



# RELAF NEWSLETTER N°49

Brothers of the Christian Schools



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## Editorial

### **With artificial intelligence, the pace will be difficult to keep up with**

With things changing rapidly, our schools will struggle to keep up. In the absence of resources and bold policies, the scarce investments in education are only used to maintain an already outdated education system. Even as we struggle to keep pace with the significant change brought about by COVID-19, other important changes are taking place before our eyes through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

This tool could be considered by some as a new find. However, for others, it is not, because AI is the result of combining existing data, including computer systems, data with management systems and algorithms. Man today knows how to use the creative potential given by God to bring artificial intelligence into existence. It is the result of man's creative performance. However, it is considered the opposite of human intelligence.

Thus, AI aims to see computers or any other machine think and act like human beings. Those who promote it see only advantages and progress that can flow from it. They put colossal resources into its development and use. However, like any medal, it has two sides, the less brilliant of which is not yet on display. What we know about its veiled face, AI is "an extremely powerful tool, used in many areas of human activity: *from medicine to the world of work, from culture to communication, from education to politics*, as Pope Francis acknowledged on June 14, 2024 in his speech to the G7 session on artificial intelligence.

As in many other fields, AI is present in the world of education. While elsewhere new modes of knowledge transmission and skill acquisition are being put in place, in our country, it is rather the opposite. Due to the lack of delays in many areas, we are still maintaining the traditional education system as old as the years of independence. The situation is very deplorable in our universities and so-called grandes écoles of excellence, which are supposed to produce applications to boost education systems. Unfortunately, their research results stop at the level of very honorable mentions.

How can we ensure that African education systems can keep pace, reinvent themselves, and adapt to contribute effectively not only to raising the level of education but also to raising skills in key areas such as agriculture, industry, and especially the processing of raw materials? At a time when we are at the stage of unanswered questions, elsewhere, the others are at the stage of implementing innovative solutions. And as always, we are waiting for the finished products to be imported here.

The use of AI in schools will irreversibly revolutionize the way knowledge is transmitted, in the manner of De La Salle and Adrien Nyel who, thanks to their creative geniuses, had made school complementary to that of their childhood. In a few years, AI will democratize access to knowledge, with the risk of seeing machines replace humans, as we are already seeing in foreign language learning. Hopefully, AI won't completely replace humans; but beware: humans with AI will replace humans without AI.

Of the use of AI, Pope Francis warns: "*AI is a fascinating but formidable tool. And the benefits or harms it will bring will depend on its use.*" This means that AI users in education must already prepare and train for its ethical use.

**Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI, General Councillor**

## **Closing of the Alabaster Jubilee of the presence of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Burkina Faso**

### **Alabaster Jubilee of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Burkina Faso and Niger.**

The period from May 11 to 18, 2024 was marked at DILAO by the activities within the framework of the closing of the alabaster jubilee of presence of the Brothers in Burkina Faso. The Brothers arrived in Toussiana in September 1948. Placed under the patronage of Mr. Armand BADIÉL, National Director of the BCEAO for Burkina Faso and also a former student of the College of Tounouma, the third establishment founded by the Brothers in 1959, this jubilee was punctuated by flagship activities such as the day of reflection on the contribution of the Lasallian school in the formation of the citizen in Burkina Faso, a cultural evening, a day called "In the footsteps of the pioneers" of sports competitions and the closing mass.



The work of the day of reflection was opened by Brother Jovite DIARRA, Auxiliary Visitor. On behalf of the Brother Visitor, Rodrigue TOEPPEN, he thanked the speakers who will help the Brothers to identify the problems of education today and reassured them that their reflections will be taken into account by the District Chapter.

In terms of sports, it is worth noting the popular cross-country race which mobilized teachers, students, former students, and Brothers. It ended with an aerobics session at Tounouma College. In addition, there were inter-Lasallian school competitions in athletics, basketball, and football.

In culture, we remember the day of May 16, 2024, with a cultural evening in the Monseigneur Anselme SANON House of Culture in Bobo-Dioulasso. Competitions in oratory, modern, and traditional ballets opposed our Lasallian establishments and Catholic guest establishments in the city of Bobo Dioulasso. From 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., we attended the beautiful performances and creative talents of our students.

On May 17, 2024, everyone converged on Toussiana, the mythical village that welcomed the Brothers in 1948. It's "In the footsteps of the pioneers" day. A para-liturgical ceremony began in front of the grotto, built on the occasion of the centenary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes. In procession, Brothers, students, former students, parents of students, and friends then walked to the statue of the Holy Founder where the hymn in his honor was sung. The procession finally continued to the Brothers' cemetery for a symbolic tribute to our predecessors in the mission. The ceremony ended with a photo exhibition visit. The pilgrims then stormed the stands of the fair organized for the occasion, for a reunion around local dishes and cold drinks.

Finally, on May 18, it is the Eucharistic celebration, the apotheosis of the jubilee in the beautiful Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bobo-Dioulasso at 9 a.m. It was presided over by Bishop Lucas Kalfa SANON, Bishop of Banfora, in the presence of Archbishop Paul OUEDRAOGO, the President of the Episcopal Conference, Bishop Laurent DABIRE of Dori, and Bishop Der Raphaël DABIRE of Diébougou. At the end of the mass, a fraternal meal was offered at the college of Tounouma. This day ended with the final of the jubilee cup in football between the modern private high school of Toussiana and the Pierre Kula college of Diébougou. At the end of the allotted time, the modern private high school of Toussiana emerged victorious. This final marks the end of the jubilee closing activities. An appointment has been made for the centenary in 25 years.

**Brother Daniel SABOUE, Lasallian District of West Africa (DILAO)**



## Triple Lasallian joy at the novitiate of Bobo-Dioulasso!

The news is good! It is very good! On Thursday, June 13, 2024, when the Church celebrated the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, the Lasallian Family, in particular the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Institute of the Guadalupana Sisters of La Salle, joyfully celebrated the First Vows and the Silver Jubilee of Religious Life.



During the same Eucharistic celebration, eleven Brothers and two Sisters of the Class of 2022-2024 pronounced their First Vows. In front of an assembly of nearly five hundred faithful Christians, relatives, and friends, these thirteen young people said publicly "*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,... I devote myself entirely to you to procure your glory, as far as it is possible for me and as you ask of me. And for this purpose, I ... promise and make vows of association for the educational service of the poor, of stability in the Institute, of obedience, chastity, and poverty... for one year. »*

Similarly, four Brothers of the 1997-1999 Class of the Novitiate, under the patronage of Blessed Isidore BAKANDJA, martyr, renewed their Vows while celebrating their Silver Jubilee. These Jubilee Brothers are Adolphe BANZI BAKANGILA (DRC), Félicien BORA PALUKU (DRC), Jovite Sounkari DIARRA (Burkina) and Rodrigue TOEPPEN (Togo). Brother Félicien is the Procurator of the Institute to the Holy See in Rome, and Brother Rodrigue and Brother Jovite are respectively Titular Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor of the Lasallian District of West Africa.

It should be noted that the First Vows of the Professed Brothers and the Renewal of the Vows of the Jubilarians were received by Brother Pie NSUKULA BAVINGIDI, Visitor of the District of Congo Kinshasa. The First Vows of the Professed Sisters were received by Sister Laurencia ALPHONSE, from Madagascar, representative of the Sister Superior of the Institute.

The community of the novitiate of Bobo-Dioulasso experienced this event with a triple Lasallian joy that magnifies the Lasallian religious vocation for several reasons. It is the *Lasallian identity* of Brother and Sister that is valued in Africa and Madagascar by this happy event of Church and Institute. It is also the *Association for the Educational and Evangelizing Service of Young People, especially the most disadvantaged*, which is promoted by the commitment of these Lasallian educators.

It is also the *male and female Consecrated Life* that is celebrated in Africa and Madagascar by this First Religious Profession of young Africans and Malagasy, and this Silver Jubilee of the Religious Life of four Brothers.

It is above all the *Lasallian Educational Mission* that is exalted in Africa and Madagascar for the salvation of youth. For this reason, it is the *Lasallian school* in Africa and Madagascar that welcomes potential new educators and celebrates the fidelity of dedicated educators.

It is *St. John Baptist de La Salle* (1651-1719), Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and *Venerable Brother Jean Fromental* (1895-1978), Founder of the Institute of the Guadalupanean Sisters of La Salle, who are both honored in heaven.

It is the *Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*, who is glorified by the religious consecration of these young men and women called to imitate Jesus Christ as a servant, teacher, chaste, poor and obedient.

Wishing perseverance to the thirteen Professed and fidelity to the four Jubilarians, I pray that God will bless these generous Brothers and Sisters, worthy heirs of La Salle.

**Brother Jacques MONCHÉBI**  
**Director of the Novitiate of Bobo-Dioulasso**

## **9 novice brothers took their first vows, Nairobi-Kenya**

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, nine young men said "Yes" to God's call to religious life with the De La Salle Brothers in the presence of the Brother Visitor of the District of Saint Charles Lwanga of Africa, Brother Betre FISSEHA. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus, Rodrigo Mejia Saldarriaga Sj, with Fathers Deogratias and Peter as concelebrating priests. Brothers also graced the occasion of the communities in the city of Nairobi. Friends and religious from other congregations also came to attend this great occasion.

The Saint Charles Lwanga District of Africa includes 7 countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Nigeria. Of the 9 newly professed second-year novice brothers, (4) Victorino, Edmilson, Joaquim, and Anstacio were from Mozambique, (1) Kevin from Kenya, (1) Chilengezyo from Zimbabwe, (2) from Ethiopia: Nebiyu and Obang, and (1) from Nigeria: Brian. They were sent to communities in the vast district for a year of community experience. The 6 brothers, first-year novices, will continue their formation program.



During the same Mass and the same celebrations, Brother Kassaye Antuan Petros, one of the brothers of the formation team, celebrated his Silver Jubilee of First Vows. Brother Kasaye is originally from Ethiopia and is currently the bursar of the novitiate community.

As we unite in prayer with the newly professed, we also remember and pray for and with Brother Kassaye.

**Brother Simon Benedict KESIKI, Regional Team**

## **Colloquium in Educational Sciences: "Education, Economy and Ecology" on May 16, 2024 at the African Lasallian Center (CELAF), Abidjan-Côte d'Ivoire**

In a world where globalization is influencing every aspect of our lives, the education sector is not spared. Educational and formative action is confronted with the challenges of the ultra-liberal economy, which tends to commercialize all spheres of human life, while impacting the natural resources of our planet. It is in this complex context that the African Lasallian Centre's (CELAF) Colloquium in Educational Sciences, entitled "Education, Economy and Ecology", seeks to explore and clarify the interconnections between these three crucial fields.

The day began with the welcome of the participants, followed by a prayer and an introductory word from the President of the Scientific Committee. The opening conference addressed the theme "A response to the crises of our world, the culture of attention".

The first axis focused on the epistemological and socio-economic dimensions of education. Presentations included topics such as greening education in sub-Saharan Africa, job regimes for effective pedagogy, public subsidies for private secondary education in Côte d'Ivoire, the impact of physical activity on human health and sustainable development, and the system for regulating pesticide use. A debate followed this series of papers.

After the coffee break, the second axis explored the anthropological, theological, and philosophical dimensions. The discussions focused on integral ecology as a lived faith, the ecological crisis and the salvation of man, and the integration

of rural girls in urban areas. This session also concluded with a debate.



After the lunch break, the third axis addressed the pedagogical and didactic perspectives. The presentations focus on the integration of economics and ecology education in the training of teachers, ecological concepts in geography content, the unlocking of the potential of actors in education systems, and the difficulties of teaching English for special purposes in Ivorian universities. The day ended with a final debate, followed by the official closing of the conference.

This international conference aims to deepen the understanding of the interactions between education, economics, and ecology, highlighting the importance of an integrative and multidisciplinary approach. The various papers and discussions offered enriching perspectives for rethinking and reorienting education so that it plays a central role in the protection of our planet and the sustainable development of our societies.

**Brother Urbain François ANDRINIRINA, Regional Secretary (RELAF)**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT LA SALLE COMPLEX IN CAMEROON:

### The Dynamism of Lasallian Women on the Alert!

For the 39th edition of International Women's Day, Complex La Salle joins the international community in celebrating women, daughters, sisters, mothers, and wives.

*"Investing in women: Accelerating the pace"* is, indeed, a human rights imperative and the keystone of an inclusive society. It is undoubtedly in this perspective that Brother Emmanuel MBOUA, Director General of the Ecole Supérieure Technique La Salle and the La Salle Vocational and Continuing Training Center, invited the women of this Complex to take the reins of their destiny within the organization, encouraging them to more autonomy, initiative, and commitment.



Faced with this call, the Women did not hesitate to respond to the bell by setting up "The Dynamics of Lasallian Women", a movement that aims to be energetic and effective, acting for the adherence of all to Lasallian values, for openness to all. The day of celebration of women's rights was the ideal opportunity for the women of the complex to relaunch their activities in the dynamics of Lasallian spirituality!

As a prelude to this day, a learning workshop under the theme "Welcoming at home as in a hotel", was organized within the complex, on Thursday, March 07, 2024, and led by Sister Nicole, in charge of the

chaplaincy at the Complex. She spoke to the women about the different services in a modern household. These activities aroused the attention of many curious people and many questions which Sister Nicole was kind enough to answer. This day was rich in experiences and emotions for all the participants.

For the apotheosis, on March 8, the Women favored an educational talk on the theme: *"The dynamism of the Lasallian woman: work-life balance"*. The ceremony took place in the presence of the female and male staff of the La Salle Complex, guests and panelists such as:

**Pr. BEKADA, wife of ETOUNDI:** associate professor of law, lecturer, and teacher, shared her expert view on legal issues (labor law and family law) and her personal experience as an African woman, wife, mother, and civil servant to edify women and even men.

**Dr. NGWEM BAYIHA,** teacher, head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Ecole Supérieure Technique La Salle, and teacher at Polytechnique, as collaborator, husband, and father, shared his view as head of the family by urging the woman not to let herself be lost in the pursuit of her empowerment and to remain submissive, without losing her character. Inspired by St. Paul's letter, he said: *"We need your help, even if sometimes we can feel abandoned and intimidated, but please remain submissive and give us a little more time. On the other hand, we don't want 'yes-men', you have to find the right balance so as not to lose your identity as a woman."*

**Mrs. BEUTCHOU Doris,** MEL/DAC coordinator, teacher, and head of studies at the La Salle Vocational and Continuing Education Center, shared with the audience the notion of the Lasallian charism and its influence in the life of the Lasallian woman



at work and home. It emerged that Lasallian values, through participatory fraternity and solidarity, can allow women to exercise their responsibilities with a charitable heart and touch hearts.

The evening ended with conviviality and sharing.

*"The wise woman builds"!*

**Christelle LOBE,**  
**La Salle Complex-**  
**Central Africa District**

## TEAM BUILDING AT LA SALLE COMPLEX IN CAMEROON:

### Beach Party, like a holiday atmosphere at the beau-soleil villa of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Londji

The Lasallian tradition is based on three pillars: Faith-Fraternity-Service.

*Faith* refers to the recognition of the presence of God at work in each one of us; *Fraternity*, living together as children of the same family, and *Service* refers to the fact that each actor in the educational mission puts his or her talent at the service of others, according to his or her place and role. This triad therefore highlights the notions of conviviality, sharing, and solidarity, it contributes to the development of everyone.

Following this logic, the La Salle complex organizes two staff outings every year, one of which includes families. This year, the outing took place on Saturday, March 23rd.

It was at 7:00 a.m. that all the staff met at the meeting place, especially at the entrance of the Complex in a festive atmosphere for boarding, with husbands, wives, and dependent children. The children who were happy to meet again for their annual meeting told each other about their adventures, the little ones played in the hall, and there were hugs and outpouring of joy in the community.

8:00 am, departure for Londji. At the exit of the city, a prayer note to entrust the journey to God and breakfast.

Indeed, Londji is a village located in Kribi, a coastal town in Cameroon, in the southern region. It is a seaside resort renowned for its white sandy beaches and its fishing port. The Community of the Brothers of the Christian Schools owns a villa there, called "Beau Soleil". As its name suggests, life is good here: the sound of the

waves, the wind blowing in the trees, the crabs playing hide-and-peek on the sand.

What could be more beautiful than to find yourself

in harmony with nature, to recharge your batteries and recharge your batteries?



It was in this atmosphere that the whole team was immersed when they arrived at the villa around noon. Without delay, everyone headed for the beach and teams were formed: those who preferred to observe nature took their places under the mangroves or on the veranda; The "photo team" preferred the walk on the rocks, and the vast majority had opted for swimming in the sea. We could see people playing ball here, over there, swimming competitions, we will also see at the other end this Sister intimidated by the waves, who nevertheless begins to be convinced by the others to join them in the water, we can hear *"Come! Don't be afraid, nothing will happen to you, we are here!"*. Yes, as a family, we can count on each other, as a family we can put aside our fears because we know that our brothers are there to watch our backs.

2:00 p.m., the meal is served, another part of the pleasure, because the cooks always put their heart into it, the atmosphere is at its peak, and it is a privileged moment for exchanges and sharing.

At 5:00 p.m., it is with a nostalgic touch that the Lasallian family takes their place on the buses for the return, nevertheless with a smirk because they are convinced that the year will pass quickly and the next appointment is not so far away...

On the bus, you can hear the voice of this little girl suddenly appearing: *"But mom, why is the way home*

*so fast? And the other asks: "Dad, when do I still see Alex?"*

We can tell them not to worry because soon the family will be reunited.

See you soon for another Fraternal adventure!

**Christelle LOBE,**  
**La Salle Complex-**  
**Central Africa District**

## LASALLIAN WOMEN OF MADAGASCAR

### "First sharing"

The Association of Lasallian Women of Madagascar made its first appearance by participating in the survey established by the Association and the Mission from October 1 to November 22, 2022. It was a global survey of Lasallian women to understand what they need to fulfill their commitment to the Lasallian mission. Several Lasallian women from Madagascar, specifically those from Lasallian schools in the Eastern region, i.e. those from Toamasina, were able to participate in this survey, through Mrs. **RANDRIANARISOA Volatiana Sylviane**, President, appointed by the members of AMEL on November 7, 2021.



**"CIL FOR WOMEN" and "BASIC COMMITTEE"**



During the "CIL FOR WOMEN" held at the Institute's Center, at the "Casa Generalizia" in Rome, **the Association of Lasallian Women of Madagascar** was represented by the President and the Brother Visitor. This training from 17 to 28 April 2023 was led by the Secretariat of the Association and the Mission and had as its theme: "Women in the Lasallian Family, Moving Together as a Leaven of Transformation". The program of

this training was rich and varied with documents as well as working tools for animation and application in the Districts. It is in this sense that a first meeting was organized in the District of Madagascar, in agreement with the Brother Visitor and his council, to transmit the message and recommendations. This meeting brought together the members of the so-called "**Basic Committee**", composed mainly of women who participated as delegates in the recent assemblies and various ILCs both in Rome and in Africa.

During this first meeting, the Base Committee defined its program, including firstly an awareness-raising training meeting and report; then the organization of a General Assembly during which the statutes will be drawn up.

**"MISSIONS OF THE BASIC COMMITTEE"**

Without waiting, the members of the Base Committee set to work with great hope and enthusiasm. It should be noted that the Base Committee is in close collaboration with AMEL. To do this, it is AMEL that issues the mission order for all the activities of the Association of Lasallian Women of Madagascar.

The President, accompanied by some members of the Base Committee, came to meet the women of each Lasallian school in the District. The meetings were aimed at raising awareness and sharing. Each meeting invited the women to get more and more involved and to want to become Lasallian leaders.

Each meeting was followed by a formation by AMEL, based on "Lasallian Identity", "Lasallian Charism" and "Lasallian Spirituality".

Now that the women are sensitized, the "Base Committee" is preparing for a second meeting to schedule the accomplishment of the mission.

**"LASALLIAN WOMEN WITH THE LASALLIAN FAMILY"**

In addition, the Lasallian family continues to forge relations between Lasallians; Sharing, and living together by intensifying fraternity are a great priority. Every year, the Lasallian family of La Salle Stella Maris Toamasina School organizes a trip that aims to strengthen fraternity. This time, from March 21 to 28, 2024, this organized trip took place in Morondava, in the west of the country. The participants were able to contemplate the beauty of nature in a





fraternal atmosphere. The Lasallian women took the opportunity to share, confide in each other, help each other. A feeling of love and trust between Lasallians was also born in front of it like a ribbon that binds Lasallian women together.

## **CURRENTLY**

For the moment, Lasallian women are enthusiastic and determined. Nevertheless, the Association of Lasallian Women of Madagascar still has a long way to go. Several projects are possible. Our will and enthusiasm are not enough. We would like all kinds of support, especially morally, and obviously also through prayer. We hope that along the way, the grains of grace will not cease to intervene, to hold our hands so that we can accomplish the great mission entrusted to us.

**Volatiana Sylviane RANDRIANARISOA,**  
**President of the Association of Lasallian Women of Madagascar**

## **IN MADAGASCAR: VISIT OF BROTHER CARLOS GOMEZ, VICAR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

The District of Madagascar received the visit of Brother Carlos Gomez, Vicar General, from April 18 to 24, 2024. The main purpose of this meeting is to learn more about the mission and commitments carried out in the District and to support certain processes. To do this, a meeting with some leaders and a visit to several communities and works were on the program.

The day after his arrival, in the morning, the community of the Postulancy was the first community in the District visited by the Brother Vicar General. This testifies to the capital importance that the Institute attaches to the formation of future Brothers. His visit took place in two stages. The first consists of the meeting of the Postulants with whom he shared essentially the identity of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and what they are called to live: "*We are Brothers for the Institute, for the world; we are witnesses of Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of hope, we are called to serve the poor through educational service; above all, the Brothers are a family and they live in the community.* » As for the second stage, it was the turn of the Formative Brothers to meet him. In addition to the already existing formation content, Brother

Carlos urged that there be psychological accompaniment for young people that can be done by an external specialist. In addition, given the age difference between young people in training, he recommended differentiated training for candidates.



The afternoon was marked by the visit of the two educational centers of the capital, namely the Rafiringa High School in Faravohitra and the Holy Family High School in Mahamasina, and the meeting with the Vocation Ministry team of the District.

The second day of his visit was reserved for the meeting of the young Brothers of the District, whose number of those present was 12. During the joint meeting in the morning, the Brother Vicar

General emphasized the vocation of Brother. *"Our vocation is to be a Brother, a Brother of a community. This is our treasure and our secret."* As a result, no Brother is more important than others. He also recalled that the Brothers are first and foremost Brothers of the Institute and not only Brothers of a District. Thus, they must always be ready to say yes when there is a need, even if it means going beyond borders. The Institute needs a passionate, luminous, burning Brother who is animated by faith and zeal. This is summed up by three verbs: Belief, Create, and Dare.

After Sunday Mass on the morning of the third day, the Brother Vicar General visited the Guadalupana Sisters of La Salle. As for the afternoon, it was dedicated on the one hand to a visit to the first school of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Madagascar, where Blessed Raphaël Louis Rafiringa, Saint Joseph in Andohalo, resided, and to a visit to the retreat house of the District, Saint Joseph in Ambohimangakely on the other hand.

Monday, April 22 was marked by three different programs. The first consisted of a visit to the Higher Institute of the District, INFOCENTRE

De La Salle, which specializes in computer science and management. Then, it was time for a meeting of the provincial administration and the District Economic Council. Finally, in the afternoon, a visit to the social promotion center of Anosibe, directed by the "Signum Fidei" and a meeting with AMEL, were planned.

Tuesday, April 23 was reserved for the meeting with the District Council. His sharing focused on 7 different points: the vitality of the District, the young Brothers, the guidelines for administration, the life of the Brothers, the path to self-sufficiency, the culture of planning, and the participation of the laity.



An evening with the District Council, the Brothers of the Provincial House, and the Brothers of the Postulancy was organized to mark the end of the visit. Once again, thank you Dear Brother Carlos for sharing experiences, vision, and recommendations for the good of the District and the

Institute. Thank you also to Brother Juan Sala for the translation service during this visit.

**Brother Roger  
Omard HERINIAINA,  
District of Madagascar**

## POSTULATE LA SALLE BEIRA DE MOZAMBIQUE

Entering the Lasallian postulancy in Mozambique is an important step for those who want to follow the path of Jesus Christ in consecrated religious life. Seven young postulants have begun the formation journey in the postulancy of the La Salle Mozambique sector, indicating the continuity of all the work carried out in recent years thanks to the commitment to the pastoral care of vocations in our mission.

It should be noted that the young Mozambican Brother, Manuel Luis Fernando, has been in charge of the Lasallian postulancy in Beira since the beginning of this year. To prepare for his mission as a trainer, he did the CIL in Rome in 2024.

Before making their entrance, the young postulants participated in a two-day retreat, reflecting on Lasallian spirituality and mission in the world. One of the days, they were advised by the Brazilian volunteer

Beatriz Oliveira, via Google Meet, on the theme "The centrality of Christ in the life and charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle". The Entrance Mass was held on March 19 with the participation of the Brothers of the Community and some religious of the Mission of São Benedito. It was an exciting time for the young postulants and for the institution that welcomed them, as it represents a new beginning and commitment to the personal, community, and spiritual growth of the mission in Mozambique.

Mozambique has a rich history of education and community service provided by the Brothers of the Christian Schools who have already gone through this mission, and it is great to see that this tradition continues with new Mozambican members, not only entering the Postulancy but also with those who are now at the head of the Formation, fruits of the seeds sown by other Brothers who passed through here and made history.



The 7 new postulants initiated their formation under the responsibility of Brother Nelson Saggioratto, coordinator of the Mozambique Sector. New perspectives for the Lasallian apostolate opened up in this country which was constantly transforming and changing.

**Brother Manuel Luis FERNANDO,  
District of Saint Charles LWANGA**

## PRESENTATION OF THE PARLIAMENT FOR THE STUDENTS OF LASALLIAN SCHOOLS

The 4th Symposium of Young Lasallians, held in Rome in 2022, encouraged young Lasallians from different Districts of the institute to create structures that give young people a voice and offer them decision-making bodies. Thus, in response to this call, the young Lasallians of the District of Congo-Kinshasa have resolved to create a new structure in addition to those that already exist. This is called **the Parliament of the Pupils of the Lasallian Schools. Indeed, youth is considered today in many human communities as the future or the hope of tomorrow**, unfortunately, the latter has always been taken as the lowest priority of most of these communities who claim to have young people as their center. This mentality also affects some institutions that deal with young people. It's time for that to change.

In some societies, young people do not have the right to speak because they think they have no experience. However, to transcend this utopia of believing that young people have contributed nothing to the growth of their communities, the Lasallian

youth movement of Congo-Kinshasa initiates this decision-making framework to prove the opposite of what they have always been accused of. Hence this initiative of the **Parliament of Pupils of Lasallian Schools (P.E.L.)**, an initiative of the Lasallian Youth of the District of Congo Kinshasa. This Parliament is made up of pupils (honorable pupils) from the establishments of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and other non-Lasallian schools. This new structure of the Lasallian youth of Congo Kinshasa is a learning framework through which the students will speak in front of a platform to debate on issues that concern them and especially that affect the Lasallian educational project.

Being a movement of students, as indicated above, the overarching vision is the strengthening of intellectual capacities through culture and creativity to boost their social integration. Through this



movement, we wish to inculcate in Lassallean students the culture of democratic debate as a mode of expression while using parliamentary practice as an itinerary.

The student parliament of the Lasallian schools is a space for deep reflection, for mutual exchange through which the students will be able to contribute their experience, their know-how, their ideas, their building blocks to the vitality of the Lasallian work. The P.E.L. is made up exclusively of students, and has a bureau composed of five members elected by the parliamentarians.

We hope that this Parliament will have a long life and be able to contribute to the entire Lasallian family of the Congo and to the entire nation.

**Brother Michel PHANZU MAVUNDA, District of Congo-Kinshasa**



## Foyer Akwaba 25 years already!



1999-2024! For 25 years, the Foyer Akwaba/Foyer de La Salle has been serving poor children. This silver jubilee is an opportunity for us to reread our history in the light of the Gospel. It all started with the 'split' Mass in different parishes of Abobo to make it easier to understand and to solicit financial assistance from parishioners.

On May 14, we celebrated St. John the Baptist to the great joy of the 140 children in the basic school. An

opportunity was given to our audience to get to know the Holy Founder better.

May 19 was a celebration with the families of the Brothers, who live in Abidjan. We are planning a courtesy visit to the Imam of the neighborhood, to introduce our children to interreligious dialogue. It should be noted that a large group of our customers is Muslim and that we are in a strongly Islamized municipality. Apart from this visit, we will meet with the political authorities for a workshop to reflect on the future of the Foyer. The whole thing will be crowned on July 20, 2024, by the Mass of Thanksgiving which will take place in the Foyer.

In addition, the educators withdrew for three days of reflection on the theme *"The qualities of a Lasallian educator"* led by Brother Juan SALA. We pray that the Lord will grant strength and health to the educational team to carry out this highly significant work.

**Brother Pierre Claver MENSAH, DILAO**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE GENERAL COUNCILLOR

- Abidjan: July 15 to 30, 2024
- Madrid: August 2 to 30, 2024
- Kigali: September 1 to 8, 2024
- Antananarivo: October 1 to 14, 2024
- Congo-Kinshasa: October 17 to 22, 2024
- Central Africa District: October 23 to 31, 2024
- Rumbek: November 3 to 9, 2024
- Bobo Dioulasso-Novitiate: November 18 to 23, 2024
- Akassato-Bohicon: November 24 to 30, 2024

### **FOR YOUR TEXTS TO BE PUBLISHED:**

- The text must not exceed 600 words
- The text must be dated and signed by the author
- Send a maximum of two well-chosen photos, maximum 500kb resolution.
- Respect the deadline set by the secretary.