



# TWINNING

LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA

*Walking Together in Solidarity*

## MOUNT LA SALLE COLLEGE

NAKA, NIGERIA



### ABOUT THE SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Mount La Salle College in Naka, Nigeria is a secondary school serving students in grades seven through 12. It is affiliated with the Catholic Church and administered by the Christian Brothers. It was established in 1982 as Bishop Kirstein College, in response to the need for Catholic education for the growing Catholic population of the town. The Brothers were invited to take over administration of the school in 1987, which is when they changed the name to Mount La Salle College. For the 2017-2018 academic year, the school is educating 566 students, including 104 boarding students (71 boys and 33 girls) and 462 commuting students (279 boys and 183 girls). Mount La Salle has 60 staff members (47 men and 13 women), including 38 teachers and 22 people in other roles. Out of the 60 staff members, 28 have university degrees, while the remaining 32 hold other diplomas and certificates. At least six in 10 students are children of peasant farmers, two in 10 are from petty trading families, and two in 10 are children of civil servants or other wage earners. About 65 percent of students are from families living on less than one dollar per day per individual. About 33 percent live on two dollars or less, while two percent are from families in more comfortable financial situations. The biggest challenge students face in getting an education is lack of finances to pay school fees. Mount La Salle's tuition is approximately US\$66 per year with additional charges including \$US200 per year for food for boarding students. These fees are about 20-50 percent of the tuition charged in some Catholic schools of equal status. Even so, most parents are unable to pay the fees.



### ABOUT NAKA

Mount La Salle College is located in Naka, in Gwer-West L.G.A of Benue State, east of Makurdi, the state capital. Naka is 43 kilometers (about 27 miles) from Makurdi, but travel takes about one hour and 20 minutes due to the poor condition of the road. Naka is an agrarian community with about 250,000 people, 90 percent of whom earn their living from farm work while about 10 percent are middle-class income families. About 95 percent of Naka residents are practicing Catholics. There are about 20 middle-class schools in the town, however, Mount La Salle College is the only school run by a religious order and the only school with a boarding system.



### A TYPICAL DAY AT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITIES

A typical day begins with a faculty meeting at 7:00 a.m. followed by a general assembly of both students and staff at 7:20 a.m. that includes prayer and announcements. Teachers take attendance at 7:50 a.m. and classes begin at 8:00 a.m. Students attend various 40-minute classes until 2:00 p.m., with two breaks during the day. Between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., the boarding students have lunch and relax, while the day students go home to eat and return for activities by 4:00 p.m. After activities conclude at 6:00 p.m., day students go home while boarding students clean up and prepare for dinner and night preparatory class. Class ends at 9:30 p.m. followed immediately by prayer and then lights out at 10:00 p.m.



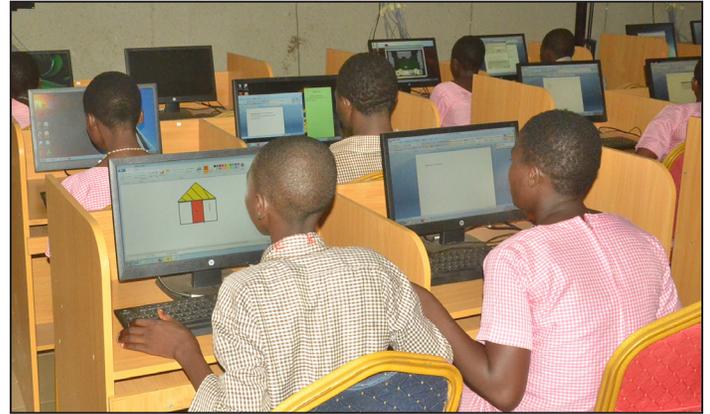
## MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL: BROTHER GODWIN BIIN, FSC

Brother Godwin Biin, FSC, became principal of Mount La Salle College in September 2017. Brother Godwin is familiar with the twinning program and is aware of the steps taken to strengthen relationships between Mount La Salle and its twinned schools. He is very responsive and looks forward to continuing the efforts that are underway. Brother Godwin sent this message for the twinning coordinators: "I deeply appreciate the supportive and nurturing partnership you share with Mount La Salle College, Naka. I hope that during my leadership you will help me carry out some self-sufficiency projects, pay school fees for students in abject situations, and improve the learning facilities at the school."



## USE OF TWINNING DONATIONS, CURRENT NEEDS

When Brother Godwin arrived at Mount La Salle, he established a small bakery to make bread for boarding students. Using twinning donations, he hopes to expand to services to sell baked goods to local residents as a way to raise money for the school and expand the school's water treatment project in order to sell water. He also plans to use twinning donations to pay school fees for students in need, including those who have lost their parents to HIV, and upgrade Mount La Salle's educational materials. The school also needs to replace the metallic reservoir on its water treatment plant because it has started to rust. The school previously used twinning donations to upgrade its computer lab, pictured at right.



## RELATIONSHIPS WITH RELAN

Mount La Salle is working to strengthen relationships with its twinned schools in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). In addition to regularly sending written updates, Mount La Salle has taken part in Skype sessions with RELAN ministries. In December 2016, the five RELAN schools twinned with Mount La Salle College all came together over Skype, marking the first time for a group Skype call of that kind. Several one-on-one Skypes followed.



*Skype between Mount La Salle and La Salle High School in Pasadena, California*



## CONTACT MOUNT LA SALLE COLLEGE

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### RELAN TWINNED SCHOOLS

- Calvert Hall College High School, Baltimore, MD
- De La Salle North Catholic High School, Portland, OR
- De La Salle College "Oaklands," Toronto, ON
- La Salle High School, Pasadena, CA
- St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, NY

