

Brother Visitor's Letter

Dear Lasallians,

Greetings and best wishes to all of you within the District and beyond our local borders. As I sit here today in Oxford putting these few thoughts together I am acutely conscious of the fact that I am doing something that was most certainly not on my radar screen late last year! At that time I was busily engaged with David Hawke, General Councillor for our Asia-Pacific Region, developing and delivering different types of formation programmes in various Sectors of that Region, from Pakistan in the west to the Philippines and Japan in the east. As you can imagine, given the different cultural, religious and Lasallian contexts to be found there, it was an immensely fulfilling, inspiring, challenging and privileged experience for which I am extremely grateful to all who made it so memorable. I would have been more than happy to see out my Asian contract for the next couple of years had not the gentle, unobtrusive yet persistent designs of Providence, such an essential characteristic of our Lasallian heritage, intervened and pointed me in the direction of Oxford! I take up this new responsibility convinced of God's faithfulness in my own life and in the Lasallian mission that he has confided to all of us. I believe that the many expressions of support from Lasallians throughout the District and beyond since my appointment is but one example of that faithfulness.

I know that I speak on behalf of all of you as I take this opportunity to thank Sean for his very generous service of the District over the last twelve years as Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor. His unfailing good humour and wit, sensitivity, insight and collaborative ability have enabled him to lead the District through uncharted and difficult waters during that time. In the thriving examples of Lasallian association that were highlighted during the [Assembly at Kintbury on April 19th](#) we witnessed some of the fruits of that leadership. We wish him every blessing and success as he embarks on a well-earned sabbatical which I know will prepare him for further service rather than retirement!

Finally, let me say how happy I was with the above-mentioned recent Lasallian Assembly at Kintbury. Not only was it a wonderful opportunity for me to meet old Lasallian friends and make new ones but it also gave me some direct experience of how the District has grappled, and continues to grapple, with the immensely important but complex issue of Lasallian Association for mission. As the recent 44th General Chapter highlighted, there is no default setting for this journey but I was heartened by the evident desire of the Assembly to continue the search for appropriate structures that will address our particular reality in this District. This will inevitably involve more tension and pain since we are in uncharted waters and we will be called to let go of old certainties to embrace the new that is emerging. As we move towards the season of Pentecost let's ask the Spirit to guide us on that journey, to continue to open our minds, to sow the seeds of hope, and to make our hearts burn for the mission of Jesus that has been confided to us irrespective of age or ministry.



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