

A Lasallian Glossary

*Based on an original compilation by Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC.
Revised and published by the Office of Education, De La Salle Institute,
District of San Francisco, Napa, California.*

This glossary provides brief definitions or explanations of some important terms in Lasallian usage. The terms are listed in alphabetical order. To see these terms grouped thematically rather than alphabetically, see the Appendix.

Affiliated Member (AFSC): a person formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served Lasallian ideals in some extraordinary way; the affiliated member of the Institute may use the initials 'AFSC' after his or her name.

Apostolate: the kind of work to which the Church through its various agencies sends people and institutions on mission.

Aspirant: a man who is seriously considering, usually in a non- residency program, whether or not he is called by God to become a Brother of the Christian Schools.

Assembly: name for a convention held for Brothers and Lasallian Partners from the entire Region, District, or more locally.

Association: a vow of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by which they promise to associate themselves for the service of the poor through education. The term also describes a present-day movement of Lasallians committed to the mission.

Auxiliary Visitor: a Brother nominated by the Visitor and appointed by the Superior General to assist the Visitor and substitute for him in his absence. Also known as Auxiliary Provincial.

Board of Trustees: a board of trustees is the body of duly appointed agents entrusted with oversight of the work of a trust (such as a School Corporation) and the direction of its mission.

Brother: title given to vowed religious of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Comparable to titles such as "Sister," "Father," "Reverend." Commonly used in other religious orders to denote a vowed religious who is not an ordained priest. The official religious habit worn by Brothers throughout the world, especially on formal occasions, but replaced by other approved garb in various locales, is a black robe with a white 'bib' called a 'rabat,' similar to that worn by judges and barristers in England.

Brothers of the Christian Schools: The English translation of "Fratres Scholarum Christianarum", the official name of the religious institute founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Familiar shorter references to this Institute are to "the Christian Brothers" or – more distinctively – to "the De La Salle Christian Brothers."

Brothers' Formation: the initial formation of a Brother consists of a year or two of postulancy, a year of novitiate, and five to eight years in which he pronounces annual vows. After he pronounces final or perpetual vows, he is considered to be in continuing formation for the rest of his life.

Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies: an intensive program, two weeks each summer over three consecutive years, of formation and education that studies the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Canon Law: the Code of *Canon Law* (latest revision published in 1983) contains some 1680 canons, or official regulations, governing Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, priests, Brothers, Sisters, institutes, laity, parishes, schools, sacraments, etc.

Canonical: an adjective used to describe any person or action that conforms to the requirements of Canon Law, such as a Visitor or a formal visitation.

Charism: a grace or spiritual gift given to those in apostolic or missionary work in the service of others; e.g., the gifts of preaching, prophecy and healing are charisms; the term is sometimes applied to entire institutes as well as to individuals.

CIL (Centro Internazionale Lasalliano): acronym of the Italian phrase for International Lasallian Center, a program of Lasallian formation conducted at the Generalate in Rome, in which Brothers, Lasallian Sisters, and Lasallian Partners from around the world participate. The length of each CIL program varies from one month to nine months.

Contact: a man who indicates an interest in becoming a De La Salle Christian Brother and with whom the Brothers remain in contact as he discerns his life's vocation.

Declaration: The *Declaration on the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the World Today* (called for short "the *Declaration*") is a document prepared in 1966, prior to a revision of The Rule by the General Chapter, meant to provide, in common language, an understanding of the spirit, purpose, and work of the Brothers.

Director: the local religious superior of a community with terms limited by Canon Law or by the Rule.

Director of Vocation Ministry: see "Vocation Director," below.

District: a geographical area in a region containing enough Brothers to form an official, canonical, administrative unit in the Institute under the direction of a Visitor.

District Council: a canonically required board of Brothers, advisory to the Visitor and possessing certain canonical authority; a majority of its members are elected; the council meets several times each year.

District Chapter: a policy-shaping body of Brothers elected to nominate Visitors and to formulate legislative acts adapting the *Rule* to local conditions; it normally meets every four years.

District Chapter Acts: legislative acts or directives coming forward from a District Chapter.

District Twinning: a program overseen by the Region that pairs Districts or sub-Districts for mutual support and assistance. The schools of the United States and Toronto Region are twinned with schools and ministries in the District of Lwanga (Africa).

Formation: an expression for the training and education by a religious institute of its members and partners.

FSC: initials which follow a Brother's name to indicate membership in the Institute. In Latin, *Fratres Scholarum Christianarum* (Brothers of the Christian Schools).

General Chapter: The General Chapter; is conducted at the Generalate in Rome, and is representative of all Brothers worldwide; legislation is undertaken, and the Superior General is elected for a seven-year term. The General Chapter held in 2007 was the 44th in the history of the Institute.

General Council: a council that assists the Superior General in Rome. The Superior General and the Vicar General are members of the General Council. The other six members are Brothers from throughout the world who are elected by the General Chapter or appointed by the Superior General.

General Councilor: a Brother chosen to assist the Superior General and his Vicar in administrative work of the Institute at the Generalate in Rome. He acts officially as a permanent advisor to the Superior General during his term.

Generalate: the De La Salle Christian Brothers' headquarters in Rome, often called the Center of the Institute or by its Italian name Casa Generalizia.

Huether Lasallian Conference: a gathering of Brothers and Lasallian Partners from the U.S.-Toronto Region, originally organized by Brother Frank Huether, FSC, to address educational concerns on an annual basis.

International Institute; or, Institute: The term "institute" is a term that is technically more correct than the traditional terms "congregation" and "order" to describe a canonical group of consecrated religious in the Church. The full name of the society founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle is "The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools." In the Lasallian world, to refer to the "Institute" or the "international Institute" is to refer to the worldwide Lasallian mission in its totality.

Lasallian Association of College and University Presidents (LACUP): an association of heads of the Lasallian colleges and universities of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA): an association of the chief administrators, generally presidents and principals, of the secondary schools of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI): a Regional formation program which aims to train Lasallians to become more effective leaders and to become catalysts for the furtherance of the Lasallian heritage in their local community.

Lasallian Partner): see "Partner" below.

Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI): Regional formation program to ground Lasallians experientially, practically, and spiritually in the Church's option for the poor and in Lasallian association for the educational service of the poor. Programs focus on topics such as immigration, violence and peace, and homelessness,

Lasallian Volunteers: lay men and women, primarily recent graduates from Lasallian schools, who donate one or two years of service to Lasallian schools and works in various parts of the world.

Lasallian Youth: an international movement and formation program which empowers students to be examples of faith, service, and community through mission experiences, retreat programs, social justice education, and service-learning opportunities.

Mission: from the Latin root meaning "send," the term includes the various works or apostolates to which the Church sends people and institutions. The briefest standard definition of the Lasallian educational mission is this: "The purpose of this Institute is to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it."
Center.

NativityMiguel Network: of Schools: A network of small schools for low-income boys and girls of middle-school age, which includes the "San Miguel model" schools sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Novice: a man in the Brothers vocation program who has completed the postulancy phase and enters the Novitiate. A Novice receives a Brother's robe and undertakes a year-long formation program prior to taking first (temporary) vows and proceeding with further academic and pedagogical training. (The term is used similarly in other institutes of consecrated women and men.)

Novitiate: the program (or building) in which the Novices receive their training.

Novitiate Community: community of novices and Directors. The U.S.-Toronto Regional Novitiate is located at Mont La Salle in Napa.

Partner: the most common and preferred term used to describe people who are co-workers, associates, or colleagues of the Brothers in their schools and other enterprises. Non-Brothers formed in the Lasallian charism and working in the Lasallian mission are commonly called Lasallian Partners.

Postulant: a man formally accepted as a candidate for entry into the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the Novitiate.

Provincial: the title used in most institutes to denote the person whom the Brothers call Visitor.

Provincialate: the official name of the offices where the Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor, and their staffs work. It also refers to the community in which the Provincial (Visitor) resides.

Region: a geographical area officially designated as a union of several districts and generally selected on the basis of contiguity and common languages. The United States and Toronto Region is abbreviated as “**U.S.-Toronto Region**” and can be referred to, in context, simply as “**the Region.**”

Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB): a supervisory board of Brother Visitors from the Districts of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

Regional Finance Board (RFB): a board composed of representatives from all Districts in the U.S.-Toronto Region. The RFB is advisory to the RCCB.

Regional Mission Formation Board (RMFB): a board of representatives from all Districts in the Region. The purpose of the RMFB is to promote formation in the Lasallian educational mission for all persons associated with Lasallian ministries.

Regional Vocation Formation Board (RVFB): a board of vocation directors from all Districts and others working in vocation ministry in the Region. The purpose of the RVFB is to advise the Visitors on vision and direction for Brothers’ vocations and the Lasallian vocation

Rule: a canonically approved set of approximately 143 statements (along with sub-statements) pertaining to the mission, duties, and practices that the Brothers throughout the world adapt locally as directives for their communities and districts.

School Corporation: a separately incorporated entity that operates a given school.

Secretariat: at the Generalate in Rome, secretariats promote and support the work of local leaders throughout the Institute in several areas of endeavor. There are four secretariats: Lasallian Educational Mission; Lasallian Family and Association; Solidarity and Development; Being Brothers Today.

SECOLI: Service de Coopération Lasallienne Internationale, an agency at the Generalate which coordinates contributions to various economically needy Districts and apostolates around the world.

Superior General: the highest officer of the Institute with canonical rights and duties; he works and resides at the Generalate in Rome, and is assisted by a Vicar and Councilors. In 2008, the Superior General is Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, of Costa Rica.

United States and Toronto Region: See 'Region" above.

U.S.-Toronto Region: See 'Region" above.

Vicar General: second highest officer of the Institute. In 2008, the Vicar General is Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, of the Midwest District.

Visitor: the Religious Superior of a District, often called Provincial, and having canonical rights and duties.

Vocation Director: the Brother in charge of the District program for assisting young men and women to properly discern their calling in life and especially to prepare men interested in the Brothers' way of life to discern whether or not they are really called to it.

Vows: traditionally, the three vows taken by religious and members of other forms of consecrated life in which a formal promise is made to live in celibate chastity, in communitarian poverty, and in obedience, according to an approved Rule. Many institutes have additional vows, as do the Brothers, who also take a vow of stability and a vow of association for the educational service of the poor in accord with the same Rule. First vows, annual (or temporary) vows, and final (or perpetual) vows are terms that respectively describe vows taken for a single year at the end of the Novitiate, and vows taken for a single year which are renewable on an annual basis until the time for final vows (generally at the age of twenty-five, or after at least five years of annual vows.)

Young Lasallians: an international movement, promoted by the International Council of Young Lasallians, keeping young people engaged in the Lasallian mission through faith sharing, service of the poor through education, and community building. For the U.S.-Toronto Region the Regional Young Lasallians Group focuses on meeting the formation needs of Lasallians aged 21 to 35.

End of glossary

Appendix

Terms are given in the Glossary in alphabetical order.
Below, those same terms are grouped thematically.

INTERNATIONAL structures and activities

International Institute (Institute)
Superior General (Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC)
Vicar General (Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC)
General Council
General Councilor
Generalate
Secretariats
General Chapter
Rule
Declaration
FSC
CIL
SECOLI
Lasallian Youth
Young Lasallians

U.S.-TORONTO REGION

NativityMiguel Network of Schools
Region
Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB)
Regional Finance Board (RFB)
Regional Mission Formation Board (RMFB)
Regional Vocation Formation Board (RVFB)
Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies
Huether Lasallian Conference
Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI)
Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI)
Lasallian Volunteers
Lasallian Association of College and University Presidents
Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators

CATHOLIC and LASALLIAN procedures and principles

Canon Law
Canonical
Apostolate
Mission
Charism
Formation
Association

GOVERNANCE and the LASALLIAN WAY OF LIFE

District
Visitor
Auxiliary Visitor
District Council
Brother
Vows
Director
Provincial
Provincialate
Brothers' Formation and Vocations
Director of Vocation Ministry
Postulant
Novice
Novitiate
Contact
Aspirant
Partner
Affiliated Member (AFSC)
Assembly

DISTRICT-LEVEL STRUCTURES and ROLES

District Chapter
District Chapter Acts
Directors Association

PROVINCIAL ENTITIES

Provincialate Community
Novitiate Community

EDUCATIONAL matters

District Twinning

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE matters

School Corporation
Boards of Trustees
Reserved Powers
