

The Hand of Providence:

A Brief History of Christ the Teacher Institute for Education (CTIE)

by Brother L. Raphael Patton, FSC

In 1991, the Brothers in Kenya realized that, even though they had administered schools there since the 1960s and even though they were offering a large number of new vocations, there was no provision for teacher-training. Further, the local superiors and headmasters all agreed it would be a poor idea to send the young Brothers to the United States or Europe to learn how to teach in Africa. Public institutions of higher education in Africa leaned toward chaos, with strikes, lack of funding, faculty firings, and poor management.

Brother Leonard Courtney, FSC, was enlisted to establish a normal school for the Brothers. He had served at Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota and was Chair of the Education Department at Saint Mary's University and at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Even though he was recently retired and 77 years old, he went off to Africa to begin a new career. This was the first sign of Providence in support of the new training programs for the Brothers in East Africa.

While he was met with goodwill in abundance, Brother Leonard found almost nothing in the way of organization and funding. After

forming and meeting with a board of advisors, he and the board members decided to open a school that would serve all prospective religious teachers being trained in Nairobi, not just the new Brothers. Still basic challenges existed. They needed a campus, facilities, and faculty.

Once again, Providence intervened. The advisors found Tangaza College in Langata-Nairobi an ideal place for their program. Tangaza (Kiswahili for Annunciation) was built by a dozen religious orders to be the major seminary for all of them. The orders pooled their money to purchase the land and build the facilities. Then they established a common theological library.

The first class of eleven students for CTIE arrived in August, 1992. Among them were five De La Salle Christian Brothers, one Consolata Brother, two sisters, two laymen, and one laywoman – ten Kenyans and one Eritrean. They attended classes, but CTIE was still working on the accreditation that was necessary for students to actually receive their degrees.

In January, 1993, Brother Leonard's successor, Brother L. Raphael Patton, FSC, arrived. After a series of administrative maneuvers in Africa to secure the government's endorsement for offering a Bachelor of Arts degree and a teaching certificate, Providence intervened again. This time, Saint Mary's University of Winona, under the leadership of Brother Louis DeThomasis, FSC, fully supported a plan to grant an American degree. It was decided that a three-year teacher certificate program could be set up with an eye to both Kenyan civil requirements and Minnesota demands for quality control. And, if all went well, a four-year baccalaureate was planned out for those certificate students who qualified. The new college would fall under SMU

governance and was to be called Christ the Teacher Institute for Education.

Clearly, the sign of God's Providence is evident in the events that resulted in CTIE. Students at CTIE come from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya, Brazil, Nigeria, and India. The faculty include professors from state universities who often find teaching at CTIE more professionally rewarding than teaching in public institutions. Slowly but inexorably, the hand of divine Providence led to the creation of CTIE. As a result, Catholic education in East Africa has been greatly enhanced. Saint John Baptist de La Salle must be proud. ☒

[Added Note] CTIE faculty and staff presently include: as Director; Br. Ronald Roggenback, FSC, (San Francisco District). As instructors; Br. John O'Neill, FSC, (San Francisco District), Br. James Leahy, FSC, (New York District), formerly of Saint Mary's College of California; and Joan Haan, retired teacher from Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento and Coordinator for Shared Mission for the District of East Africa.



Faces of Lasallian Partnership

by Joy L. Choate

On the weekend of October 3-4, more than 600 members of the District of San Francisco came together in Burlingame, California to review and respond to the District's "Context for Action" and "Action Plan." During the course of the weekend, Lasallian Partners – Brothers, lay men and women, priests, and other religious – saw videos that captured the Lasallian spirit as it is manifested here in the San Francisco District and in the District-supported schools and apostolates in other countries.

What do we look like? Peer into my looking glass, and you will see the faces of people from all over the world working together to educate students in Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Oregon, California, Washington, Mexico, Bethlehem, and the Philippines.

Feel the warm smile of a young Vietnamese girl as she shyly turns her head from the camera. Look deeply into the kind and understanding eyes of Mildred Dillard, the 80-year old African-American receptionist who greets each student arriving for tutoring at the Lasallian Opportunities Center (LEO) in Oakland, California (see story, page 4) Feel the cool water that the young boys in Sri Lanka splash on one another as they take their daily bath. Listen to the student who says, "It's so wonderful how my own faith was strengthened in a community that wasn't of my



faith, because they believe in God and they believe in things that are important to everyone regardless of religion or race." Taste the meals prepared by the men in Southern Pakistan who are recovering drug addicts and who pray in Muslim, Hindu, and Christian forms.

All these faces were present at the District of San Francisco's Convocation. According to one student, "Our Convocation helped me realize that we are all part of this plan, from Brothers to teachers to students." In his opening remarks, Brother David Brennan, FSC, Visitor of the District,

reviewed reasons why such a large group had been called together: "We want to continue to collaborate and to make sure people understand all the works in which we are involved here at home and in other countries. Also, we want people to ask questions and respond to the Action Plan so we can integrate their suggestions."

Those in attendance heard inspirational messages from Brother Raymond Suplido, FSC, General Councillor to the Brother Superior General in Rome; Brother Miguel