



# News

from the General Council

Brothers of the Christian Schools

October 2015

The General Council's fourth plenary session began with the annual retreat on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The retreat was held at a Franciscan Guest House in the coastal town of Maiori near Salerno. In between times of quiet, prayer and shared reflections, we developed our 2015-2016 Community Annual Plan. Following the retreat and some vacation days we returned to Rome for a month filled with a variety of activities in addition to the normal meetings of the Council.

## New Visitors' Session



General Councilors Ricky Laguda, Tim Coldwell and Paulo Petry created a well-organized and well-received new Visitors' session for 23 Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors with less than 18 months in the position. During the 10 days of the program the entire council participated through active presence and presentations. The evaluations by the Visitors were quite positive. All appreciated the structure and flow of the program that, in addition to presentations, included case studies, individual meetings with Brother Superior and time to meet with the heads of various offices, secretariats and services.

## CIAMEL

The inaugural meeting of the International Council of Association for the Lasallian Educational Mission, ably led by General Councilor Br. Gustavo Ramirez, met from October 1 to 6. Members of the Council include: Mr. Antoine Béland (Young Lasallian Coordinator), Brother Carlos Casteñada (RELAL), Mr. Merv McCormack (PARC), Ms. Alisa Macksey (RELAN), Brother William Mann (IALU), Brother Jesús Félix Martínez (RELEM) and Brother Balthazar Nsengiyumva (RELAF). Unfortunately Br. Balthazar was not able to obtain a visa and was unable to attend. The Superior's appointees of two Lasallian women are still to be named.

The council began by reviewing their statutes that were prepared last February. At the conclusion of their meeting they reported the initial outcomes of their work. Those outcomes were presented in a chart format listing strategies and those responsible for implementing the strategies.



## ASSEDIL



Forty members of RELEM's Association of Lasallian School Directors (ASSEDIL) met at the Casa Generalizia while the General Council was in session. Brother Superior gave a welcome address and Brother Aidan Kilty, General Councilor for RELEM gave a closing presentation describing the region and its activities.

## Year of Consecrate Life

From September 23 to 26 sixteen young Brothers joined several thousand other religious at the Vatican's Workshop for Young Religious; a "Year of Consecrated Life" event.



## Agenda Highlights

Preparing the Rule for printing occupied the time of the Vicar General and several councilors. Digital copies are now available on the Institute website. Other council members created the first "Lasallian Reflection" that will elaborate on each year's sub-theme as identified in Circular 470, *Toward the Year 2021: Living Together our Joyful Mission*. The 2015-2016 sub-theme is: *A Gospel Adventure*. The intent of these reflections is to provide communities and ministries a tool for dialogue, developing their own response to the themes and thereby contributing to the plan of action for the Lasallian mission today.



There were updates on the Fratelli project, discussions and possible actions on the European migrant crisis, the Institute communication and publication plans, and a report from the Coordinator for Young Lasallians concerning a Lasallian day during the 2016 World Youth Day (WYD) in Poland.

The Superior and two Councilors had commitments outside Rome during the month. Brother Robert gave a keynote presentation to participants at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Lasallian Research Symposium hosted by Saint Mary's University and RELAN's Christian Brothers Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Brother Rafael Matas attended the Signum Fidei Assembly in Santiago, Chile. Brother Gustavo Ramirez participated in the RELEM higher education conference in Beauvais,

France.

In response to the ongoing issue of the aging of some districts, the Visitors of France and South Belgium met with the Council to explore ways of collaboration and discussed the future of the South Belgium District.

## Social Activities

Socially the Council celebrated the birthdays of Brothers Aidan Kilty, Timothy Coldwell and Paulo Petry. We also hosted the leadership team of the Congregation of Christian Brothers for a social and dinner.