

Brother Visitor's Letter

Dear Lasallians,

As you read this the New Year of 2009 is already upon us. Our joyful celebrations of Christmas, and the ringing in of the New Year with family and friends, gradually fade from memory along with one or two of our more rashly-made New Year's resolutions! Inevitably, there is something of an anti-climax when, following the dramatic countdown to the passing of the old year, we realise that the ushering in of the new does not radically change our circumstances, situations or outstanding personal challenges to say nothing about the global challenges created by the present financial and economic crisis. When the reality of life returns and the holidays end we are back to our daily routine but, as Christians, we return with the firm conviction that the Christmas event – God becoming flesh in Jesus – is re-enacted in each of us daily as we fulfil our role as “ambassadors” of Jesus Christ in our Lasallian ministries.

Our routine can thus be transformed into “epiphany moments” as we respond to the movement of the Spirit in the humdrum and ordinary experiences of life. In this sense we can agree with the Anglican chaplain, Stephen Shakespeare, that the “ordinary is misnamed” since it is actually in these “ordinary” events of life that our character is shaped by the choices we make. It is also in the ordinariness and routine of daily life that we become “instruments of salvation” to those confided to our care. In so doing we also find our path to holiness. In this way, as J.H. Newman reminds us, each of us plays our unique role in the tapestry of salvation: “God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission.” As Lasallians we embrace this new year of mission strengthened and encouraged by the insights of our Founder that we exercise this mission in collaboration, “together and by association”, and that ultimately “this work is yours, Lord”.

In sending my best wishes to you, and to all whom you love, at the beginning of this New Year, I also want to thank you once again for your commitment to the Lasallian mission and hope that your ministry will be abundantly blessed during the coming year. I also take this opportunity to inform you officially that this will be the last edition of “Lasallians: Great Britain and Malta” in its current form. As some of you are aware, in recent months we have been evaluating the role of the Newsletter in Lasallian life in our District. The result of this evaluation is that we have decided to replace the present Newsletter with another publication, to be published two or three times yearly, which we hope will more accurately reflect our Lasallian reality today. In broadening the scope of the Newsletter, “widening our tent” as it were, the new editorial board will be dependent on contributions from you at the Lasallian grass-roots. I have every confidence that you will respond creatively and generously to the requests that you will receive from the editorial board in due course. The first edition of the new publication is scheduled for early summer 2009.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current editor, Bro. David Robinson, for his many years of generous and dedicated service to the production of “Lasallians: Great Britain and Malta”.


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bro. Aidan Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

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