



## Conclusion of the Commitment Renewal Program (CRP) 2018

### WHEN GOD BECKONS

I was blessed to be part of a temporary community 14 Brothers and Sisters from LEAD, Vietnam and Sri Lanka for the Commitment Renewal Program from Feb 26 - March 21, 2018. The program is designed for those who are already preparing for a lifelong commitment in the religious life.

At the start of the program, each one of us were asked what were our expectations. Majority of us articulated, "not too serious", "time to rest and relax". It reflects how overworked most of us could be. Perhaps it was God's way of plucking us out of our respective ministries in gathering us for 22 days. God was like trying to ground us again as to why we were called, formed and continuously transformed. (Continued)

The first part of the program were series of courses on Formation, Association, Justice and Peace, Sexuality and Spiritual Direction. Br. Michael Valenzuela FSC, Br Jose Mari Jimenez FSC, Fr. Roger Champoux SJ and Dr. Monica Verploegen were all animated and they were ably accompanied by their well prepared presentations. We also had the chance to share our own thoughts through the plenary and small group discussions so we were able to digest what we all learned from the sessions.

The whole program ended with an 8 day silent retreat with Br. Peter Foo FSC and Br. Michael Broughton FSC joining the Spiritual Direction team. Our daily “household” needs were taken cared by Brs. Alex Diaz FSC and Michael Broughton who took shifts as program coordinators.

I believe all of us went back to our own ministries with all our spirits renewed and forward looking to a lifelong commitment with the Brothers and Sisters. **(Br. Butch Alcudia FSC)**





## Intercapitular Assembly 2018, Rome



I was with Brs. Paul, Joe, and JJ here in Rome before Holy week attending the Intercapitular - a gathering of all Visitors their Auxiliaries in the Institute. I would describe this Intercapitular as a very fraternal assembly (it felt like a gathering of old friends - at least for me) full or productive energy. There were moments of intense work but it was peppered with moments of fraternal joy.

I found the opening address of Brother Superior quite inspiring and I will be sharing a summary with you.  
(Continued)



Commenting on the Institute's experience during the past 50 years, Brother Robert noted that the diminishing number of Brothers, the growth of the Lasallian Family, the increasing impact of Association for Mission, the importance of Lasallian higher education, the overwhelming presence of Partners in our ministries, and the preponderant presence of women in our educational communities are realities that must inform future oriented reflections and decision making.



Brother Superior highlighted the important formative presence of Brothers in educational communities dedicated to formal education. The formation of the Christian educator and Lasallian Partner is, he insisted, a practical response to the urgings of the Holy Spirit transmitted through the signs of the times. By keeping their lives clearly centered on Jesus Christ and by committing to the Gospel, the poor and the accompaniment of Lasallian Partners, the Brothers, he said, open themselves to Christian conversion and Spirit-driven responses to present day reality. (Continued)



Turning his attention to the reports submitted by Districts and Delegations, Brother Robert noted many topics that have been on the agendas of General and District Chapters for years: the formation of formators, the empowerment of young Brothers, the accompaniment of senior Brothers, the encouragement of Lasallian vocations, attention to financial issues and the movement “beyond borders” to engage in new ventures to serve the poor and vulnerable. He asked if it is time to change the conversation and do things differently in order to effectively engage these and other urgent matters. (Continued)

Although the question of restructuring appears in many of the reports, Brother Superior cautioned that the more important question is about transformation and the pressing need for personal and communal conversion. The Holy Spirit, he insisted, is urging the Brothers to reaffirm the orientation of their lives to Jesus Christ, his project for the Reign of God and the promotion of Lasallian Association for Mission. He stated his conviction that such a conversion will lead each Brother and the Institute to the possibility of an unimagined and vibrant future.

Brother Robert concluded by encouraging greater intentionality regarding personal and communal conversion. He asked that the Brothers accompany each other on their Gospel journey and their dedication to the Lasallian charism. Finally, he asked that those assembled be open to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit so that they might faithfully and zealously set about the task of recognizing, analyzing, and confronting the issues of the day. In this way, the Brothers and Lasallian Partners will, as far as they are able, procure the glory of God and insure the well being of those entrusted to their care. (Text: <http://www.lasalle.org/en/2018/03/message-of-brother-superior-general/> ; Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/lasalle\\_org/albums/72157692391541501/with/26758136118/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lasalle_org/albums/72157692391541501/with/26758136118/))



## News Notes

**Save the Date.** The inaugural awarding ceremony for the **Indivisa Manent** (which takes the place of the Letters of Benefaction for LEAD) will take place on **May 19, 2018 at De La Salle University, Manila**. Communities are encouraged to send a representative. It coincides with the **LEAD Mission Assembly** at Hotel Benilde on that weekend.

**Reminder.** There are around 30 brothers who have not turned in their retreat evaluations. Please check your inboxes (or sometimes spam.junk) and send your evaluation before this week ends.

### Productivity

#### Stop Doing These Four Things That Sabotage Your Meetings



##### 1. NOT DOCUMENTING DECISIONS

Lots of meetings end with a sentence like: “Sounds like we’ve come to a decision,” but is everyone clear on what that decision is, asks Kanfer Stewart... Instead, the meeting leader should conclude with, “Here’s the decision I think we’ve made. Is my description accurate? Can someone else describe the decision for the record?”

##### 2. INVITING TOO MANY PEOPLE

When it comes to assembling participants, too many of us have “meeting FOMO,” says Kanfer Stewart. “When we invite people, we are not as thoughtful as we should be and often invite everybody because it’s easy,” she says. “Nobody questions meeting invites, and

the only acceptable reasons to decline are if you’re out of the office, sick, or already booked.” Too many people can make a meeting unproductive

##### 3. NOT TAKING GOOD NOTES

Taking notes in a meeting can be seen as an administrative role, and some organizations assign someone to the task. More often, though, teams fail to take meeting notes at all.

##### 4. NOT ALIGNING WITH YOUR CULTURE

Meetings are a good way to deliver your company culture, but often they do not. If you value transparency but fail to send meeting notes, for example, you’re not in alignment. Meetings that don’t fit company culture are often due to a lack of processes and tools.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.fastcompany.com/40539497/stop-doing-these-four-things-that-sabotage-your-meetings>

Fraternally,

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