

Brother Visitor's Letter

By Brother David Brennan, FSC

On behalf of the Brothers and Partners of the San Francisco District, I welcome you to the new school year, one filled with great promise. The next two years will be a time of much celebration for the Institute worldwide, as we commemorate the centennial of the canonization of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Church's declaration of him as Patron of All Teachers of Youth in 1950, and the 350th anniversary of his birth in 1651.

Continuing today to be inspired by De La Salle's vision, together we form our educational vision for the future. Just as for De La Salle in seventeenth-century France, our lives and our work must be grounded in faith, in prayer, in reflection, and in constant openness to the will of God. It is within this framework that we are able to understand the work we are called to do, and it is with eyes of faith, as De La Salle instructs us, that we carry out the Lasallian educational mission in our District and in partnership with the International Institute.

This and future issues of *Signs of Faith* will evidence the vitality of the Institute and the continuing commitment of the members of the San Francisco District. In this issue, through stories of shared experiences locally and internationally, whether in the classroom, at St. Joseph's Boys'

Village in India, or at the recent District Chapter, you will discover that it is the people who have made this work their own who are the true "Signs of Faith":

🌐 Every day, over 1,400 teachers, administrators, coaches, and support staff bring to life the mission in which we all share as they interact with over 9,000 students in the San Francisco District. It is my hope that all Lasallian educators will see themselves and the meaning of their own work in these stories about our colleagues.

🌐 This past summer, six District teachers accepted our invitation to spend several weeks working at St. Joseph's Boys' Village in Tamil Nadu, India. Their story is heart-warming and compelling, manifesting both the international and personal nature of our Institute and our mission. You will see, as I have this past year at Institute apostolates in Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, the impressive work that



the Brothers, the Lasallian Sisters, and their many Partners are able to do with very limited resources.

🌐 Earlier this year, the Tenth District Chapter, which set the course for our next four years, included Brothers and, for the first time, Partners. Each participant brought to the Chapter deliberations a unique perspective based upon years of experience in Lasallian schools and apostolic works. Their reflections herein express the faith, confidence,