



Message of the Superior General for the feast of St John Baptist de La Salle

My very dear Lasallians, I was recently in Ecuador and we had the opportunity to visit *Mitad del Mundo* (the *middle of the world*). And I suddenly remembered that I also just crossed recently the threshold of half of the 80 sectors I needed to visit in the Institute. Ecuador happened to be number 40 of the 80 sectors that are in our list.

I have been two years in this post, and I had the great opportunity to visit so many animated communities of Lasallians: Brothers, young people, students, teachers, parents and many other committed people—young, old, retired. They all continue to believe in the power of the Lasallian Mission in the world. What a great joy to celebrate with all of you the Institute Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, great mind, great soul, great educator who has transformed the world and continues to do so through us today.

When the *Squadra* launched our reflection on the Leavening Project, we thought it would be difficult to bring together our 80 sectors, 28 Districts, 1100 schools and the 1.1 million students so that we could together collaborate and have a global impact on the Lasallian Mission.

But as I go around, I see little achievements, one or two little initiatives, a step here, a new beginning somewhere. Individuals, young people, communities, schools, communities of Brothers with our lay partners have started their own little ways of influencing and changing our world. These small steps may not be perceptible now but, like leaven, they continue to inspire so many others in their immediate circle so that we are able to continue the mission, that mission that De La Salle left with us as a legacy for the world today.

We may not be able to feel it yet in the center. We may not be able to track it on large scale visuals. But these changes—little changes—are happening, pulsating in many little corners of our Lasallian communities. Individuals are just initiating little projects that bring them closer to the peripheries. Young people are encountering our brothers and sisters who have been nameless and voiceless in the past.

Something is afoot in the universe, and we are all part of this transformation that is happening right here, right now. More recently, we have launched the One La Salle Global Fund. We are not looking for the traditional big donors. We are hoping to get many Lasallians, the little ones: the pennies that come from widows and orphans will fill God's treasure chest and become a sustainable resource for the Lasallian Mission today and in the future.

We are not thinking of big structures or projects. We are thinking of those little droplets that will be a ripple in the ocean of the world's problems. You and I can be part of this changing reality. The new face of the Institute, where “little” becomes important in the face of the many problems the world is challenged with today.

We are excited as we prepare for our Plenary Assembly —the first gathering of Visitors, Chairs of Commissions, and many other Lasallians in Rome—, this time seeking a new way of responding, discussing and discerning as a Lasallian community and participating in that synodal journey where all are invited, where each voice is important to be heard.

As we project ourselves into the future and embrace all these challenges that are part of today's reality, we remember especially all the communities where our Lasallian Family is facing threats, difficulties and many other challenges that are not just the usual ones. I remember Brazil and the floods that they have to deal with. I

remember the continuing crises in the Holy Land and what our schools and the families need to address. I remember the many other parts of the Lasallian world where conflict continues: Haiti and many other areas where every day we need to consider what should be our next steps.

But God has been very good, and God has allowed us to come together every time so that the crisis can become an opportunity where we can show that we are brothers and sisters in a world that the Lord has allowed us to change and transform according to His dream. Whatever those challenges are, we are never left alone.

The world, its future, is in our hands: Choose life. Make peace. Work for justice. May our Founder, John Baptist de La Salle, accompany us on our new pathways and may the Holy Spirit also descend upon us as at that time when He did during the first Pentecost, with freshness and with great joy. Happy feast of our Founder, beloved Lasallians!

May 15, 2024



Br. Armin A. Luistro FSC
Superior General

