

GENESIS FOR LASALLIANS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

by Brother Alberto Gómez, General Councillor

In the beginning of the third millennium of the era of His Son, God saw that thousands of Brothers, Lasallian Sisters and Lasallian Catechists were dedicating their lives to the ministry of human and Christian education, and that they had formed communities in which each person could feel respected, valued and loved by the rest.

And God said, "That is good!"

And that was the first day of the new dawn in the history of the Institute of de La Salle.

And then God saw that 80,000 of His sons and daughters were collaborating as lay teachers in this mission of education. And that many of these were inspired by the gift of the Spirit that He had poured out on His Church in the person of John Baptist de La Salle, and that they wanted to work together and by association so as to live the life of a professional teacher as a real Christian vocation.

And God said, "That is very good!" And He blessed them all, because He is the Father of all and wants all to work together in building His Kingdom.

And that was the second day.

And God saw that the Good News of the Gospel was touching the minds and hearts of nearly a million children and young people, and that Lasallian schools were becoming places of social commitment and of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue. He saw that the young people were taking to heart the New Commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you", and that the fresh breeze of the Good News was covering the earth and everyone felt themselves a bit more human and a little more as brothers and sisters.

And God said, "That is just what My Son wants".

And so the third day came to a close.

And God saw that the smallest of His children had access to education and to culture and they could all earn a living with dignity, so that injustice could be overcome and exploitation by the powerful eliminated. In Lasallian classrooms they learned that no ideology is worth a single drop of human blood and that all our knowledge is nothing compared to God's knowledge.

And God said: "Very good. That is very necessary!"

And the fourth day was the rebirth of a world of solidarity, charity and respect for life, in which selfish interests were transcended

And God saw that Lasallian Brothers, Sisters and Associates were trying to hear the cry of the poor (His favourites) and that they were using their intellectual and material resources in order to help them, making themselves poor in spirit, with God as their only and greatest treasure.

And God said, "Fantastic! This is what I always wanted!"

And there were glad faces and justice and peace and bread for all. And so passed the fifth day.

And God saw that the members of the Lasallian Family were being formed and accompanied and were associating with one another in order to best respond to His saving plan.

And some were telling others how they had recognized Jesus, the Master, in the breaking of bread - the bread of brotherhood, of culture and of faith.

Oh, and our daily bread as well!

And God said to them, "That is really great! Congratulations!"

And that was the sixth day.

On the seventh day, God saw that the work was complete and He came to the conclusion that there should be a great feast to celebrate it all.

And so He commanded His angels to send out invitations for a big banquet with John Baptist de La Salle, Benildus, Miguel, Mutien and all the martyrs who had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, and with the many other educators who had spent their lives sowing the seeds of the Gospel in the schools.

When they were all gathered together God blessed them and said:

You happy people, you will shine as stars for all eternity!

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There is a PowerPoint slide show to accompany this text. It can be downloaded from the Great Britain web site www.delasalle.org.uk

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