



Office for Mission & Ministry

Annual Report

Dear Colleagues,

As we conclude this academic year, I am pleased to share with you a report on the work of the Office for Mission and Ministry (OMM) over the course of this year. One goal that I had when I joined the District was to make the work of the OMM more transparent particularly to the District and Mission Councils. I am hopeful that this report is yet another positive step in that effort.

The mission of the Office for Mission and Ministry is “to help support, animate, and facilitate the Lasallian mission for the diverse educational ministries of the District of Eastern North America.” The programs, services, and visitations that you will see in this report are all done in service to this mission. Sharing and ensuring our Lasallian charism and mission is the heart of our work and we hope that our endeavors this year proved fruitful in this cause.

It is worthwhile to point out that within the offerings this year you will see some of the traditional programs that have existed for years (i.e. the Brother Luke Salm Workshop). You will also see new programs that we developed at the request of and in collaboration with colleagues from across DENA. The Academic Vice-Principals Gathering is the best example of this new programming. At the conclusion of almost all of the programs and gatherings this year, we asked the participants to complete a survey on their experience. We have and will continue to use these surveys to refine our programming to better meet the needs of the participants. We will also continue to gather Brothers and Partners in our joint efforts to support key leadership and other professional groups around DENA. This coming year the New Chief Administrators Workshop will be renewed in August bringing together new Board Chairs, Presidents, Executive Directors, and Principals. In February, we will gather our colleagues working in Institutional Advancement, a key area for so many of our ministries.

In addition to a careful review of our programs, we will also add new forms of introducing and sharing the charism and mission. This work is a joint effort with the Office for Communications. Many of you have seen the video of Br. Ernest speaking on the Declaration for the Lasallian Educational Mission. We hope you have found this video helpful and have taken the opportunity to share it with those in your ministries. Videos, of a similar style but dealing with other Lasallian themes, are already being planned and produced. I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Keane and all the members of his team for their excellent work and partnership with the OMM in the creation of these new forms of educating our administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

I hope that you find this report helpful and look forward to our continued shared work of ensuring the charism and mission within DENA.

Appreciatively,

Jim

“So the Next Generation Will Know the Joy of the Gospel”

The District Chapter & Mission Assembly of the District of Eastern North America

During the historic joint District Chapter and Mission Assembly of 2023, seven thematic areas were identified by the assembled delegates. The OMM provided leadership in two of these thematic areas over this academic year.

Thematic Area 3:

District Governance and Leadership

This thematic area focused heavily, though not exclusively, on the work of and vision for the District and Mission Councils. To quote from the Chapter & Assembly document, “A recognition of the shared interest among Brothers and Partners with regard to so many aspects of District life, requiring increased coordination of the councils with a view to unity that allows space for the Brothers to deliberate on issues of the vowed life.”

In this first year following the Chapter & Assembly, the two Councils will meet jointly twice with a shared agenda for the first time in the District’s history. Previously, the Councils would meet twice annually in the same location but with different agendas that would bring them together for discussion on a single topic at some point during the day. The newer format with a joint agenda models the Chapter & Assembly design and moves the two councils closer to “increased coordination.”

During the June 2024 joint meeting, discussions will be engaged for the purpose of taking the next steps in the effort toward “unity” of the councils.

Thematic Area 4:

Mission Accompaniment and Board Relations

This thematic area focused on the revised Covenant and Lasallian Mission Assessment Process (LMAP). To quote from the Chapter and Assembly document, “The revised Covenant Agreement and Lasallian Mission Assessment Process (LMAP) call for action steps on the part of the District, the Chief Administrator, and the Board Chair which are intended to enhance this trinity of relationships and ensure the Lasallian Charism and Mission within each ministry. Therefore, we call upon the District to fully implement both of these revised processes.”

The delegates did in fact vote to fully implement both revised processes. Over the course of this year, we have revised the Covenants for twenty of the thirty-one DENA ministries and are now in the process of reviewing these Covenants with the ministries leading to the implementation of the new Covenants with the signatures at each ministry of the Board Chair, Chief Administrator, Brother Visitor, and Director of the Office for Mission and Ministry. We are also continuing the work of revising the remaining **eleven** Covenants.

Beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year, the new LMAP process will begin with five ministries engaging in this new process.

DENA Gatherings & Formation Programs

VEGA

DENA hosted its sixth Young Lasallian Professionals conference at La Salle University (Philadelphia) in June, 2023. For most of the 15 participants from across the District, VEGA offered an initial formation opportunity and a glimpse into the vast geographic and ministerial swath of DENA. The District Young Lasallian Council curated sessions around topics that would be most beneficial in developing these young faculty and staff members, including a culture of vocation, the Founding Story, faith and Lasallian spirituality, Catholic social teaching and social justice, transformational agents within the Lasallian mission, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). In addition, the VEGA attendees had opportunities for an afternoon of reflection, an afternoon of community service, two liturgies, daily morning and evening prayer, and frequent community building. Small group sessions complemented the presentations, allowing for both processing the content and discerning how to imbue the material into their daily routines.

VEGA '23

 Justin Martineau	 Julia Turner	 Connor Richardson	 Johnny Rende	 Jaycie Jordan
 Jimmy Petrella	 Charlotte Sochia	 Cassandra Camille	 Susan Morgan	 Haley Griffin
 Morgan Guzy	 Paola Hernández	 Gina Spohr	 Jorge Vilca	 Jon Hernández
 Tori Jones	 Danielle Ashworth	 Sam Thompson	 Meg Ryan	 Br. J.D. Macioce, FSC

Meet the VEGA '23 Community!
La Salle University, Philadelphia
June 26 to July 1

Lasallian Youth

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, DENA organized an in-person formation program for high school-aged students. A small but mighty contingent of students and moderators from six ministries participated in faith, service, and community-based activities on the La Salle University campus and in greater Philadelphia in early August. Starting with Sunday Mass, each day the LYA community gathered for at least two opportunities for prayer. Wednesday was highlighted by a Mass, presentation connecting Saint Katharine Drexel's and De La Salle's similar lives and missions, and reception at the shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel. Participants also had two opportunities to participate in service projects to support impoverished children and families in the Philadelphia area. General sessions provided an overview of District, a vocations conversation, application of the five goals of Lasallian education, and sharing of service activities within each school context. Small groups sessions mixed students from the various participating ministries to process sessions, service projects, and personal experiences throughout the week.



Academic Vice Principals/Curriculum Coordinators Gathering

Answering a call from many Principals, DENA convened a one-day meeting for Academic Vice-Principals and Curriculum Coordinators in November. A keynote address from Brother Visitor Robert Schaefer, FSC, reminded participants that ensuring schools run well and challenging attendees to innovate just as the Founder did are essential, mission-based responsibilities of our schools and administrators. To that end, four of the Vice-Principals shared creative and responsive practices within their ministries, including an anatomy table in the science department at Bishop Loughlin, a 21st century academic schedule at St. Joseph's Collegiate, a dual enrollment program at Calvert Hall, and the concentrations program at La Salle College High School. A round of table conversations offered the assembled an opportunity to discuss emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, to thought partner with colleagues on parent/student issues and student information systems, and to ask questions of their peers.



San Miguel Gathering

In another post-COVID return, the Office for Mission and Ministry renewed an education and formation program for the faculty and staff of the four Miguel-style middle schools in DENA in January, 2024. Each school prepared and facilitated a prayer-service to begin or end our days together. Three keynote sessions offered participants an opportunity to explore the mission of Miguel schools with a lens toward the Founding Story, to practice writing across the curriculum with a focus on post-COVID learning loss and student engagement, and on the evangelizing role of community within Miguel schools. Multiple rounds of table conversations allowed job alike groups to share best and next practices, to apply of session topics within their spheres, and to utilize the group as thought partners for current and emerging needs.

Lasallian Animators Gathering

Also, for the first time since 2019, DENA gathered the Animators and other local formation personnel from multiple ministries. General sessions included an overview of the revised covenant vis a vis the emphases on local, District, and Regional formation programs, a deep dive into Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim's Handbook, and two school presentations on faculty and student formation programs. Participants each received a copy of the Declaration on the Lasallian Educational Mission.



Regional Gatherings & Formation Programs

In addition to our work in District formation efforts, we also work closely with the regional office staff of Christian Brothers Conference on the regional formation programs. Our efforts are in support of Sarah Laitinen and the team at CBC who do great work on the regional formation programs.

Our contributions focus on two areas. First, we assist with the planning and logistics of the regional formation programs. For example, one member of the OMM traditionally serves on the Huether planning committee. Second, we also make great effort to accompany the DENA participants in the various regional programs. This is particularly true of the Brother John Johnston Institute where we work very hard to have one member of the OMM present at every JJI session.

The Regional Programs this year included the Huether Lasallian Conference, the RELAN Spirituality Conference, LASSCA, the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, the Lasallian Social Justice Institute and the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice.

Higher Education Gatherings and Formation Programs

It is also very important to note that our colleagues in higher education have an annual series of gatherings which members from both La Salle University and Manhattan College attend. These gatherings are planned and carried out by those at the higher education level. Gatherings include the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU), Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU) and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU).

We, in the OMM, do not have any role in these events but want to note the importance of these gatherings to our colleagues at the higher education level. These gatherings provide opportunities for professional development, association, and ensuring the Lasallian charism and mission at the higher education level. Last year, at least one representative from both Manhattan and La Salle attended all three of these gatherings.

Finally, coinciding with the Huether Conference, a colloquy on Lasallian higher education was held at the Q Center in November. Multiple faculty and staff from DENA participated in the colloquy.

Adrien Nyel Project (ANP)

Within the District

One of two spheres within the Adrien Nyel Project is to provide accompaniment and resources for educators on their journey to interiorize the foundation stones of Catholic education and the constitutive elements of the Lasallian charism, heritage, and identity. ANP affords heightened attention to teachers new to the profession and young teachers new to mission field of Lasallian education and evangelization. Education and formation for mission involves a multifaceted, lifelong, intentional pursuit of coming to know, understand, and practice the essential and dynamic dimensions of the vocation of teacher and what Lasallian association means.

Ministries encountered in 2023-24 academic year:

San Miguel School, Washington, DC

- facilitated opening staff/faculty mission orientation day and facilitated an overnight staff/faculty retreat at Loyola Retreat House on the Potomac

John Paul II Academy, Boca Raton

- facilitated staff/faculty opening year retreat and facilitated new teachers/staff mission orientation

De La Salle Collegiate, Warren, MI

- facilitated staff/faculty opening year retreat and facilitated new teachers/staff mission orientation

De La Salle College, Toronto

- facilitated new teachers/staff mission orientation

Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft

- facilitated staff/faculty November retreat

La Salle Academy, Providence

- presenter for one of the modules in the LSA two-year orientation program for teachers and staff

Ocean Tides School, Narragansett, RI

- Facilitated mission orientation session for the teaching faculty and the clinical and residential staff

La Salle School, Albany

- scheduled to facilitate a mission orientation for the staff and teachers in June

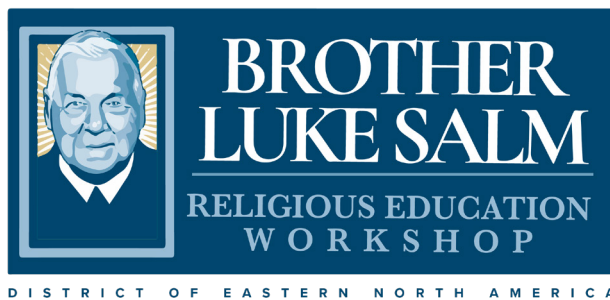
Adrien Nyel Retreat

Held at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, is a space to encounter Lasallian association for first- or second-year teachers new to the mission field of Lasallian education from across DENA. Recognizing that all your new teachers cannot be sent, we recommend prioritizing a delegation of younger teachers. Grounded in the spirit of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the retreat aims to offer communal and personal time to enrich one's journey of faith and to deepen a sense of their vocation as a teacher. The retreat provides time for participants to reflect on the spiritual principles of Lasallian education and evangelization. Participants are invited to be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit calling them in both their personal lives and in their teaching ministry.



The Brother Luke Salm, FSC Religious Education Workshop

Held at The Thomas Berry Place, the reimagined Passionist Retreat Center in Jamaica Estates, Queens. The basic aim is to provide accompaniment and to support religion department chairs and other religion teachers to ensure and advance the religious education curriculum in DENA schools. Purposefully, we sought to convene the chairs for the time to foster association among this important constituency. The workshop is a dynamic space to share challenges and insights, to promote professional and spiritual development, and advance the Lasallian vision and hopes for religious education and evangelization in our times. The 46th General Chapter brings heightened attention to the Lasallian commitment to the field of religious education. The chapter calls us to bear witness to the reign of God by educating in faith for justice.



Lasallian Bay Area Symposium

In accordance with the 46th General Chapter's emphasis on One Institute, One La Salle, served as keynote speaker for the biennial gathering of teachers, staff and administrators from all 6 secondary schools and two middle schools—they all close to create this opportunity, along with some representation from St. Mary's College.

Higher Education Partnership and Support

A new partnership between the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Catholic Schools and La Salle University's Education Department

- cohort of about 25-30 participants (PK-4 grade teachers or undergraduate students for their credentialing)
- starts with a two-week intensive summer course in which I offered participants an introduction to the Lasallian charism and heritage
- recruitment underway for a second cohort

Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities (LACU)

Alongside the Huether Conference, helped convene an initial meeting to inaugurate LACU education deans and chairs as a working cohort to foster collaboration.

Beyond DENA and the Lasallian World

A second sphere within the Adrien Nyel Project is bringing our Lasallian charism – a deep commitment to the vocation of the teacher and quality Catholic education – to other spaces. This remains an area for growth in due course.

Community at the Crossing

The first cohort is comprised of 13 young adult members (7 in community at the cathedral and 6 locals) belonging to The Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, the Mennonite Church, the Church of the Nazarene and Pentecostal congregations. The Community at the Crossing is inspired by the Community of St. Anselm at Lambeth Palace in London, England, founded in 2015 by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, believing that “the religious life is a part of the revitalization of our Anglican communion.” Both of the New York and London communities are staffed by religious and priests who are members of French-based international ecumenical Roman Catholic Chemin Neuf Community.

The Community at the Crossing has five central pillars:
Prayer
Study
Service
Community Life
Unity of Christians

I serve on the Community's advisory board, and I offered a tutorial on the Catholic social tradition as part of the cohort's educational program. The Adrien Nyel Community hosted the resident members and the pastoral staff (two women religious and two priests) for prayer, social and dinner.

The Norbertine Library Lecture Series: "Wither Catholic Education? Faith, Mission, and Pedagogy in the 21st Century"

Sponsored by the Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey in Albuquerque, I delivered in February one of the three lectures. The other two lectures were delivered by a Norbertine on faculty at St. Norbert's College and the Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Albuquerque. To conclude, a panel symposium with the three lecturers was held virtually in April.

Board Governance

The foundation for the vibrant network of Lasallian ministries in the District of Eastern North America goes back to the beginning of the Institute and centers on the fraternity of the Brothers and the warm association with their Partners in Mission. Each ministry in the District maintains a Covenant of Ministerial Relationship with the District that defines the mutual roles and responsibilities of the ministry's governance team and the District.

Since 2022, the **Association of Governance Leadership** includes the governance leadership team of ministries across the District's full spectrum and enjoins the Chief Administrators, Board Chairs, and Vice-Chairs who form the nucleus of their institution. Providing vision and governance while ensuring its financial sustainability of the ministry and promoting its Lasallian spirituality for generations to come, the cohesiveness and effectiveness of these leadership teams is more critical than ever.

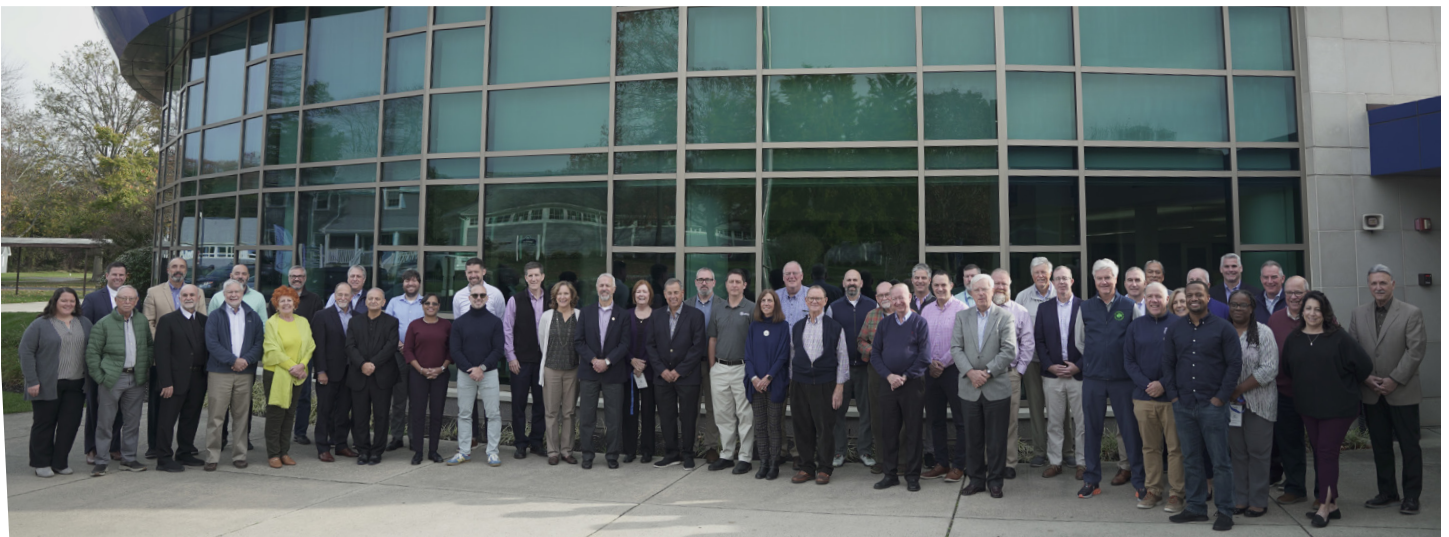
The first directive in building a network of well-run schools and services is to promote strong Chief Administrator/Board Chair relationships and formulate a system of board policies and procedures that support good governance and facilitate good decision-making. One of the formative programs developed by the District focuses on cultivating these leadership teams.

Annual Fall Convocation of the Association of Governance Leadership

These are District-funded gatherings of men and women who serve as Chief Administrators, Board Chairs, or Board Vice Chair of the District's ministry boards. The conference spans two days and is attended by two or three individuals from each ministry. The conference this year was held at Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft, NJ.

Conference programs include formal presentations and structured table discussions, and have 6 objectives:

1. To reinforce the importance of Lasallian formation for Governance Leadership and their boards, and to present the vision for board formation during the upcoming school year.
2. To present thought-provoking Keynote Speakers on foundational or current topics to stimulate and inform table discussions among peers who currently serve in DENA ministries.
3. To provide the opportunity to react to case studies and current issues in a forum that promotes frank exchanges and perspectives.
4. To share new or proven ideas and solutions to situations and challenges common across ministries.
5. To gain feedback on the effectiveness of new or longstanding programs and approaches offered at the local, District, or Region levels.
6. To create the environment for developing strong networks among peers across the District and foster Lasallian community.



The second formation program designed to promote a sustainable relationship focuses on the District Representatives who serve on boards.

Annual Spring Conference of DENA District Representatives

These are District-funded gatherings of men and women who serve as DENA Representatives on one or more of the District's ministry boards and in District Leadership. The conference spans two days. The gathering this Spring was held at Calvert Hall College High School in Towson, MD.

Conference programs include formal presentations and structured table discussions as well as networking opportunities, and have 5 objectives:

1. To reinforce the importance of Lasallian formation for Governance Leadership and their boards, and to present the vision for board formation during the upcoming school year.
2. To present thought-provoking Keynote Speakers on foundational or current topics to stimulate and inform table discussions among peers who currently serve in DENA ministries.
3. To remind District Representatives of the importance of their role as trustees of the Lasallian mission and spirituality and to provide innovative ideas for representatives to establish relevance as trustees.
4. To gain feedback on the effectiveness of new or longstanding programs and approaches offered at the local, District, or Region levels.
5. To provide formation and education to experienced Lasallians who have an interest in serving as a DENA Representative in future years.



AY 2023-24 Participation Summary May 2024

	Institute/ Regional	District	Total Par- ticipants	Unique Parti- cipants	# of stu- dents/cli- ents	# of faculty/ staff	% of facul- ty/staff
Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School	5	7	12	10	558	67	14.93%
Calvert Hall College High School	2	14	16	14	1249	154	9.09%
Central Catholic High School	4	4	8	8	714	89	8.99%
Christian Brothers Academy Albany	5	2	7	5	569	70	7.14%
Christian Brothers Academy Lincroft	2	7	9	8	816	101	7.92%
Christian Brothers Academy Syracuse	8	5	13	9	734	84	10.71%
Colegio de La Salle	5	9	14	11	754	72	15.28%
De La Salle College "Oaklands"	6	5	11	10	669	81	12.35%
De La Salle Collegiate	8	6	14	11	521	118	9.32%
The De La Salle School	3	6	9	6	55	14	42.86%
La Salle Academy New York	5	7	12	9	189	39	23.08%

AY 2023-24 Participation Summary May 2024

	Institute/ Regional	District	Total Par- ticipants	Unique Partici- pants	# of stu- dents/cli- ents	# of faculty/ staff	% of facul- ty/staff
La Salle Academy Philadelphia	2	3	5	3	85	20	15.00%
La Salle Academy Providence	12	10	22	19	1443	175	10.86%
La Salle College High School	7	12	19	15	1093	152	9.87%
La Salle Educational Center	1		1	1	1200	6	16.67%
La Salle Institute	5	7	12	11	537	67	16.42%
La Salle School	1	5	6	6	112	163	3.68%
La Salle University	10	3	13	10	3556	694	1.44%
Manhattan College	8	1	9	8	3495	738	1.08%
Martin de Porres	4	2	6	6	217	143	4.20%
Ocean Tides	1	4	5	4	65	73	5.48%
Saint Francis/Saint Vincent			0		148	91	0.00%
Saint John Paul II Academy	4	2	6	5	581	71	7.04%
Saint John's College High School	13	10	23	18	1293	165	10.91%
Saint Joseph's Collegiate Institute	7	8	15	11	650	82	13.41%

AY 2023-24 Participation Summary May 2024

	Institute/ Regional	District	Total Par- ticipants	Unique Partici- pants	# of stu- dents/cli- ents	# of faculty/ staff	% of facul- ty/staff
Saint Peter's Boys High School	1	1	2	2	447	27	7.41%
Saint Raphael Academy	4	3	7	6	430	58	10.34%
San Miguel School Washington, D.C.	1	5	6	5	89	22	22.73%
The San Miguel School of Providence	5	2	7	5	62	27	18.52%
Tides Family Services	1	4	5	5	422	111	4.50%
West Catholic Preparatory High School	1	5	6	5	454	49	10.20%
Others not listed	12	18	30	18			



The Brothers of the Christian Schools

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