



# RELEM NEWS

## It's official: we must set out!

Visitors and those responsible for MEL in RELEM agreed:  
"Doing nothing is not an option."

At the joint meeting of the Visitors' Conference and the RELEM MEL Council, there was consensus for a conversion journey with deep roots and an even broader horizon.

Over a time of prayer, reflection, dialogue and renewal, the demographic and leadership challenges for RELEM were taken seriously and that process is now extending it to all of Lasallians, Brothers and partners.

The next two years will be intense—filled with meetings, decisions, connections, relationships, experiences, encounters, trials, mistakes, doubts, and hopes. But one thing must define them all: **they must be lived and shared.**

No one should feel left out. Everyone must be heard in finding the best way forward. And each of us—according to our abilities and limitations—is called to embark on this synodal journey in solidarity and communion.

This path, still being shaped, is beginning in Lent 2025, guided by our shared trust that this Institute and this Mission are very necessary in every place within RELEM, for every child, young person, and adult in need.

Included you will find the text of the Communique informing all Lasallians about shared goal that we are being called to all contribute towards. Moving forward, we invite you to share with us more stories of shared experiences and connections, of vocational journeys and missionary initiatives. Like Mary—on this day of the Annunciation—we renew our openness to the Holy Spirit. And together, we pray that all of this may come to fruition, not without effort and struggle, but always with greater hope.



Région lasallienne  
Europe Méditerranée

relem@lasalle.org





# “To ensure the future of the Lasallian Charism, Mission and communities in RELEM”

**To all the Brothers and Lasallian partners of the RELEM Region.**

*For over a year, and in line with the last General Chapter, the RELEM Region has been undergoing a process of reflection, dialogue and renewal. The diagnosis drawn up by the Council of Visitors and the regional MEL Council clearly established the need for a new operating model and restructuring to ensure the sustainability of our Mission. It became clear that the Region with the most educational works and beneficiaries was also the one where the number of Brothers was going to decrease most rapidly. There is a risk that some Sectors and Districts will no longer have the resources, particularly human resources, to face the challenges ahead.*

*A year ago, our Mission Assembly decided that we should converge towards grouping our forces into a single District (instead of 7 Districts and a Delegation at present).*

*Over the past year, the StAR Commission has launched a consultation process with the Districts and the Delegation, visiting the sites to talk and listen to everyone. The summary report was the subject of reactions and contributions. Our Joint Conference 2025 (Visitors' Conference and RELEM MEL Council) worked assiduously from 10 to 14 March to develop and approve the StAR Commission's Recommendations. Both the Commission and the Joint Conference are to be thanked for the preparation of this week and the bold decision-making that followed.*



At the end of this week spent in fraternity and listening to the calls of the Spirit, a consensus was reached on a fundamental decision: to structure our entire RELEM region around **two Districts** and **three complementary educational networks by July 2027**.

We now need to immediately launch the collaboration and partnerships that will enable us to validate the final shape of these new structures at the next Joint Conference in March 2026.

The year 2025-2026 will be devoted, by the StAR Commission, the Councils and the various bodies of the Region, to assessing from every angle (legal, canonical, economic, etc.) the steps that will need to be taken to complete this process, and to specifying the governance model best suited to leading the whole Region.



**[Read the article at www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org)**

The process leading up to July 2027 will be transparent: all the key players in the Region will be involved in its implementation and regularly informed of the steps taken. We encourage everyone to embark resolutely on the actions and projects that will be launched shortly.

The adventure is demanding, but also full of hope: we need to rethink the mobility of the Brothers, include and train more lay people so that they can participate fully in the management of our common projects, multiply exchanges and collaborations, and think of synergies to extend our horizons.

Two major principles guide our approach: to ensure the vitality of the current mission, and to give ourselves the means to meet the emerging challenges.

I have no doubts about our ability to successfully complete the adventure that lies ahead of us: it is the challenge of a new impetus for our mission and the Lasallian family in Europe and the Middle East.

br. Joël Palud

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joël Palud', with a stylized flourish at the end.

# ASSOCIATION COMMISSION

Our Generalate hosted us, organised by the RELEM team, for a face-to-face meeting of the members of the Association's Regional Commission, enriched by the presence of Mr Didier Goemaere from Belgium North, from 14th and 15th February. We had previously held two videoconferences to get to know each other and -to update each other on the situation in each District/Delegation.

The agenda was very broad, but was mainly based on reflection on the plans for the Commission should follow, as well as on how to support the Districts/Delegations in their fostering of Association.

The particular situations of each part of the Region means that the question of Association for Mission is approached from different angles. In some parts of the Region, the District has a structure and organisation that encourages communities and lay people on the journey of Association, as well as all those who are in feel deeply associated for Mission or belong to mixed communities.

Other realities only count on the collaboration of some Brothers who, due to their experience, vitality and life journey, believe in and are committed to Shared Mission with the laity who are more engaged in Mission and Pastoral issues.

The work carried out also served to establish a common reflection on what the role of this commission should be, in collaboration with the other commissions and offices in the Region, so that Association can be a transversal axis in the work of the other commissions. From there, we were able to propose some starting points to begin a Formation programme that support and foster Lasallian Identity and Association for Mission.

Obviously, the training of future leaders and facilitators of the associative process, the monitoring and support of the people who carry it out, as well as the sharing of good practices which are developing throughout the Region, will be essential elements of any Formation plan.

It was decided that in the first week of February 2026, a Regional meeting on Association would take place in Rome in order to fulfil the proposal of the RELEM MEL Assembly of 2023, which called for a meeting to share experiences of community life and different ways of living Association, with experiences of other charismatic families.



**Mr Didier Goemaere**

He is a member of the animation team of the VLP (Vlaams Lasalliaans Perspectief) and he is responsible for animation in secondary schools. He participated in several international initiatives including the AMEL in 2017, the AIMEL in 2022 and the Formation for Formators in Malta (2023 & 2024).







# BEAUVAIS (8-9-10 NOVEMBER 2024)

identify

vocations "hotspots"

across RELEM.

## HOTSPOT

About ten years ago, a "La Salle Campus" label was created for all the establishments in the French Lasallian network which offer courses after the Baccalauréat. A "campus committee" has been set up to run this network and give the label to Lasallian establishments that want to join it. It meets about 3 times a year. This committee gathers together the needs of the establishments and examines the applications for the "La Salle Campus"

# METS DU SPIRITUALITY IN YOUR LIFE! (PUT SOME SPIRITUALITY IN YOUR LIFE!)

Over the last two years, the question of the spiritual formation of students has arisen. In a secularised society and with students and teachers from a wide range of traditions and spiritual sensibilities, this is a difficult issue to tackle. But the committee has decided to tackle it. To this end, a two-year process was put in place.

The first stage consisted of a two-day training course for adult volunteers on the question: what does the spiritual life mean and what training is possible? The training culminated in the development of projects to experiment with ways of providing spiritual guidance to students.

The second stage was to share the experiments that had been carried out and draw lessons from them.

The third stage involved working with students to prepare a gathering for students based on the slogan "Put some Spirituality in your life". In addition to times of conviviality and celebration, 4 themes emerged which were the subject of times of sharing in small groups during the gathering: what formation produces in us; service; ecology; the life of faith. The fundamental elements of any spirituality are to be found here: the relationship with oneself, the relationship with others, the relationship with the world, the relationship with the divine. To encourage a group dynamic, sports and cultural activities alternated with the themed workshops.

I'll leave it to other participants to say how this gathering was experienced and what it produced in them.

It was both the happy culmination of a group experience and the starting point for projects to be carried out in every school: the launch of a chaplaincy, the creation of links between students to share experiences, the launch of a reflection by an educational team on the spiritual formation of students, etc.

Admittedly, we still have a long way to go to ensure that our schools are not just places where academic knowledge is passed on, but also places where young people are given spiritual structure as they face up to a complex, uncertain and, in some respects, worrying world. Only spiritually structured young people, whatever their options, will be able to forge a harmonious life for themselves and build a more humane world.

fr. Jacques d'Huitema, fsc

It is an immense joy to share the unforgettable memories of our experience at the Beauvais campus with participants, animators, and guests from many LaSalle campuses across France. We were also privileged to have nine Brothers from seven different nationalities join us.

The gathering took place from November 8 to 10, 2024, and was a truly memorable experience, marked by moments of joy, prayer, and fraternity. This event aimed to celebrate our successes, recharge our spirits, and give new momentum to spiritual formation on our campuses.

As soon as we arrived on Friday evening, we were warmly welcomed. After settling in, an introductory session was held to set the framework and expectations for the gathering. Then, over a shared meal, icebreaker activities helped foster connections and group cohesion. A short video showcasing the participants' campuses and regions was particularly remarkable.

Saturday was filled with a rich program alternating between reflection workshops and fun and sports activities. These workshops allowed us to share our experiences and perspectives on faith, mission, and student engagement. After lunch, the momentum continued with further training sessions and collective games, strengthening our sense of communion.

One of the most striking moments of the day was the testimony session in the late afternoon, where four Brothers from RELEM were interviewed. They shared insights on spiritual life with different cultural and national backgrounds, creating a profound and inspiring exchange for all present.

On Sunday morning, after a final breakfast, the Sunday Mass brought all participants together in a powerful moment of communion and prayer. This was followed by a presentation of Lasallian resources, helping participants gain a deeper understanding of our movement's heritage and educational mission. Finally, a debriefing session allowed us to reflect on the weekend's experiences and look ahead with enthusiasm.

I found this gathering to be a true breath of motivation an invitation to deepen our commitment and to carry the spiritual dynamic forward on our campuses. We leave enriched, inspired, and ready to share what we have experienced.



fr. Jesuraj fsc, Molenbeek Community, Bruxelles



4.a Regional Strategic Initiative:



Fraternity in Action



# Our hearts are in the Peripheries

**What?** Lasallian volunteer project

**When?** 8th-12th of April: Formation

July or August: Volunteer work

**Where?** **Formation:** Egypt

**Volunteer work:**

- Melilla (Spain)
- Jerez de la Frontera (Spain)
- Scampia (Italy)
- Bayadeya (Upper Egypt)
- Częstochowa (Poland)

Apply now



@ relemyl@lasalle.org



Our heart is in the peripheries

For the second year, the Lasallian Youth Council is offering every young person in the Region (18-35 years old) the opportunity to experience Service, Community and Faith in the peripheries!

**Fraternity in Action** proposes a training session for young people in Alexandria - Egypt, from April 8 to 12, 2025, to get to know each other, deepening the Lasallian charism and spirituality and together take the first steps in the Region.

The international teams that will be formed, will live next summer the Lasallian Mission in one of this 5 communities: in Częstochowa (Poland) caring for children with mental disabilities; in Jerez and Melilla (Spain) ministering to migrant youth; in Scampia (Italy) for suburban and gypsy children and youth; in Upper Egypt serving youth and children from various rural villages.

## SUMMER SERVICES IN THE PERIPHERIES

SPAIN: MELILLA 1 - 15 JULY & JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA 1-15 JULY

POLAND: CZESTOCHOWA 13-22 JULY

ITALY: SCAMPIA 4-14 AUGUST - EGYPT: UPPER EGYPT 17- 23 AUGUST

Spread this Good News to the young people entrusted to your care!