



# Lasallian Reflections

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## Are We Quick to Follow the Star? Frequently the Happiness of Someone Depends on It

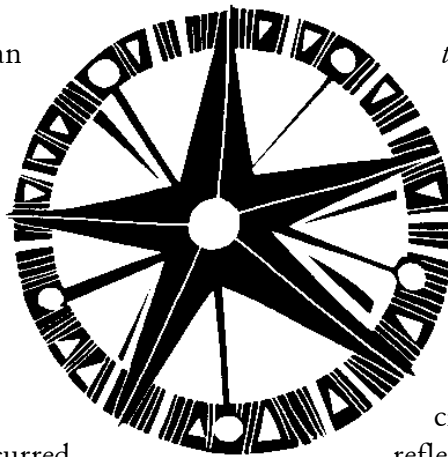
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Webster's defines epiphany as "an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being." While the feast of the Epiphany celebrates an awareness nearly 2,000 years old, let us recognize, however, that we are also experiencing echoes of the Epiphany today.

One echo of the Epiphany occurred at the Huether Education Conference recently. For three days, over 240 Lasallian educators gathered to talk, pray about, and discern how to make their ministries more accessible to those in need.

There was a power at this Huether Education Conference; there was an expectation. The star this group was following came in the form of a question: How can we provide what we provide to those who would otherwise not have it? At the closing liturgy, the Huether Education Conference participants dedicated themselves, resolving to make accessibility to the poor a top priority in their ministries.

De La Salle asks us: "Are we, attentive to the inspirations we receive from God? Are we quick to follow them as these holy Magi were in letting themselves be led by the star that guided them? Frequently, the salva-



*tion and happiness of a soul depend on this prompt fidelity to grace"* (Meditation 96).

Another echo of the Epiphany today is happening in the life of Josh and Adriana Rundle. Josh has listened to the murmurings of the Spirit, going from Lasallian volunteer to principal of San Miguel School. Josh reflects, "Previously I didn't know anything about the Brothers or St. John Baptist de La Salle, but I was really touched and grabbed by De La Salle's writings and mission...I just got caught up in the mission for the education of the poor."

"Teaching was the hardest thing I ever tried to do. I thought I was a complete failure at first...but I kept going back to De La Salle, and reading 'You have been chosen by God to touch the hearts and minds of those entrusted to your care.' I saw at that point that I really didn't have a choice; it was God's choice for me to continue doing this."

"After volunteering, I tried to get out of it. I declined the offer to stay there and keep teaching. I was trying to take those two years, compartmentalize them, and get back on track to where I thought my life was heading. Those two years, however, were formative and almost compelled me to pursue my involvement with the Lasallian world."

By following that star, Josh has inspired many, including his wife, Adriana. I have watched from a distance over the last couple of years how Adriana has sought, with fidelity, to follow those “murmurings” of the Spirit in her own heart.

*Adriana reflects, “I always felt a restlessness in my heart, a desire to do something proactively, and yet a certain skepticism about what I could do to really make a difference. The problems seemed too huge and complex that a part of me lost faith in the change that I could make. San Miguel School has shown me that it doesn't need to be that complicated. We just need to work on 'one child at a time'. Josh and the rest of the San Miguel School team have been a true inspiration in my life. They have taught me to use the passion for social causes and against injustice in a positive and productive way.”*

*“What an awesome and great responsibility to be the person to help paint the ‘face’ of this organization! I couldn't have asked for a better position where I can combine my love for communications, public relations, and graphic design work to a mission that I am so passionate about.”*

Adriana took a significant pay cut to come to San Miguel School. Josh could also be commanding a

handsome salary anywhere else. They have chosen, however, to follow that star.

The Huether Education Conference, Josh, and Adriana are just a few of today's Magi. The Spirit murmurs in their hearts; they listen for it and they respond to it – following the star to a land they might not have otherwise chosen and to the place where the Child is. They have entered the stable and found the little Child wrapped in poor swaddling clothes. As a result, the Huether Education Conference, Josh, and Adriana recognize Jesus beneath the poverty of the children that have been confided to their care. Their response and the gifts they bring, and the response of many other modern day Magi throughout the Lasallian world, is bringing the Lasallian tradition back to its roots of providing accessible education for the poor.

Perhaps, just perhaps, De La Salle might say to us today those very same words he wrote in that January 6th meditation: *“The star did not appear to the Magi in vain, for this sight caused them to receive the grace of God, and it made this day a day of salvation for them, because they showed themselves most faithful to the divine inspiration”* (Meditation 96).

### **For Your Reflection:**

1. What moments in my life did I sense the Spirit murmuring in my heart? Was I attentive to those murmurings? Did I follow those murmurings?
2. Like the Magi, do I allow myself to venture out from my comfort zone to places unknown? Give an example of how that might happen.
3. Does my ministry make the poor the center of our focus? Do we offer the poor our finest, or do we marginalize the poor?
4. Like the Magi, does our ministry deliberately go out to and reach out to the poor or do we expect the poor to come to us on our own terms?
5. Do I intentionally seek to look beyond the “poor rags” of my students in order to find the Lord?

*“Recognize Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children whom you have to instruct. Adore him in them. Love poverty and honor the poor after the example of the Magi, for poverty should be dear to you who are responsible for the instruction of the poor. May faith lead you to do this with affection and zeal, because these children are the members of Christ. In this way this divine Savior will be pleased with you, and you will find him, because he always loved the poor and poverty”* (Meditation 96)