

## ***La Salle Educational Fraternity – The Process of Commitment***

### **I. Why make the commitment?**

Creation of the La Salle Educational Fraternity responds to the need “to invite volunteers, brothers and laypeople, to form an association in the Church to carry on the work of human and Christian education desired by John Baptist de La Salle” (*La Salle Educational Fraternity — Inspirational Text*, introduction).

Making the commitment responds to this need. Those who make a public commitment join others who have taken this step to form this association that will become the support of the Lasallian educational mission.

“To say together the same *word* of commitment expresses the desire to continue, *together and by association*, the Lasallian educational adventure. This *promise*, which binds us to one another, shall mark the actual birth of a fraternity, a stable corps of educators, a guarantee of continuity for the charism.” (Brother Jean-Paul Aleth, Reims, 2015)

### **II. Experience the La Salle Educational Fraternity**

The La Salle Educational Fraternity was created “to actualize the Lasallian charism and to promote the Lasallian educational mission and to assure its sustainability” (*La Salle Educational Fraternity — Inspirational Text*). Achieving this goal requires that the Fraternity be anchored in the daily life of the educational works. This is why the La Salle Educational Fraternity exists in local units, whose goal is to be “**a local source** for confidence in finding meaning in what we are experiencing in the spirit of Faith, Association, and Service, the essential pillars of the Lasallian approach to building Humanity and expressing God. This local source sends us back to our educational sites and moves us to recognize Jesus Christ present in the shared educational mission. In effect, what is essential **is the mission.**” (*La Salle Educational Fraternity — Inspirational Text*, 1.2)

The local Fraternity serves as the heart and the lungs of the La Salle Educational Fraternity. In a spirit of openness toward those who recognize themselves in its goals (“Come, and see”), this basic cell is where the life of the La Salle Educational Fraternity is concretely experienced.

### **III. The local Fraternity and commitment**

Commitment to the mission does not require the participation in a local Fraternity. A person can support the aims and the objectives (*La Salle Educational Fraternity — Inspirational Text*, 1.1, 1.2) without making a public commitment. It is important to respect everyone's personal journey.

### **IV. Discerning whether to make a public commitment**

The Brother Visitor shall invite everyone to make a commitment to the La Salle Educational Fraternity.

Answering this invitation requires reflection and discernment.

- Discernment cannot be done alone. It is important to discuss the decision with trusted people and with those who have made a similar commitment.
- The local Fraternity also can be a place of discernment to reflect on the commitment process with members.

Among criteria for discernment:

- Link yourself to the Gospel; recognize it as a Word of life that inspires your daily actions.
- Understand the meaning of the commitment process; agree with the commitment text.
- Understand and live in accord with *La Salle Educational Fraternity — The Inspirational Text*.
- Have one year of experience of the local Fraternity's life before responding to Brother Visitor's invitation.
- Be diligent in attending regular meetings of the local fraternity.