



As this is International Women’s Day, it was appropriate that we centered our attention on the mission, where 57% of the educators are women. Though there are varying terms for Lasallians who bring the mission to life in the 79 countries we educate—associates, partners, collaborators, colleagues—we can celebrate the presence and impact of women in every definition.

This mission is international, so complicated. Each day different departments here in the Generalate (“the Center”) update us on their work—the Communications Service was, predictably, passionate and colorful. The Research and Resources Service was provocative and energized. Both brought some needed clarity to the variety!

We had a particularly heavy day of numbers, graphs, images, readings, terminology and so on. Sorting through all of this required external expertise, and we were fortunate to have that. The International Strategy Committee presented its findings, analysis, and recommendations. They completed a metadata analysis to help us begin to map a way to providing the resources for what is important to us: the health of our communities and mission. They recommended that we prepare for a substantial shift in the nature of the participation of lay co-workers and the delegation of certain functions to them.

“This is not about the Center, this is about the Institute, and you are the Institute.” Brother Bob, Superior, said this in the midst of an interchange about the transitions we are going through (when haven’t we been in transition?) and who leads us through these transitions. This captures his viewpoint, but also a growing awareness. Brother Superior has emphasized the participatory nature of leadership from the first day of his mandate. I think it would be accurate to say he is calling Brothers (Institute) and all Lasallians to play a role in moving through these transitions.

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC  
General Councillor, RELAN  
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