



September 17, 2018

Dear Brothers and all Lasallians,

The sexual abuse crisis in the Church has been weighing on our hearts and minds. The Catholic Church community, from which the Lasallian movement sprouted over 300 years ago and continues to grow, is deeply pained by the abuse suffered by young people and the failure of Church leadership to offer a just response.

All of us are struggling to understand and cope with the crisis. We want to do something meaningful, something practical to address the pain and support reforms that will transform the culture. We are asking, where do we begin?

Perhaps our best response, even if incomplete, is to begin with fidelity to our daily call. We belong to a movement initiated by St. John Baptist de La Salle, patron of teachers, in response to social injustice and God's call to serve young people. At the heart of our call is the "care of souls." De La Salle insisted that the work of education and evangelization was a ministry. He compared this work to that of Saint Paul and insisted that it shared in the ministry of the apostles, principal bishops, and pastors.

Our daily call is to the care of souls—that is, the whole of a person, body, mind, and spirit. Let us remain faithful to our obligation to care for the young person entrusted to us. Let us safeguard their dignity as far as we are able and as God has called us. Let us offer young people who are impacted by this reality "trusted spaces to express what is happening interiorly" ("One Call, Many Voices," Lasallian Reflection 2).

On behalf of the Visitors of the North American region, I offer you a prayer that may prove helpful for yourself and your local educational community. Additionally, there are links to resources that may be of assistance to you in your ministry of care. Should you have questions or need support, I encourage you to reach out to your District's office.

Let us support one another and pray for the guidance and strength we need to maintain our joyful fidelity to the daily call for the care of those entrusted to us.

In Solidarity,

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC  
General Councilor