

BROTHER VISITOR'S LETTER

By Brother David Brennan, FSC

Salvation through education. For us, this is the bottom line. This is what we are all about. It is, therefore, most appropriate that this issue of Signs of Faith opens the new school year with stories about education and its tremendous salvific potential for young people who face many challenges in our world.

Brothers and Lasallian Partners today are blessed with a wealth of opportunities to immerse themselves in the writings of the Founder about the purpose and practice of the educational mission he established over three centuries ago.

We are blessed, as well, with writings that have arisen out of the life of the Institute since its founding, writings that affirm and give meaning to our work in the Church and the world today. On December 6, 1967, the 39th General Chapter voted at near unanimity to approve and make its own *A Declaration on the Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today*. The *Declaration* describes well that which we are called to do for young people, and why young people need what Lasallian education has to offer, intellectually, morally, and spiritually. It is, then, with great faith in the work we do, that I share these excerpts from the *Declaration*, to serve as reminders during the coming school year of God's call to Brothers and Partners, and God's love for the young people entrusted to our care:

"The school is a privileged instrument of education, and is one of the principal contexts for children and adolescents to learn how to live in human society. Teachers help students to discern within themselves the call of the Spirit, to come to a better understanding of what is real, to recognize their own abilities, and thereby to discover progressively their place in the world."

The teacher "exercises an apostolic ministry by striving to awaken the young to an awareness that life is to be taken seriously, to a conviction of the greatness of human destiny; by helping them to be able to experience, with intellectual rigor and a desire to seek the truth, the autonomy of personal thought; by helping them to use their liberty to overcome their ready-made prejudices and ideas, as well as to overcome social pressures and those that derive from the forces of disintegration within the human person; by disposing them to use their freedom, their intelligence, and their training in the service of their fellow human beings, to open them to others, to teach them how to listen and try



to understand other people, to trust and to love them; by instilling in the young a sense of justice, brotherhood, and fidelity."

As we begin the new school year, the Lasallian family in the District of San Francisco extends a special welcome to the students, administrators, teachers, staff, and parents at our two new schools in Portland and San Francisco – De La Salle North Catholic High School and De Marillac Middle School. Our prayers are with you as you join us on this important journey that is Catholic, Lasallian education. 🌿

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