



Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY
June 23 – July 6, 2019



The Buttimer Institute is named for Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, (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.



NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Buttimer Institute is an intensive Lasallian formation and education program that studies the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian mission. Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle and an analysis of some modern educators, 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 the founding in 1984, nearly 900 participants from the Lasallian Region of North America and the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools have engaged in this 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 the Lasallian mission and provide skills to become catalysts in their own ministries.

COURSE OF STUDIES

The Buttimer Institute is a three-year program. Courses are conducted for three consecutive summers, in two-week durations.

YEAR ONE: THE FOUNDING STORY

Participants are introduced to a detailed study of the life and person of Saint 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 readings and discussions 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 can expect to examine the educational vision of Saint 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

In the final year participants are 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 of each summer. 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 Lasallian ministries around the world are complementing their administrative and campus ministry teams with persons empowered to promote some level of mission effectiveness and oversight. This practicum is designed for those who currently hold such positions and/or who wish to assist in furthering the Lasallian charism in their ministry. During the three years of the practicum participants will evaluate current programs, analyze needs of their communities, share best practices, learn how to organize a team, and develop a program/curriculum that will serve their community.

B. LASALLIAN PRESENTATION RESOURCES

As the demand for local Lasallian formation opportunities increases, so too does the demand for effective presenters. Using a variety of mediums, students will create material to inform students, faculty, staff and/or the general public on the history, mission or methods of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

C. LASALLIAN RESEARCH

The goal of this practicum is to empower participants to conduct research in areas of Lasallian history, pedagogy or spirituality, and

to share the fruits of their research with others in the Lasallian community. Such research could be original research in an area of Lasallian heritage, or could take the form of extended study on an aspect of Lasallian heritage of particular interest and applicability to the researcher and to her or his local ministry. The particular parameters of study and the shape of the final product will be determined through consultation between participant and practicum facilitator.

D. YOUNG LASALLIANS

Young Lasallians, adolescents and young adults from 16 to 35 years of age are an increasingly significant population within our schools and agencies. Acknowledging that Young Lasallians have different experiences and a valuable contribution to make in the Lasallian family and to the Lasallian educational mission 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. Participants who are Young Lasallians or work with Young Lasallians are welcome.

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 understanding of Lasallian association for 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 association beyond conversation to action in their local ministries, Districts and Regions. During the three years of the practicum, participants will discuss current documents on association, reflect on their own experience of Lasallian association for mission, and share best practices for programs/activities around association that will serve their community.

ACADEMIC CREDIT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will award academic credit to Buttimer participants who are enrolled in its 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:

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PARTICIPANTS

The Buttimer Institute welcomes participants from Lasallian ministries in the Lasallian Region of North America and the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Participants come from elementary, middle and secondary schools, colleges and universities, youth and family services, 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.

SCHEDULE

Classes are held in the mornings and evenings, 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. As community is a very important component of the Buttimer Institute experience, participants are asked to share, pray and socialize with one another.

CAMPUS

The Buttimer Institute began in 1986 with the first cohort meeting at Manhattan College in New York. Manhattan is one of six Lasallian institutions of higher education in the Lasallian Region of North America. Founded in 1853, Manhattan College offers access to the cultural, educational, business and entertainment opportunities of New York City, as well as a self-contained residential campus environment. You can read more about Manhattan College at www.manhattan.edu.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

Christian Brothers Conference (CBC), based in Washington, D.C., is the central office of the Lasallian Region of North America/Region Lasallienne de l’Amerique du Nord (RELAN).

In collaboration with the Districts, schools and ministries, CBC convenes and engages Lasallians in mission through formation programs, educational programs, advocacy, and a variety of services and resources designed to promote the Lasallian mission, including:

- » Through the Office for Lasallian Education,
 - Providing high-level mission formation programs designed to strengthen Lasallian identity and mission in the hearts and minds of the attendees through such programs as the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice and the Lasallian Social Justice Institute
 - Convening the larger Lasallian community for educational programs, including the Huether Lasallian Conference
 - Partnering with the Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) and its annual conference
- » Advocating for the sustainability of education of the poor
- » Representing the Regional Lasallian education network to the broader educational world
- » Creating print and online resources, including www.Lasallian.info, *De La Salle Today* magazine, and presence on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter

- » Recruiting, training and accompanying Lasallian Volunteers in ministries through one or two years of service in schools and agencies
- » Supporting Brothers recruitment and formation, through the Regional Vocation Formation Committee (RVFC) and coordinating Regional Brothers gatherings
- » Responding to the calls of the Regional governing bodies of CBC: the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) and the Lasallian Education Council (LEC)
- » Collaborating with and accompanying Young Lasallians and the Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU)
- » Fostering communication among the Districts
- » Maintaining communication and collaboration between RELAN and the other four Regions of the Institute

For more information go to www.Lasallian.info.

