



are working came up at the Convocation. That idea was brought up in different places at different times. Then finally, in the Overseas Apostolate Committee, of which I was a part, we developed a proposition to give Partners the opportunity, as Brothers have, to experience the Lasallian world outside of their schools or geographic areas. Because of this legislation, six teachers will be going to India this summer.

Martin Farfan: Although I did not attend the Convocation, I know that in my committee, the groundwork for our Chapter Act was laid prior to our meeting. Our committee dealt with the idea of “gratuity,” which goes back to our Founder. If we want to continue serving the poor students in our communities, we need to be able to do so on a gratuitous basis. I was surprised to see how many other people felt that way. In the last ten years, tuition has tripled, but the majority of the poor are earning the same or less.

Brother George Van Grieken: *During our time together, did you get any sense that there was a different dynamic with the addition of the Partners?*

Brother James: It seemed to be a natural inclusion; it seemed to be the right time for a number of things. I also think we were at the point where we could talk without contention about service of the poor. It has taken us a number of years to get there, to be able to have a real unity, to be able to do some different things, to step beyond our normal realm and have our Partners also in that place. Brother David reminds us that we no longer can afford the luxury of talking about who the poor are, we’ve got to act.

Cathy: *Would each of you talk about the Chapter Acts with which you were involved?*

Brother James: In my mind, there were two Chapter Acts that were very important. One was the movement of the schools in the direction of becoming more accessible to the poor. The other was an Act proposed by the Governance and Structure Committee that proposed to regularize the inclusion of Partners as members of the General Assembly, which would have given them a voice and vote regarding the mission. That was a rather dramatic and revolutionary Chapter Act. [Editor’s Note: This Act, as it was worded, was not approved by the Superior General and his Council.]

Carole: I was most involved with Act 191. It was developed to connect the Saint Mary’s College School of Education with the

District. That Act is making it possible for us to establish a center of Lasallian outreach at Saint Mary’s College. We will now have a budget so that professors can be reassigned from their College teaching responsibilities to go where there is a need in the District, whatever it may be: science, math, literacy, or special education. We can match needs with resources. That was our dream, and now it is becoming a reality.

Brother Thomas Westberg: I was on the Brothers’ Life Committee. It was an animated committee. We looked at a number of things with regard to our lifestyle. For example, we formalized the process of selecting our Community Directors. It gave us an opportunity to come back within the larger mixture of the Assembly to focus on the work of the Brothers, which is really an important part of the Chapter.

Brother George: *It is interesting to point out that, of the five committees, two of them elected Partners as chairs.*

John: The Regional and Overseas Apostolate Committee was primarily comprised of Brothers. I don’t know if it was a “set up,” but I was elected Chair in the first meeting!