

A Lasallian Glossary

*Based on an original compilation by Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC.
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This glossary provides brief definitions or explanations of some important terms in Lasallian usage.

The terms are listed in alphabetical order.

To see these terms grouped thematically rather than alphabetically, see the Appendix.

***Action Plan:** a set of guidelines for this District, renewed every four years, which contains a Context for Action, a mission statement, propositions for application of the *Rule*, timetables, etc.

Affiliated Member (AFSC): a person formally honored by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for having served Lasallian ideals in some extraordinary way; the affiliated member of the Institute may use the initials 'AFSC' after his or her name.

Apostolate: the kind of work to which the Church through its various agencies sends people and institutions on mission.

Aspirant: a man who is seriously considering, usually in a non- residency program, whether or not he is called by God to become a Brother of the Christian Schools.

Assembly: name for a convention held for Brothers and Lasallian Partners from the entire Region, District, or more locally.

Association: a vow of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by which they promise to associate themselves for the service of the poor through education. The term also describes a present-day movement of Lasallians committed to the mission.

***Association of Board Chairs (ABC):** includes all the Chairs of the Boards of Trustees of the District of San Francisco's secondary schools.

Auxiliary Visitor: a Brother nominated by the Visitor and appointed by the Superior General to assist the Visitor and substitute for him in his absence. Also known as Auxiliary Provincial.

***The Benilde Religious International Trust:** a fund which provides financial support for the District of San Francisco's educational work, including tuition aid to District schools and operational support for these and other educational works.

Board of Trustees: a board of trustees is the body of duly appointed agents entrusted with oversight of the work of a trust (such as a School Corporation) and the direction of its mission. For each School Corporation in the District of San Francisco, its Board of Trustees is appointed by the Lasallian Education Corporation and serves to govern the school for mission and to provide oversight of the school through a President and CEO.

Brother: title given to vowed religious of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Comparable to titles such as "Sister," "Father," "Reverend." Commonly used in other religious orders to denote a vowed religious who is not an ordained priest. The official religious habit worn by Brothers throughout the world, especially on formal occasions, but replaced by other approved garb in various locales, is a black robe with a white 'bib' called a 'rabat,' similar to that worn by judges and barristers in England.

Brothers of the Christian Schools: The English translation of "Fratres Scholarum Christianarum", the official name of the religious institute founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Familiar shorter references to this Institute are to "the Christian Brothers" or – more distinctively – to "the De La Salle Christian Brothers."

Brothers' Formation: the initial formation of a Brother consists of a year or two of postulancy, a year of novitiate, and five to eight years in which he pronounces annual vows. After he pronounces final or perpetual vows, he is considered to be in continuing formation for the rest of his life.

Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies: an intensive program, two weeks each summer over three consecutive years, of formation and education that studies the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Canon Law: the Code of *Canon Law* (latest revision published in 1983) contains some 1680 canons, or official regulations, governing Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, priests, Brothers, Sisters, institutes, laity, parishes, schools, sacraments, etc.

Canonical: an adjective used to describe any person or action that conforms to the requirements of Canon Law, such as a Visitor or a formal visitation.

***Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process (CLASP):** a process to evaluate the Catholic and Lasallian character of the schools in the District of San Francisco conducted at six-year intervals. The mandate to develop an evaluative process for the secondary schools was called for by the 1999 District Chapter. A similar process, inclusive of the Vincentian charism, takes place at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory and De Marillac Academy, which are co-sponsored by the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Daughters of Charity. It is called the Catholic Lasallian Vincentian Assessment Process (CLVASP).

Charism: a grace or spiritual gift given to those in apostolic or missionary work in the service of others; e.g., the gifts of preaching, prophecy and healing are charisms; the term is sometimes applied to entire institutes as well as to individuals.

***Christian Brothers Charitable Trust:** a Trust that manages investment funds for the special medical and retirement needs of the Brothers of the District of San Francisco

CIL (Centro Internazionale Lasalliano): acronym of the Italian phrase for International Lasallian Center, a program of Lasallian formation conducted at the Generalate in Rome, in which Brothers, Lasallian Sisters, and Lasallian Partners from around the world participate. The length of each CIL program varies from one month to nine months.

Contact: a man who indicates an interest in becoming a De La Salle Christian Brother and with whom the Brothers remain in contact as he discerns his life's vocation.

Declaration: The *Declaration on the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the World Today* (called for short "the *Declaration*") is a document prepared in 1966, prior to a revision of The Rule by the General Chapter, meant to provide, in common language, an understanding of the spirit, purpose, and work of the Brothers.

***De La Salle Institute (DLSI):** the headquarters and legal name of the Brothers of the District of San Francisco. DLSI provides educational and financial support to District apostolates.

Director: the local religious superior of a community with terms limited by Canon Law or by the Rule.

Director of Vocation Ministry: see "Vocation Director," below.

* *An asterisk precedes terms specific to the District of San Francisco*

A Lasallian Glossary

***Directors' Association:** an official group composed of the directors of the District of San Francisco's communities of De La Salle Christian Brothers.

District: a geographical area in a region containing enough Brothers to form an official, canonical, administrative unit in the Institute under the direction of a Visitor.

***District Assembly on Mission (District Assembly):** an assembly of Brothers and Lasallian Partners from across the District to propose directions and priorities for the District for the ensuing four years. These Assemblies commenced meeting in 2002.

District Council: a canonically required board of Brothers, advisory to the Visitor and possessing certain canonical authority; a majority of its members are elected; the council meets several times each year.

District Chapter: a policy-shaping body of Brothers elected to nominate Visitors and to formulate legislative acts adapting the *Rule* to local conditions; it normally meets every four years.

District Chapter Acts: legislative acts or directives coming forward from a District Chapter.

***District Leadership Team:** the team that advises the Visitor and shares in the administration of the District of San Francisco. Members of the District Leadership team are the Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor, Director of Finance, Director of the Office of Education, and Assistant Director of the Office of Education for Mission Formation.

***District Mission Council:** a council of Brothers and Lasallian Partners, advisory to the Visitor on issues related to the District of San Francisco's mission. Similar to the Mission and Ministry Council in other Districts.

District Twinning: a program overseen by the Region that pairs Districts or sub-Districts for mutual support and assistance. The schools of the United States and Toronto Region are twinned with schools and ministries in the District of Lwanga (Africa).

DLSI: see "De La Salle Institute," above.

A Lasallian Glossary

***Finance Office:** the Finance Office manages the financial, legal, and other business issues of the De La Salle Institute, and acts as the responsible steward with investment oversight of the various trusts and funds set up to help the De La Salle Institute carry out its mission. It provides expertise to Lasallian ministries; it also manages the health benefits for the Brothers of the District and the employees of De La Salle Institute. The office is overseen by the Director of Finance, who is the chief financial officer for the District of San Francisco and a member of the District Leadership Team.

***Five Percent Program (5% Program):** an expectation set by the 1999 District Chapter and 2002 Mission Assembly that each school in the District of San Francisco enroll at least 5 percent of its students from families whose annual income is less than the federal poverty level free-lunch program standard

Formation: an expression for the training and education by a religious institute of its members and partners.

FSC: initials which follow a Brother's name to indicate membership in the Institute. In Latin, Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools).

General Chapter: The General Chapter; is conducted at the Generalate in Rome, and is representative of all Brothers worldwide; legislation is undertaken, and the Superior General is elected for a seven-year term. The General Chapter held in 2007 was the 44th in the history of the Institute.

General Council: a council that assists the Superior General in Rome. The Superior General and the Vicar General are members of the General Council. The other six members are Brothers from throughout the world who are elected by the General Chapter or appointed by the Superior General.

General Councilor: a Brother chosen to assist the Superior General and his Vicar in administrative work of the Institute at the Generalate in Rome. He acts officially as a permanent advisor to the Superior General during his term.

Generalate: the De La Salle Christian Brothers' headquarters in Rome, often called the Center of the Institute or by its Italian name Casa Generalizia.

***Holy Family Community:** a community of retired or convalescent Brothers of the District of San Francisco (and their assisting Brothers) located at Mont La Salle in Napa.

Huether Lasallian Conference: a gathering of Brothers and Lasallian Partners from the U.S.-Toronto Region, originally organized by Brother Frank Huether, FSC, to address educational concerns on an annual basis.

International Institute; or, Institute: The term “institute” is a term that is technically more correct than the traditional terms “congregation” and “order” to describe a canonical group of consecrated religious in the Church. The full name of the society founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle is “The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.” In the Lasallian world, to refer to the “Institute” or the “international Institute” is to refer to the worldwide Lasallian mission in its totality.

Lasallian Association of College and University Presidents (LACUP): an association of heads of the Lasallian colleges and universities of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA): an association of the chief administrators, generally presidents and principals, of the secondary schools of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

***Lasallian Education Corporation (LEC):** in the District of San Francisco, the Lasallian Education Corporation is the legal body that exercises reserved powers in all the school corporations in which it either shares membership or is the sole member.

***Lasallian Education Fund (LEF):** the Lasallian Education Fund is a fundraising arm of the District of San Francisco that seeks to enable low-income families and disadvantaged youth to have access to Lasallian education.

Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI): a Regional formation program which aims to train Lasallians to become more effective leaders and to become catalysts for the furtherance of the Lasallian heritage in their local community.

Lasallian Partner): see “Partner” below.

A Lasallian Glossary

Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI): Regional formation program to ground Lasallians experientially, practically, and spiritually in the Church's option for the poor and in Lasallian association for the educational service of the poor. Programs focus on topics such as immigration, violence and peace, and homelessness,

***Lasallian Student Leaders:** a one-week summer leadership formation program sponsored by the District of San Francisco in which students explore themes of student and servant leadership in a Lasallian context.

Lasallian Volunteers: lay men and women, primarily recent graduates from Lasallian schools, who donate one or two years of service to Lasallian schools and works in various parts of the world.

Lasallian Youth: an international movement and formation program which empowers students to be examples of faith, service, and community through mission experiences, retreat programs, social justice education, and service-learning opportunities.

***Lasallian Youth Assembly:** an annual summer gathering of secondary school students sponsored by the District of San Francisco with a focus on direct service to the community and on education in Catholic social teaching and service-learning.

Mission: from the Latin root meaning "send," the term includes the various works or apostolates to which the Church sends people and institutions. The briefest standard definition of the Lasallian educational mission is this: "The purpose of this Institute is to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it."

***Mission Council:** see "District Mission Council," above.

***Mont La Salle:** a site in the hills west of Napa, California, housing De La Salle Institute offices, the Provincialate, the Regional Novitiate, the Holy Family Community, and the Christian Brothers Retreat and Conference Center.

NativityMiguel Network: of Schools: A network of small schools for low-income boys and girls of middle-school age, which includes the "San Miguel model" schools sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

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A Lasallian Glossary

Novice: a man in the Brothers vocation program who has completed the postulancy phase and enters the Novitiate. A Novice receives a Brother's robe and undertakes a year-long formation program prior to taking first (temporary) vows and proceeding with further academic and pedagogical training. (The term is used similarly in other institutes of consecrated women and men.)

Novitiate: the program (or building) in which the Novices receive their training.

Novitiate Community: community of novices and Directors. The U.S.-Toronto Regional Novitiate is located at Mont La Salle in Napa.

Office of Education: In the District of San Francisco, the Office of Education at the De La Salle Institute in Napa provides support for schools' educational programs as well as formation programs for Lasallian educators. It promotes greater understanding across the District of the mission, heritage, and culture of Lasallian education, and the development of the identity of Lasallian educators as members of the District, Region, and international Institute.

Partner: the most common and preferred term used to describe people who are co-workers, associates, or colleagues of the Brothers in their schools and other enterprises. Non-Brothers formed in the Lasallian charism and working in the Lasallian mission are commonly called Lasallian Partners.

Perpetuity: a property of trust or endowment funds that allows an unending, constant level of income that remains undiminished by the effects of inflation. A fiduciary principle adhered to by the District of San Francisco's Office of Finance.

Postulant: a man formally accepted as a candidate for entry into the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the Novitiate.

Provincial: the title used in most institutes to denote the person whom the Brothers call Visitor.

Provincialate: the official name of the offices where the Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor, and their staffs work. It also refers to the community in which the Provincial (Visitor) resides.

***Provincialate Community:** In the District of San Francisco, this is the community of Brothers at Mont La Salle which includes the Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor as well as a number of other Brothers, some of whom do work for De La Salle Institute or nearby Justin-Siena High School.

Region: a geographical area officially designated as a union of several districts and generally selected on the basis of contiguity and common languages. The District of San Francisco is part of the United States and Toronto Region. The United States and Toronto Region is abbreviated as “**U.S.-Toronto Region**” and can be referred to, in context, simply as “**the Region.**”

Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB): a supervisory board of Brother Visitors from the Districts of the U.S.-Toronto Region.

Regional Education Board (REB): a board of education representatives from each District and from other apostolic activities in the U.S.-Toronto Region. The REB is responsible for oversight and planning of Regional programs such as the Huether Lasallian Conference and is also advisory to the RCCB.

Regional Finance Board (RFB): a board composed of representatives from all Districts in the U.S.-Toronto Region. The RFB is advisory to the RCCB.

Regional Mission Formation Board (RMFB): a board of representatives from all Districts in the Region. The purpose of the RMFB is to promote formation in the Lasallian educational mission for all persons associated with Lasallian ministries.

Regional Vocation Formation Board (RVFB): a board of vocation directors from all Districts and others working in vocation ministry in the Region. The purpose of the RVFB is to advise the Visitors on vision and direction for Brothers’ vocations and the Lasallian vocation

***Remedial and Compensatory Program:** A program in the District of San Francisco that supports schools in providing support and assistance to students from families whose annual income is below the federal poverty level free-lunch program standard. (See also “Five Percent Program,” above.)

***Reserved Powers:** rights and duties retained by the LEC for itself according to the bylaws of those school corporations of which it is a member.

A Lasallian Glossary

***Retreat House Endowment:** monies from the sale of the Retreat House in St. Helena, California, used to support local retreat programs across the District.

Rule: a canonically approved set of approximately 143 statements (along with sub-statements) pertaining to the mission, duties, and practices that the Brothers throughout the world adapt locally as directives for their communities and districts.

School Corporation: a separately incorporated entity that operates a given school. In the District of San Francisco each school corporation is governed by a board of trustees. The Lasallian Education Corporation (see definition above) is the member of each school corporation.

***Secondary School Administrators Association (SSAA):** An association that includes all presidents and principals of schools, meeting regularly for mutual benefit and support.

Secretariat: at the Generalate in Rome, secretariats promote and support the work of local leaders throughout the Institute in several areas of endeavor. There are four secretariats: Lasallian Educational Mission; Lasallian Family and Association; Solidarity and Development; Being Brothers Today.

SECOLI: Service de Coopération Lasallienne Internationale, an agency at the Generalate which coordinates contributions to various economically needy Districts and apostolates around the world.

Superior General: the highest officer of the Institute with canonical rights and duties; he works and resides at the Generalate in Rome, and is assisted by a Vicar and Councilors. In 2008, the Superior General is Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, of Costa Rica.

United States and Toronto Region: See 'Region' above.

U.S.-Toronto Region: See 'Region' above.

***VENAVER:** Spanish for "Come and See," VENAVER is an immersion program, usually sponsored by campus ministries in Lasallian schools, which takes students to participate in other Lasallian ministries. It is always spelled in all capital letters as VENAVER.

A Lasallian Glossary

Vicar General: second highest officer of the Institute. In 2008, the Vicar General is Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, of the Midwest District.

Visitor: the Religious Superior of a District, often called Provincial, and having canonical rights and duties. In 2008, the Visitor of the District of San Francisco is Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC.

Vocation Director: the Brother in charge of the District program for assisting young men and women to properly discern their calling in life and especially to prepare men interested in the Brothers' way of life to discern whether or not they are really called to it.

***Vocation Program:** the program under the direction of the Brother Vocation Director in collaboration with a person in the District Office of Education to assist young people in discerning their lifelong vocations. Phases of the program for high-school graduates are the Contact Program and the Aspirancy Program (see "Contact" and "Aspirant" above).

Vows: traditionally, the three vows taken by religious and members of other forms of consecrated life in which a formal promise is made to live in celibate chastity, in communitarian poverty, and in obedience, according to an approved Rule. Many institutes have additional vows, as do the Brothers, who also take a vow of stability and a vow of association for the educational service of the poor in accord with the same Rule. First vows, annual (or temporary) vows, and final (or perpetual) vows are terms that respectively describe vows taken for a single year at the end of the Novitiate, and vows taken for a single year which are renewable on an annual basis until the time for final vows (generally at the age of twenty-five, or after at least five years of annual vows.)

Young Lasallians: an international movement, promoted by the International Council of Young Lasallians, keeping young people engaged in the Lasallian mission through faith sharing, service of the poor through education, and community building. For the U.S.-Toronto Region the Regional Young Lasallians Group focuses on meeting the formation needs of Lasallians aged 21 to 35.

End of glossary

Appendix

Terms are given in the Glossary in alphabetical order;
Below, those same terms are grouped thematically

INTERNATIONAL structures and activities

International Institute (Institute)
Superior General (Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC)
Vicar General (Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC)
General Council
General Councilor
Generalate
Secretariats
General Chapter
Rule
Declaration
FSC
CIL
SECOLI
Lasallian Youth
Young Lasallians

U.S.-TORONTO REGION

NativityMiguel Network of Schools
Region
Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB)
Regional Education Board (REB)
Regional Finance Board (RFB)
Regional Mission Formation Board (RMFB)
Regional Vocation Formation Board (RVFB)
Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies
Huether Lasallian Conference
Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI)
Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI)
Lasallian Volunteers
Lasallian Association of College and University Presidents
Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators

CATHOLIC and LASALLIAN procedures and principles

Canon Law
Canonical
Apostolate
Mission
Charism
Formation
Association

GOVERNANCE and the LASALLIAN WAY OF LIFE

District
Visitor
Auxiliary Visitor
District Council
Brother
Vows
Director
Provincial
Provincialate
Brothers' Formation and Vocations
Director of Vocation Ministry
Postulant
Novice
Novitiate
Contact
Aspirant
Partner
Affiliated Member (AFSC)
Assembly

DISTRICT-LEVEL STRUCTURES and ROLES

District Chapter
District Chapter Acts
*District Mission Council
*District Assembly on Mission
*District Leadership Team
Directors Association
*Action Plan

PROVINCIAL ENTITIES

*Mont La Salle
*De La Salle Institute (DLSI)
*Holy Family Community
Provincialate Community
Novitiate Community

EDUCATIONAL matters

Office of Education
*Secondary Schools Administrators Association (SSAA)
*Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process (CLASP)
District Twinning
*Five Percent Program (5% Program)
*Remedial and Compensatory Program
*Lasallian Student Leaders
*Lasallian Youth Assembly
*VENAVER

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A Lasallian Glossary

FINANCIAL and FIDUCIARY matters

- *Finance Office
- *The Benilde Religious International Trust
- *Christian Brothers Charitable Trust
- *Lasallian Education Fund (LEF)
- Perpetuity
- *Retreat House Endowment

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE matters

- School Corporation
- *Lasallian Education Corporation (LEC)
- Boards of Trustees
- *Association of Board Chairs (ABC)
- Reserved Powers