

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Your selections will determine the overall interest in each session. Please carefully consider your breakout session selections to help inform planning for Christian Brothers Conference and breakout session presenters. Sessions for which little interest is expressed may be dropped from the program. The final schedule will be posted on the Christian Brothers Conference website before the conference.

Target Audience of each session: **A** = All, **E** = Elementary, **M** = Middle School, **YFS** = Youth and Family Services, **H** = High School, **C** = College/University

Breakout Sessions I: Friday, November 22, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

AIMEL 2020—Identity, Vitality and Transformation (A)

Alan Weyland, Executive Director, Office for Mission and Ministry, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ

Alisa Macksey, Dean, Student Success and First Generation Initiative and Diversity Officer, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

In 2020, the third International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL) will take place from May 4-15 at the Generalate in Rome. The first AIMEL occurred in 2006 and the second one in 2013. The purpose of an international assembly is to provide Brother delegates to the General Chapter with input and recommendations for the Lasallian mission as they make decisions for the next seven years. The 46th General Chapter will take place in May – June 2021. This session will offer an opportunity for participants to understand how the Districts in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) have implemented the decisions of AIMEL 2013, as well as to have input on lines of action for the future of association and the Lasallian mission. The ideas generated by the participants will be shared and discussed with RELAN delegates during their planning meeting at the end of the Huether Lasallian Conference. This interactive session will enable participants to “Celebrate with Zeal” the Lasallian mission over the past six years and look to the future of our mission.

Connecting to De La Salle’s Spiritual Tradition (A)

Brother Camillus Chavez, FSC, Adjunct Professor in Psychology and Theology and Religious Studies, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA

Our spiritual dimension indicates the need to connect to the Divine so as to be transformed and live by Divine inspiration. We already have the directions. De La Salle gave them to us in the first *Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* in Chapter 5, first paragraph. “The most important religious exercise of the day is interior prayer (meditation).” Inherent in this process is zeal; connect to God in meditation and the spirit of love will grow. Initially, people may object, thinking meditation is too complex a process requiring too much time. The solution to these objections is easy: there are simple, effective ways of meditating which require little time. And, if it will require some time, why not? The payoff is tremendous. Research indicates that meditation reduces stress, anxiety, confusion and brings peace, focus and cooperation. Are we not here to help our students improve their lives? By introducing meditation to our administrators, faculty, staff and students and our schools will be transformed by this spiritual process.

Conversational Catechesis—Accompaniment and Instruction (M, H)

Becca Meagher, Theology Teacher/Campus Ministry, Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park, MN
Jeremy Cramer, Theology Teacher, Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park, MN

In this session, educators will be introduced to the importance and integration of conversational catechesis in a theology curriculum. In January 2018, Saint Mary's Press released a study, *Going, Going, Gone!*, that assessed the disaffiliation of young Catholics within the Catholic Church. Steeped in research, the study analyzes data collected from young adults who, for a plethora of reasons, have chosen to step away from their church community. Inwardly, as a Catholic school, we must ask our students direct questions about their faith, their church communities and the strength of their relationship with God. In this session, participants will learn how Benilde-St. Margaret's, a co-educational Catholic school, recognizes that adolescence is a time of inquiry and has responded by creating a seminar-style religion class where students are offered the opportunity to talk about faith as it relates to life.

Juggling the Many Voices Inside (H, C, YFS)

Ellen B. Koneck, Acquisitions, Sales and Marketing Manager, Anselm Academic/Saint Mary's Press, Winona, MN
Brian Singer-Towns, Director of Special Projects, Saint Mary's Press, Winona, MN

The endeavor that young people face in constructing their identity—which is a combination of features that include community, meaning, purpose and more—can leave some flourishing, but many others floundering. This can be evidenced by higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicide. What do young people experience, in their own words, when trying to combine a myriad of voices, influences, demands and contexts into a single, coherent self—if such a thing is possible? How is this flourishing or floundering witnessed, supported or addressed in spaces of church or education? The presenters will explore these and other questions through a dynamic session featuring a presentation, prepared responses and a large-group discussion that makes room for experiences, ideas and questions.

Lasallian Core Principles: Guides for Practice (A)

Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, Ph.D., Secretary, Research and Resources Service, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rome, Italy, Director, Lasallian Resource Center, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Napa, CA
Greg Kopra, Ed.D. Director, Formation for Mission, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Napa, CA

Over the last 25 years, the “Lasallian Core Principles” have increasingly become an accessible way of describing what the experience of Lasallian ministries looks like. A current version of the “Lasallian Five Core Principles” has emerged as a touchstone and unifying agent for many students, administrators, educational communities and Districts. This session provides the background of their development, the history of their use and the application of their adoption in a variety of contexts. Participants will come to know what they are, what they mean, where they came from, how they are being used and how they may continue to be helpful—for faculty, staff, administrators, students, parents and others—in describing what it means to be “Lasallian.”

The Brothers' Way: Virtue Program Based on Lasallian Core Principles (A)

Lindsey Neuman, Director of Mission and Ministry, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN

Rusty Morris, Associate Principal for Student Formation, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN

Today's society bombards teenagers with conflicting messages telling them how to live, and many of these messages contradict our Christian and Lasallian virtues. Through the Brothers' Way Virtue Program, we intentionally explore qualities and virtues that we hope our students will embody to be a positive member of society. This session will discuss ways to embed these lessons naturally throughout the school curriculum.

The Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) Summer Workshop at Lewis University (A)

Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, Vice President for Mission and Associate Provost for Student Success, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

Margaret Martinez, Associate Director for Mission and Identity, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

The Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) Summer Workshop is Lewis University's highly successful informal local formation experience. ELM has impacted nearly 400 Lewis employees and dozens of others from more than 18 other Lasallian ministries since its establishment in 2007. This four-day summer professional development experience is designed for those who are unable to participate in the lengthier and more formal Regional and international formation programs, but who are still eager to learn about core elements of the Lasallian charism and apply it to their everyday lives and work. ELM is structured around four major themes: The Life and Times of Saint John Baptist de La Salle; Classroom Pedagogy and the Christian Brothers; Social Justice and Lasallian Spirituality; and The Lasallian Educator and the Lasallian Movement Today. ELM presenters and planners are all graduates of the various Regional and international Lasallian formation programs. The presenters will discuss the evolution and development of ELM, explain the format and schedule of the workshop, share how ELM has been adapted for other audiences and answer participant questions.

The Heroic Journey Unmasked—The Education of the Self as Lasallian (A)

Fred Trainer, Counselor, De La Salle Vocational, Bensalem, PA

This tool of owning one's personal narrative is especially relevant for students who come from poverty. A background characterized by high rates of trauma where those uncovered and invisible experiences serve to greatly inhibit learning. We follow our student's progress as they have claimed the courage to investigate their own woundedness, and then proclaim their truths to the community at large in schools. What happens to our students when they commit to this process of self-exploration? How does such deeply personal "self" education effect their ability to learn in other subject areas? And how does such an experience make perfect sense nested within a Lasallian school? Participants will find out during this session.

Breakout Sessions II: Friday, November 22, 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Journeying Together: Lasallian Spiritual Accompaniment (A)

Brother Vin Pelletier, FSC, Christian Brothers Center, Narragansett, RI

Maryann Donohue-Lynch, Associate Executive Director, Office for Mission and Ministry, District of Eastern North America, Eatontown, NJ

In Lasallian Reflection 4, "Lasallians: Hearts on Fire," we read: "We move on together and by association, discovering that God walks alongside each Lasallian. What attitudes, beliefs and values underpin our Lasallian journey?" In response to a desire for spiritual accompaniment as expressed by fellow Lasallians, the District of Eastern North America developed the Lasallian Spiritual Accompaniment Collaborative. The mission of the Collaborative is to provide spiritual accompaniment and formation in the tradition of Lasallian spirituality. This session will share how the Collaborative came to be, the steps that were taken to establish the Collaborative, and the unique ministry of accompaniment provided by the Collaborative. The presenters will also discuss the important distinction between traditional spiritual direction and Lasallian spiritual accompaniment.

Our Lasallian Heritage in Daily Classroom Practices (E, M, H, C)

Scott H. Sorvaag, Professor of Education, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

Karen A. Sorvaag, Professor of Education, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

How do our students experience our Lasallian heritage in their everyday experiences in the classroom? How do Lasallian teachers model their deeply held beliefs and practice virtue? In this interactive presentation, participants will engage with the presenters to identify effective classroom practices that reflect Lasallian principles and virtues of a good teacher. Emphasis will be placed on everyday classroom practices that build community, humanize the learning environment, and engage the hearts and minds of learners.

Relationship/Community Building in a Lasallian Community (M, H)

Vincent G. Horan, Religion Teacher/Lasallian Animator, Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, NY

Kathleen Hanson, Director of Counseling and Student Services, Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, NY

Through good fortune and strong leadership, Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) Syracuse has been able to implement several programs aimed at building our Lasallian community and family. Originating with our Mission and Ministry team, and under the guidance of our Lasallian animators past and present, our Lasallian charism has become a part of the fabric of daily life at CBA. The inclusivity and structure of our Mission and Ministry team has allowed us to tap into the many gifts and talents of Lasallians in our community. This session will share our strategies and programs so that others can use or adapt them to their own ministries. Presentation topics will include the Mission and Ministry team, faculty and staff formation programs, student orientations, parent programming, mentoring, Founder's Day, facilities design and more.

Spiritual Resilience and the Life of Faith (A)

Constance Fourné, Faith Formation Director (retired), Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park, MN

We are called to recognize the face of Jesus walking alongside us and to maintain our Lasallian zeal in the face of mounting challenges. But how do we nurture our own and our students' capacity to do both? At a time when so many are frightened and angry, how do we teach a practical method of strengthening and sustaining faith? Spiritual resilience is the capacity to maintain a strong positive spirit and clear sense of purpose and meaning even in the face of adversity. It depends on our understanding of God, the world and our place in it, and on regular spiritual practices that open us to being transformed by grace. Spiritual resilience is characterized by emotions like gratitude, awe, compassion, hope, serenity and joy. This session will focus on the value of these spiritual emotions and on practical ways of developing them in ourselves and our communities. Informed by neuroscience as well as tradition, we will look at contemplative practices of gratitude, blessing and letting go, and at the role storytelling, music and ritual play in the life of faith.

Strengthening Lasallian Catholic Identity with Today's Students in Lasallian Schools (E, M, H)

Charles Legendre AFSC, Director, Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Covington, LA

John Roberto, LCAP Consultant, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Napa, CA

Since 1997 the former San Francisco District (now San Francisco New Orleans) has conducted the Lasallian Catholic Assessment Process (LCAP) with the District's high schools and middle school. The LCAP process is built around five core Lasallian principles and 19 characteristics of Lasallian schools. It includes a survey of students, parents, and faculty/staff/administration; a three-day on-site visit that includes focus group sessions with students and adults; and a planning workshop with student leaders and adults. This session will tell the LCAP story: Its growth and development over 17 years; the elements of LCAP, especially how we listen to the spiritual needs of young people today; and trends in the development of Catholic identity and Lasallian mission in the schools. We will present reflections on the religious life of students today from LCAP surveys and listening sessions, and from national studies on the growing religious diversity of young people. We will highlight some of the fundamental questions that are being raised as a result of LCAP: How do we create and sustain a spiritual-religious culture in schools? What are the aims of our religion/campus ministry programs today? What is evangelization and catechesis today? How do we know we are reaching our students?

Teaching Students to be an Educational Community (M, H)

Brother Dylan Perry, FSC, Theology Faculty, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN

Dustin Perry, Math Faculty/Service Coordinator, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN

Before you can teach your content, your students must understand how to be successful members of the educational community that you are all building together. This presentation will explore the importance of teaching and training your students how to participate in the educational community that you build in your classroom through the context of Lasallian pedagogy.

The Camino Program—Inspiring Students to Succeed (A)

Pamela A. Jimenez, Director of the Camino Program, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY

Rosemary Osso, Assistant Dean, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY

In 2017, Manhattan College launched the Camino Program, a program filling the gap for English as a New Language (ENL) students in New York City to become bilingual professionals. Our program is uniquely designed with a vision that integrates English language instruction in the first two semesters of college-level courses while supporting the student's native language. Students engage in experiential learning through career and leadership education as well as a Lasallian-infused curriculum. Our professors and administrators work collaboratively to support and creatively serve the students. The goal of the program is to create a pathway for the students to gain access to careers in education, science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics, while at the same time, inspiring students to seek a vocation that brings meaning to their life. Encouraging them to overcome their vulnerability through education is one of the ways we teach our students. In this session, participants will learn how the Camino Program allows us to inspire, empower, instill respect and preserve human dignity. We teach our students to recognize their strength and grow amid their everyday vulnerability. The program provides the opportunity and access to quality education and empowers the students with skills that will enable them to be active and equal participants for a more compassionate and just world.

Touching Hearts—Social and Emotional Curriculum (M, H)

Tam Ly, Director of Guidance and Counseling, La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA

Tina Bonacci, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA

The focus of this presentation will be on the three domains of counseling and how to integrate a schoolwide curriculum which focuses on the pedagogy of the heart. Using a strengths-based perspective, this model supports diverse and capable students to become extraordinary individuals both inside and outside of the classroom. The presentation will offer best-practice tools and resources to guide participants on how to focus on the accompaniment of students in their growth process, how to involve stakeholders and elicit buy-in from all participants (e.g., faculty, staff, administration, parents and students) and how to touch students' hearts to build self-worth and interpersonal skills.