



The following aims to clarify and provide information helpful for you in your role as Lasallian Animator. This is not an exhaustive list and is subject to updates.

Important Terms to Note

- The correct spelling in English of some important terms:

Correct	Incorrect
• Saint John Baptist de La Salle • St John Baptist de La Salle • Saint La Salle • Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle (in French) • Lasallian • Lasallian Family • Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools • De La Salle Brothers • District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta	• Saint John Baptist De La Salle • LaSallian • La Sallian • LaSalle • de La Salle Brothers • Lasallian family • district

- *Our District:* The District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta sometimes referred to as La Salle IGBM, or IGBM.
- *Our Visitor (or Provincial):* Brother Ben Hanlon, FSC
- *Our Auxiliary Visitors (or Auxiliary Provincials):* Brother Michael Curran, FSC and Brother Thomas Walsh, FSC
- *Our Region:* The Lasallian Region of Europe and the Mediterranean or RELEM. RELEM is an acronym for the French: Région Lasallienne Europe Méditerranée

Lasallian Prayer Format

Start of Lasallian Prayers:

[Sign of the Cross]

“Let us remember we are in the Holy Presence of God... and let us adore him”

At the conclusion of Lasallian Prayers:

Leader: Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Response: Pray for us

Leader: Live Jesus in our hearts

Response: Forever!

[Sign of the Cross]

Important Websites for Reference

<https://www.lasalleigbm.org/> - The website for our District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta

<https://sites.google.com/lasallemedia.org/dlan-microsite>: DLAN Microsite with helpful resources and links

<https://www.lasalle.org/en/> - The website for the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

<https://lasallianresources.org/> - A helpful website for resources and to help plan Formation

<https://www.lasallian.ai/> - This AI platform answers questions using information pulled from exclusively Lasallian documents.

Safeguarding

We all have a responsibility for protecting children, young people and adults at risk from neglect and from all forms of abuse. More information and relevant contact information for safeguarding leads in each country can be found [HERE](#).

From our District website: “The De La Salle Brothers are fully committed to protecting children, young people and adults at risk from neglect and from all forms of abuse. This commitment is based on our Christian belief in the dignity and uniqueness of every person and in the recognition that each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God.

We abide by the safeguarding policies and guidelines provided by the Roman Catholic Church. Each canonical jurisdiction of our District will work to shared approaches and standards, but with local guidelines where relevant and necessary, ensuring compliance with national policies and procedures for safeguarding. They will carry responsibility for implementation and hold localised accountability.”

The Lasallian Identity Framework

This document, which offers a tool for schools and centres a framework for reflection, is intended to support the growth of Lasallian Charism and Ethos. It contains *9 Key Features of Lasallian Education*. The features align with our *5 Core Principles of a Lasallian School* and the *3 Pillars of Lasallian Identity*. You can find the complete *Lasallian Identity Framework* [HERE](#).

9 Key Features of Lasallian Education



3 Pillars of
Lasallian Identity



5 Lasallian
Core Principles



District of Ireland, Great Britain, & Malta

Lasallian Acronyms

AIMEL: Assemblée Internationale de la Mission Éducative Lasallienne / International Lasallian Educational Mission Assembly

AFSC: Affiliated Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)

BFSC: Benefactor Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)

CIAMEL: Conseil International pour l'Association et la Mission Éducative Lasallienne / International

Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission

CIL: Centro Internazionale Lasalliano / International Lasallian Center

MEL: Mission Éducative Lasallienne / Lasallian Educational Mission

FSC: Fratres Scholarum Christianarum (Brothers of the Christian Schools)

PARC: Pacific-Asia Regional Conference

RELAF: Région Lasallienne Afrique-Madagascar (Africa) / Lasallian Region of Africa

RELAL: Región Latinoamericana Lasallista (Latin America) / Lasallian Region of Latin America

RELAN: Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord (North America) / Lasallian Region of North America

RELEM: Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée (Europe) / Lasallian Region of Europe and the Mediterranean

SECOLI: Service de Coopération Lasallienne Internationale / International Lasallian Cooperation Service

UMAEL: World Association of Lasallian Alumni

YL: Young Lasallians

Lasallian Glossary

This glossary defines many terms used in the District of Ireland, Great Britain & Malta (IGBM) that are unique to the Lasallian Family.

This glossary is a compilation based on two resources. The first from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). It can be found [HERE](#) on our District website and is used with permission. It also includes terms and definitions found in the *Declaration of the Lasallian Educational Mission: Challenges, Convictions and Hopes* (Brothers of the Christian Schools. Rome. 2020). The full document can be found [HERE](#).

AIMEL: International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL). International gathering of Brothers, Partners and Associates to reflect, evaluate and decide on matters concerned with the Lasallian educational mission. The Assembly is committed to responding to the present realities based on the Lasallian charism. Participation of all the Districts is carried out by means of delegates, of which two thirds are not Brothers.

Apostolate: the kind of work to which the Church through its various agencies sends people and institutions on mission.

Aspirant: a man who is considering, usually in a non-residency programme, whether or not he is called by God to become a De La Salle Brother.

Assembly: name for a convention held for Brothers and Partners from the Region, District or more locally.

Association: The term has been used frequently in the Lasallian tradition and is related to the expression "together and by association." It has its origin in the commitment made by John Baptist de La Salle and 12 Brothers on June 6, 1694. Through the vows of association, obedience and stability, they pledged to maintain the educational mission. This historical act is

the foundation of association of the Brothers of the Institute throughout its history. Association is the central vow of the De La Salle Brothers by which they promise to associate themselves for the service of the poor through education. Currently, association now refers to the new forms of commitment on behalf of the Lasallian educational mission, the result of the participation of new agents who are involved in it. Association is a journey which unites those who, from their vocation, share Lasallian mission, the charism, and spirituality.

Associates: "We recognize as being associated with Lasallian mission all intentional groups and all persons who respond to an interior call by an educational commitment which has Lasallian characteristics, and which has been authenticated by a competent authority" (Circular 447, p. 6).

"[Association] can be expressed in diverse ways:

- For the Brothers, the vow that forms part of their religious profession.
- Some lay Lasallians will choose to express it publicly after a process and according to the customs of their District.
- Other lay Lasallians will live it out implicitly through their commitment in the Lasallian mission" (Circular 461, p. 7, 4.10).

Auxiliary Visitor: a Brother nominated by the Visitor and appointed by the Superior General to assist the Visitor and substitute for him in his absence. Also known as Auxiliary Provincial or Assistant Provincial.

Brother: title given to vowed religious of the De La Salle Brothers. Comparable to titles such as "Sister," "Father," "Reverend." Commonly used in other religious orders to denote a vowed religious who is not an ordained priest. The official religious habit worn by Brothers throughout the world, especially on formal occasions, but replaced by other approved apparel in various locales, is a black robe with a white "bib" called a "rabat."

Brothers' Community: a religious community is a canonically recognised group of people belonging to a religious institute and living in the same residence according to the rule of that institute. The building or residence is often called the community. Sometimes the word "community" is extended to mean the whole institute.

Brothers of the Christian Schools: Members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The English translation of "Fratres Scholarum Christianarum"(FSC), the official name of the religious institute founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. "Each Brother takes upon himself the responsibility for integrating within his own person these constitutive dimensions of his vocation: consecration to God as a lay religious, the apostolic ministry of education, especially among the poor and community life" (Rule, 12). "The Brothers express their consecration" by the "vow of association for the service of the poor through education, stability in the Institute, obedience, chastity and poverty" (Rule, 25). The Brothers are also known as "De La Salle Christian Brothers," "De La Salle Brothers" or "Christian Brothers" in different parts of the world.

Brothers' Formation: the initial formation of a Brother typically consists of a year or two of postulancy, a year of novitiate, and five to eight years of temporary (annual) profession of vows. After he professes perpetual (final) vows, he continues his formation through the entirety of his life.

Canon Law: the Code of Canon Law (1983) contains some 1680 canons, or official regulations, governing Roman Catholic Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Brothers, Sisters, institutes, laity, parishes, schools, sacraments, etc.

Canonical: an adjective used to describe any person or action that conforms to the requirements of Canon Law, such as a Visitor or a formal visitation.

Capitulant: a person who attends a gathering, such as a General Chapter, not by election, but rather as a representative who was appointed or is attending by right of office. See delegate.

Charism: a grace or spiritual gift given to those in apostolic or missionary work in the service of others; e.g., the gifts of preaching, prophecy and healing are charisms; the term is sometimes applied to entire institutes as well as to individuals.

Contact: a man who indicates an interest in becoming a De La Salle Brother and with whom the Brothers remain in contact as he discerns his life's vocation.

Director: the local religious superior of a community with terms limited by Canon Law or by the Rule.

District: a geographical area that is an official, canonical, administrative unit in the Institute under the direction of a Visitor. The District of IGBM comprises Ireland, Great Britain and Malta.

District Mission Assembly: an assembly of Brothers and Lasallian Partners from across the District to propose directions and priorities for the District for the ensuing four years

District Chapter: a policy shaping body of Brothers elected to nominate Visitors and to formulate legislative acts adapting the Rule to local conditions; the body normally meets when the Brother Visitor is about to complete his term of office.

District Chapter Acts: legislative acts or directives coming forward from a District Chapter.

Formation: an expression for the training and education by a religious institute of its members and Partners.

Founder: Saint John Baptist de La Salle, a priest born in Reims, France, April 30, 1651, who in 1680 founded Christian schools for the education of poor children and a religious congregation of laymen called the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers. He died on April 7, 1719, and was canonised a saint of the Catholic Church on May 24, 1900. On May 15, 1950, Saint La Salle was proclaimed Patron of All Teachers of Youth by the Catholic Church.

General Chapter: conducted every seven years, the General Chapter is responsible for the whole Body of the Institute and is held to undertake a periodic evaluation of the life of the Institute, to provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, and to set out the main guidelines for future action. In addition, the Chapter elects the Superior General, Vicar General and the General Councillors. It has the power to take all suitable legislative and administrative measures that concern the establishments and members of the Institute (Rule, 112).

General Council: the leadership of the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers comprised of the Superior General, the Vicar General and Generals Councillors. In 2025, there are six General Councillors.

General Councillor: a Brother elected or appointed to assist the Superior General and the Vicar General in administering the work of the Institute.

Generalate: the headquarters of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, often called the Centre of the Institute or by its Italian name, Casa Generalizia.

Initial Formation: a time in the formative process of the Brothers' vocation that includes the postulancy, novitiate and a period of temporary vows.

Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and approved by Pope Benedict XIII in 1725, an institute of pontifical right, composed exclusively of lay religious. "The members of this Institute live in community and call themselves "Brothers" (Rule, 5). The term "Institute" is more accurate than the terms "congregation" and "order."

International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU): a network of Lasallian higher education institutions around the world that supports the Lasallian mission and offers opportunities for collaboration, research and exchange between member institutions.

International Lasallian Centres / Centro Internazionale Lasalliano (CIL): a programme of Lasallian formation conducted at the Generalate in Rome, and occasionally in the Regions, in which Brothers, Lasallian Sisters, and Partners from around the world participate. The length of each CIL programme varies from one month to nine months.

Lasallian: an adjective that describes the spirituality and the educational approach of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the mission, as well as any school, centre or movement associated with the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The word is also used as a noun, singular or plural, to describe those people who are involved in continuing the charism in Lasallian ministries.

Lasallian Animator: A Lasallian who, within their local educational community, supports the Head Teacher or Principal with the responsibility of making known the essential elements of the Lasallian tradition. In conjunction with the Head Teacher or Principal, the Lasallian Animator will receive pertinent communication regarding Lasallian formation, news, initiatives and invitations, and Lasallian Association from the District. They serve to support local efforts in the educational community to ensure the Lasallian ethos is fostered at the local level with faculty, staff, students,

and their families. At some schools and centres there are Animation Teams who support this work.

Lasallian Charism: "The Lasallian charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Church in view of human and Christian education" (Rule 19). The grace or gift is granted in the person of John Baptist de La Salle and embodied in the Lasallian community (Lasallian Essays 3, p. 37).

Lasallian Educational Mission: "The purpose of this Institute is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it. Christian schools, which need to be constantly renewed, are the preferred sphere of activity for the Brothers. The Institute is open also to other forms of teaching and education, suited to the needs of time and place" (Rule, 3). The Lasallian Educational Mission is sometimes referred to as MEL which is the acronym for the French for Mission Éducative Lasallienne.

Lasallian Family: a term used to refer collectively to those who participate in the Lasallian mission. "The expression Lasallian Family designates all those who participate in the Lasallian educational enterprise, especially those who are moving toward a sharing in the spirit and the mission of St. John Baptist de La Salle" (Circular 435, p. 49). "All who participate in the Lasallian educational enterprise belong to the Family" (Circular 461, p. 54, 5.14).

Lasallian Partner: the most common and preferred term used to describe people who are co-workers, associates or colleagues of the Brothers in their ministries.

Lasallian Youth: an international movement and formation programme which empowers students to be examples of faith, service and community through mission experiences, retreat programmes, social justice education and service-learning opportunities.

Letters of Affiliation (AFSC): a person formally honoured by the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers for having served the Lasallian mission in an extraordinary way. The affiliated member may use the initials "AFSC" after their name.

Ministry: in general, ministry is the carrying out of an ecclesial mission according to a charism recognised by the Church. In some English-speaking countries, "ministry" is also used to refer to works or educational centres including the particular functions that people carry out in educational works.

Mission (also Lasallian mission): from the Latin root meaning "send," the term includes the various works or apostolates to which the Church sends people and institutions. The purpose of the Lasallian mission is "to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it".

Novice: a man in the Brothers vocation programme who has completed the postulancy phase and enters the novitiate. A novice receives a Brother's robe and undertakes a year-long formation programme prior to taking first (temporary) vows and proceeding with further

academic and pedagogical training. The term is used similarly in other institutes of consecrated women and men.

Novitiate: a yearlong experience for men who are discerning their vocation as De La Salle Brothers that gives them a chance to deepen one's formation.

Partner: A person who, not being a Brother, participates in the Lasallian mission in many different ways. Its distinctive feature is participating in the mission. The 43rd General Chapter refers to Partners as those people who "share our mission in its multiple educational, catechetical, apostolic and professional aspects, and make it possible for the mission to be accomplished" (Circular 447, p. 4).

Perpetually Professed Members: Refers to the Brothers of the Christian Schools who have professed final vows.

Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools: The document that contains the Constitutions and Statutes that regulate the life of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. "The Rule manifests the charism of the Institute and defines the meaning of the Brothers' life in today's context. It shows them how to live out the Gospel as the Founder did" (Rule, 158). The current Rule went into effect on September 8, 2015.

Perpetual Profession: See vows

Postulant: a candidate in the first stage of initial formation who discerns his vocation while sharing in the community and apostolic life of the De La Salle Brothers. The postulancy stage precedes the novitiate.

Provincial: a title synonymous with the animation and leadership role of Visitor.

Provincial Offices: the official name of the offices where the Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor and their staff work. It also refers to the community in which the Provincial (Visitor) resides. In the District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta our Provincial Offices are in Castletown, County Laois in Ireland and in Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Rabat: (pronounced ruh-bah) the two-piece white collar that is part of the Brothers' habit/robe.

Region: a geographical area officially designated as a union of several Districts in the Institute, generally selected on the basis of contiguity and common languages. In 2025, there are five Regions in the Institute: Pacific-Asia Regional Conference (PARC), Région Lasallienne Afrique-Madagascar (RELAF), Région Lasallienne Europe-Méditerranée (RELEM), Región Latinoamericana Lasallista (RELAL), and Région Lasallienne de l'Amérique du Nord / Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN).

Robe/habit: The traditional habit of the Brothers is the robe and white rabat.

Rule: a canonically approved set of articles (constitutions and statutes) pertaining to the mission, duties and practices that the Brothers throughout the world adapt locally as directives for their communities and Districts. The Rule of the De La Salle Brothers was revised in 2015 based on the modifications made to the 1987 version at the 45th General Chapter in 2014 following several years of work by commissions.

Sector: a geographic area within a District that is made up of communities and ministries that share similarities in language, history or culture.

Shared Mission: adopted by the 41st General Chapter in 1993 to refer to Brothers and Partners sharing responsibility for the Lasallian mission. Today, “association for mission” refers to those who identify themselves as the sons and daughters of John Baptist de La Salle participating in the saving work of education and Evangelisation.

Signum Fidei: a Latin expression meaning “Sign of Faith,” symbolised by a five-pointed star and incorporated into the seal of the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers as well as many Lasallian schools and organisations. It is also the name of an organisation of lay Lasallian associates that was established in 1976.

Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Superior General): the highest officer of the Institute with canonical rights and duties. He works and resides at the Generalate in Rome and is assisted by a Vicar and Councillors. At the 46th General Chapter in 2023, Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, was elected Superior General. “The Brother Superior General is elected by the General Chapter and he exercises his authority over the whole Institute, in accordance with the norms of Canon Law and Institute legislation. His mandate runs until the following General Chapter (seven-year term). He can be re-elected” (Rule, 126).

Vicar General: the second highest officer of the Institute. At the 46th General Chapter in 2023, Brother Carlos Gomez, FSC, was elected Vicar General.

Visitor: the Religious Superior of a District, also called Provincial, and having canonical rights and duties.

Vocation: a call from God that individuals experience to live as a responsible baptised person. An individual’s call or vocation may be to a particular expression of that baptism, as a member of a religious institute, to single or married life, and/or to a particular profession.

Vows: the deliberate, free and public promises to God made by the Brothers. The first and central vow is that of association for the educational service of the poor. They also take a vow of stability in the Institute. The traditional vows of obedience, chastity and poverty flow from association and stability to express their religious consecration for the glory of God. The Brothers express this consecration, first by temporary and then by perpetual profession. First vows and annual (or temporary) vows are terms that respectively describe vows taken for a single year at the end of the novitiate, and vows taken for a single year which are renewable on an annual basis until the time for perpetual profession (generally after five years of annual vows).

Young Lasallians: an international movement, promoted by the International Council of Young Lasallians, keeping young people (typically ages 16 to 35) engaged in the Lasallian mission through faith sharing, service of the poor through education, and community building. Young professionals, young alumni, young Brothers, Lasallian youth, Lasallian collegians and Lasallian Volunteers are among those who are considered to be young Lasallians.