

Lasallian Social Justice Institute “Homelessness and Human Dignity”

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 7-13, 2010

THE PROGRAM



The Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI) is a Lasallian formation program for Partners and Brothers in the United States/Toronto Region based on the Gospel and our Lasallian vocation seeking social justice and service to the poor. Developed by Partners and Brothers, it is a response to the call from both grassroots Lasallians and General Chapters of the Brothers for programs that strengthen “association for educational service of the poor.”

The purpose of the LSJI is to promote the continuing process of conversion to solidarity with persons in poverty and to provide an authentic response to the Gospel and our Lasallian vocation. It is designed to be experiential, educational, creatively practical, and reflective. The LSJI seeks to help participants draw closer to the world of the poor in order to be evangelized by them.

THE THEME OF LSJI SAN FRANCISCO

The theme of this week long institute, Homelessness and Human Dignity, is based on the understanding of social justice in scripture and the life of Jesus, as well as in the writings of St. John Baptist de La Salle and recent documents of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The struggle for human dignity will provide the focus of the week. The political and historical contexts of homelessness, its effects on individuals and American society, the Church’s call to solidarity with the poor, and the Lasallian theme of association will also be highlighted.

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The LSJI embodies the Lasallian commitment to association for the educational service of the poor. It consists of four integrated components: (1) a face-to-face encounter with persons living in poverty. Participants will interact with present and former homeless persons and those who work in solidarity with them; (2) an examination of the Lasallian tradition and the Church teachings on poverty and social justice, as well as sociological and economic commentaries on these issues; (3) a community of Lasallians who will pray together and further discern their Lasallian vocation; and (4) an exploration of their roles in creating programs of social justice as catalysts for influence and change in their local ministries

PARTICIPANTS

All who are engaged in Lasallian ministries in the United States/Toronto Region are invited to participate in LSJI San Francisco. Those educators with experience in a Lasallian high school or college/university in an urban area, in a Miguel school, or in a childcare agency, Lasallian Youth moderators, service coordinators, campus ministers are particularly welcome to participate.

LSJI San Francisco will take place in San Francisco from late afternoon on Saturday, August 7, through the morning of Friday, August 13, 2010.



Encounter experiences will be hosted by organizations and agencies which deal directly with the homeless in the Mission and Tenderloin Districts of San Francisco. Participants will have lodging and meals for two days at a hotel on the edge of the Tenderloin. The remaining four days will be spent at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Participation is limited to twenty participants. The cost is \$1,050 per participant which includes room, board and all LSJI materials and activities. Transportation to and from San Francisco is not included in the fee.

REGISTRATION

"It is very powerful, eye-opening, and shocking to see and experience the plight of the oppressed." (Participant from St. Paul's HS, Covington, LA)

"LSJI SF is a transformational experience that goes beyond the traditional one. It calls your heart and mind to actions by experiencing the issue of homeless firsthand and reflecting on that issue in the context of Lasallian, Catholic, and biblical teachings." (Participant from Bishop Loughlin HS, Brooklyn NY)

"I now understand why we have homelessness and poverty in our nation and I know what needs to be done to help solve it. As educators, it is our responsibility to share this with our students so the problem can be solved. My colleagues needed to experience this as well." (Participant from Totino-Grace HS, Fridley MN)

"The LSJI SF program gave me the opportunity to see, judge, and act on the problem of homelessness. It is a program that is well-planned and executed. It provides a first-class, hands-on experience of social injustice for the homeless." (Participant from Central Catholic HS, Pittsburgh PA)

Materials on the Lasallian Social Justice Institute, San Francisco 2010, will be sent to chief administrators of each ministry in the United States/Toronto Region in January 2010. Please contact your chief administrator or refer to the Christian Brothers Conference website at www.lasallian.info for a copy of the LSJI flyer and on-line registration form.

Since Districts have different procedures for selection of participants, registration, and payment for LSJI, please keep in touch with your District representative listed below:

District of Eastern North America

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