



Lasallian Associations, Associates 
and Other Relationships

Message of the Brother Visitor

28 May 2007

Dear Lasallians and Friends,

Peace!

The publication of this document on Association completes the four documents that have been mandated by the 2003 Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation.

This document realizes Resolution 3.1 of the convocation, which speaks of defining levels and groups that work for the Mission. I am hopeful that this will serve as a guide to Lasallians in ascertaining the depth of their involvement in our educational thrust and in pointing them towards more intensive and profound commitments, should they become so inclined.

It is a product of much reflection and discernment by Brothers and highly committed Lasallian Partners. It is also the Philippine Lasallian Family members' initial attempt to put down in writing their rich and varied experience of Association. It is a product of many years of journeying, of working, "together and by association", for the education of the young, especially those at risk.

To paraphrase words written by The Writing Committee of the International Assembly 2006:

We recognize that we are on a hopeful and enthusiastic journey, seeking a response to the will of God today. Our fellow travelers are people of great faith who are all members of one family with one name – Lasallian. We come from different [backgrounds] but we are united by a common mission, a common spirit, a common charism. We want to walk together in the light of the Lasallian charism, realizing that we are being led by a God who will move us from one commitment to another in ways that we could never have foreseen.

I wish to thank the members of Task Force 3.1 for their hard work in completing this document. May your efforts produce much fruit in the form of more zealous and collaborative service from Lasallians from all walks of life.

Fraternally,



BROTHER EDMUNDO L. FERNANDEZ FSC

Brother Visitor, De La Salle Brothers Philippines

Defining Lasallian Associations, Associates and Other Relationships

Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation Resolution 3.1

WHEREAS, the Lasallian Family is growing worldwide and the levels of involvement and relationships of its members have evolved over the years in an altogether unique way;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Lasallian Family recognizes individuals and groups that have a long history of collaboration and have answered the call to deepen their commitment to the Lasallian Mission as manifested by their lives, which are marked by distinctive Lasallian characteristics;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Lasallian Family sees the need to create a Task Force that will set in place definitive criteria and process in classifying and recognizing Lasallian Associations, Associates and Other Relationships with the end in view of providing them with options to deepen their commitment to the "Shared Mission;"

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Brother Visitor create that Task Force within School Year 2003-2004 considering sectoral and geographic representations to generate District-wide participation utilizing various approaches and strategies. The Chair of the Lasallian Partners Council shall convene the Task Force.

LET IT BE FURTHER resolved that the Task Force shall submit within one year its final output to the District Council and Lasallian Partners Council. In turn, the District Council and Lasallian Partners Council shall forward their recommendations to the Brother Visitor for final approval. Dissemination and adoption of the approved criteria and process immediately follow.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the District provide necessary resources to carry out this mandate.

Basic Premise

The main basis for the definitions provided below is the varying levels of commitment to the Lasallian Mission.

Section I: Individuals

A. Members of the Philippine Lasallian Family

This is the entire universe of Lasallians: Brothers, Sisters, students, parents, alumni, teachers, support staff and benefactors who have been or are currently connected to La Salle by virtue of their employment, enrolment or participation in a Lasallian ministry, and who explicitly or implicitly consider themselves members of the Lasallian Family.

B. Lasallian Partners

[These are Lasallians] who in fact share [the Lasallian Mission] in its multiple educational, catechetical, apostolic and professional aspects, and make it possible for the mission to be accomplished. They collaborate with conviction for the time they are [connected with La Salle]. [cf. The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter, p. 4]

These are members of the Lasallian Family who are currently and actively engaged in a Lasallian ministry, and **endeavor** to be personal witnesses through their ethical and moral lives, to live integrated lives worthy of their vocations, and to be committed to their chosen faiths, vocations and professions.

Since the main criterion is active engagement in a Lasallian ministry, some students, parents and alumni may also be considered Lasallian Partners if their involvement goes beyond being beneficiaries of Lasallian education. When these people volunteer to be involved in the delivery of the Lasallian Mission to others, they are de facto Lasallian Partners.

C. Lasallian Associates

[These] are Partners who have had a long record of collaborating in the Lasallian Mission, and who feel a call to deepen the charisma, spirituality and Lasallian communion in which they wish to participate. In particular, their lives are already marked by a number of distinctively Lasallian characteristics:

- *a vocation inspired by the charisma of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his values;*
- *a life of faith which discovers God in everyday life understood in the light of Scripture and, for persons of other religions, in the light of their own sacred texts;*
- *a community experience of some form or other suited to the identity of its members;*
- *a mission of some duration which associates persons with the educational service of the poor;*
- *an openness of mind which makes it possible to see beyond the individual and his immediate environment.*

[cf. The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter, p. 4]

For some persons who are involved in the mission, sharing tasks and responsibilities is a truly personal response to an interior call which they feel, and which motivates them to accept formation, to share, and to listen to Lasallian appeals for commitment to the service of young people in difficulty. By mutual agreement, they may eventually be associated with a community of Brothers or a District, depending on their type of commitment. Perhaps they are already part of a process which will lead them, later on, to join an intentional group, if they so desire.

In certain cases, these persons, if they so wish, and at their request, may express a desire to be associated in a more formal way with the Institute. It is for the Brother Visitor and his Council to recognize these persons as Associates. [The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter, p. 5]

Becoming an Associate is not an award or recognition given by the District. It is first and foremost a free choice of the Partner to deepen his/her commitment to the Mission and to express this commitment in a more formal way. The District merely accepts the commitment and commissions the Partner as an Associate. Because of this deepening commitment, the commissioned Associate can expect, as St. La Salle says, to receive two kinds of rewards: (1) “an

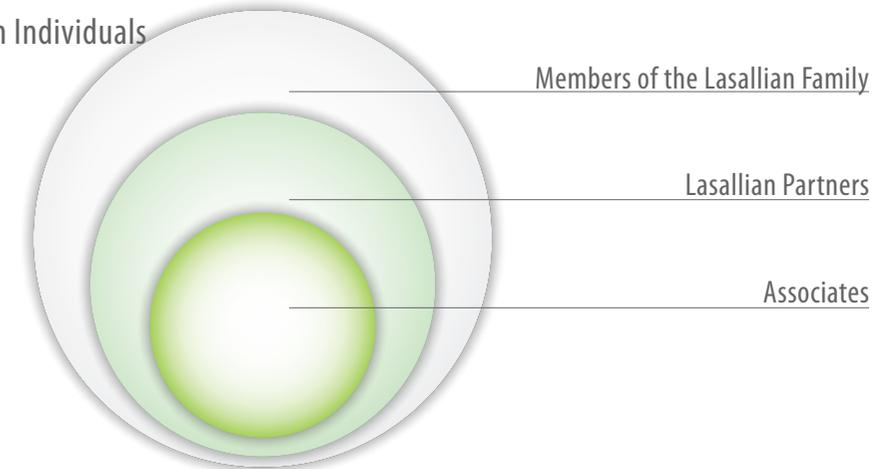
abundance of grace”; and (2) “a more extended ministry and a greater ability to procure the conversion of souls.” [Meditation 207.1] The reward for such commitment and good work is, simply put, more work, more responsibility, and the ability to do the work.

The goal of the District is not to create an elite class of Associates. Rather, the goal is to promote the vocation of the Associate so that there will be more Partners willing to commit themselves to the Lasallian Mission in a deeper way. Building up a critical mass of such Associates is necessary to further the Lasallian Mission in the Philippines.

The following are expected of Associates:

- 1 An Associate must constantly endeavor to grow in Lasallian spirituality by his/her involvement in Lasallian formation, be it personal or for other Partners.
- 2 An Associate must be actively involved in the advocacy of particular causes relevant to the advancement of the Lasallian Mission.
- 3 An Associate must continue to strive to live up to the criteria by which he/she was commissioned as an Associate.

Lasallian Individuals



Section II: Groups

A. Lasallian Groups

This is the entire universe of Lasallian organizations, groups and communities: religious congregations, student organizations, parents associations, alumni associations, faculty and staff associations, labor unions, etc. These are all groups that have been formed because of some connection with a Lasallian institution or ministry.

B. Lasallian Partner Groups

We call groups 'intentional' when their members, in response to an interior call, come together voluntarily to practice some aspects of Lasallian life, each group choosing a particular type of life and the length of their members' commitment. For this to be considered an intentional Lasallian group, there are three necessary conditions:

- that some aspect of Lasallian practice are clearly visible;
- that there is a clear commitment to young people and the poor;
- that the Visitor and his Council have authenticated it in an official document for a prescribed time.

...In the medium term, we think that it is possible that a number of other intentional groups will be founded. In fact, these groups already exist, although they may have no juridical structure. They exist because their members have developed links and relationships, and have adopted projects, and have done so with explicit reference to the Lasallian charism which they share. If they so wish, they could envisage becoming intentional groups.

Such a request could come from a whole variety of groups. These could include, among others: Lasallian teams, teams of educators and teachers, joining forces temporarily to respond to specific needs encountered by young people in difficulty, Christian Lasallian communities, volunteers, Lasallian Youth, young people doing missionary work, former pupils, parents of students...

We should note that in the composition of these groups, one can meet Brothers, other Christians, members of other religions, and persons of good will whose point of reference, as the 42nd General Chapter indicates, is the "human and spiritual values recognized, pursued by and lived by all Lasallians – meditation, service of the poor, the family, human rights, the rights of children..." (Circular 435, p. 43) [The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter, p. 5-6]

Lasallian Partner Groups are Lasallian Groups that are currently and actively engaged in a Lasallian ministry. Since the main criterion is active engagement, some student organizations, parents and alumni associations may also be considered Lasallian Partner Groups if their involvement is in the delivery of the Lasallian Mission to others.

C. Lasallian Associations

Consequently, we recognize as being associated with the Lasallian Mission all intentional groups and all persons who respond to an interior call by an educational commitment which has Lasallian characteristics, and which has been authenticated by a competent authority.

Together, these persons and groups are associated with the Institute of the Brothers of the Chris-

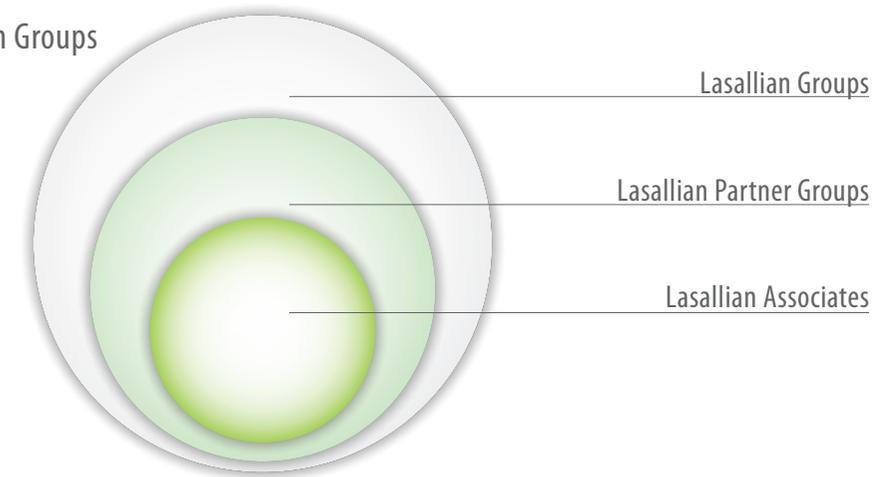
tian Schools, in order to respond, in a complementary manner, to the demands of the Lasallian Mission. The charism inspiring this mission was given to Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and was authenticated by the Church, for the service of young people. [The Documents of the 43rd General Chapter, p. 6]

A Lasallian Association is a Lasallian Partner Group that has asked to be formally associated with the Lasallian Mission. Becoming a Lasallian Association is not an award or recognition given by the District. It is first and foremost a free choice of the Lasallian Partner Group members to deepen their commitment to the Mission and to express this commitment in a more formal way. The District merely accepts the commitment.

The following are expected of Lasallian Associations:

- 1 The group must have some structures for formation and renewal.
- 2 The group must be aligned with the directions of the Lasallian Mission set by the De La Salle Brothers and the Philippine Lasallian Family as expressed in the resolutions of the General Chapter, the District Chapter and the Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation.

Lasallian Groups





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Lasallian Associations,
Associates and Other Relationships**

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