



# ONE YEAR IN MISSION TOGETHER

A PRAYER FOR EACH PROJECT  
A PROJECT FOR EACH WEEK

# Reaching The Unreached - RTU

Madurai  
Tamil Nadu, India

Reaching the Unreached (RTU) is an integrated project which targets the most marginalized sector of the Indian population, the Dalits. While the caste system legally has been abolished, its legacy has proven much more difficult to erase. RTU provides all people with the dignity they deserve, guiding them in the process of actualizing their rights, and empowering them through education and access to basic services. RTU's daily programs serve thousands of people and include: construction of housing units, hygienic and sanitary services, educational and literacy training for adults, schools of every grade level, self-help groups for women who were the victims of abuse and maltreatment, as well as support groups for women with aspiring careers in business and entrepreneurship. The educational program has a very high success rate in national university admission exams. RTU has a scholarship program that allows dedicated students, especially young women, to obtain a university education.



1,400 children and young adults are taught by RTU schools, of which 914 are orphans and 479 affected from HIV. There are 193 scholarships provided for university students. Additionally, more than 20,000 consultations will be carried out annually at RTU healthcare centers.



Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Savior and Sanctifier, we remember you as we look with wonder and awe at the richness of creation. As we savor the many experiences that have come our way, we thank you.

While we are in this moment of silence, we also acknowledge the pain and suffering in this world that surrounds us. We remember the millions of people who are in need of help but have no voice and have no one to help them. Remind us Lord, that we, too, have experienced loneliness and helplessness but were fortunate enough to have been assisted by our family and friends.

Help us, Father, to reach out to those at the periphery of our society. Remind us that we are one family because we are all your children.

Teach us, Jesus, to follow your example of true and unwavering love. May we all strive to become like you, a true brother and friend to all of humanity.

Bless us, Holy Spirit, with the gift of courage and fortitude so that we may leave the confines of our comfort while bringing your love and hope to others.

PARC

# Truong Vinh Ky Secondary School

Dak Mil  
Dak Nong, Vietnam

In the central highlands of Vietnam, there is a desperate need for inclusive, high-quality secondary education. To meet this need, the Truong Vinh Ky Secondary School has recently become operational. The primary objectives of the school are to eliminate the stigma suffered by the local Montagnard population - a minority group that lives in a situation of socio-economic and linguistic marginalization. The school educates students from various cultural groups, promoting mutual respect and exchange between different cultures. In this way, the school will be a catalyst to change the local attitude of discrimination toward the Montagnard people. Providing students with proper training will allow all children to pursue their studies, earn a diploma, and learn skills which will provide an opportunity for future employment.



Of the 800 students attending the school, 50% will be girls.



Spirit of God, you are known by many names. At Pentecost you gathered the nations together by reversing the curse at Babel so that all of the different languages are now able to understand one another.

The world is still fractured because of fear and suspicion, making us unable to hear, listen and understand one another. Replace our fear and suspicion of others by the love that only you can give as you did at Pentecost, so that the world will be open to understanding and accepting all people.

Bless the work of schools that help to integrate people into society so that they will have a voice and be able to participate in building a just and loving community.

Help us to always be open to all in our daily living so that we will listen compassionately, sharing words that will build one another's spirit.

# Gebre Michael Youth Centre

Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

The Gebre Michael Youth Centre is an educational centre with afternoon activities that supports students who attend local public schools. The Centre provides a nurturing environment where students can study quietly, something they are often unable to find at home. The children who attend the Centre come from families living in the Ketchene neighbourhood, an impoverished and socially conflicted area of the Ethiopian capital.



Around 50 students attend the centre every day. Volunteers from Saint Joseph, a nearby Lasallian school, help the students by giving them private lessons.



God of hope, day by day, step by step, you walk with us as a people united in diversity, women and men building an increasingly more humane world for everybody.

Hear the cry of our hearts and fulfil our hopes to be builders of a better world. Help us to build bridges for the young to whom God has entrusted us.

May all who encounter us find welcome, support, and solidarity together in community. Side by side, may you continue to guide us while opening our minds and hearts to paths of hope.

RELAF

# Institute for Religious Studies

Asmara  
Maekel, Eritrea

Despite social and political limitations, the Institute for Religious Studies (IRS) provides university-level instruction to both lay people and religious. Given the great necessity for quality university education, it accepts young people interested in developing expertise in the fields of management and administration, pedagogy, and computer science. The IRS certification is highly valued in both Eritrea and Kenya, thanks to recognition of the coursework by CUEA, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa.



Around 85% of the students are women. The students often divide their time between their studies and mandatory military service.



Wonderful Creator, you inspire us to see your presence in our own lives and in your creation. Through your goodness we seek to be your presence to others and honour you through lives of service and love.

We see your wonder at work through the Institute for Religious Studies. The transformative education it provides enables graduates to further your kingdom and be of service to their neighbours.

Bless with wonder the works of this community, as they live, study, and minister. Inspire them with your Spirit to renew their communities and renew the face of the earth.

# C.L.I.M.A. Centre Lasallien pour l'Initiation aux Metiers de l'Agriculture Bérégadougou Région des Cascades, Burkina Faso

This two-year residential program serving 24 families, trains local community talent in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry. The program's goal is to improve farmers' skills, enabling them to impart their knowledge and improve livelihoods within their local rural communities. In addition to becoming economically independent through the instruction they have received, students use an "earth friendly" approach that will produce long-term results with little impact on the environment. CLIMA's effectiveness has a ripple effect in local communities which goes beyond its students to include farmers trained by CLIMA "graduates" in their own villages. CLIMA serves as a knowledgeable source for technical support, seed selection, machinery loans, and other services to enhance agriculture. Recently CLIMA was recognized by the Government as a Centre of Excellence in the country for freshwater fish farming.



Since inception, 371 people have benefited directly from C.L.I.M.A's residential program.



Praise be to you, God who creates and cares for our common home.

Praise be to you, God who sustains life and sustains our community.

Praise be to you, God who unites the whole human family and calls us beyond our borders.

In our searching for meaning and direction, may we look to you God.

In our discerning a future together, may you be our companion God.

In our constructing a better world, may we see as you see God.

Praise be to you, God for those who work our land and care for our common home.

# Lasallian Summer Camp

Nouna

Boucle du Mouhoun, Burkina Faso

At the edge of the Sahel desert, a unique program unites children of both Christian and Muslim faiths, providing them with educational and recreational opportunities. The summer camp is held in an area where extremist fundamentalism is prevalent. As such, students of different faiths often struggle to interact with each other due to pressure they receive from adults who pass their prejudices to other generations. The summer camp is a place which breaks down xenophobic barriers and allows children to peacefully coexist.



Over 200 children of different faiths, between 5 and 15 years of age, participate in the project that was developed to foster future peace within the region.



God of our ancestors, we know the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert seeking your promised land.

Today, as then, we wander in the desert, a desert of isolation, uncertainty, and doubt. Your presence, God, transforms our isolation to community, our uncertainty to commitment, and our doubt to faith.

Your promise, God, transforms our lives and gives us a new way of seeing and being in the world.

Thank you, God for the witness of places where children of different faith traditions learn, play, and grow together, showing us a more united world is possible.

In our multi-religious world may we all seek fullness of life together as a people on a journey. May we live with all people in unity and peace.

RELAF

# Guaranteeing access to water in rural contexts

Pontieba  
Ioba, Burkina Faso

The Brothers have installed a permanent water pump for 15 families (around 100 people) that live in a remote, high altitude area of the country. In recent years, available water sources have dried up. Before this pump's installation, the families needed to travel two kilometres downhill by foot to reach a water source. They would then have to retrace their steps carrying the weight of the water uphill. This intervention is another example of how Lasallians take care of the communities they serve. Beyond providing formal education, Lasallians respond to the needs of local families.



This project will also eliminate people's exposure to contagious diseases which live in contaminated water.



God of invitation, you call us to discernment. You call us both individually and collectively to see the needs of our world and respond with generosity and faith.

May our presence provide comfort to those places and people you call us to be and those you call us to serve.

As De La Salle responded to the needs in his community, open our hearts to be challenged and transformed so as to respond to the needs in our community.

We pray especially for those who lack access to basic and essential resources. We pray our hearts be moved to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

RELAF

# Institute Tumba Kunda Dia Zayi

Tumba  
Bas Congo,  
Democratic Republic of Congo

In the rural and isolated areas of Tumba, the Kunda Dia Zayi Institute was constructed to address an urgent need for education. The few schools which exist in this remote area are too far from local villages to make education accessible to needy children. The construction of the Kunda Dia Zayi Institute allows children to complete primary and secondary education. Thanks to student scholarships, community outreach, and teacher training, many young girls who are often excluded from secondary education have the opportunity to pursue their studies. Teachers and families in particularly difficult situations live on campus thanks to spaces made available by the school.



Each year, 80 girls receive a scholarship, the school offers a semi-residential professional training program for girls who have left school.



Lord show us the way to deepen our faith in you and in our brothers and sisters.

Lord show us the way to transform our interior life and in doing so transform how we interact with the world around us.

Lord show us the way to peace in our hearts, our families, our communities and our world.

We know the transformative power of welcoming communities.

May we continue to be a community of welcome where your love is witnesses in our relationships with each other.

Lord show us the way to do more and to do better as we strive to serve you.

RELAF

# HATS

## Hagaz Agro-Technical School

Hagaz  
Anseba, Eritrea

The Hagaz Agro Technical School (HATS) has been constructed in response to a government request to the De La Salle Brothers to bring education to areas with increasing jihadist activities. HATS was conceived to bring together students from a variety of cultural and religious groups within Eritrea. Shaping students by having them work together alongside diverse cultures, the school is not only focused on providing quality education and facilitating opportunities for employment, but also promoting peace between diverse cultural groups. From its conception, the school was designed to have an equal number of boys and girls. All 200 students live on campus where they study agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing. The HATS farm produces cheese, yogurt, wine and vegetables which help provide food for students. Products are also sold in markets throughout the country ensuring sustainability. The income earned provides the school with the resources it needs to maintain free tuition for its students.



The school also produces prickly pear jam which is distributed to a network of clinics and kindergartens to fight malnutrition, a continuing plague in many areas of Eritrea.



Today, we are called to be inspired by the example of  
De La Salle.  
Today, we are called to be animated by faith to witness  
the Gospel.  
Today, we are called to fraternity to share our unity in  
diversity.  
Today, we are called to service and commitment to those  
on the margins.  
Today, we are called to encounters with others where  
we meet Jesus, especially in the young.  
Today, we are called. As we respond, may Jesus live in  
our hearts, forever.

RELAF

# St. Joseph School

Keren  
Keren, Eritrea

St. Joseph's is typically considered the best school in Eritrea. Educational services are provided from nursery school through secondary school. Despite its geographic isolation and the lack of teacher training programs, St. Joseph's School provides high-quality education to 1,657 children. As a Lasallian school, the bonds which the students maintain with the Brothers and with their teachers become a highly-valued part of their academic experience. As such, students often turn to teachers for knowledge, advice and trust . . . even well beyond graduation.



In the 2014-2015 academic year, 100% of the students (54 men and 74 women) passed national exams. In 2015, 87% of students were admitted to university level instruction, while the national average is between 12 and 15%.



God, you invite us into a common brotherhood and sisterhood.  
Invite our heart to be open in offering room for everyone.  
By doing so, may we offer a more compassionate face to our world.

God, in St. Joseph's School and all schools may young people find respect, faithfulness, joy, and communities of belonging.  
May those values give rise to environments that inspire all in the community to better themselves and each other.

God, the work is yours as you invite us to be co-workers in the Lasallian family.  
May we continue to bring to life values that call us to continue to grow and share more fully in our common purpose as brothers and sisters.



## C.L.A.S.S Centre Lasallien de Santé Scolaire

Kinshasa, Tumba, Mbandaka  
Democratic Republic of Congo

CLASS is a network of five educational health centers managed by the Brothers to address the problem of scholastic abandonment caused by complications in health. The Centre assists students and their families who are predominantly from lower social-economic classes. Given that a majority of the students come from situations of extreme poverty, the initial medical treatment children receive is often administered by CLASS.



10,441 children have been beneficiaries of this project.

God, in you we have an image of a God who welcomes, who walks alongside of us, who asks us to trust in the unimaginable. God, we know that you call us in a quiet imperceptible way... so that one commitment leads to another in a way we did not see at the beginning.

From one commitment to another, God, you are with us personally and communally. You are with us as we grow physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

Be with all those engaged with the Centre Lasallien de Santé Scolaire. May the young people and their families know your companioning presence. May those that staff this work be inspired with your care for young people in their life's journey.

God, in your time, and in a way we did not see ourselves, may you transform our lives and world.

RELAF

# Ecole St. Paul Ambohimiarina

Ambohimiarina  
Tsiroanomandidy, Madagascar

Madagascar's population increase, economic crisis, and political turmoil have diminished educational access for many primary school children. The school of St. Paul, run by the Lasallian Guadalupana Sisters, responds to this problem by providing primary education to children in a remote part of the country, four hours outside the capital city.



God, you are our nurturer. You nurture each of us and call us into relationship.

In gratitude, we pray for all those who bring your nurturing presence into our lives, our parents, mentors, teachers, friends.

We pray especially for the Lasallian Sisters and all Lasallian women, knowing their presence helps to construct a more humane and community-centered society; helps to reexamine ways of thinking; helps to situate the entire Lasallian world a bit differently in history and helps to organize social, political, economic and religious life in a way that can be more intuitive and relational.



Although a month's education and meals costs only \$1.25, most students are unable to afford this amount and must receive scholarships.

RELAF

# C.E.A.L.S. Centro Educacional Asistencial La Salle

Beira  
Sofala, Mozambique

Centro Educacional Asistencial La Salle (C.E.A.L.S.) is an educational support center for over 600 public school students who need additional academic assistance. The children come from a particularly poor area of Beira, where they otherwise would have spent most of their time after school roaming the streets. In collaboration with the Lasallian University of Brazil, C.E.A.L.S. leads a program on information and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The Center also offers parenting classes for adults.



In exchange for one dollar, C.E.A.L.S. provides two meals a day for students, thanks to sponsorship from donors.



God, you desire salvation for all, especially the young entrusted to our care. May we respond to your call, work for the common good and create spaces for young people to find wholeness, safety, and health.

God, we see the pressing needs of our time, of the young and vulnerable, and your urging to us to pursue the common good. May we pursue this invitation and participate in creating a world that is concerned with the well-being of others.

May the Gospel and our Lasallian charism compel us to continue to respond as Jesus did.

RELAF

# Intiganda Centre

Butare  
Southern Province, Rwanda

Since 1987, the Intiganda Center works to provide a brighter future to street children. Most of the children are orphans who were abandoned by their families or fled from their villages because, according to local superstition, they were believed to be cursed. The Center protects these children. It welcomes them and provides a path toward psychological rehabilitation and reintegration into school all within a familial, nurturing atmosphere. Most of the children are reunited with their families within two years. The Center has serviced many children left without family and without a home after the widespread Rwandan genocide of 1994.



Annually, the center cares for 160 children, including those who have reunited with their families. The residential facilities at the Center can host up to 75 children.



Merciful God, we cry out to you over the brokenness and frailty of our human family. We cry out to you petitioning mercy and healing to our world and to our brothers and sisters.

Compassionate God, we ask you to make us a people of hope and compassion. Be with us as we minister to individuals whose relationships have been difficult and whose trust has been compromised.

Merciful God, we cry out to you for the people of Rwanda. We cry out to you to transform our world into a peaceful place through your love and compassion.

RELAF

# Solidarity with South Sudan

## Yambio Western Equatoria, South Sudan

To help this new country address its grave educational and humanitarian needs, the Brothers teamed up with other religious orders to launch training programs for teachers and healthcare professionals. To equip this country with competent talent, the Brothers travel with instructors to isolated villages in the rural areas of Juba, Yambio, Rimenze, and Wau. These teams offer training courses and social services to people who would otherwise not have access. Since 2015 the project has successfully trained 384 teachers, 104 nurses and 41 midwives.



In 2013, conflicts resurfaced in South Sudan which continue. At least 50,000 people have perished in such conflicts, with thousands of people forced to leave their homes. It is estimated that over 40% of the population suffers nutritional deficiencies.



In prayer, we listen to the promptings of your Spirit. In prayer, we find peace in our hearts. In prayer, we share hope for peace for our world.

We pray for the South Sudanese people as they build their communities and nation. We pray for the empowerment of their citizens to be agents of positive change in their communities, especially those called as educators.

May our prayer for South Sudan be the same as our own community: that our citizens be empowered as agents of positive change and our educators become beacons of hope for a brighter future.

# St. John Baptist De La Salle School

Addis Ababa  
Oromia, Ethiopia

The Saint John Baptist De La Salle School is an award-winning institution that brings together both students from affluent families and students affected by HIV. The school demonstrates effective programming to dispel the prejudices many people hold against HIV affected individuals. Thanks to their innovative academic program, students receive high grades on national tests and therefore are granted admission to the best public universities. Additionally, over 300 students who work during the day attend night classes. At the end of their studies, successful graduates receive state-certified academic credentials.



1,842 students attend the St. John the Baptist  
De La Salle School.



God of life, you call us to life and life in abundance.  
Shine your light on our world making us see as you  
see, each called to be brothers and sisters to one  
another.

In recognizing your presence in our lives, God of life,  
may we recognize your presence in those we encounter  
each day: our family, peers, colleagues, and strangers.

Recognizing your presence in the other, may we treat  
them with dignity and respect as people of God.

Be with us as we seek to see with eyes of faith and  
transform our sight and our heart to be filled with your  
presence and love.

# Collège Mutien Marie

Mbalmayo  
Centre/Yaounde, Cameroon

Run entirely by Lasallian volunteers, this technical secondary school revolves around students who have abandoned school for a variety of reasons: psychological challenges - academic difficulties, social difficulties and economic disadvantage. In addition to scholastic instruction, the students receive solid, continuous support for their personal development. This assures they become confident adults who are active, participating members of society.



The staff is comprised of 30 local, qualified volunteers that carry out service at the school on a continuous basis throughout the year. Fifteen international volunteers from other countries collaborate with the local team for brief periods throughout the year.



God, you desire us to know you, to love you, to serve you with our whole heart with our whole self. You desire for us a future filled with hope.

In uncertain and challenging times, touch our hearts God, encouraging us to see and to share our hope for the future, the world, and young people.

May we be patient with ourselves in this journey and may we be patient with others as we grow, change, and transform into the women and men you call us to be.

It is your constant invitation that makes clear the road ahead and enables us to see your presence in our lives on the road behind.

# Collège d'Enseignement Technique St. Joseph

Diang  
Cameroon-Est, Cameroon

For the third consecutive year, the Central African Republic finds itself in the bottom-most spot of the United Nations human development index. As a consequence of the continuous waves of violence in the Central African Republic, 460,000 people have left the country (10% of the population), many of whom have requested asylum in Cameroon. The Collège d'Enseignement Technique St. Joseph has accepted 35 refugee students with scholarships, providing them with meals and housing. The secondary school provides an excellent professional training program, focusing most of its attention on young disadvantaged children who come from the most fragile sectors of society.



48% of the population suffers from food insecurity, eating only one meal a day. Only 35% of Central Africans have access to clean, portable water while even less (27 %) have access to basic sanitation facilities.



God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you call us to  
communal life as a human family.  
We cry out to you in our brokenness: our world's communities  
are fragile and broken.  
Rooted in your Word and in our history of salvation  
we find our hope.  
Rooted in your Word and in our history of salvation  
we find our peace.  
Rooted in your Word and in our history of salvation  
we find ourselves.  
Personally, and communally, God we call out to you, in the  
name of our collective future, to be our guide and journey with  
us.  
You call us to follow you. May we walk faithfully with you,  
now and always.

RELAF

# San Miguel Schools

## United States of America

The San Miguel Schools welcome students who do not perform well academically, and who are at an increased risk of dropping out if they were to stay within the traditional school system. Most of these children come from difficult situations marked by violence, addiction, and social disadvantage. These remarkable and caring schools provide an environment where youth can find individualized academic courses that develop them socially, emotionally and academically.



God, you invite us to adopt a spirit of love.

As we enter into this day may we look for opportunities to exercise that love 24 hours a day in our work, with our family, when we pray, through the values we hold, the people we try to be, and the relationships we enjoy.

May your spirit of love, God, inspire us to see you, to respond to your call, and to try to live as faithfully as we can the values of the gospel.

May our response be transformative for others. May our attitudes, commitments, lifestyle, and the values advocated and lived declare our belief in your unfailing love and abiding presence.

God, in encountering one another - especially the young - let us encounter you. May youth recognize your presence in each other and in this world which you bless abundantly with your love.



The San Miguel schools are found in nine different cities across the United States. They often attract volunteers from nearby local Lasallian institutions.

RELAN

# San Juan Bautista De La Salle Educational Centre

Homestead  
Miami South Dade County, USA

This bilingual program supports the traditional academic classes by providing a safe and positive environment every afternoon for both children and adults. The families who participate in the program originate from Central and South America. Often they have lived in precarious socio-economic conditions which forces family members to spend most of their time apart from each other. The families are supported by initiatives which foster closer relationships, facilitate group activities, provide workshops, and render professional training which promotes both personal and familial growth. Around 300 migrant families are involved in the program, offering an alternative to complete marginalization.



The number of “undocumented immigrants,” or people without legal status that live in the United States was 11.3 million in 2016. These people typically work 7 days a week in exploitative conditions, often without access to basic services.



God, you chose us to see the needs of the young, especially those who are poor, and respond generously. You chose us to provide a human and Christian education to the young, and advocate for the right of education for all human beings.

As St. John Baptist de La Salle responded in his day, may we respond in ours, providing a practical education that not only teaches the mind, but touches the heart.

May young people find our educational communities as places of welcome, respect, and love. Help us to provide families with enriched opportunities to grow and places where a positive future is shared.

Inspire us all to an openness of mind which makes it possible to see beyond our immediate environment and find belonging in our families, our communities, our church, and our world.

God, as you chose us, continue to motivate and invite others to serve young people in your name.

RELAL

# Lasallian Outreach

Ipoh  
Perak, Malaysia

This project, which began in 2012, offers young people the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of society, fully realizing their abilities and talents through volunteer services geared to help the homeless within the city of Ipoh. These people are not only in need of food and clothing, but also someone willing to listen to them. The volunteers are asked not to limit themselves only to the distribution of materials, but to listen to those they are helping, to solidify the understanding that the poor are also people with worth and value. The program is currently expanding its services to other social groups, among them orphans, minorities, and the elderly.



Currently, 20 volunteers take turns visiting those who live on the street, distributing packages of food and basic necessities, in addition to spending their free time with the needy.



God who speaks to us in the stillness of our hearts and through the confusion and the pain of the world around us,  
wethank you for our talents and gifts.  
Empower us to do what is right and just.

There are many we have neglected in society and who suffer despair and distress. There are many who experience loneliness and discouragement and are led to live a life deprived of basic needs. Yet, you remind us that you are a God that honors the forgotten, the abandoned, and destitute.

You are a God who raises the poor and the orphaned. You are a God who receives the misunderstood without judgment.

We pray that You continue to be their source of hope and love. You also remind us that when we meet the homeless, the destitute and the poor, we meet You. When we hug them, we hug You.

When we speak to them, we speak to You.

We are invited to give them food, provide them drink, and to welcome them into our hearts.

As St Teresa of Avila reminds us,

You have no body now on earth but ours; no hands, no feet but ours.

Help us to be Your eyes of compassion, Your ears to listen,

Your feet to do good and Your hands to bless others.

Amen.

PARC

# Bamboo School

Three Pagodas Pass,  
Kanchanaburi, Thailand

The Bamboo School is located on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Constructed from bamboo, the school welcomes children of immigrant families who have no rights and are considered stateless. These children are denied access to Thai schools, so the Bamboo School is their only opportunity to receive an education. Their parents labour exhaustively in the area's rubber plantations and factories. Tuition is free for students and parents contribute a small plate of rice everyday which the school enriches with additional nutritional components. This food often serves as the only meal of the day for these children. The school works with parents to obtain legal Thai documents which enable access to education and healthcare for the children.



The school serves 500 primary and middle school students. In 2016, the school received more than 50 international volunteers from Australia, England, Spain and Singapore.



Father of all, Giver of every good gift; everyone and everything we cherish is your gift to us. Help us to express our gratitude to you in the many ways we can share our blessings with others.

Today, many people are forced to flee their homelands and seek security, peace and a decent living across political and geographical boundaries.

In the face of such great human tragedy, help us to see how we can respond as a faith community, called to service.

Bless our Brothers and their many partners and supporters who are part of our Lasallian outreach at the Bamboo School project. May we see your face in the faces of the children who come from various tribal groups at the Thai-Myanmar border.

May the basic education we give them help these little ones to appreciate more their unique cultural origins while helping them to integrate into Thai society.

We pray that as the extended Lasallian Family we continue to find ways to aid this mission by sharing material and human resources so that these little ones may have access to an education that will secure their future. May You continue to touch, move, and inspire us to seek the last, the lost and the least, that we may render them the care you expect from us.

Amen.

PARC

# Asociación Hogar La Salle

Jerez de la Frontera  
Andalusia, Spain

Casa La Salle Jerez currently has three main programs: the Diurno Center, the Center for the emancipation of immigrant youths in conditions of exclusion, and the Amal Program which is geared towards the youth of the city's penitentiary. The goal of the Association and universal among their three programs, is to focus on people at risk of social exclusion, regardless of age, nationality, or culture. The Association ensures youth complete their studies and provides motivation for the students' academic courses. Their enthusiasm for learning is a key indicator of their appreciation and understanding of the opportunity they have been given. Once empowered with knowledge, they make themselves available to help others.



96 local volunteers manage Hogar's activities. Every year, 104 adolescents attend the Diurno Center, 25 attend the Amal Project and 14 attended the Center for Emancipation.



Immense Creator, Father of Christ, you hid your son for thirty years in the daily life of Nazareth. Open our eyes to see your presence on our streets every day, to find you, transfigured, in our more marginalized brothers and sisters.

Many young immigrants have come from other continents to find among us the possibility of building a new life, full of hope and promise. Like your Son's, their life is born from much suffering.

May we be like Mary, the Mother of God, who guarded and accompanied you in those Nazarene years, as we care for young people.

Help us to create maternal Lasallian communities, with the tenderness of mother and with the firmness of father (M 101.3), so we can attend to the needs of young people. In doing so, may we serve you and touch you, Savior of the world.

# CasArcobaleno

Naples  
Campania, Italy

CasArcobaleno provides an integrated and multifaceted program to the young people of Scampia that live in marginalized conditions and often prematurely leave school, due to a harmful combination of challenges linked to the area in which they were raised (drug trafficking, prostitution, violence, high crime rates, and unemployment). The program's multidisciplinary team of educators assists young boys and girls to obtain their middle/ junior high school certificate and their high school diploma. The success rate is very high thanks to the dedication of the instructors. Beyond just academic results, the youth of CasArcobaleno are allowed to discover themselves and the values that will bring them to believe in their potential, giving them the strength to work for the creation of a better future through means of an honest living.



CasArcobaleno has been active for 8 years. They supported over 100 children through the efforts of 16 teachers and over 80 volunteers coming from various parts of the world including, France, Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Malta and the USA.



God is so good that he wills that all of us come to salvation.

God of Love, you have made us free and with hearts capable of dwelling in the Holy Spirit. We pray for those who walk in the darkness of ignorance without knowing you. Send visible angels to help humankind discover life and life in abundance.

May we each recognize our call to build up the fullness of the Kingdom of God and to be a sign of the new and eternal. Our skins are all colours that together can create a new rainbow promoting justice, freedom, peace, compassion, and mercy.

May we serve as missionary disciples and pilgrims as we help our sisters and brothers who live on the margins. May we be made into "travelers, devoted solely to the work of God and to make Jesus live in the souls of those who do not yet know him well."

God, in your love, open our Lasallian communities; enable each of us to feel the breath of the Spirit, so that, based on gratuity and hope, we are a sign for the poor through the ministry of education.

RELEM

# Utopía

## Yopal Casanare, Colombia

Utopía is a university campus dedicated to agronomy and engineering in the agrofood industry. It welcomes young people coming from areas of the country most affected by political violence, drug trafficking, and poverty. Utopía offers them a positive and protected environment, a particular synthesis of theoretical education and practical experience with the most up-to-date technology. The program's goal is to offer students productive activities that open horizons for sustainable development and can contribute in an innovative way to the reconstruction of the social fabric of those areas marked by various types of conflict. As they return home, they are enabled peace-makers and competent contributors to the agrofood industry.



Utopía was recognized as an excellent example of a project aimed at promoting peace. The program comprises young men and women from ages 18 to 22, with 400 students attending every year.



You are our God and we are your field. We are land that belongs to you. Sow in us good seed which might eradicate poverty, violence, exploitation, hunger, and war. In our good actions, may your fields flower abundantly.

The earth is from God and we are called to be stewards of that gift. All the fruits of the earth come from you, God, who sends the rains and allows abundant crops.

Inspired by the Founder's devotion to educate the children of the poorest, UTOPIA plants justice so that the harvest is peace. Help us to nurture peace in the world and to bring hope to those we meet.

Lord, give this ministry your light, rain and goodness to continue yielding abundant fruits. Sowing is an act of hope, and St. John Baptist de La Salle calls us "farmers of the field of God which is his Church."

We pray UTOPIA continues to provide hope for youth so that justice and peace will be experienced by all.

RELAL

# Ocean Tides

Narragansett, Providence  
Rhode Island, USA

Ocean Tides is a well respected residential educational program for minors with an alternative detention sentence. The program offers educational training, psychological support, emotional development and employment training. Professional training is an important component which ensures that the students have goals and a vision of their future, especially if they don't see higher education as part of that future. The program has a long history of successfully providing both academic and employment opportunities to at-risk youth in the New England area.



Given the grave educational difficulties these students experienced in the past, Ocean Tides looks to provide creative and personalized programs that satisfy the needs of all students. The completion certificates received at the end of the program are equivalent to regular high school credentials.



God, you are our God, and we are your people. May we recognize your invitation to follow you and live as your people throughout our lives. May we recognize human dignity in the face of everyone we meet.

As your people, God, you guide us throughout our life, though we may not know it at the time. You invite each person to a fullness of life in the world.

Aide us in affirming dignity and worth in everyone, especially with young people. In places where young people find themselves in difficult and challenging circumstances, may we walk with them and may we walk with each other.

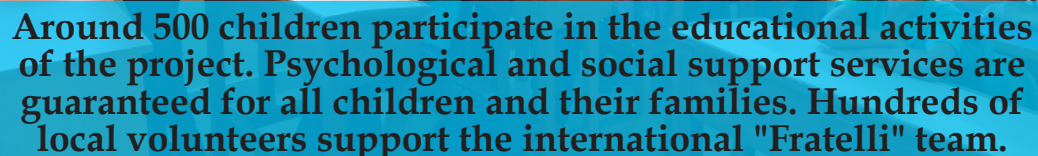
May our lives serve you, God, as you invite us into a life of faith, a life of community, a life of dignity, and a life that contributes to the betterment of the church and world.

God, open our minds and hearts to discover you each day.

RELAN



**You call us to be a sign of hope and compassion, a sign of love and fidelity. May we see you in our brothers and sisters. May we witness you in those who are pilgrims. May we see you in the tired and fatigued. May we provide love, listening, care and education. May we build a civilization of compassion, communion, and unity.**



# Centre Lasallien Saint-Michel

Montreal  
Montreal, Canada

Inaugurated November 2015, the center provides a friendly environment where adolescents can feel comfortable to foster and develop their own, unique talents. The program was born out of the necessity to assist families and youth who live in troublesome situations in both on the outskirts and within the most densely populated areas of the city. The program offers recreational, artistic, educational and counseling courses free of charge, as access would otherwise be difficult to the students who attend courses at the center. Free courses are also made possible by a strong relationship with a vast network of volunteers.



In 2004, noting that the San Michel neighborhood of the city was the most populated and the most marginalized, the Brothers decided that an efficient response would be to create a center that would become a home for youth and their families suffering socio-economic problems.



God, you speak your call to us, a call to associate for a common purpose, a call to witness your love and presence in our world, and a call to bring about a better future.

In a world confronted with crisis, may we see with eyes of faith and a hopeful look into the future. May we look to examples that bring life, joy, and hope as places where you are at work.

God, your call to us is a call to unity in diversity. Personally, and collectively you speak your call to us to live together, to unite, to use our gifts and talents to build one another up, that we might persevere through what challenges us along our life's journey.

May our lives be a gift to one another and to those we are called to serve. May we give ourselves freely and generously, as far as we are able, to the lives you call us.

RELAN

# Hogar Esperanza

Santiago de Chile  
Gran Santiago, Chile

Hogar Esperanza is a “family house” that takes care of minors, orphans, children and adolescents coming from troubled families. The center is divided into two sections: one for the younger children and one for school-age children. The program is run entirely by Lasallian volunteers that take shifts in caring for the minors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many of the young men and women who in the past were beneficiaries of the family home now collaborate as volunteers to do their part for the center.



The program has been in operation for 30 years and has helped over 1,800 infants, children, and adolescents in their journey to adulthood.



Lord Jesus, you shared your tenderness and mercy to the abandoned and most vulnerable children.

You understood the plight of those who since childhood have known fear and suffering, who have lived without love, who struggle without care or protection. Lord, may young people everywhere feel your calming, caring presence.

Protect children who do not know the tender kiss of a mother and the nurturing warmth of a father's hug. Let them feel your embrace, Lord.

We unite in prayer for Hogar Esperanza, as a Christian home that attends to the abandonment from which these children and youths come. May those who serve as volunteers always be generous and affectionate, like you and Mary, welcoming the children and offering them what is necessary to live with dignity.

May each one of us, be your instruments in the word which offer help, companionship, love, and peace.

RELAL

# Foyer Akwaba

Abidjan  
Lagune, Ivory Coast

The streets of Abidjan are home to 30 thousand children, most of whom have left their families for reasons of poverty. They frequently have been victims of abuse or abandoned by their families. Foyer Akwaba welcomes these children into a warm, comforting environment, providing them sleeping facilities, nutritious food, medical attention, personalized education, recreational sports, and other group activities. At the heart of the center's programs is the reconstruction of family ties between children and their relatives. An action plan is proposed to children and their relatives, successful completion of which results in children once again being integrated into their families.



Akwaba means "Welcome" in the Bauolé language. Foyer Akwaba has welcomed 170 children between the ages of 8 and 15. Thanks to the program which also involves the children's families, the success rate of family reunification is very high.



Holy Spirit, you breathe life into each of us, inspiring and sustaining us. May we recognize the Spirit at work in our world and in our lives.

May we fan the flames of the Spirit in our lives and witness it to all we encounter. Through our encounter with others, may they know the Spirit of God that lives in us.

Holy Spirit, breathe life into young people, especially those who are vulnerable, abandoned, or neglected. May they recognize your Spirit at work in their situation and in their life.

May we encounter you, God, in the young, and may we see them as you see them, with unconditional love. Through our encounter with young people, may they know their dignity and that they are loved.

Holy Spirit, we welcome your presence to renew the face of the earth.

# Diyagala Boys Town

Ragama (Colombo)  
Western Province, Sri Lanka

Diyagala Boys Town offers four years of professional training mainly in the fields of technology, animal husbandry, agriculture and apiculture. The modern equipment used in the program is state-of-the-art to ensure students facilitate experience a smooth transition into the workforce once they have completed their courses. Most of the youth who attend the center are disabled, orphans, children who in some way have suffered trauma from the civil conflict that has affected the country for the past three decades, or children who have dropped out of school. Currently, there are 150 residential students in the program.



Graduates of Boys Town are heavily recruited by industry because of their job competence, technical skills and impressive work ethic.



Lord of the harvest, you call us as laborers into your vineyard.

Through work you call us to recognize the responsibility we have for our common home.

Help raise up a generation of young people who see dignity in their neighbor, young people who value community and connection with one another, and youth who will be good caretakers of our shared world.

Lord, be with all of us as we discern our path in life. We know you are our companion on the journey.

Despite our struggles and the adversity we face, may your loving presence never be far from us.

May it comfort us and brighten our path toward a future filled with hope.

PARC

# Lasallian Community Educational Services

Colombo  
Western Province, Sri Lanka

The Lasallian Community Educational Services (LCES) provides a wide range of educational and social welfare services to youth and adults. Located in an extremely poor area of Colombo, LCES actively promotes the rights of women and children while empowering society's most vulnerable. LCES runs a daycare center and an elementary school for children who live near the city's landfill. The center offers professional training for youth who cannot access formal secondary school because they abandoned their studies before the completion of their first primary school cycle. The programs include literacy courses and life-skills training. Because their families are not able to satisfy the children's nutritional needs, their academic performance, school attendance, cognitive abilities and physical development are negatively impacted. Understanding this, LCES has instituted a meal program for all students at the school.



Over 6,000 families are assisted through this program who originate from diverse cultural and religious groups present in the area. There are over 350 children that attend the LCES school.



Dear God, by whatever name we know you, we thank you for being our guide in times of need.

We live in a world where poverty is a daily struggle for many. Individuals live precariously without many options.

We pray for children who do not have proper nutrition and for their families, which seek help through the Lasallian services we provide around the world.

We pray for the people of the Lasallian Community Educational Services who are serving the community and that they will find hope and prosperity in their work.

May we draw inspiration from the goodness of LCES and strive to imitate service to the needy in our own country.

PARC

# La Salle English-Medium School

Mannar  
Northern Province, Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka the Brothers have founded the La Salle English-Medium School, which provides English instruction to children impacted from a decades-long civil war. The School serves the Tamil minority, which is concentrated in the North of the country. This group has had difficulty accessing higher education and employment due to their lack of experience with the Sinhalese language. The school teaches the English language which offers greater opportunities to young people, who come from different ethnic groups. The school provides an outstanding educational curriculum to otherwise educationally-marginalized children.



In the initial years post-conflict, the facility hosted 28 former child soldiers who fought in the civil war. They participated in a rehabilitation program which assisted them until they were successfully able to reinsert themselves within the formal education system. Most of these students continued on to receive their university degrees.



O God, the Blessed Hope of all people, we thank you for being the beacon of our lives.

We pray for children all over the world who are in need of a clear hope for a better life. We pray especially for children who lived through the sufferings that come from the conflicts they have experienced in their lives.

Give them the grace to see you as their hope for a better and more meaningful life in your love. We pray also for those who are helping these children to heal their lives for a better future. Give them the grace to be the hope and love of the children in their care.

As you sent St John Baptist de La Salle into the lives of the children over 300 years ago to be their hope, help us to grow as a community of hope which heals relationships and builds up each other.

May I, in my own life, bring hope and healing to people with whom I come in contact.

PARC

# Promotion of child-safeguard in 5 marginalized communities of Peru

Abancay, Urubamba, Pisco, Lima (2),  
Apurimac, Cusco, Ica  
Peru

This program consists of capacity-building actions for staff of Lasallian schools in Peru. The training gives staff the skills they need to ensure both the creation of a policy framework and the implementation of actions to safeguard minors. The program serves in an advocacy capacity to promote the rights of children in each of the five participant schools in Peru. The schools, having trained their staff, serve as landmark centers for the protection of minors through outreach actions involving parents and key actors of the local community as well as other institutions, educators, and the general public.



Father source of every good, during this week we think of children, who are the seed of tomorrow, the hope of a better world, and a beautiful gift given by You.

We ask you to bless abundantly all the troubled children in the world: those who are victims of family conflicts, violence, or mistreatment; children who have suffered the terror of war and the fear of losing everything; youth who are persecuted, abused, or rejected; minors who are abandoned, humiliated, exploited or enslaved.

Have mercy on them. Protect them and guide them to You.  
Let no one be lost along their path toward you.

We raise our prayers that all of us are called to promote faith, fraternity, service, joy, and freedom. We ask you to teach us how to love these children with the "firmness of father and tenderness of mother."

School involved: Colegio Signos de Fe-San Juan de Lurigancho (976 children and youth) Colegio Fe y Alegría N° 43-Zapallal (1628 children and youth) Colegio Fe y Alegría N° 77-AAHH Tupac Amaru-Pisco / Ica (566 children and youth) Colegio La Salle Urubamba (376 children and youth) Colegio La Salle Abancay (750 children and youth).

RELAL

# Indígena Santiago Institute

Guatemala City  
Department of Guatemala  
Guatemala

This residential Institute trains future teachers who typically come from rural Mayan communities. Through a unique program developed by Lasallians, these individuals as well as indigenous cultural groups are trained at the institute to become expert bilingual teachers of Spanish and the native language of their community of origin. After receiving their academic qualifications, these teachers return to their homes affirming the value of cultural diversity and contributing to the conservation of their traditional culture. This project has received numerous awards and recognition from the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. Financial support of the Institute's programs is actively solicited so program costs are minimal for these otherwise economically-challenged teachers.



Today more than 2,000 former students are protagonists of socio-cultural change occurring in their area of origin.



Universal Father, in your divine plan all cultures have a sacred place. Respecting such diversity, we ask blessings on indigenous people so their identity, culture, and unique traditions may be celebrated by all humankind.

We ask you to prevent their rights from being violated and abused. Give us an open heart and cultural sensitivity to treat everyone as your sons and daughters and as our brothers and sisters.

We pray for all people that foster respect for cultural and religious diversity, encourage a commitment to social justice, and work towards social transformation which support the Gospel values.

Lord, as we educate those entrusted to us, help us to be promoters of truth, sowers of goodness, and guarantors of freedom for all.

RELAL

# Housing on Turtle Island

Palmistes  
Île de la Tortue, Haiti

Turtle Island (Île de la Tortue) is a small island off the northwestern coast of Haiti. It is an extremely poor part of the country and home to around 40,000 people, of which many are young, single mothers with children who struggle daily to survive. Appreciating the living conditions of these families, the Brothers felt a moral obligation to actively ensure these women and their children received improved standards of living. The original shacks of the families were fragile and unstable, often constructed of sheet metal, cardboard and palms. Their situation is further complicated by the weather: Haiti is frequently hit by hurricanes that destroy these makeshift houses, placing the families in peril. Through this program, new hurricane-resistant housing is being built for the island's poor families.



To date, 27 cement-built houses have already been constructed. There are over 100 mothers with children who are still on the waiting list for new homes.



God, you show us in Mary, our Mother,  
the most perfect model of a tireless protector of children.  
We pray for all the mothers who struggle for the survival of their  
children under conditions of extreme poverty and natural disasters.  
God, you are our refuge.

In you we find hope for a better world and a better life.  
We pray with those who live in places lacking essential services,  
drinking water, food, health systems, or electricity.

In a special way, we pray for Haitian women, many of whom face  
these situations daily while striving to provide their families with  
better living conditions.

You, who teach us to love without measure or condition, give this  
ministry and the people who benefit from it, a generous heart.  
Help us, Lord, to be in solidarity with mothers who want the best for  
their children.

RELAL

# Collège Saint Jean-Baptiste De La Salle

Port au Prince  
West Department, Haiti

Thanks to emergency funds collected through the international Lasallian network, the Collège Saint Jean-Baptiste De La Salle was constructed for children of the capital's suburbs, after the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The school includes kindergarten, primary, and secondary sections. The school's immediate success has led to an increase in enrollment and a great desire for its services. The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Castres (Blue Sisters), in the community center located next to the school, supplement academic activities by providing mothers and children education regarding maternal care, nutrition, and basic health services.



Although still under construction, the school already has 800 primary and 300 secondary students. The community program involves 1,000 individuals.



Merciful Father, you care for those in situations of distress,  
as you remind each of us to see as you see,  
recognizing all humanity as children of God and our  
brothers and sisters.

Help us to appreciate how fragile and vulnerable human  
existence can be, especially for the poor.

Teach us to look with compassion and understanding into  
the eyes of others, and to be generous in assisting them.

Lord, bless the De La Salle Brothers and Blue Sisters who  
work together in Haiti.

We pray for all those Lasallians involved in educational and  
health ministries around the world.

As children of God, may we look to you always and unite  
our will with yours.

# St. La Salle Secondary School

Karemeno  
Nyeri, Kenya

La Salle Secondary School in Karemeno offers its students not only regular academic courses with coeducational classes, but also training in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry. The academic program allows students to put theory into practice. This is particularly relevant for students who do not have the means to continue to university level academics. Through programs offered in Karemeno, students are able to improve their skills and agro-pastoral livelihood. Construction has already started on a new greenhouse, farmhouse and fishing pond. La Salle Secondary School especially promotes the inclusion of girls in secondary education, with the aim of reversing the trend of female exclusion from Kenyan education.



Opening in 2016, the school has residential facilities for 163 students. The internal farm produces products for the canteen, largely using energy from renewable sources.



God, you invite us to be cooperators with you in the growth of each and every son and daughter.

You ask us "to accompany each person in their search for meaning and for God."

As your daughters and sons, God, help us to see you at work in the fabric of reality and in our daily lives.

Help us with grace to respond generously to your call and to care for our brothers and sisters on the margins of society.

May our active participation in bringing life to our community help transform the world.

From rural settings to urban ones, may we be your agents on earth who respond to the needs of others, share our treasures in solidarity, and walk together in hope.

Dear God, may we faithfully realize our communion as the living Body of Christ.

# Fighting Against Gender-Based Violence, Fundación Mujer Iglesia (Fu.M.I.)

Santiago de los Caballeros  
Santiago, Dominican Republic

Fundación Mujer Iglesia responds in an efficient and effective way to gender-based violence, a prevalent problem in the Dominican Republic. Gender-based violence is the fourth leading cause of death among women in the Dominican Republic. Fu.M.I., which operates entirely through the service of Lasallian volunteers, supports women and children who are victims of abuse, while providing legal, psychological, and medical services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Fu.M.I. conducts educational programs directed towards families to help eliminate gender-based domestic violence. A similar program targets secondary school students.



Over 14,711 adults and children have benefited from Fu.M.I. awareness campaigns which reach over 25,000 people through their social communications campaigns.



God our Father, we thank you for creating us with love, in your image and likeness. Thank you, Father, for women in our life and the countless ways we have benefited from their life-giving love and care.  
God, you bless women as: mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, grandmothers, professionals, leaders.

Open our minds and hearts to value women in our life.  
Help us to appreciate the diverse and unique ways they share their gifts and talents with their families, the Church, and the world.  
We are sensitive to actions which devalue women, objectifying, oppressing and causing violence to them. May we remember, every person who comes to this world passes through the mind, heart and body of a woman.

We pray for the ministry Fundación Mujer Iglesia that compassionately responds to those situations which cause suffering to women.  
We earnestly ask that this ministry always be a place to welcome, comfort and support women and victims of gender-based violence. Pour out your love in men and women to value and help each other, establishing a harmonious relationship, based on love and mutual respect.

# Mobile Education for Traveling Populations

Tolosa  
Occitania, France

Illiteracy rates among the children of the nomadic Roma population, can reach as high as 80%. To counter this appalling statistic, the Christian Brothers and dozens of other teachers have created a school “on wheels.” By using caravans designed uniquely for educational use, teachers travel along the Roma routes providing classes to children who otherwise would not have access to literacy instruction.



Last year there were over 35 classes “on wheels,” as the program took in around 3,500 Roma children in cities all across France.



Jesus, our friend and brother, during your life you were a nomad and foreigner in Egypt. You journeyed through Galilee, Samaria and Judea to heal the sick, to touch lepers, to embrace sinners, to cast out demons and share your Good News.

Today many people journey to foreign lands, forced by the instability and violence of their own lands. They seek a better life. For some, the constancy of being nomadic people on a journey has become their way of life.

We look to you, Jesus, and raise our voice in solidarity with all those who are on the move in our world. You call us to be missionary disciples, Christian communities, and educational communities open to all: every race, language, people and nation.

We are your children and daughters, who have life in the Spirit. You call us to be a new humanity created by the diversity and richness of the earth. Help us to be compassionate and loving to all.

RELEM

# Kids Help Line

Brisbane  
Queensland, Australia

Kids Help Line is Australia's only free, private and confidential call center for children and young adults from the ages of 5 to 25 that provides counseling and support services. This telephone service allows callers to speak with counselors and experienced psychologists on issues regarding bullying, depression, suicide, sexual abuse, academic performance, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. The experts who respond to the calls work closely with authorities and provide interventions if necessary. This program was started by Lasallians to meet an unmet need; it is part of *yourtown*, a charity enabling young people to find jobs, learn skills, become great parents and live safer, happier lives.



Kid's Help Line responds to approximately 300,000 telephone calls annually and is available to children anytime for any reason.



Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that you pour your grace bountifully on children and youth, especially those in need. Grant them peace for their troubled hearts. Grant that they find serenity amidst the difficulties they encounter daily.

May our Lady be the guiding light and source of strength for the lost and the troubled. Let us remember in the same way Mary provided strength for her Son as he carried the holy cross, we ask that Mary provide us strength and support as we carry our daily crosses.

Almighty Father, you inspired the Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Brothers who followed in his way. We ask that you inspire all those who are in service for others. Grant them courage and willpower to be a pillar of support.

May our hearts be moved with care and concern for the last, the lost and the least who are in our midst daily. May we remember the presence of God in every aspect of our lives and offer up all we do in our thoughts, words and actions, for the greater glory of God.

PARC

# Family Home for minors

## “La Salle Home”

Sendai  
Miyagi, Japan

La Salle Home is a family home for children under the protective care of social services. Working within the national system for the protection of children, the family home provides care to children one to 18 years old, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Although resident at the La Salle Home, the children attend local public schools. As more than 98% of the children come from a family where there is at least one parent, one of the goals of the program is to reinsert them into their families as soon as possible. To accomplish this, however, the employees work closely with their families to prepare the children to return home. The La Salle Home is organized so that the various needs of the children are managed appropriately, effectively and efficiently, as well as with compassion and care.



La Salle Home is an institution that welcomes children. It currently houses 80 minors, the majority of whom are six to 14 years of age.



Creator God, you are the source of all love. We thank you for revealing your love to us in all its varied forms as we journey through life... even at times when we fail to recognize your accompaniment with us.

In today's world, we so often hear about the suffering of the children from war-torn parts of our world who do not have access to safe refuges.

As we remember these children, we pray for the children and young people of La Salle Home in Sendai. Reveal your love to them through the work of the staff of La Salle Home. Continue to guide and inspire the staff as they do your work.

May the work of these Lasallians inspire us to recognize the needs of our youth and help us to respond to them. Like La Salle, we too have the power to make a difference. Help us daily to make the right choices which will bring about positive change for those in need around us.

# Centro de Promoción y Cultura

Santiago de Cuba  
Santiago de Cuba, Cuba

This center organizes classes for children, adolescents, and adults, facilitating moments of sharing and reflection in remote, rural villages of the Sierra Maestra (Cuba). Appreciating the fact that participants may draw from different faiths, the center is non-discriminatory; it creates a climate of mutual respect and acceptance among all its participants. The center donates basic necessities to children and the elderly who typically demonstrate extreme poverty. The center has 39 regular volunteers and many other groups of Lasallian volunteers that participate in activities of the center such as the Young Lasallians, Signum Fidei and the Lasallian Mothers.



The center has been operating for more than a quarter of a century, providing service to 26 villages in the Sierra Maestra.



God of all peoples, open our hearts to those who think and believe differently than we do. Enable us to be tolerant of the great variety of religions that exist. Help us to be instruments of justice, peace, and harmony.

Enable us to coexist and interrelate with peoples who have different paths than ours. Remind us that you love all people regardless of their skin colour, faith, race or gender.

We ask blessings on the Centro de Promoción y Cultura, for those who work in it, and those who come to it. May it remain an inclusive, multi-religious service to unprotected children and elderly. Enable the Center to help its youth live as brothers and sisters, children of our Father.

Whenever we cross paths with someone from another faith, let us be a sister or brother who provides them a helping hand in times of need.

# La Salle Home

Iasi  
Iasi, Romania

La Salle Home provides both residential and daily care for adolescents and young adults in difficulty. It enables them to attend school and live within a family environment in order to grow comfortably. La Salle Home hosts 16 young adults between 14 and 19 years of age who are referred by social services. Additionally, the program has a non-residential component which supports around 30 young people with learning disabilities whose families do not have the means to provide for them. Most of the youth are Christian Orthodox, the country's main religion. The La Salle Home is an international community and includes Brothers and Lasallian volunteers.



Autonomy and maturity are the main objectives that characterize the actions of the Home. Some of the former youth who participated in the activities of the center today offer their services there as volunteers.



Father, Abba, you have a dream for our lives and you want to work with us in its realization. You want to "make a home" within us.

You want us to enlarge "the spaces of our heart." Jesus said that his brothers, sisters and mothers are those who listen to him and want to put his word into practice. Help us to be open to his word.

You have chosen and called us Lasallians to respond to needs of today's world.

Gathered around your word, we are alive and active in the service to needy people. We are called to be your apostles for every child who needs care, attention, education and protection.

Help us, God, to build supportive and nurturing educational spaces for the young we serve. May our efforts be homes built around the dreams of each child.

May we ensure our schools to be life-giving places for all who enter through our door.

RELEM

# Lasallian Universities in Mission

Zé Doca  
Maranhão, Brazil

This project was created in 2015 to offer University Centers and Lasallian faculty an opportunity for international volunteerism and service. Exposing the participants to new and different social situations, this initiative contributes to the participants' academic and personal training, as well as personal enrichment. Groups of students prepare themselves, with the help of their instructors during the academic year. They plan, organize, and gather materials. During their vacations, they visit remote, rural areas of the country where they perform the activities they prepared previously. Activities include games and youth sports which are supportive to the local community as well as visiting and interacting with local families.



God of all ages, you call us to be bearers of hope in the world, in education, as we journey together as your disciples.

You call us to go out, to climb the mountain, to be Lasallians without limits. You remind us "happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true."

Inspire in every generation communities of people who evangelize through their example, who live in solidarity with those on the margins, and who see as sacred the human dignity of every person.

In our experience of this life, may we be inspired with greater faith and greater zeal to bring about a more human world, where all are loved, nurtured, and hope-filled.



Over 500 people participate as volunteers in the program, with over 1,000 people from rural communities benefiting from its services.

RELAL

# Reference Center for young people

Canoas,  
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

This initiative provides psychological assistance and workshops for adolescents and young adults, from 12 to 29 years of age, who have been exposed to various types of violence due to the marginalized conditions and poverty in which they were raised. As part of the program the center offers cultural workshops which include music, dance, singing, theater, and design. Additionally, the youth who attend the center are guided towards developing their own autonomy and an active sense of citizenship which allows them to create a better life for their communities.



This program began in 2012 and 60 adolescents benefit from it every day.



Our Father, the source of goodness, we ask you to bless the young people who are the hope of the world.

Protect them from dangers and enable them to find You in their heart. You are our protector.

We ask you to bless this center in Brazil, and the young people it serves who are endangered and victims of urban violence.

May the use of the arts be enlivening as they construct their autonomy and understand their call to responsible citizenship.

May our young people work to promote justice and peace in our world. May we be able to call the persons we meet our brother and sister.

May we help – through your love and your presence – all humanity to have a full and happy life.

# Experimental Institute La Salle

San Pedro Sula  
Valle Sula, Honduras

The main goal of the Center is to guarantee the integral development of children whose families do not have the means to satisfy even the most basic of needs due to poverty and social marginalization. Most of the parents whose children attend the institute have low levels of education themselves. Accordingly, the center offers afternoon courses for adults, especially for the parents of students who attend the morning sessions.



The center has 1300 students who are assisted in their studies from primary school up until their completion of secondary school.



Lord God, extend your love over all children whose families have scarce resources to care for them.

Bless the children whose families are marginalized and excluded. Shelter and safeguard all who live in circumstances of poverty or who are socially marginalized.

Bless the Center in Honduras. Enable it to meet the fundamental needs of children in extreme poverty: those who are marginalized and excluded.

Hand them soap that improves hygiene and health, food that nourishes and feeds them, a hug that makes them known and feel loved and valued, and a prayer that helps them raise their eyes and hearts to heaven.

May each child's face which finds You return joy to the world through the brightness of their eyes.

RELAL

Universidad La Salle, together with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), has begun a high-level course in Human Rights and on the International Convention of Refugees. The Geneva convention on the status of refugees and its successive protocols has created instrumental documents which reinforce measures already in place for the protection and acceptance of refugees. A greater knowledge of these issues increases an understanding of the problems related to forced migration and facilitates innovative solutions for the assistance and the inclusion of migrants, particularly within the context of acceptance into new societies. Universidad La Salle welcomes thoughtful, caring, and insightful responses to refugees through its innovative program.



More than half of the world's refugees are minors. Globally, one person is forced to abandon their home every three seconds.



God of the Commandments and Father of the Beatitudes, call us to be a people who care for the plight of refugees and migrants.

We build walls;  
You call us to build bridges. We construct doors; You open them welcoming the suffering and poor.

We are selfish; You invite us to share.  
Father, broaden our hearts so that we fight for the rights of others.

Make us advocates for children's rights, women's rights, and the rights of migrants and refugees.

Help us to be caring voices for the concerns of others.

# Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales

Venezuela

Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales (La Salle Foundation for Natural Sciences) bases its human, educational, and social work on research and instruction (secondary and university level education). The fundamental goal of this Foundation is to ensure Venezuelans receive quality education and uniquely links state-of-the-art research with university level academics. The Foundation is a key contributor to the active inclusion of all people, especially the marginalized, in regional and national development. Through its outreach programs it provides educational services to 12 communities in various parts of the country.



The Foundation is composed of 6 university institutes, 5 technical institutes, 5 polytechnic institutes and 2 professional training centers. It currently has over 8000 students. There are over 100 employees, who serve as researchers, teachers, administrative, and maintenance personnel.



Blessed are you, Lord, for you are the Creator of all. We praise you for the mystery of life that shines in every creature. We praise you for the land you have given us.

Enable us to be wise caretakers of your resources, acting with wisdom on behalf of future generations.

You have called us to make the earth fruitful, but always to respect it and make it shine your glory.

Teach us, and those educated through the instruction provided by Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales, the best way to use our resources wisely so the next generation will share the rich provisions you have given to us.

Enable all of us to protect the natural resources you have given us and to understand that we must use these resources wisely.

Help us to be constantly amazed at your creation, to have awe for the marvelous way in which nature unfolds in front of us, and to realize our responsibility to protect your gifts of the earth in all that we do.

# San Héctor Valdivielso Educational Center

Malvinas Argentinas  
Córdoba, Argentina

The San Héctor educational center works as a fulcrum for community development. The school operates on the periphery of the city where the population struggles amid scarce economic resources. Most of the families live in precarious economic situations and are socially vulnerable. The center brings together diverse people from the surrounding area and thus responds to the community-based needs the citizens identify for themselves. The Center has a nursery school, a primary school, a communal dining hall, and a youth center where classes in cooking, art, music, and electricity are held. Innovative new activities at the school are created according to emergent necessities, with the concept of sustainability over the long-term always in mind. In the evening, the center doubles as a gym while also offering professional, university level classes. The educational center is a pillar of community engagement for its neighborhood citizens. Initiatives such as public transportation and street lighting have been organized by concerned citizens who meet at the center.



The school has been open for 14 years, and was constructed during the worst economic crisis of the country. It is currently collecting funds for the construction of a technical secondary school.



God of love, mercy and understanding, you have chosen the hearts of people as the place of your dwelling.

Empower people to use their hearts in support of one another, and to foster solidarity in the world. Help us to utilize all of our talents to help each other in building a better world.

We are a Lasallian community and you have called us to be in touch with the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers, concretely entering their reality and journeying with them.

You have chosen and shaped us.

As Sisters and Brothers, we are friends. We are companions of hope and nonviolent struggle with and for the marginalized living on the periphery.

Help us to advocate on behalf of those who need our voice and to be agents of change in making the world a better place for all.

# Solidarity Scholastic Bank

## Barcelos District of Braga, Portugal

This service was created by SOPRO, the Lasallian NGO from Portugal, in 2012 in cooperation with Lasalliana di Barcelos school. The primary objective of this project is to support access to education for disadvantaged children and youth. SOPRO acts as a collection point for volunteers to collect books, stationery, and other educational materials that are donated. In collaboration with local public services, the material is distributed among families most in need. The same project also collects books that are sent to both Lasallian and public schools in Mozambique and Angola, countries where educational instruction is conducted in Portuguese. The impact of this project is positive not only to the children who benefit from the donated material, but also to families and Lasallian students, as it helps them develop a social consciousness of being attentive and aware of the needs of others, especially the most vulnerable within our society.



Since this initiative started, SOPRO volunteers have distributed 2,057 books in Portugal, and 40,263 books have been donated to Mozambique and Angola.



God of life, in small and large ways you show your presence to us.

You give us life every day and show your wonders to us. Sometimes our days are laborious, and at other times, our days are very hard.

Through both rough seas and calm waters, we seek your presence in all the moments of our life. In our daily routine may you reveal yourself to us.

It is in life itself that you speak to us, call us, encourage us, encounter us, and commission us.

God, you have always educated your people and want us to be a people where every person is our brother or sister.

Help us share our lives with one another, witnessing your love, where our differences will diminish and your kingdom of unity, joy and peace will triumph.

RELEM

# Escuela José María Bogarín

Santísima Trinidad  
(bañado norte) – Barrio Fátima  
Asunción, Paraguay

This school is situated at the edge of a landfill, an area where dozens of families and many children live, near the Paraguay river that periodically overflows, flooding the area. Such deluges worsen the already depauperate conditions of the community. The school hosts children who live in vulnerable socio-economic conditions and who are exposed daily to violence and abuse. In addition to adolescents and youth, adults in the area commonly abuse drugs and are alcohol dependent. The local crime rate is very high. The school not only offers high quality primary and secondary education, but is also attentive to the necessities of local families. As such, the school offers counseling services for youth and their parents as well as a cafeteria service that guarantees, after children have eaten lunch at school, that children carry home a nutritional meal in the evening for the entire family.



The José María Bogarín school became a part of the Global Network of Schools for the “Scholas Occurrentes,” meeting, inspired by Pope Francis. Every day it receives 620 children from 6 to 18 years of age.



El Shaddai, Lord of Heights, God of Depths,  
You are a compassionate father who gathers all our tears;  
You are a tender mother that welcomes us in the palm of your hand;  
You are our brother who shares our tired steps;  
You are the fire that lights in us a burning zeal;  
You are the spirit that everyone breathes;  
You are broken bread to give a new life;  
You are scattered wine which satiates the thirsty;  
You are a presence which accompanies the lonely;  
You are the merciful who forgives the downtrodden;  
You are a hope that which renews our inner clouds;  
You are a child who opens the way to the kingdom;  
You are a migrant who travels with us on our journey;  
You are the breeze which renews our Lasallian commitment.  
Help us start each day with passion and excitement.  
Help us to be better students, teachers, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters.  
Enable us to be a caring, helpful presence for others in the world and to show others through our actions that you are living in our hearts . . . forever.

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