

THE BUTTIMER INSTITUTE  
OF LASALLIAN STUDIES



June 27 – July 9, 2010  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Moraga, California



## Nature and Purpose

The Buttimer Institute is an intensive Lasallian formation and education program that studies the life and work of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian educational mission. Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle and an analysis of some modern educators, the participants develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education.

A valued dimension of the Buttimer Institute is the gathering of highly motivated adult learners who form a supportive and international community of faith. Since its founding in 1984, over 650 participants from the United States/Toronto Region and the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools have engaged in a program of personal growth, spiritual renewal, and intellectual challenge.

The Buttimer Institute is designed to inspire participants to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story and discover the basis of their vocation as educators. The program also seeks to deepen the participants' association for Lasallian mission and provide them with skills to become catalysts in their own ministries.

## Course of Studies

The Buttimer Institute covers a three-year period. Courses are conducted for three consecutive summers, with a two-week duration for each summer.

### Year One: The Founding Story

Participants are introduced to a detailed study of the life and person of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the historical and ecclesial context of the time in which he lived. The story of the origins of the Institute is presented through reading and discussion of original biographical and autobiographical texts, and *The Letters*. The course also takes up the theme of the vocational journey of the educator through an examination of the writings of contemporary scholars.

## Year Two: De La Salle's Educational Vision

Participants examine the educational vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle through a reading of *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* and other primary texts. Participants study the pedagogical and catechetical writings of De La Salle and analyze these writings in terms of the contemporary Lasallian educational mission.

## Year Three: De La Salle's Spiritual Vision

The final year finds participants immersed in the spiritual writings of De La Salle, particularly through an examination of *The Meditations* and *An Introduction to the Method of Interior Prayer*. This session integrates Lasallian spirituality with the themes of the previous two years, and invites participants to allow Lasallian spirituality to influence and enhance their own personal spirituality.

## The Practicum

Participants are required to enroll in a co-curricular activity that seeks to address the particular needs of Lasallian associates, scholars, formators and accompaniers, presenters and young Lasallians. The Practicum provides participants with skills and ideas for furtherance of the Lasallian mission in their own ministries. The Practicum meets four times throughout the two weeks. Participants will remain in the Practicum they have selected for each of the three years of Buttimer. Each participant will be asked to select one Practicum from among the following:



## **A. Lasallian Mission Coordinators/Animators**

An increasing number of schools and agencies are complementing their administrative teams with persons responsible for some level of oversight of mission effectiveness. This Practicum is designed for those who currently hold such positions or for those who wish to become mission coordinators or animators. Best practices will be shared and program development strategies will be explored.

## **B. Lasallian Presentation Resources**

As the demand for local Lasallian formation opportunities increases, so too does the demand for effective presenters. This Practicum gathers those who are interested in learning more about developing engaging presentations on Lasallian themes to faculty, staff, board members, students, parents, and others. The content of various “toolboxes,” including PowerPoint presentations, video clips, prayer services, and other resources will be shared and enhanced.

## **C. Lasallian Research**

The years immediately preceding and following the Second Vatican Council saw the rise of several significant Brother scholars, including Michel Sauvage and Miguel Campos, who advanced our knowledge of and appreciation for the Founder, his life, and his works. The Lasallian world awaits the emergence of the next generation of scholars, Brothers and partners alike, to address systematically issues related to Lasallian association for mission and other topics of importance. This Practicum is designed to give impetus to those inclined to such academic pursuits.

## **D. Young Lasallians**

Lasallians from 21 to 35 years of age are an increasingly significant population within our schools and agencies populations. Acknowledging that Young Lasallians have different experiences and that they have a valuable contribution to make within the growing association, this Practicum is an

opportunity to: (a) dialogue about the role of Young Lasallians in the mission; (b) enable Young Lasallians to develop initiatives for implementation; and (c) encourage and support the voice and networking of Young Lasallians at the local, District, Regional, and international levels.

### **E. Lasallian Association**

As the scope and breadth of the Lasallian mission worldwide continues to expand, the need for committed Lasallian educators grows more urgent. The concept of an association for the Lasallian mission is taking root, though its implications are not clearly understood. This Practicum creates a forum for the discussion of various views on this vital topic and invites those interested in exploring ways to move the association beyond conversation to action in their local ministries, Districts and in the U.S./Toronto Region.

## **Academic Credit and Continuing Education**

### **Academic Credit**

Saint Mary's College of California will award academic credit to Buttimer participants who are enrolled in the Master of Arts in Education in Lasallian Studies Program. If enrolled in the program, Buttimer participants may request that the Buttimer experience be considered for transfer into the degree program. For more information, contact Carole Swain, Ph.D., Dean of Mission and Faculty Development, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94575 (cswain@stmarys-ca.edu).



Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will award academic credit to Buttimer participants enrolled in the Master of Arts in Lasallian Studies Program. If enrolled in the program, Buttimer participants may request that the Buttimer experience be considered for transfer into the degree program. For more information, contact Roxanne Eubank, Ed.D., Director of the Institute for Lasallian Studies, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus, 2500 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404 (reubank@smumn.edu).

### Continuing Education Units

Saint Mary's College of California will award Continuing Education Unit Certificates to Buttimer participants upon completion of each course of study. Each Buttimer year is considered a different course. The units are considered professional development units, not academic units. For more information, please contact Carole Swain, Ph.D. (cswain@stmarys-ca.edu).

## The Participants

The Buttimer Institute welcomes participants from Lasallian ministries in the United States/Toronto Region and from the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Participants come from elementary, middle and secondary schools, from colleges and universities, from childcare agencies, and other ministries. A diverse group of Lasallian partners, Brothers, other religious, and clergy form the Buttimer community.



In addition, graduates of other Regional and District formation programs are most welcome and will benefit greatly from the Buttimer experience.

### **The Schedule**

Classes are held in the morning and evening, with afternoons given to study, recreation, and the four meetings of the Practicum. Participants pray together each morning and evening, with Mass available several times a week. The formation of community is a very important aspect of the Buttimer Institute with participants asked to share, pray, and socialize with one another.

### **The Campus**

Since 1987, the Buttimer Institute has been held on the beautiful campus of Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California. Saint Mary's is one of the seven Lasallian institutions of higher learning in the United States. Founded in 1863, the College is located in the Bay Area about twenty miles east of San Francisco. You can read more about Saint Mary's at [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

### **The Name**

The Buttimer Institute is named for Brother Charles Henry Buttimer (1909-1982), the first American Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Born in Brighton, Massachusetts, he served as Superior General from 1966 to 1976.



## Registration

Since Districts have different procedures for selection of participants, registration and payment for the Buttimer Institute, please keep in touch with your District representative listed below.

### *District of Eastern North America*

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### *Midwest District*

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