



THE CIRCLE OF LASALLIAN LIFE

HOW I CONTINUE TO LIVE MY PROFOUND LV EXPERIENCE

EMILY VOGEL, LV 99-01

My two years as a Lasallian Volunteer had a profound impact on me personally and professionally, and they paved the way for many of my most memorable life experiences and favorite relationships. I was an LV from 1999-2001, with my first year in Oakland, California, as a tutor and Lasallian Youth moderator at the Lifelong Educational Opportunities (LEO) Center, and the second year as a teacher and campus minister at Cardinal Gibbons School in Baltimore, Maryland. I'm currently gearing up for my 13th year as director of Campus Ministry at De La Salle Institute in Chicago, Illinois, after previously serving as the director of Graduate Support at San Miguel School in Chicago. **It is truly hard for me to imagine who I would be without the immersive nature of the Lasallian Volunteers, and I thank the Holy Spirit for inviting me into a worldwide community that has been changing the lives of millions of people for over 300 years.** In the passionate words of Brother Ed Phelan, FSC, "Oh my God, Oh my God!"

Recently, I had two long catch-up conversations with dear friends who I met when I was an LV. One was a fellow community mate and the other was my boss who became a mentor and close friend. Each conversation was filled with deep soul sharing about how the Holy Spirit was working in our lives, the challenges that come when we ask tough questions, and the heartache and joy that can be received when we work at finding the answers. One of the most important gifts of the LV program is the holistic nature of spiritual, personal and professional formation which help to form such soul relationships. I was (and continue to be) accompanied and formed by countless Brothers, Lasallian Partners, and students who bring witness to the gospel simply by their willingness to engage in the faith, service and communal spirit of the Lasallian mission.



Emily Vogel pictured with students from De La Salle Institute during the Lasallian Youth Assembly in Chicago in 2019.

De La Salle was moved to act as he became aware of the suffering that surrounded him. Today we see youth who are suffering in our communities, our country and our world. From threats of violence to being overlooked, far too many are deprived of their God-given dignity. In these moments of despair, I am grateful for my Lasallian community of friends and loved ones that I know are working in the trenches to create a more just and life-giving world for all. I'm grateful to know strong women and men who take a stand for social justice and who give voice to the marginalized. It doesn't matter what part of the planet I am on, but when I'm with Lasallians, I immediately feel a sense of hospitality and kinship, renewing my sense of hope in our collective humanity.

After all these years of Lasallian ministry, the Circle of Lasallian Life has begun to make me feel old! One of my favorite former students is now an LV alum. She lived in community with one of the Brothers that I lived with, worked with one of my LV peers, and is now working with one of my Lasallian mentors. Watching her grow into a mature young woman with a passion and zeal for the Lasallian mission has been a fun and meaningful gift.

I've called myself Lasallian since my freshmen year of high school at Archbishop O'Hara High School in Kansas City, Missouri, but without a doubt, it was my Lasallian Volunteer years that sprung me into two decades of lifelong friendships, life-giving work and adventures of a lifetime. I am proud of the 30 years of the Lasallian Volunteers and will continue to support it in any way that I am able!

Emily Vogel, LV 99-01, served as a tutor and Lasallian Youth moderator at the LEO Center and then as a teacher and campus minister at Cardinal Gibbons School in Baltimore, Maryland. She is currently the director of Campus Ministry at De La Salle Institute in Chicago, Illinois. 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.

