



Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools

1725  
1950  
**2025**

YEAR OF  
*Lasallian*  
**SPIRITUALITY**

La  Salle





## WHY A “YEAR OF...”?

**Two years ago, our delegates, at the General Chapter, decided *“to dedicate the year 2025 to deepen and share Lasallian spirituality in the Church and the world, on the occasion of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Bull of Approbation”*.**

**(46<sup>th</sup> GC, 2.1)**

This decision was connected with two others: that of **“creating an international network of Lasallian spirituality which supports animators and companions in the interior life, which will sponsor international, regional and District programmes, experiences, and resources”**. (2.3) And, in addition, it indicated a way of accompaniment with a Councillor in charge and a possible Secretariat (2.2).

This is all part of the Institute’s second Pathway of Transformation, the Pathway of Radical Availability to God.

Some of these Chapter proposals are still to be specified after a couple of attempts. This year is an opportunity to start again. We have a treasure to share, our spirituality for teachers.



## A YEAR THAT IS A CHORD THAT CAN TOUCH HEARTS

2025 is indeed the Tercentenary of the Approbation of the Institute. The Bull is a document little known to Lasallians, a document which, beyond its legal facets, highlights certain elements of our identity which are at the heart of the

development of these three hundred years: a lay association dedicated to the education of the poor which, at the heart of its project, offers school catechesis within a fraternal experience. In fact, to our joy and pride, canonists point out that this is the first time in ecclesiastical history that a papal document refers to lay people as catechists when this had been, until then, a ministry reserved for the ordained.

From this it is possible to understand why 2025 was also chosen for the “Year of Catechesis” proposed by the Young Brothers at their II International Assembly (Proposition 3, p. 26, echoed in the 46<sup>th</sup> GC, pages 23-24). In our spiritual tradition, spirituality and mission are indissoluble, in the same way as education and evangelisation.

Therefore, it can also be a great opportunity for the development of Strategic Axis 6 of the Final Report of the III International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (III AIMEL) which invites us to “implement innovative methodologies for accompaniment and education regarding interiority and in the practice of human and evangelical values” (p. 55).

But 2025 is also the Holy Year of the whole Church. “Pilgrims of hope”, pilgrims towards hope (*Peregrinantes in spes*), is the motto offered to us. A year that emphasises the Mystery of Jesus Christ and our conversion to the Gospel, with the emphases to which Pope Francis constantly invites us: justice and care for creation as the only solution to the many problems of our world. Ours is a unifying spirituality (R 63) that leads us to encounter, contemplation and conformation to Jesus Christ (R 65).

2025 is also the 75th anniversary of the Declaration of St. John Baptist de La Salle as Patron of Christian Teachers. One more reason to share with all teachers our way of living the Gospel

in the world of education. “The Institute becomes a living reminder of God’s presence in the world of education.” (R 63)



## **DIFFERENT BUT SIMILAR TIMES**

The times in which our Father, John Baptist de La Salle and the first generation of Brothers lived and invented our ecclesial way of life are certainly distant and different from our own. But beneath the differences, we can find resonances that highlight the value of this identity that has survived in the history of Lasallians.

It was a period of post-conciliar renewal, like ours. It was a time and a region (France, but especially Champagne) in danger of losing its Catholic identity. Instead of closing in on what was certain, these men and women decided to go out on mission and to open multiple and diverse pastoral initiatives so that the poor could get integrated into the emerging urban society and into a new urban ecclesial way of life. Let us think that in Reims alone, 82 consecrated communities saw their beginning during the 17th century!

Likewise, today we are invited to be Church on the move, not to stay “combing sheep” in the barnyard, to convert our pastoral structures in view to include all.

From our Lasallian perspective, from the experience of our Father and the first community of Brothers, life journey, spirituality and mission are not three things that can be separated. They are unbreakable.



## SO, THEN, WHAT...

We are convinced that the protagonism of this year is, fundamentally, at the District, local level. There is no better way to have an impact on teachers and for this to result in a better service to those who are entrusted to us by the society and by the Church. The key to the work lies in the formation of Lasallian educators. The quality of the educational service is directly related to the quality of life of the educators. Everything we do to enrich their lives will be an advantage for those to whom God sends us. Because the main pedagogical mediation is always the educator.

For many Districts, it may not be a matter of “doing something new” but of placing a particular emphasis on Lasallian spirituality. Or, perhaps, it is an opportunity to give rise to a new way of sharing with other teachers the treasure of our Lasallian spirituality. Publications or conferences can be useful for this, but we must not forget that formation always links experience with theories: Lasallian spirituality is an experience of following Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint John Baptist La Salle. Lasallian texts will help us to understand what we experience. And as the document on Formation as a pilgrimage proposes to us, the journey of Lasallian identity is a lifelong journey, with its stages and internal processes.



## WHAT THE INSTITUTE WILL OFFER GLOBALLY

Some support will be offered to Regions and Districts:

- ★ In 2024, on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the Letters Patent and the Bull of Approbation of the Institute, in October there will be a Seminar on Lasallian Research focusing on

association for mission and its formal structures over the last 50 years and looking to the future.

- ★ In 2025, the same space will be focused on Lasallian Catechesis.
- ★ On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of St John Baptist de La Salle as Patron Saint of Christian Teachers, a photographic and film “research” contest will soon be launched for students and teachers.
- ★ For the days of the Jubilee of Youth, the Commission on Youth and the Office of Vocations and Volunteer Ministry are organising an event in Rome.
- ★ There will be publications aiming at helping us deepen the meaning of spirituality and catechesis in the context of these anniversaries.
- ★ And to facilitate all this, we will create a website where, in addition to what the Institute produces globally we will seek to publicise what the Regions and Districts have to offer, so as to produce the “cross-pollination” to which the General Council usually invites us. We therefore ask you, as you create them, to communicate to us the calendars of the activities you organise at District and Regional level. We would also ask you to tell us which of these activities are open to the participation of Lasallians from other Regions or Districts and under which conditions. Contact us at [iyls\\_2025@lasalle.org](mailto:iyls_2025@lasalle.org)

**Bro. Dennis Magbanua**

**Bro. George Van Grieken**

**Bro. Joël Palud**

**Bro. Santiago Rodríguez Mancini**

**Bro. Urbain Andrinirina**



Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools

La  Salle



lasalleorg