



# FINDING MY PURPOSE

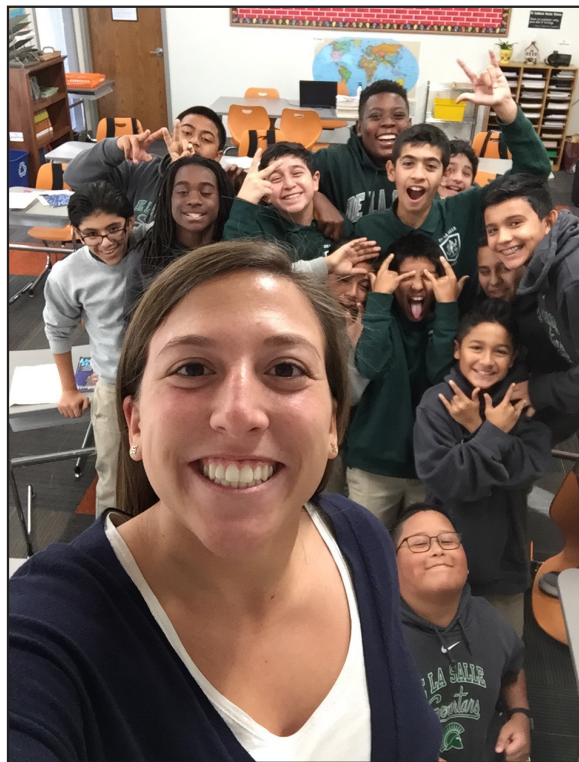
## BEING AN LV REVEALED MY VOCATION

ABBY MICHELS, LV 15-17

People say your college years are the best four of your life; it is the experience that leads you down the path to your future career. Well, I would have to say being a Lasallian Volunteer were the best two years of my life that not only motivated me to pursue my current career, but introduced me to a living experience of community I had never known. This community includes dear friends I met while serving as an LV, Brothers and those in the larger Lasallian family. These people have filled me with life and helped me find my purpose.

**Being an LV awakened me to discern that working together and by association with the Brothers is my vocation.**

I now work for the Christian Brothers of the Midwest as Young Lasallian coordinator. I cannot see myself wanting to work with or for anyone else. I believe in our shared mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young to help procure their salvation—a mission shared in the work all Lasallians commit themselves to around the world. I am proud to say I am fully dedicated to this mission and to have the opportunity to work with the vowed religious and Partners in the Lasallian community who strive to eradicate poverty through education.



*Here I am with some of my students at De La Salle Academy in Concord, California, where I served as a Lasallian Volunteer.*

My time as an LV was spiritually transformative. I have come to appreciate the beauty and sacredness of the liturgical calendar along with Catholic feast days and holidays. As an LV working in a Catholic school, we made sure to recognize these days with our students. This opened me up to the way the seasons and feasts present opportunities for all of us to grow closer with God. As an LV alum, I receive devotional booklets sent by Lasallian Volunteers to help me pray, reflect and celebrate these seasons and feasts. In this way, Lasallian Volunteers continues to support my faith and spiritual growth just as it did when I was an LV.

The Lasallian charism calls us to recognize the relationship between faith, service and community in a way that imitates the relationship of the Holy Trinity—each element is impacted and given life and meaning from the others. This was clear to see during my time as an LV. I distinctly remember Brother Anthony Lenz exemplifying true service:

One day it had actually rained in California. How about that?? I was teaching eighth grade Language Arts when my co-teacher called the boys to attention. He said, “Look out the window, gentlemen.” We all

did. And what we saw was Brother Anthony Lenz brushing puddles of water into our parking lot drain. He was doing this so that the boys did not have to stay inside for recess that day. His humble service was the greatest “indirect” act of love that I have probably ever witnessed. And he had no idea we were watching. This prime act of selflessness confirmed my love for the Brothers and increased my utmost dedication to them.

This type of service is fueled, sustained and nourished by faith and community. My cohort consisted of like-minded peers I could talk to about my faith and the ways we live out our faith. Additionally, we would share our mutual “love for the drudgery” our service involved. Our experience as volunteers made our friendships stronger than any relationship I previously had. Moreover, the Brothers offered me a daily “time of retreat” at dinner. For that one hour I could forget about my responsibilities, share my joys and struggles, and enjoy a meal with the men who—all with very different personalities—together made me feel like I was dining with family.

This lived experience of faith, service and community extended

to the Lasallians I served alongside at school. They were the ones who showed me what it means to be a Lasallian educator. With such a small student body, I learned what “teaching minds and touching hearts” was all about. We truly provided our students with a personalized, quality, human and Christian education.

I am blessed to have shared in this mission as an LV and to be able to continue on this path as an LV alum.



*I spent time with Brothers at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men during my first week on the job as Young Lasallian Coordinator!*

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*Abby Michels, LV 15-17, served as a teacher at De La Salle Academy in Concord, California. She currently serves as Young Lasallian coordinator for the Christian Brothers of the Midwest. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Lasallian Volunteers, this story is one in a series of reflections by LV alums on how the LV experience has impacted their lives. Additional reflections can be found at [www.LasallianVolunteers.org](http://www.LasallianVolunteers.org).*

