

Anyone who has ever spent time around the Brothers and Lasallian Volunteers knows that the two groups share a special bond. Ask a Brother, and he'll tell you how the LVs have brought life to him and his work. Ask an LV, and he or she will tell you how the Brothers have done the same for them.

However, I'd like to spend just a little time taking a different perspective on this relationship. Allow me to make a modest proposal as to what 30 years of Lasallian Volunteers have brought to the life and character of the Lasallian identity.

Throughout my last seven years as communications director, I've had the privilege of a ringside seat at the daily unfolding of the story of our District and Region. And over that time, I have come to realize that one cannot truly know or appreciate that story without talking about the Lasallian Volunteers.

I say this simply because of what I've seen. Every year across RELAN, LVs bring a new infusion of energies and talents that bolster many schools' abilities to serve young students and families in need. In San Francisco New Orleans, they've brought a distinctive personality that somehow has both channeled and challenged its maverick roots. And from their ranks has emerged a new generation of Lasallian leaders who are influencing the vision of the Lasallian mission throughout our District, our Region, and our Institute.

What this all suggests to me is that Lasallian Volunteers have, in fact, become crucial to the evolution of the Lasallian apostolic idea. Their diverse perspectives on how to live out faith and commitment are informing notions about Lasallian vocation. Their unique participation in our Brothers' communities is reframing notions about Lasallian association. And their innovative spirit in our institutional landscape is expanding notions about Lasallian education. Simply by identifying who are the LVs and LV alums in our midst and then measuring what impact they are having on the Lasallian mission, it is clear to see that Lasallian Volunteers has been a game changer.

That is my take on what the 30 years of the LV experience have brought to our table, and why I'm so proud to be here today. Thank you to everyone who is or has been part of the LV movement and thank you for allowing me the privilege of helping to share your story. Live Jesus in our hearts.

Bob Carrejo
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Mont La Salle, Napa, CA