

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA
RÉGION LASALLIENNE DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD

January 31, 2022

Dear Lasallian family,

After more than 30 years of transforming lives in a spirit of faith, service and community, Lasallian Volunteers will bring its noble service to a close at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 service year. We share this news in gratitude for the significant contributions that volunteers and alumni of the program have made—and continue to make—to the Lasallian mission.

Over the past several decades, more than 750 young men and women, recently graduated from university and with degree in hand, decided they had an opportunity to give back, to pay forward, to serve and to fall in love with the Lasallian charism and educational ministry of the Catholic Church. Their lives in Brothers' communities have been formative. Their faith has deepened. Their capacity to serve has been stretched.

Those years of service created opportunity for careers in the Church for so many. Many volunteers have gone on to serve the Lasallian mission in other capacities. Currently, four former volunteers serve in the Regional office and two in District offices, and several others serve on the international level in various capacities. Twelve have joined or are considering a life as a professed religious. Dozens of others have served in Lasallian ministries and have gone on to careers in Catholic education or other Church ministries.

The Lasallian Volunteers program was born in the imaginations of a few Brothers with the intent of serving communities in need by placing volunteer educators in ministries that could not financially support staff and having those volunteers live in community with the Brothers. Over time, the realities of Brothers' communities have changed, and the Districts have increased investments in the mission to the poor, allowing ministries to hire staff.

The program began as an idea and blossomed into a global reality, the reality of young men and women generously giving their time and energy to the poor. Their service has been deeply appreciated. Just as the time was right for this idea to take flesh, the Regional Conference of Christian Brothers has discerned through long conversations, research and prayer that the time is right to "sunset" the program. We have nothing but gratitude for what has been. Our Founder taught us well to trust in the Providence of God and to say "yes" to what may come.

Life changes for each and every one of us, and it also changes for structures that have once supported our own growth and development. We encourage everyone associated with the Lasallian Volunteer experience to give praise and gratitude for the life of the program and to trust that God will give us what we need for the next chapter.

In the spirit of De La Salle,



Brother Donald Johanson, FSC
Visitor
District of San Francisco
New Orleans



Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC
Visitor
Midwest District



Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC
Visitor
District of Eastern North America