

Dear Brothers, Dear Friends, Partners and Associates in Lasallian mission,

Three months have now passed since the end of the 43rd General Chapter. As we sit down to write this letter, we are confident that the Brothers and Partners who were assembled in Rome have already brought home to you the joyful experience that was lived here. A renewed awareness of our common call to be associated for the educational service of the poor gave a focus to our efforts to respond creatively to the challenges of the 20 century.

As we now look back at this assembly that was held in Rome, we are again reminded of the Assembly that took place in Paris in 1694. Undoubtedly as they left that Assembly, those Brothers would not have been able to measure the full impact that their decision to vow association for mission would have had on their personal lives and for their common educational project.

The decisions the Brothers made in 1694 gave a sense of direction and form to the original association and mission of the Society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Likewise, the recommendations and propositions of our assembly will give a new impetus and a new shape to our association in the third millennium; and there is no way we can measure today the full impact that the decisions that were made will have on the future. Our hope, however, is that the efforts we make to implement these recommendations and propositions throughout the world will be animated by the power of the Spirit.

Perhaps, like those first Brothers or even the disciples at Pentecost (Meditation 43.2), we are, in a way, experiencing the same passage from a scattered and fearful community to a community reunited and assembled by the Spirit and sent to proclaim the Good News.

In union then with St. John Baptist de La Salle and his first asso-

ciates, we want now to make ours their prayer: "Send forth your Spirit to give us new life, and you will renew the face of the earth" (Meditation 42.3).

Fraternally in St. John Baptist de La Salle,

Brother Álvaro Rodríguez  
Echeverría

and the members of the  
General Council:

Brother William Mann

Brother Miguel Campos

Brother Victor Franco

Brother Marc Hofer

Brother Yemanu Jehar

Brother Juan Pablo Martin

Brother Claude Reinhardt