

# Report of the Lasallian Assembly – April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008

The purpose of this Assembly was to enable our Lasallian colleagues to have some direct input into the forthcoming District Chapter. In this it was modelled in some way on the process used in recent years in the Institute in which the International Assembly (Oct-Nov 2006) – "Associated for the Lasallian Educational Mission" – was the forum through which Lasallians directly involved in mission were invited to contribute to the elaboration of Institute policy, which was subsequently developed by the 44th General Chapter in May 2007.



Our Assembly began with a brief presentation by Bro. Aidan in which he gave an overview of the process used by the International Assembly and the General Chapter, highlighting the community dimension of both experiences and the importance of building understanding through the gathering of significant data. He then indicated some key elements in Lasallian discernment that were integrated into both experiences before listing the main outcomes from both events. In particular he stressed the Institute-wide search to find adequate structures to appropriately address the key role of Lasallian partners in mission as the actual number of active Brothers declines.

Our own District's attempt to grapple with this challenge was traced by Bro. Terry Collins who walked the Assembly through the significant steps – Regional meetings, Assemblies, mission group meetings (e.g. Kintbury Teams, Bristol (LAMB)), Chapters ... – that the District has taken in Lasallian Association from 2001 to the present day including the creation of the GB Council for the Lasallian

Educational Mission (LEM) which was established in July 2005.

Following these presentations there was time for Group reflection and plenary discussion in which participants were invited to share their actual experience of Lasallian association and to suggest issues that the Assembly might like to address to the forthcoming District Chapter. Among the major issues raised in the open forum, facilitated by Alan Murphy, were the following:

1. The need for adequate formation for mission – to deliver Lasallian programmes for staff, Chaplains, Governors, students, and the extended Lasallian family;
2. Prioritising our mission commitments in view of available resources;
3. How to ensure the continuation of the Lasallian spirit in a changing context;
4. Clarity about terminology – e.g. "Lasallian"; "association" – and the tension between inclusion and exclusion;
5. Structures and organisation that address adequate representation today rather than revert to the default structures of the Brothers/Canon Law etc;
6. Membership of Commissions / Councils / Assemblies / Chapters / Trusts and how it is arrived at;
7. Effective communication within the District – newsletter(s); electronic news; website(s); internet facilities e.g. Facebook/YouTube; scheduling of meetings in good time etc.

