

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ON MISSION EVALUATION

Strengths: What went well?

- ❖ The Soda Center was a great setting. The moderators (Chris Bassen, Jonathan Cord and John Scudder) did an outstanding job. The secretariat (George Van Grieken, Susan Dickson, Jeanne Loughman, Barbara Sokol, Jackie Berlogar, Jeannie Adams, Carolyn Tapper, et.al.) provided terrific organization. The process to select the delegates seems to have worked well. The College hospitality was outstanding! They did a truly great job! Food was good and service was very friendly. David Holquin did a great job. The opening presentations were strengths. The use of “Power Point” was welcomed. The music at prayer and liturgy was excellent, in particular Vincent Petersen. The overall sharing and discussion was good. Generally, the entire week was just excellent in so many different ways. As a District, we have all learned and grown a great deal as a result of the week. Many thanks and congratulations to all – support staff and delegates! *(Brother Edmond Larouche, FSC)*
- ❖ The whole concept of “equal voice, equal vote” gave rise to an historic event. I “felt” totally equal in the process. The published binder materials were superb. The parliamentary procedure, though a bit stiff at first, served the whole process well. John, Chris and Jonathan are to be commended. The preparation by the Preparatory Committee was thorough and professional. The training was good. The committee structure was appropriate and the Governance Committee, of which I was a part, was great. Brothers David and Stan kept us at the 30,000 foot level, a wise move. Accommodations were just fine. Brother George and his “crew” did a great job of keeping propositions, amendments to propositions, orders of the day, and reports, in front of us. *(Mark Warren)*
- ❖ The dedication of the partners. The professionalism and seriousness of all the participants at the General Sessions. The outstanding honesty (in the Presentations by the District Leadership) set a pace and challenge for all of us participants to be more realistic, than discussing/proposing only from imagined data. My committee on the “Role of Brothers and Partners” demonstrated to me evident sensitivity. We enthusiastically shared the task toward inclusive terminology in defining our distinctive lines of development and our shared roles of being “associated together” as Lasallian Educators. The evident priority of educating the poor in many of the propositions. *(Brother Joseph Fabiano, FSC)*
- ❖ The organization of activities and opportunities for dialogue. The faith community. Superb presentations, especially Brother Claude’s. Basically, I felt all aspects of the assembly were expertly conceived and executed. *(Ed Tywoniak)*
- ❖ Very well prepared... every last detail was considered (even the flowers on the table were changed)!

- ❖ The very fact that we had this opportunity. The organizational infrastructure was excellent. The speakers on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Prayer services and liturgies. Details were appreciated – flowers on the table, water, candy, gifts from the College, barbecue, etc. *(Rudy Schulze)*
- ❖ The spirit and faith of the Assembly was amazing! Everything was well organized and the hospitality and facility were excellent. *(Greg Schmitz)*
- ❖ The schedule was closely adhered to thereby fostering a sense of accomplishment. Business/Operations and Procedures were very clear and well rehearsed before interaction began. Balance of time between work and social contact was excellent. Topics and propositions tended to remain global and broad reaching rather than micro specific. *(Bruce Shoup)*
- ❖ Well organized. Wonderful facilities. Everybody was friendly and accommodating, especially the staff from Napa! The articulate presentations during the first day. Sufficient time allowed for committee work. *(Bertha Ortega)*
- ❖ Lasallian Partners were given an effective vehicle (way) for taking ownership of Lasallian education. Excellent venue!
- ❖ The interest and participation was excellent. There was such a positive attitude overall. Secretaries did an excellent job. *(Brother R. Philip Thez, FSC)*
- ❖ The vision and courage to call this Assembly. The work of the staff, central committee and preparatory committee was outstanding. The liturgies were central to the work and the experience and were well planned and executed (particularly in the music and selection of presiders). The committee work and the general assembly were powerful examples of our work “together and by association.” The entire process was educational for Brothers and Partners from the initial presentations giving a broad view of the District and the Institute, to the Rules for Procedure in ensuring debate and action. *(Gary Cannon)*
- ❖ Reports of endorsement opened a fairly non-threatened discussion – encourage these. Well organized with the right people there. *(Brother James Joost, FSC)*
- ❖ The moderators did a great and entertaining job of keeping us on task. The sense of energy and enthusiasm of the participants. The sense of equality in voice and vote shared between Brothers and Partners – truly groundbreaking! Someone should consider writing an article for Review for Religious. It was a great learning experience for all of us and I look forward to a refined process in four years. The Central Committee/Secretariat did a great job! *(Richard Gray)*
- ❖ The chance to hear from so many people on such important issues was excellent – I feel a sense of togetherness and association that is stronger than ever. Clear mandates from the Assembly that give us all direction for the future.

- ❖ Meeting efficiency was exceptional.
- ❖ Participation and spirit were outstanding. Committees produced much more than I expected they would. Delegates quickly learned and used well the rules of procedure. There was good participation in the prayer services and Masses. Events and Conferences at Sodexo did an outstanding job. Our Secretariat staff went way beyond what was required and did an absolutely superb job! The Central Committee worked well together; the moderators presided well and with good humor. Everyone learned a lot! *(Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC)*
- ❖ DLSI support staff – BRAVO! Great Assembly moderators. *(Robert Jordan)*
- ❖ Opportunity for Brothers and Partners to be involved in a significant process helping to determine the direction of mission. Increased knowledge and opportunity to meet Partners involved in ministry throughout the District. *(Brother James Meegan, FSC)*
- ❖ Organization and support given by the DLSI staff from Napa was excellent. The facilities of Saint Mary's College were good. Speakers were good. Staff at Saint Mary's College were friendly and helpful. District Leadership Team gave fine presentations.
- ❖ Bringing together Lasallian educators (Brothers and Partners) so committed to our mission. Organization of the time. Willingness to adapt the Orders of the Day (for services for Jerry Horan). The strong spirit of mutuality among all of us.
- ❖ Good participation from delegates. There seemed to be a good sense of ownership. *(Brother Jesus Lara, FSC)*
- ❖ Thorough preparation and organization. The hospitality of Saint Mary's College and the Christian Brothers. Liturgies and prayer services. My committee (Curricular and Co-Curricular) – I learned so much from them.
- ❖ Visitor's opening address, Steve, etc. The quality of the committee members and their hard work. The performance of the moderators. The relative pace and execution of the General Assemblies – the delegates go better with practice. *(Brother Norman Cook, FSC)*
- ❖ Positive interaction of delegates in committee and on social/liturgical occasions. I was able to meet many people I had not met before and am encouraged by the level of interest in and commitment to the District mission.
- ❖ Brother David's presentation. Each presentation by District Leadership Team members. The substance of the discussions. The committee/assembly process. Logistics and arrangements. Bringing together Brothers and Partners to discuss direction. Liturgies.

- ❖ Committee work. Good discussion and debate.
- ❖ Association – it was a fantastic way for Brothers and Partners to get together and give direction to our mission. Facilities, meeting rooms, dorms and dining were excellent! Thanks Saint Mary’s College. Secretariat and DLSI staff were extremely helpful. *(Brother Jack Henderson, FSC)*
- ❖ Advance preparation via meetings, e-mail and website to orient the lay partners to the process, issues and education on issues.
- ❖ Strength is best found in the inclusion of partners in this process. We are on the verge of an exciting time because of this.
- ❖ The great success was in the natural feel of working together, Brothers and Partners, in common deliberations.
- ❖ We are so indebted to the planning involved! Everything was extremely interesting – I am still awed by the trust and inclusiveness that the Brothers have shown all of the Partners in welcoming us in the Assembly. Thank for the hospitality and sense of community. We have undoubtedly been inspired and invigorated and will continue to work with zeal! *(Limarys Caraballo)*
- ❖ The wonderful spirit of camaraderie, intended or not, created by this gathering was inspiring. The organization and planning were top notch. Everything seemed to work very well!
- ❖ All viewpoints were entertained – fairness. Educational (or “learning”) experience for everybody. Food service. *(Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC)*
- ❖ Very moving and impacting presentations at the start, especially by Brother Visitor, Brother Claude and Gery’s report on the District. A tremendous, positive experience! I am grateful for the learning experience, for voice and vote, for listening, for prayer together that fuels our work together. Very critical to have a liaison from the Central Committee on our committee. As Chairperson, I leaned heavily on John Scudder for guidance. Thank you. The Assembly was run with an extraordinary eye for detail. Through campus hospitality, thoughtfully prepared liturgies, organizational mastery of our binders, the Secretariat’s office... all of it! BRAVO! *(Rory Dorman)*
- ❖ People will go back with greater ownership of the De La Salle charism. This will have greater long term effects/results.
- ❖ Well organized. Hospitality excellent – housing, food, etc. Secretariat excellent. Preparatory work very thoughtful. Masses/prayer excellent. The initiative by the Brothers to hold this Assembly. Leadership team presentations. *(Catherine Karrels)*

- ❖ Prayers and liturgies. Physical amenities: rooms, food, snacks, socials. Secretariat work: prompt, hardworking, very efficient.
- ❖ The entire structure and process was a learning experience. I appreciated the chance to be involved in the mission of the Institute and hope it continues for some time. I had a Partner chair, and it was wonderfully done. Good job Gary Cannon! *(Mike Trafecanty)*
- ❖ Very well organized. The process went very well! *(Bill George)*
- ❖ Good liturgy. Good planning and organization. Great local support and staff work.
- ❖ Facilitated many opportunities to get to know Brothers, Partners and the work of the District. Strict upholding of the time schedule made the whole thing work well. Thanks. Introductions on Day One were excellent and helped us to know what is going on. Good liturgies and social hours.
- ❖ Committee work. Introductory presentations on Monday and Tuesday morning. Gathering and worship together in community is always personally rewarding. The music was outstanding. Lots of food (good hospitality).
- ❖ Well organized – obvious the time and energy that went into the planning – congratulations.
- ❖ Small committee work. Breadth of people (Brothers and Partners) participating.
- ❖ Superb moderators... rational, “moderate” and humorous. Good organization and articulation of program, materials and what was to come. Barbecue was particularly good! Liturgy/mass – daily - wonderful.
- ❖ The Assembly was invigorating. All aspects of the Assembly were well organized and effective. The liturgies were very inspiring and the College was an ideal place to be for this event.
- ❖ Good start! The partners began to understand the whole governance process more clearly as the days went along. The staff work was superb, given the complexity of the process. Excellent liturgies. The presentations on the first and second day were most informative.
- ❖ The organization of this entire Assembly was remarkable. The timeliness of reports, attention to detail and general hospitality were wonderful.
- ❖ Spirit of common good, service of the poor, commitment to Lasallian spirit/education. Simplicity of living/eating facilities.
- ❖ Good interaction of secondary schools and college.
- ❖ An amazing embrace of the mission on the part of Brothers and Partners together.

- ❖ Wonderful preparation in the wealth of information presented to the Assembly on Monday and Tuesday. Also the information shared with the lay partners was very enlightening and inspiring. Efficiency and smoothness of running each day. BRAVO! Many thanks for this extraordinary opportunity to meet and interact with many in the District and to be a part of this Assembly.
- ❖ Schedule and structure.
- ❖ The Assembly went very well. Although it was a first for most non-Brothers, we learned enough about the process to see that the committees worked hard, and that the central issues confronting the Lasallian Brothers were addressed. Of particular value, and something very well organized, were the presentations! The intention was to bring all of the Partners up to speed on issues surrounding carrying out the Mission. The presenters succeeded very well.
- ❖ Committee meetings. Floor sessions well conducted. “We are all LAY” – good spirit.
- ❖ Well prepared! Well presented! Well executed!
- ❖ The talks at the outset of the Assembly were well prepared and professionally presented. The general organization was well conceived and delivered. Opening and closing dinners were appropriate and congenial. The most significant strength was the opportunity for groups to formulate propositions as they saw fit. Even though there was inexperience in formulating propositions, the fact that there was no one from DLSI or no one prepared by DLSI to engineer the conversation was very important. *(Brother Mel Anderson, FSC)*
- ❖ The organization and orchestration of the entire Assembly on Mission was excellent. The key players are to be commended for an outstanding job. *(Gary Flinders)*
- ❖ The Assembly was very well organized. It was structured in such a way for all the events to work well. The learning curve we all had to experience, was well managed. The liturgies were very well done. The food/accommodations were good. The camaraderie among the delegates and support staff was very good. The use of the Website was excellent. The online discussion forum was very helpful for me. As I lived far from the geographical center of the District, I was able to follow the lines of thought the delegates had. It helped me prepare for the whole Assembly. *(Brother Lawrence Haley, FSC)*