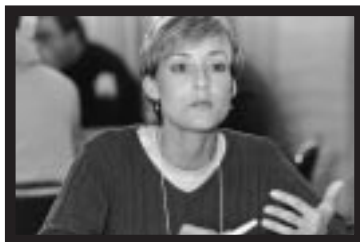


“The concept of ‘Shared Mission’ is such a beautiful idea. It’s an expression of great humility – that we’re all on common ground; we’re in this together. And truly, the Brothers want the organization to take whatever direction is best to serve the students who are entrusted to our care.”

– *Cathy Ronan, Religion Teacher and Assistant Principal for Student Life, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco*

Many Brothers at LLI have remarked on their satisfaction at hearing lay Partners express such a strong connection to the Shared Mission. “I’m very encouraged to see Partners embracing the idea of serving the poor in their schools,” said Brother John Montgomery, Principal of Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, “because it is the road less traveled, and it is the more difficult road. In effect, the LLI assures participants, ‘If you’ve chosen the road less traveled, we’re here to help you grow in a spirituality which will sustain you along the way.’”

A primary benefit of LLI is the opportunity to meet others working in Lasallian schools, a powerful tool for community-building and mutual support. “One thing in particular that I’ve really valued in the LLI has been the opportunity to develop relationships and friendships over these past three years,” says Greg Schmitz, Principal of Justin-Siena High School in Napa. “Those relationships will carry me a long, long way. Now I have a whole new line of resources, so that if I have a problem or need some advice, I have colleagues on whom I can call.”



As with the Buttimer Institute, LLI participants are expected to share their formation experiences with those back home through special projects. Three projects of note this year are: creation of ongoing Lasallian teacher formation programs conducted by and at individual schools, a retreat program for spouses of Lasallian educators and administrators to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation for the mission and its traditions, and development of a strategic plan for a Lasallian high school.

“I will never forget the first evening of my first year at the Lasallian Leadership Institute,” says Mark Warren, President of Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, California. “Brother Bill Mann gave a talk about the Brothers’ work around the world that moved everyone to tears. He told us a story about a group of children who lived up on a hill in a garbage dump; every day, the

Brothers brought these children into their Lasallian school. The children were bathed, fed, and educated, and then, at the end of the day, they would return to their ‘home’ in the garbage dump. At that point, I recall turning to one of my colleagues and saying, ‘This is the star to which I want to hitch my wagon. This is the work to which I feel called.’” 🌸

*Above: Lasallian Leadership Institute participants during the summer session held at Saint Mary’s College.*

*Right: Students of Buttimer 2 share in a story told by Brother Gerard Rummy, FSC (General Councillor), and Brother Jeffrey Calligan, FSC (Director of Religious Life Services for the U.S./Toronto Region), in Saint Mary’s Chapel.*