



LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS

RELATIONSHIPS FOR LIFE

SCOTT BAIETTI, LV 08-10

Being an LV opened me up to an inclusive and most supportive network of people. **My cohorts are filled with great people doing amazing things.** I've stayed in touch with some of them, and others I've followed from a distance via social media. Even the people I'm barely in touch with, I know I can reach out to for advice and support. At the completion of my LV service I moved to Chicago, then to St. Louis, and now Memphis. All these places have ties to the Lasallian family and Lasallian Volunteers, so it has been great knowing I have a support system in place before I ever arrive.



While I've found my Lasallian connections to be very important, I can't talk about my Lasallian community without reflecting on my experience living with the Brothers. Brother Richard Leo, FSC, who recently passed away, will be an infamous character in my history. He was humble, strict, friendly, secretive, hilarious, faithful, supportive, loving, generous, inspiring.

Every day in community with him was a treasure that can't be understated. Brother Richard took great care of our community and encouraged us all to be faithful to ourselves.

I applied for my job at Christian Brothers University (CBU) knowing a handful of people from my cohort and others were also living and working in Memphis. I reached out to some to learn about life in the midsouth and their experiences working at CBU. That information assured me that I was making a positive professional move. After I was hired and set a moving date, I let a few people know my plans and they responded with offers to help. Within 20 minutes of pulling my moving truck on the CBU campus no fewer than four old friends drove over and helped unload the truck over the next couple hours, helping my family and me get settled much easier than it would have been on our own. After a short time of living in Memphis, they reached out again with suggestions of places to visit and things to see, and we've had a few meals and nights out with our old friends. We've even been able to meet and mentor the LVs and LV scholars, and they've helped us as sitters for our children. **Without fail, LVs are welcoming and generous with their time and talent.**

While our community was full of private, introverted members—none more so than Brother Richard himself—he ensured we all felt like we had what we needed to thrive in community and ministry. The work we did at La Salle School and the clients we worked with could have been (and at times, certainly was) emotionally draining, but Brother Richard had been at La Salle School for so long he had seen it all and done it all before. He made sure we all felt comfortable and supported. He was the role model I didn't deserve, but I'm thankful to have lived with and learned from him.

Without Lasallian Volunteers, I would not have ever met Brother Richard or had any of the other experiences that led me to where I am today. I'm appreciative of the program and all those who contributed to my experience during my years as a volunteer and since. The Lasallian family has given a lot to me and others, and I'm happy to be part of the family now giving to others as well.

Scott Baietti, LV 08-10, served as recreation coordinator at La Salle School in Albany, New York. He currently serves as associate director of residence life at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, where he lives with his wife, Alina, LV 08-10, and kids, Paxton, 3, and Nolan, 8 months. 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.

