

LASALLIAN INSET TRAINING

Report to the Headteachers Conference, January 2007

by Michael Worthington

It is recognized that there is a need to share the vision of De La Salle and reflect on it in the current times. There is a need to reflect on the characteristics of a Lasallian school. It was important for the De La Salle and it is important for our schools. With this in mind, the Formation Group is suggesting a selection of INSET sessions.

The sessions will focus on:

- i) newly qualified teachers
- ii) teachers new to Lasallian schools
- iii) transfer from primary schools
- iv) the school curriculum
- v) Heads of Department and Faculty
- vi) Pastoral staff
- vii) Headteachers new to Lasallian schools.

Such a programme is ambitious, so the Formation Group has decided to focus on three areas initially:

- i) A three year programme for Heads to develop Lasallian spirituality and the characteristics of Lasallian schools.
- ii) A three year LACE programme based on an understanding of Lasallian spirituality and the application of it to the school position.
- iii) A programme of induction for teachers new to Lasallian schools, to be held each September.

Items i) and ii) would be on a rolling programme raising the level of knowledge and understanding each year. The possibility of developing a course in Lasallian studies along the lines of the Buttimer course is now being explored. We have held dis-

cussions with the Irish and are in contact with the Brothers in Australia who are developing a distance learning course validated by the University of Melbourne. It will be a blended learning process involving face to face contact and on line study.

The first, LACE weekend details have already been circulated and attendees are signing up. The weekend, led by Alan Murphy, will be a period of presentation and reflection. Participants are invited to bring their Vision statement and reflect on:

- Christian ethos in the school
- What would an ideal Christian school be?
- Exploration of De la Salle's vision for the Christian school.
- Compare and contrast, actual, ideal, Lasallian
- Implications for me and my school.
- Commissioning

There will be a special service of Commissioning to close the LACE weekend when all present will be empowered to go out and develop their schools in the Lasallian Christian tradition.

In addition to all this, Terry Collins is developing a resource link on line, details of which have already been circulated to members of the Formation Group. It is hoped that a programme such as this will lead all involved in Lasallian schools to develop their knowledge and understanding of De la Salle's vision for our schools and be able to work towards his ideals.

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