

**CARACTERISTICS OF THE LASALLIAN SCHOOL
(Regional Education Committee of The Christian Brothers U.S.A.Toronto)**

The Lasallian school has 3 principal distinguishing marks:

1. Teaching is considered to be a ministry of grace.
2. Association makes it possible to attain the educational goals of the school through the collaboration of teachers who share the same outlook and Gospel values.
3. Schools have well-defined aims: they seek to provide pupils with an education that is intellectual, cultural, religious and vocational, by means of courses that are suited to their needs and which are based on Christian values.

1. THE TEACHER, A MINISTER OF GRACE

LA SALLE
wrote as follows:

AIMS

**Activities suggested
to achieve this**

«Let it be clear, then, in all your relations with the children who are entrusted to you that you look upon yourselves as ministers of God, acting with love, with a sincere and true zeal, accepting with much patience the difficulties you have to suffer...» (MTR 9, 1).

The teacher has the central position in the Lasallian school. De La Salle sees the teacher as a special minister of God's grace for the pupils, and as someone who is called to play a specific role in his providential plan for young people.

The Lasallian teacher grows in sanctity by exercising his educational ministry with zeal, and by accepting his share of responsibility for the work done in the school.

The Lasallian teacher sees his educational ministry as an integral part of his spiritual growth.

Consequently, his personal commitment to the spiritual, academic and vocational education of his pupils is a means for him to lead a life totally directed towards God.

In the Lasallian school, this educational ministry is shared by teachers, the administrative staff, the planners and the school staff as a whole.

1. To show a spirit of faith by living in the presence of God, by recognising the action of God and by responding to it under all circumstances.

2. To show a spirit of faith by seeing one's ministry as a part of one's own spiritual growth.

3. To show a spirit of zeal by a total commitment to the education of the pupils.

4. To show a spirit of zeal by a sympathetic attitude and concern for all the pupils.

5. To show a spirit of zeal by one's efforts for the education of the poor.

1. In class, share prayer with the pupils.

2. Pray, asking for the grace to answer for the pupils before God.

3. Prepare lessons carefully and enhance them with Gospel values.

4. Make an effort to get to know each pupil personally and take his needs into account.

5. Help poor pupils to grow intellectually and socially...

«Your zeal towards the children you teach would not go very far and would not have much result or much success if it limited itself only to words. To be effective, your teaching must be supported by your example» (MTR 10, 3).

De La Salle wants teachers to look upon everything with the eyes of faith.

He encourages them to become aware of the constant presence of God who guides them and guides also the minds of their pupils.

Faith is shown by zeal for the spiritual and temporal good of the pupils, as well as by a fervent commitment to what is seen to be best for their complete education.

This zeal makes the Lasallian teacher work with love for the good of all the pupils, and to show special consideration for those most in need of it.

2. ASSOCIATION

LA SALLE
wrote as follows:

«Union in a community is truly a precious gem. For this reason Our Lord recommended it to his Apostles with insistence before his death. When this is lost, all is lost. Hence, if you wish your community to continue, preserve this virtue carefully» (Med. 91, 2).

In the Lasallian school, teachers act as the brothers and sisters of the pupils.

They do this by ASSOCIATION, on the basis of commonly held Gospel values and a shared desire to make these values a part of their lives and of those of their pupils.

Their work is characterised by mutual charity, that is, by tolerance, generosity, patience, good humour and humility.

Lasallian teachers help to stimulate the spiritual, personal and professional development of each pupil.

They cooperate with others to create a team spirit in the running of the school and in decision making.

They bear witness publicly to their Lasallian character, and welcome those who are interested in sharing their ideals.

The living expression of shared values attracts pupils and other people, inviting them to share in the life of the Lasallian school.

AIMS

1. Commit oneself to a shared undertaking which conforms to New Testament ideals.

2. Live and work in a spirit of mutual charity.

3. Work for the spiritual and personal growth of each person.

4. Create a collegial approach to administration and decision making.

5. Involve parents, pupils, former students and friends in the Lasallian Family.

Activities suggested to achieve this

1. Reflect on the New Testament with the teaching staff.

2. Provide mutual support in a variety of areas, by contributing one's own talents and energy, and by doing all one can to forget mistakes and to correct them.

3. Provide the teaching staff with opportunities to update themselves spiritually and professionally.

4. Hold meeting periodically to consider common worries and the life of the school.

5. Offer parents, pupils, former students and the local community an opportunity to take part in school support programmes.

3. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

LA SALLE
wrote as follows:

«You must, then, look upon this work entrusted to you by pastors, by fathers and mothers, as one of the most important and most necessary services in the Church» (MTR 7, 1).

«Consider that it is only too common for the working class and the poor to allow their children to live on their own, roaming all over... God has had the goodness to remedy so great a misfortune by the establishment of the Christian Schools» (MTR 2, 1).

«This is also why you must have an altogether special esteem for the Christian education and teaching of children... (which) is the very foundation and support of their religion» (MTR 7, 3).

«Are you thoroughly committed to their making (all these truths) a strong impression on the minds of these children?... From this moment take the steps to make it your main concern to teach perfectly the truths of the faith and the practical maxims of the holy Gospel to those who are entrusted to you» (MTR 6, 1).

«You too can perform miracles... by touching the hearts of the children... by rendering your pupils obedient to and faithful in the practice of the maxims of the Gospel... and industrious in school and at home» (Med. 180, 3).

The Lasallian school is a Christian school which shares in the mission of the Catholic Church. Among its primary responsibilities one can mention: religious instruction, religious training, the education of pupils and their cultural development. Teachers provide courses that are adapted to social changes and individual needs.

The Lasallian school is characterised by the importance it attaches to education, and especially to that of the working class and the poor. With energy and enthusiasm, it seeks to attract pupils from a variety of economic strata, of varying intellectual ability, and from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Also it encourages the pupils to be tolerant, to show respect for the individual, to make a genuine commitment to work for justice and peace, as well as for the good of their fellow-pupils and that of the other members of the educational community.

The Lasallian school gives priority to the Christian instruction and education of the pupils. It provides a professional course of religious instruction, and integrates Gospel values in all the subjects taught. Against the background of a traditionally Catholic religious atmosphere, it encourages apostolically inspired forms of service, personal and community prayer and liturgical celebrations.

The Lasallian school strives to provide teaching of a very high quality so as to cater for the needs, the aims and the abilities of the pupils who choose to frequent it. It provides courses which enable pupils to develop their intellectual and personal potential so that they can subsequently be of benefit to society. It provides courses that bring pupils into contact with the physical and social sciences, with mathematics and the arts. The teaching methods used encourage pupils to think and discriminate.

De La Salle advises his teachers to pray for the gift of touching the hearts of their pupils. In the same spirit, Lasallian association seeks to create structures which will lead young people to take up their responsibilities as pupils. By their affection and concern, teachers encourage pupils to face up constantly to their personal obligations and to the possibility of exercising a leadership role.

AIMS

1. Work with the local Church and support it without, however, losing the specific identity of the Lasallian school.

2. Help to fund the education of the less well off.

3. Draw pupils from a variety of economic, cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

4. Promote the following values: tolerance, sensitivity, concern for the poor, for justice, peace and responsibility.

5. Give priority to the religious instruction of the pupils in the Christian faith.

6. Create conditions which will favour a good religious education of the pupils in the Christian spirit.

7. Strive to achieve high educational standards.

8. Set up disciplinary structures which will promote the growth of the individual, the development of a sense of responsibility, and the training of leaders.

Activities suggested to achieve this

1. Motivate the pupils to take part in schemes to help the local Church.

2. Enquire about the sources of income of the poorest pupils.

3. Recruit pupils from all social strata.

4. Include in the curriculum courses dealing with justice and peace.

5. Give priority to religious instruction courses.

6. Encourage pupils to look upon the events of their lives with the eyes of faith.

7. Create courses adapted to the personal needs of pupils and suited to their intellectual ability.

8. Provide pupils with a chance to train as leaders to serve others.

REMARK

These activities are only suggestions to help you think of others that will suit the circumstances in your particular school.