

Introduction to AXIS 17.1, Drawing New Maps of Hope: Lasallian Education in a Time of Renewal

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It is my pleasure to introduce Volume 17, Issue 1 of *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education*. This edition arrives at a significant moment in the life of the Church, the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and the global Lasallian educational mission. Throughout these pages, readers will encounter a common theme that transcends disciplinary boundaries, historical periods, and educational contexts: hope grounded in mission.

The issue opens with a landmark document: Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Letter, *Drawing New Maps of Hope*, issued on the sixtieth anniversary of *Gravissimum educationis*. The Holy Father presents education not merely as the transmission of knowledge but as a profound work of evangelization, human development, and social transformation.

The influence of this vision echoes throughout the contributions that follow. Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, invites educators to embrace creative fidelity, prophetic audacity, and inclusive fraternity. Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, reflects on respect for persons as a sacred practice through which we encounter God in one another.

Several contributions illuminate how vocation emerges through encounter. Kelly Hall recounts her journey at De La Salle Blackfeet School, while Kurt Schackmuth demonstrates how place-making and institutional symbols foster formation, belonging, and discernment.

The vitality of the Lasallian mission is further explored through work focused on evangelization, governance, and institutional renewal. Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, addresses contemporary catechesis and evangelization, while Antoine Beland examines the communion of the Districts of Francophone Canada and Eastern North America.

A distinctive contribution comes from Michele J. Dimaira, whose retrospective medical analysis of Saint John Baptist de La Salle offers an interdisciplinary exploration of the Founder's health and resilience.

The Shared Knowledge Archive preserves important scholarship and historical resources, including the late Brother Gerard Rummery's, FSC, influential treatment of Lasallian spirituality and translated historical studies documenting the expansion of the Brothers throughout North America. In the context of *The Clément Affair*, Richard Tristano examines themes such as paternal authority, social mobility, and cultural transformation in Lasallian history.

We conclude with annotations of recent doctoral research addressing mission integration and leadership in Lasallian education. Together, the contributions in this volume remind us that hope

is not optimism detached from reality but a disciplined commitment to imagining and creating possibilities amid uncertainty.

The pages that follow testify to the enduring relevance of the Lasallian educational tradition. On behalf of the editorial team, I thank our authors, reviewers, translators, and readers for their commitment to advancing Lasallian scholarship and educational practice.

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