



A Five Core Reflection Journal For Lasallian Educators

Bob Carrejo
De La Salle Institute
District of San Francisco New Orleans

Introduction

Throughout its history, the Lasallian mission has been expressed through a variety of articulations. In every case, the goal was to help explain the mission in ways that would make it more understandable and accessible to its audience.

One such articulation is called the Five Core Principles of Lasallian Schools. It developed, and is still developing, within the Districts of the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). There are several versions in circulation; however, all focus on the same essential characteristics of the Lasallian charism: faith, community, service, and education. It has gained a substantial popularity among many of the ministries of the Region, owing primarily to its compact design and simple content. Lasallian students in particular have found it to be a “user-friendly” way of appreciating and explaining their Lasallian identity and heritage.

This journal template is based on a version of the Principles currently used by Lasallians in the District of San Francisco New Orleans.

Each core principle is accompanied by a relevant scripture passage and reflection question. It is designed to help facilitate persons' exploration of professional and personal journeys through their experiences as Lasallian educators, and can be used as a tool for private reflection and/or small or large group discussion.

Reading from *Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an act of HOPE*
(Circular 461, Brothers of the Christian Schools)

"So, He said, cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something. So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish." (John 21: 6)

Picture the faces of the disciples as they again cast their nets in disbelief that one side of the boat rather than the other would be of any consequence. Imagine now their faces as they try to gather in their bursting nets. Doubt and frustration are quickly transformed to awe and amazement and finally into the joy of recognizing the Lord they had so sorely missed. Is this not part of our story too? Are we not living in an age that invites us to go to the "other side of the boat" and lower our Lasallian Educational nets "together and by association" hoping to fish a great quantity of "souls far from salvation?"

Just as the disciples had returned to their former way of life, believing that hope was extinguished and dreams had vanished, some too today might feel abandoned by the very God who once called them "to fish." As the Israelites were so often taunted on their desert journey with the question

"Where is your God?" some also now question why they ever took that first step to Brotherhood, to Lasallian association. Let our prayer then be that of St. Augustine when he speaks to God as his ever-faithful companion: Here I am before you with my strength and my ignorance. Where you have opened the door to me, welcome me at the entrance; where you have closed the door to me, open to my cry; enable me to remember you, to understand you, and to love you. Amen!⁴⁶

The image of a God who welcomes, who walks alongside of us, who asks us to trust in the unimaginable, is the daily act of faith that has sustained the Brothers of the Christian Schools for more than three centuries. This image also symbolizes the vocational call of all Lasallians to confide in a God who calls "in a quiet imperceptible way...so that one commitment lead[s] ...into another without... having foreseen it in the beginning." This was De La Salle's miraculous adventure with a God who always welcomed him. All you who serve the Lasallian Mission remember what God has promised us. As He spoke to the prophet Jeremiah so He speaks to us today: "I know what my plans are for you, plans to save you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and to give you hope...When you call on me I will listen...I will gather you up from among all the nations... I will bring you home"

Let us all rejoice in this pledge of hope...this bright future...this life-giving dream that invites us to remember always the holy presence of God and to touch the hearts of the young, especially the poor, together and by association.

*Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.
Live Jesus in our hearts forever*

Prayer of the Teacher Before School

You, O Lord, are my strength, my patience,
my light, and my counsel. It is you who touches
the hearts of the children entrusted to my care.

Abandon me not to myself for one moment.
For my own guidance and that of my students,
grant me the spirit of knowledge and piety,
the spirit of a holy fear for you
and an ardent zeal to procure your glory.

I unite my efforts to those of Jesus Christ,
and I beg the Most Blessed Virgin,
Saint Joseph, the Holy Guardian Angels,
and Saint John Baptist de La Salle
to protect me in the performance of my duties.

Amen.