

De La Salle Christian Brothers
District of San Francisco
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ON MISSION
Saint Mary's College of California
July 30 - August 4, 2006



“Priority Statements”

How did these emerge from the District Assembly?

The delegates to the District of San Francisco's Assembly on Mission were divided into a dozen distinctive “theme groups” for purposes of identifying and expressing priorities for the District's educational mission in the coming four years.

The theme groups were:

- Assessment for Mission/Religious Education
- Curriculum/Instruction/Service Learning
- Finances and Stewardship
- Formation: Faculty/Staff
- Formation for Leadership
- Formation: Students
- Governance: District and Local
- Higher Education and the District
- Regional and International Relationships
- Service of the Poor: Accessibility in Established Works
- Service of the Poor: New Works and Initiatives
- Vocation Ministry/Association/Volunteers

Each theme group was charged with producing a maximum of two “Priority Statements” in which it would express its consensus recommendations as to where and how the District should actively engage itself. The priority statements are not intended to be legislation but are guidance statements to be processed into a new Action Plan for 2007 to 2011. Over a two-day period the theme groups composed their priority statements, brought them to the plenary session for comment, revised them further, sought more comment, and then submitted their final drafts.

This process resulted in a total of twenty Priority Statements that were submitted to the delegates.

On the Assembly's final day, the delegates were asked to express their valuation of the Priority Statements by using a 'secret-ballot' voting method that employed not ballots but colored chips with assigned numeric values.

Each Delegate's chips totaled 76 points; voting was done under secret-ballot conditions, with chips deposited into closed boxes, one box for each Priority Statement. The boxes were then collected and the points counted. With 120 delegates voting, and each delegate able to dispose of 76 points, a maximum point total of 9,120 points was available. The total points actually used were 8,721.

The Priority Statements are listed in the table below. They are given in descending order of points received. The "theme group" that produced each Priority Statement is named just above the Priority Statement in boldface type.

What happens after the District Assembly?

The Priority Statements issuing from the District Assembly will be submitted to the upcoming District Chapter, the quadrennial legislative gathering of the Christian Brothers of the District of San Francisco. The Chapter meets in two sessions, in October and December 2006. The Acts of the District Chapter will then be submitted for consideration and approval to the Superior General of the Institute and his General Council at the Generalate in Rome. When approval of the Chapter Acts is received from the Generalate, the District Leadership Team in consultation with the District Mission Council will draft a new "Action Plan" incorporating these priorities in their definitive expressions as guidance for the District's educational mission for 2007 to 2011.

Priority Statements – District Assembly 2006		Points Received
1. Theme: Finances and Stewardship <i>Priority Statement A</i> The Lasallian Education Fund and the District Leadership Team, in collaboration with the SSAA, will create and implement a strategic action plan to fully endow the District's economically poor students (including the 5% program) in order to enable individual schools to provide aid for working class families and the District to provide resources for other works. The first step of this plan shall include the creation of a fundraising network of Lasallian works. As a part of this process, the District Leadership Team will also work to narrow the focus of the Lasallian Education Fund (LEF) to have all of its fundraising focus solely on the education of the poor within the District.	2,513	

2. Theme: Service of the Poor: Accessibility in Established Works
Priority Statement B 697
To enable economically poor students to feel more empowered to participate fully in the life of the school, each educational institution in the District will develop initiatives to promote and cultivate a more accessible school environment for its students and families living in poverty. An integral component of ongoing Lasallian formation for faculty and staff will include education regarding the local culture of poverty and how it impacts the daily lives of students.

3. Theme: Service of the Poor: New Works and Initiatives
Priority Statement A 646
During the next four years, the District Leadership Team will prepare itself for potential new works for the poor by investigating models such as charter schools, dual-charisms, public-private partnerships, family choice and other public benefit programs (e.g. NCLB), and more intentional connections between existing works at different levels of education, with an eye towards seamless Lasallian education (Early Childhood Education (ECE), K-12 or ECE, K -16) where Lasallian works already exist.

4. Theme: Regional and International Relationships
Priority Statement A 537
The Mission Council, together with the Brother Visitor and District Council, will initiate collaboration with others engaged in and responsible for the Lasallian Mission to promote relationships and explore new structures that strengthen and enhance our mission and identity within the International Institute, the Region, and the District of San Francisco, including the growth and stability of our District's existing works.

5. Theme: Assessment for Mission/Religious Education
Priority Statement B 526

The District Leadership Team will continue to assist each educational work in the regular assessment of its Catholic, Lasallian character, as well as the effectiveness of its mission. Such assessments may include, but are not limited to, the Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process (CLASP).

- Brother Visitor, the Board of Trustees, and the President of Saint Mary's College will collaborate on the design, development, and implementation of a regular and ongoing assessment of the College's Catholic, Lasallian character as well as the effectiveness of its Lasallian mission.
- The District Leadership Team will assist the leadership of the LEO Center, the Latino Adult Institute, La Salle Vietnam House/De La Salle Chapel, and Centro La Salle in the regular and ongoing assessment of their Catholic, Lasallian character as well as the effectiveness of their Lasallian mission.

6. Theme: Curriculum/Instruction/Service Learning
Priority Statement B 491

The District Office of Education will collaborate with each apostolate to create a District web-based presence for the Lasallian academic community to assemble and share current educational research, Lasallian pedagogy, and best practices in curriculum, instruction and assessment, and to provide venues for students to have access to innovative academic programs.

7. Theme: Curriculum/Instruction /Service Learning
Priority Statement A 402

The District Office of Education will collaborate with and assist each apostolate to enhance the professional practice of Lasallian educators in teaching marginalized and academically at-risk students (e.g. formation training, on-line Lasallian academic community, departmental workshops, direct inter-school collaboration, and a District conference on curriculum and instruction).

8. Theme: Formation for Leadership
Priority Statement A 388

The Office of Education will create and implement a Lasallian leadership formation program that will address the immediate and long-term needs for front-line administrative positions in the District.

9. Theme: Service of the Poor: New Works and Initiatives
Priority Statement B 356
The District Leadership Team, in conjunction with administrators of recent works will analyze the responses to B.1 of the last Action Plan to formulate a strategy that develops and stabilizes recent works, and to create a stabilization template for potential new works that includes issues of finance, property, admissions, faculty and student retention, and board development.

10. Theme: Faculty and Staff Formation
Priority Statement B 336
In view of the growing needs of partners and their families, the District, in collaboration with local leadership, shall explore possibilities of and response to needs such as:

- Daycare
- Eldercare
- Job sharing
- Family leave

11. Theme: Faculty and Staff Formation
Priority Statement A 325
To promote consistent and continuing Lasallian formation, staff members in each school or work who are graduates of the Buttimer Institute, the Lasallian Leadership Institute, or the Lasallian Social Justice Institute, along with those staff members who are Brothers, will, at the initiation of the President and/or Principal, and with support from the District and Region, develop and implement formation programs for partners, Brothers, and families tailored to the culture of their community and appropriate for their different levels of Lasallian Development.

12. Theme: Formation for Students
Priority Statement A 228
Local apostolates, with support from the District Office of Education, will charge former student participants in District programs to advance ongoing proactive programs and projects that will:

- reflect their formation experience
- call students to put into action their formation experience
- invite others to understand and live their Catholic Lasallian Mission
- be shared by crafting intentional links with the Lasallian family.

13. Theme: Vocation Ministry/Association/Volunteers
Priority Statement B 212

The District Leadership Team, in all of the District's programs, structures, and ministries, will foster "a culture of vocation" by further developing and advancing the Pastoral Plan for Vocation Ministry and by promoting a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Lasallian vocation in all of its aspects and forms.

14. Theme: Formation for Students
Priority Statement B 193

To enhance the Catholic Lasallian culture and climate of the apostolate, each local institution, with the support of the District Office of Education, will advance our mission among all its students through the intentional use of the Core Principles so that all students can articulate and actively live the mission.

15. Theme: Higher Education and the District
Priority Statement A 178

The District Assembly on Mission recognizes the need for tertiary education for growing underserved and economically poor groups. The Assembly recommends continued investigation along the lines recommended by The Task Force on Tertiary Education [TOTE] in order to surface appropriate and fiscally viable responses to this identified need for Catholic, Lasallian, innovative, tertiary programs to serve students from economically poor and working class families, preparing them for meaningful lives. Work to be completed expeditiously.

16. Theme: Governance: District and Local
Priority Statement A 164

The District Leadership Team will provide for an audit of all governing and advisory structures at the District level. The audit will serve to clarify the function, responsibilities, membership composition, and effectiveness of all structures, and make appropriate recommendations for implementation. This audit will serve as the impetus for ongoing education of all Brothers and Partners.

17. Theme: Regional and International Relationships
Priority Statement B 155

Cross-Cultural Engagement

- The Mission Council will, before December 2007, create and circulate broad policies and guidelines for encouraging individual faculty and staff to promote interrelatedness with other District, Regional, and International Lasallian ministries by short- and long-term participation. (e.g., exchanging teachers, experiencing diverse student populations, sharing resources, etc.)

18. Theme: Vocation Ministry/Association/Volunteers
Priority Statement A 146

In the next four years, the District Leadership Team will continue to develop resources and promote discussion across the District to help clarify current and emerging understandings and experiences of association, and to explore new models for association.

19. Theme: Assessment for Mission/Religious Education
Priority Statement A 141

In light of the progress over the last four years regarding the implementation of B. 24 and B.27 of the last Action Plan and, in order to ensure that this progress is maintained over the course of the next four years;

- The Mission Council will establish a Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the first round of CLASP and the third round of the Religious Studies Evaluation process with a view towards ensuring that schools continue to demonstrate:
 - Ongoing accountability for the findings of each process
 - Direct connection of these processes to pre-existing accreditation and planning processes
 - Consistency of the knowledge base of Religious Studies Teachers across the District and their effective pedagogical practices in support of student intellectual development in Catholic literacy.

20. Theme: Formation for Leadership

Priority Statement B

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In order to provide healthy, sustainable first-line administrators, the Office of Education will create a task force to explore innovative structures for administration within the president/principal framework.