

# The Lasallian Educational Mission Council (GB)

Sunday 17 June, 2007

(Notes of the meeting, by [Terry Collins](#))

**Present:** Sean Sellors (Chair). Thomas Campbell, Terry Collins, Siân Grant, Owen Smith Michael Worthington.

**Apologies:** Conrad Bannon, Clare Tickel.

## Previous meeting.

The notes of the LEM Council meeting held on January 15<sup>th</sup> were accepted. Under Matters Arising, Brother Sean explained the steps he had taken to promote the formation of a group of Young Lasallians, culminating in a day of reflection held in Oxford on 14 June. (Further details are given below.)

The LEM Council meeting scheduled for April (in conjunction with the Lasallian Assembly) was unavoidably cancelled, but we did have available Brother Benet's 'Report of the Assembly' as published in the June issue of the *Lasallians* magazine, and we agreed to use this as our working document for the current meeting.

## REPORT OF THE LASALLIAN ASSEMBLY

This was the main item for the meeting.

### Lasallian Formation

This was clearly a major item in the Assembly Report, and the LEM Council was keen to discuss the matter in further detail with the members of the Formation Group (Owen and Mike Worthington) who are also members of the Council. They explained the developments that had taken place since the Assembly and reported that a meeting was planned for October at which representatives from Australia (including Gerard Rummery) would discuss the project in detail with our Formation Group to see how it could be best adapted to Great Britain.

It was reported that some variation in the uptake of the project had been evident in Australia. The Council asked that, in the October meeting, some consideration be given to the causes of this variation in the hope that they could be identified and guarded against.

The comments in the Assembly Report about the MA aspects of the programme were noted and endorsed. However, the Council pointed out that there are a number of existing Inservice MA programmes in schools in this country which could well be open to a Lasallian input on a modular basis. They encouraged the Formation Group to explore this possibility, perhaps in consultation with Alan Murphy.

Some consideration was given to the target group envisaged by the project. The Council stressed that it is important to see the project as part of a wider vision of Lasallian Formation, which is a complex bundle that includes induction, INSET and spiritual formation. The Council asked that consideration be given to the awarding of some kind of certificate of Lasallian studies.

### A Lasallian Centre

With regard to the question of a 'Lasallian Centre', it was reported that the members of the Formation Group were in favour of setting up an 'Office' with resources, rather than a kind of conference centre. The LEM Council stressed that there was some urgency about reaching a decision on this question, and that firm proposals need to go to the District Council and the Economic Council in the near future. The matter will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting of the Formation Group, which is scheduled for 14 July.

It was pointed out that there is a link here with the point raised in the Assembly Report (Session 8) concerning the availability of Lasallian information and the need for some kind of secretariat. The Formation Group were asked to include this in their considerations.

### Participation in Lasallian Assemblies

The LEM Council noted the comments in the Assembly Report (Session 8) that people were generally happy with the idea of an open invitation, but that the manner of publicising this needs to be improved. It was agreed that we would be better informed on this issue after

using the procedure for a second time. Consequently it was decided to use the same procedures for the next Assembly (in October), viz. publication in the Lasallians magazine supplemented by targeted individual invitations from the Brother Visitor.

## REPORT ON THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Brother Sean gave a verbal report on the 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter which he attended as the delegate of the District. He said that although the Chapter had been composed entirely of Brothers, the Lasallian associates had in fact made a major contribution to it through the Report of the MEL International Assembly. The report was presented to the Chapter by lay people representing the Assembly, and it was well received by the delegates. It received a great deal of attention in the discussions and debates, and the Chapter has recommended that all Districts take steps to examine its 'main orientations' in greater detail with a view to applying them to their local situations.

In our District is clearly a responsibility of the LEM Council to give a lead in this exploration. The Orientations from the MEL Assembly will provide a good basis for the next Lasallian Assembly in October. However, there is a need for some preparatory work in analysing the document and identifying the salient points in order to facilitate an effective discussion. The Council members agreed to meet again on 8 July with this single item on the agenda.

Brother Sean reported on the changes in Institute structures inaugurated by the Chapter. He explained the new role of General Councillors as Regionals and explained the composition of the Region of Europe and the Mediterranean (RELEM), which will have Brother Jacques D'Huitemau as its Regional Councillor. Sean emphasised that "association" is still very much on the agenda, and we as a District must continue to explore the right ways of incorporating association into structures

that are suitable for us. In the discussion that ensued, the LEM Council felt that an important part of the work of the next District Chapter would have to be the evaluation of the structures for association that we have set up as a response to the District Chapter of 2004. We need to give some thought to new forms of Lasallian commitment appropriate to people's situations and aspirations.

## YOUNG LASALLIANS

Fran Wright and Helen Davis joined the Council members for this part of the meeting, which was by way of a follow up to the joint meeting of 15 January. They described the steps they had taken since then to develop a core group of Young Lasallians. The Day of Reflection on 14 June (involving an Emmaus walk to Port Meadow) had been a success, even though the turnout was less than hoped for. The group had been able to analyse the kind of supports they needed and could offer.

They propose organising a regular annual event (possibly in Advent), when Young Lasallians can come together to reflect on a chosen theme. They propose organising a system of 'praying partners' among Young Lasallians. They expressed the need for more induction into Lasallian spirituality, and it is hoped that the Formation Group will respond to this request. They will set up an online contact group for Young Lasallians. They will try to identify individuals in different localities who can take the initiative in organising local groups.

The LEM Council members expressed their full support for these efforts and encouraged them to continue.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

8 July

23 September

The September meeting will take place in Bristol and will include a session of sharing with all those involved in the LAMB.