

1 ASSEMBLY ON MISSION

2 Fourth Meeting

3 July 30, 2002

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5

MINUTES

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7 Brother Chris Bassen, Moderator, called the fourth meeting of the District of San

8 Francisco Assembly on Mission to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was taken by the

9 Tellers. Brother George, General Secretary, reported the following delegates

10 absent: Lon Burford, Kitty Ferrasci-O'Malley, Bruce Shoup, Brian Stanley and

11 Sister Thoa Ta.

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13 Brother Chris noted that the minutes of the first three meetings of the Assembly

14 were on the Delegate tables. The minutes will be considered and approved at

15 the next General Assembly meeting.

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17 The Moderator asked Mr. Gery Short to introduce Brother Claude Reinhardt,

18 General Counselor. Mr. Short provided a brief overview of Brother Claude's role

19 in the Institute.

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21 Brother Claude delivered his presentation on the International Institute's work

22 within the global community and provided a wide perspective on the mission in

23 which we are involved.

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25 The Moderator opened the floor for a twenty-minute question-and-answer period.

26 Brother William Mann, Vicar General, joined Brother Claude to respond to

27 questions.

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29 The first question requested more detail how one Brother, who was mentioned in

30 Brother Claude's presentation, runs 79 schools. Brother Claude commented that

31 he was talking about a network of very small educational centers where people

32 with minimal training provide what is absolutely essential for their students. This

33 particular Brother moves around assuring an enhancement in the quality of the

34 work they provide. It is, in principal, very close to what the Founder did with the

35 first Brothers.

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37 A Delegate asked for more detail on some of the works that deal with inter-

38 religious situations. Brother William referred to Circular 447 and the General

39 Chapter's Commission on Evangelism, which numbered numerous young

40 delegates, lay and Brothers from Asia and the Middle East. He noted that unless

41 we are involved in how young Christian and young Muslims learn how to live in

42 harmony, we won't have to figure out the educational questions because there

43 won't be a future. Somehow the Lasallian family needs to figure out how to help

44 communion and solidarity happen across faith, racial and ethnic groups.

45

46 A question was posed as to whether Brother Claude and Brother William could
47 assess where we are as Lasallian educators at Institute, Regional, and District
48 levels in terms of our own personal transformation to achieve the kinds of things
49 Brother Claude addressed in his presentation. The Delegate further questioned
50 to what extent the works and successes are peripheral or at the center of where
51 we are as Lasallian educators - Where do you see resistance to change, and
52 where are we in that process?" Brother Claude responded that he mentioned
53 many examples because they are examples that are not very often known. In
54 the past, Institute questionnaires dealt only with statistics and numbers, which
55 was not sufficient. The questionnaires sent to the Visitors were changed in order
56 to learn more about the influences of Lasallians inside schools as well as what
57 Lasallians can do beyond the school walls. It begins with the schools and then
58 radiates outside. It is not a big success everywhere but it is a movement that
59 shows that the Lasallian influences outside of schools are enormous.

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61 A Delegate asked for a prediction regarding what specific enterprises might be
62 expected when they return four years from now? Brother William commented
63 that he and Brother Claude needed to spend time with the Delegates over the
64 next four days before they can make a prediction. He commented that on
65 Monday they heard the District Leadership Team articulate a clear vision but that
66 they didn't yet know what would emerge in the committees over the next few
67 days. They will have more of a sense by Friday of where the District of San
68 Francisco might be in four years. Brother William stated that it is one thing to say

69 the leaders are going “here”, but they are not going anywhere if the Delegates
70 and the people connected with the schools and apostolates don’t go with them.
71 Each committee has to begin with the questions: What are we doing? What is
72 our analysis of what we are doing? And what can we do to improve given this
73 environment? The Delegates need to begin to analyze place by place and all
74 together where they are going.

75

76 In response to a question regarding PERLA, Brother William noted that the Latin
77 American Universities are visioning how to go forward together with the
78 secondary schools.

79

80 A question was asked regarding how decisions were made about new projects,
81 e.g., new projects in areas of Africa that could use Lasallian help. Brother
82 William commented that decisions are made by the Visitors. They agree on a
83 project and on sending personnel abroad. When a new Lasallian work is
84 opened, however, it requires the consent of the Superior General and General
85 Council. If this District is interested in pursuing new projects, it should be in
86 dialogue with the center of the Institute in order to prioritize their efforts based on
87 the most urgent needs.

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89 A Delegate stated that we celebrate the exciting initiatives of the Institute to
90 reach out in new and creative ways to serve the poor. Why is it that the unique
91 ability of our traditional educational institutions to achieve social transformation,

92 as described by Brother Claude, and in light of 9-11, is not as visible or pursued
93 as actively. Brother William stated that following September 11th there is a new
94 reality in the United States and in the world. It is important to realize that the
95 Lasallian family continues to pursue possibilities of bringing together Muslims
96 and Christians and in many areas is doing just that. In many parts of the world,
97 we do engage with the larger family, including Muslims, Hindus, etc. It is up to
98 the Assembly and the District to promote this mission.

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100 A Delegate referred to Brother Claude's statement that Lasallian education
101 should be preparation for the interior life, and asked for a clarification of what he
102 meant by "the enemies" he spoke about in the sentence following this statement.
103 Brother Claude responded that the behavior of young people to do things is
104 influenced by factors such as the media. We don't force Christianity on them, but
105 the formation that is received by students and is given by teachers in Christian
106 institutions should at least raise the question of God in young people.

107

108 To the question of whether the greatest challenge to the Region was a challenge
109 of attitude or a challenge of resources, Brother William responded that he didn't
110 have an easy answer. This District has been blessed with resources and
111 blessed with a District Leadership Team that has put those resources to good
112 use. As a consequence of good use of these significant resources, some
113 attitudes are changing. The interior life may also be a means of changing some
114 of these attitudes.

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116 The Moderator thanked Brothers Claude and William. He noted that there would
117 be a group picture after Mass and that information regarding the picture was on
118 the tables. He also noted that breaks and socials will be in Dryden Hall. He
119 thanked the schools for their displays. Committees will meet beginning at 10:50
120 a.m. Observers are welcome to join any committee they wish.

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122 The meeting adjourned at 10:20.