morning of this year's first day of school, we had a visit from the inspector of the municipality of

Kaloum. He came to witness the start of the new school year at our level.

Very pleased, he did not fail to congratulate and encourage everyone to hold on to his or her position for a better performance at the end of the year. The pleasant atmosphere that already reigned in the school reassures us and we dare to believe that the year has started well. We pay tribute to Brother Pedro MARIA ASTIGARRAGA who was Director of the centre. The Lord has called away last year. May he rest in peace! We count on his prayer together with that of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and all the Saints and faithful Lasallian servants who have given of their time and their being for the formation and education of the youth here in Guinea and elsewhere.



In the days to come, we are going to hold a General Assembly to work on the

CFP Internal Regulations. Before we have it for especially for the new students, we invited them to return to the classes of their field of study. There, they will have a contact with the teachers on the one hand, and the setting up of tables and chairs on the other.

The day that marked the first day of the new school year was very pleasant!

**Brother Jean-Paul AGBA**

# RWANDA: THE ACADEMIE DE LA SALLE, AN OUTSTANDING

The holistic education given by the De La Salle Brothers and lasallian partners in Rwanda has a great impact in the lives of the students and to the country. The active collaboration between lasallians partners and brothers



in the field of education has tremendous role in imparting a holistic education

to those who are starving from education either formal or informal. For our school, which is composed of three levels, i.e., Kindergarden, Primary and Secondary (Ordinary level) and is called "De La Salle Academy", the 2021-2022 school year was a year of great success. The students performed well in the examinations, which promote them to the next class and to the next levels. At the national level students sit for national examinations to promote them to the next level every year. Our school also presented the candidates to two examinations: primary level leaving candidates and secondary leaving level candidates (ordinary level). In September, the ministry of education in Rwanda



published the results in both primary and secondary levels. The best student at the national level in ordinary level was

NTWALI MANZI ALBERT from Académie de La Salle. "The success comes from listening and respecting my teachers' advices and parents. The

prayer and the respect to God was also one of the key



elements that helped me to succeed": Said ALBERT. Our great success was not only in

secondary school, but also in primary school. Indeed, our student ISHYA RUGEMA ACHILE, was fourth



in the national level. Parents appreciated the performance of their students. They organized a thanksgiving worship and shared lunch with students and teachers.

**Br HABİYAREMYE FABIEN**

**Director of the Académie De La Salle**



## THE RELAF AT IYBA AND IYLS

After several postponements due in particular to the health crisis of Covid-19, the International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and the International Young Lasallian Symposium (IYLS) were held respectively from 7 to 20 November and from 13 to 19 November 2022 in Rome. There was a strong representation from the Lasallian Region of Africa with the participation of a delegation of eleven persons.

List of participants			
Status	Name and surname(s)	Meeting	District of origin
Brother	EYASU Ghebrehiwet	IYBA	Lwanga District
Brother	HITIYAREMYE Pascal	IYBA	Delegation du Rwanda
Brother	OKOTH Oscar	IYBA	Lwanga District
Brother	QUEDRAOGO David Frédéric	IYBA	DILAO
Brother	QUILABEGUE Gilbert	IYBA	DAC / RELAF
Brother	TANWOUNE Namitien Séverin	IYBA	DILAO
Brother	BAKO Pierre Aymard	IYBA et IYLS	DILAO / RELAF
Brother	ILOZUE Uchenna	IYLS	Lwanga District
Brother	PANZU Michel	IYLS	Congo
Brother	TRAORE Josué	IYLS	DILAO
Miss	LAMBONI Nadège	IYLS	DILAO

The IYBA began on 08 November with a lively ceremony. Brother Chris PATINO, General



the Institute, formation in Lasallian spirituality and the catechetical experience in the periphery.

In addition, it is important to mention the "Lasallian conversation" between the young Brothers and the Superior General, Brother Armin LUISTRO and his General Councillors. Brother Armin made us see the importance of youth and the power of youth engagement through a holistic overview of the Bible and the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. He also spoke to us about the expectation of the Institute for the Young Brothers: to be leaven for a new world.

In addition to these sessions of intense work, the young Brothers went to Assisi on Sunday 13 November to follow in the footsteps of Saint Francis. It was a fortunate spiritual and historical experience for all of them.



Councillor and a Young Brother, welcomed us. Afterwards, the work began. It focused on the search for our declaration relating to the theme: "Passionate Witnesses of Fraternity", our dreams, the barriers to our dreams, our strengths, the calls of the Church and the Institute addressed to us... This journey led us to adopt three major projects that we would implement in the next seven years. We have structured these projects around the internationality of the mission in



In the same vein, from 13 to 19 November, the Young Lasallians held their International Symposium in



In short, it was a great participation of RELAF in these two great assemblies held on the margins of the General Chapter. Great challenges remain at the level of the Region in order to respond to the needs of the Lasallian educational mission. Long live RELAF! Long live young Lasallians and Brothers! Live Jesus in our hearts!

person, after several virtual sessions. At the opening on November 14th, a "Lasallian conversation" also took place between the symposium and Brother Superior General. The group work also made it possible to articulate the following projects for the seven-year period: vocations culture, communication and networking, service to the poor, and sustainable organisational growth. However, joint sessions with the young Brothers helped to bring out our common goals. It is, above all, a shared mission and the same Lasallian family.

The members of the International Assembly and Symposium took part in the papal audience at the Vatican on 16 November. Providently, Pope Francis was teaching on the theme of discernment; a call that fell on the attentive ears of young Lasallians and Brothers.

On 18 November, an official closing ceremony took place for both groups. Brother Carlos, Vicar General, gave us a brilliant exhortation. The following day, the members of RELAF held a meeting to give each other guidelines for the implementation of all that had been decided and even beyond.



**David Frédéric OUEDRAOGO, FSC**  
**Lasallian District of West Africa**



## MADAGASCAR: TWO MORE FINAL PROFESSED BROTHERS AND A JUBILEE BROTHER

**T**here will be more joy in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7). In the same way, one might be tempted to say that there will be more joy in heaven when Brothers publicly manifest their permanent commitment to God. All the more so since the celebration of this great feast took place on 1 November, the feast of all the Saints. It was therefore an ideal way to be in perfect communion with the joy of the saints and the angels in heaven.



The two Brothers who made their final vows were Brother BATEMILAZANIAINA Hermann and Brother RATSIRESEMBAHOAKA Jean Noël. As for the jubilee Brother, it was Brother RABARONE Mamy Olivier, former Visitor of the District of Madagascar from 2013 to 2021. This year, he is celebrating his silver jubilee of religious life in the Congregation. He made his first profession in 1997 in Antananarivo, and his final profession in 2004.

We have held the mass in the cathedral of the diocese of Ambositra (Southeast of Madagascar) from 8am, presided over by the Vicar General, Monsignor RAKOTONDRINA Odon Pascal. It brought together

Christians from all the surrounding or distant localities, including the public authorities. The festive atmosphere was present.

The various choirs were present! Their angelic voices rang out to help the assembly praise God with the Saints. Those who could not attend had the opportunity to follow the mass live on the diocesan radio station, Radio Maria.



After spiritual nourishment by the Word of God and the Eucharist, there was room for the bread that nourishes the body. We invited the guests to the Saint Louis de Gonzague high school, a few metres from the cathedral, for a fraternal meal. We often say that the limit of celebrations is the sunset. This time, however, this was not the case. With great joy, the people continued the feast until dawn.

Let us carry in our prayers the two newly perpetually professed Brothers and the Jubilee Brother to find joy in serving God according to the charism of the Institute through the different services that will be entrusted to them. May God help them!

Brother ROGER HERINIAINA Omard



# BURKINA FASO: A LASALLIAN MISSION ON THE PERIPHERY

The Brothers of the Christian Schools are well known and famous for the quality of the education in their schools and the results they achieve. However, in keeping with the spirit of "duc in altum", the Brothers go beyond the classical educational frameworks in colleges, high schools or universities. Thus, in the Lasallian District of West Africa (DILAO), there is a formation centre called the "Centre Lasallien d'Initiation aux Métiers de l'Agriculture"(CLIMA) i.e. a training centre for agricultural work. Since 2007, the year of its official opening, the Brothers have been trying to accompany young farming couples in the fields of agro-sylvo-pastoral activities. We pay particular attention to the human and religious formation of the beneficiaries. Regular community prayers are organised, such as the recitation of the rosary, weekly Eucharistic celebrations, etc. There is also sport practice with the trainees and the Brothers.

At CLIMA, there are two main sectors: the vegetal sector and the animal sector. The vegetal sector includes the citrus fruit, banana, cereal and market gardening production units. The animal sector includes the units of laying hens, local chickens, turkeys and guinea fowl, sheep and fish. The Brothers collaborate in this centre with about twenty production agents and trainers.

The classic trainees arrive for one cultural season, i.e. from April to December. As for the flexible trainees, they come for a short training in a specific field. The centre also welcomes students from the Ecoles Supérieures for their internship at the end of their course.

This centre is a model of Lasallian commitment in the periphery to the poor population in search of God and well-being. It is a centre to visit whenever the opportunity arises, or why not create the opportunity to visit it.

The community at the head of CLIMA is made up of three brothers, namely Cyrille KONDOMBO, Director and in charge of Fish Production; Isaïe KY, Bursar and in charge of the vegetal production; David OUEDRAOGO, in charge of Communication and Animal Production. Together and by association, with their collaborators, they bear witness to Jesus in the agro-sylvo-pastoral environment of Burkina Faso. May God keep this work alive and prosperous for the greater glory of his name, Amen!

Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!

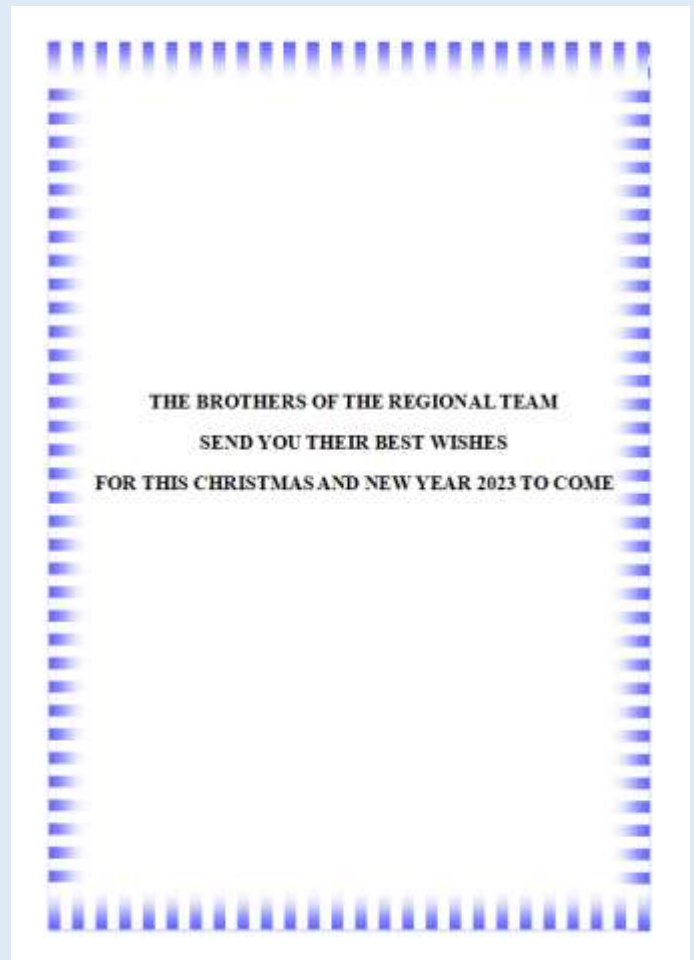
**David Frédéric OUEDRAOGO, FSC**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the decision of the Conference of the Brother Visitors and President to organize the Regional Assembly in April 2023 in Abidjan, the regional team, assisted by the Brother General Councillor, is hard at work for this very important event for RELAF. Several face-to-face and online meetings have taken place. In agreement with the Brothers Visitors, two preparatory commissions have been set up. These are the Commission for the revision of the basic texts of RELAF and the Commission for the elaboration of a strategic plan for RELAF. The Brothers designated by the Brother Visitors/President are members of one or the other commission. The search is on for an ideal location for the reception and accommodation of the delegates.

Together with the preparation of the Assembly, the regional team is also working on the agenda for the visit of the General Council to RELAF. This visit is scheduled for November 5-18, 2023. The draft of the complete agenda is ready and will be submitted for adoption by the Brothers Visitors/President before being submitted to the General Council for approval. The regional team is counting on the prayer and support of all Lasallians for the success of these two important events that will take place in our region.

# GREETING CARD FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR





# **BROTHER GENERAL COUNCILLOR'S CALENDAR**

<b>December 2022</b>	
04 to 08	Regional Office, Abidjan/Ivory Coast
09 to 16	Visit to the Interafrican Novitiate, Bobo-Dioulasso/Burkina Faso
17/12/22 to 03/01/23	Regional Office, Abidjan/Ivory Coast
<b>January 2023</b>	
04 to 08	General House, Rome/Italy
9 to 19	Bangkok/Thailand, General Council visit to PARC
22/01 to 22/02	Madrid/Spain
<b>February 2023</b>	
26/02 to 12/03	General Council visit to RELEM