



DATE: **September 2, 2026**

TO: **THE LASALLIAN COMMUNITY**

FROM: SGD.
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SUBJECT: **CHOICES, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT**
Pastoral Letter on the Feast of St. Brother Solomon Leclercq FSC

My dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lasallian Family,

Today we celebrate the feast of **St. Brother Solomon Leclercq, FSC**, the first of our Lasallian martyrs and the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be beatified, whose witness continues to speak powerfully to us today. He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 16, 2016, and remains the most recently canonized saint of the Lasallian Family.

Nearly a decade after his canonization, perhaps it is worth asking: What does Brother Solomon have to say to us today?

Our world has changed. Our schools have changed. The challenges faced by those who educate and accompany young people have changed. But the fundamental question of faithfulness remains the same: How do we remain faithful when the mission becomes difficult?

Perhaps Brother Solomon gives us three words to help us answer that question: CHOICES. COURAGE. COMMITMENT.

CHOICES

Being a Brother is always a choice. It is not a one-time, big-time choice, but a constant, daily choice. Brother Solomon had a very difficult choice to make. He could renounce his faith and preserve his life, or remain faithful to what he believed, knowing the consequences. He chose fidelity.

Our choices today may look very different, but they are no less important. Every day, those who work in our schools make choices. Our teachers choose to enter their classrooms and give their best even when they are tired. Our administrators choose to carry the responsibility of making difficult decisions, often knowing that not everyone will understand or agree with them. Our non-teaching personnel—those in offices, student services, finance, libraries, laboratories, maintenance, security, campus ministry, and countless other areas—choose every day to make sure that our schools continue to function and, more importantly, that our students are cared for.

Sometimes we forget that education is not carried by teachers alone. A school is built by many people, each one contributing something essential to the mission.

And today, the choices we make have become more complicated.

Our schools are confronted by realities that were once difficult to imagine: violence, threats to school safety, bullying and cyberbullying, the growing mental-health struggles of young people, anxiety, loneliness, family difficulties, and students who carry burdens that are often invisible to us.

Sometimes our task is no longer simply to teach a lesson. Sometimes it is to notice that something is wrong. Sometimes it is to listen. Sometimes it is to intervene. Sometimes it is simply to be the adult who tells a young person: “You are not alone.”

And so, every day, we choose again: to care, to listen, to accompany, to protect, to serve, and to remain present. These may seem like ordinary choices. But perhaps holiness is precisely found in these ordinary choices made faithfully, day after day.

COURAGE

Brother Solomon reminds us that courage does not mean that we are never afraid. Courage is choosing what is right even when we are afraid. Brother Solomon knew the consequences of remaining faithful. Yet he remained steadfast.

And I think of our teachers, administrators, and non-teaching personnel today. There is a particular kind of courage required to work in education today.

It takes courage to stand before a classroom when you know that some of your students are struggling with things you cannot immediately see. It takes courage to confront bullying. It takes courage to respond when a student is hurting. It takes courage to address violence and threats. It takes courage to have difficult conversations with parents and colleagues.

It takes courage for administrators to make decisions for the safety and welfare of the whole community, even when those decisions are difficult. And it takes courage for our non-teaching personnel to be attentive to the students they encounter every day—to notice, to respond, and to care.

Sometimes the courage of our people will never be recognized publicly. There will be no awards, no applause, no headlines. But there are countless quiet acts of courage happening in our schools every single day.

To all our teachers, administrators, and non-teaching personnel: thank you. Thank you for continuing to show up. Thank you for continuing to care. Thank you for continuing to accompany our young people despite the difficulties of these times. Your courage may be quiet, but it is real.

And perhaps Brother Solomon reminds us that courage is not always found in extraordinary acts. Sometimes courage is simply remaining faithful to the mission entrusted to us.

COMMITMENT

There will always be moments when we ask ourselves: “What keeps us going?”

What keeps us going when we are tired? When the workload seems endless? When problems seem to have no easy solutions? When the student we have been trying to help continues to struggle? When we feel that our efforts are not producing the results we hoped for?

What keeps us going? For Brother Solomon, it was his promise. He remained faithful to his vows. He did not abandon his commitment even when circumstances became painful and dangerous.

Hindi siya bumitaw sa pangako niya. Kahit masakit. Kahit mahirap. Kahit alam niyang buhay ang kapalit.

And this is where the Gospel becomes particularly powerful.

Jesus said in Luke 9:23, “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*” Take up the cross DAILY. But Brother Solomon seemed to take this Gospel one step further when he said, “*We suffer gratefully and happily the crosses and afflictions that come our way.*”

And I emphasize: not just daily, but gratefully and happily.

This does not mean that suffering is something we should seek or pretend is easy. Rather, it means that even in the midst of difficulties, we can choose to remain faithful because we know why we are doing what we do.

Our teachers know this. Our administrators know this. Our non-teaching personnel know this. There are days when the work is exhausting. There are days when we wonder whether our efforts make a difference. There are days when we simply want to go home and say, “Tama na muna.” And perhaps there is nothing wrong with admitting that we are tired. But the question is: What keeps us coming back?

Maybe it is our students. Maybe it is our colleagues. Maybe it is our families. Maybe it is the mission. Maybe it is the simple conviction that what we do matters. And ultimately, perhaps it is love. Love for God. Love for our vocation. Love for the young people entrusted to us. Love for the mission.

Brother Solomon's fidelity reminds us that commitment becomes possible when we remember who and what we have committed ourselves to.

There is one final question that I would like to leave with us. What do we do with the example of Brother Solomon? He cannot simply remain a name in the calendar of saints. He cannot simply be a picture on a wall. He cannot simply be the name of a building, a hall, or a school. A saint is not merely someone we remember. A saint is someone who challenges us to live differently.

Brother Solomon challenges us to make our **choices** according to God's truth. He challenges us to have the **courage** to stand for what is right, especially when doing so is difficult. And he challenges us to remain faithful to our **commitment**, especially when we are tired, discouraged, or afraid.

To all who form part of our educational mission: **your work matters.**

To the teacher who patiently explains the lesson one more time—your work matters.

To the administrator who carries the burden of difficult decisions—your work matters.

To the staff member who quietly assists a student who needs help—your work matters.

To the security personnel who watch over our campus—your work matters.

To the maintenance personnel who prepare the spaces where learning takes place—your work matters.

To those working behind the scenes whose names students may never know—your work matters.

Because education is not simply about what happens inside a classroom. It is about creating a community where young people can learn, grow, feel safe, encounter God, and discover their dignity and purpose.

And all of us have a part in making that possible.

Perhaps this is the challenge St. Brother Solomon gives us today:

When the world around us becomes more difficult, do not abandon the mission. When we become afraid, choose courage. When we become tired, remember the promise. When we wonder whether what we do matters, look at the young people entrusted to us. And when the cross becomes heavy, remember the words of Jesus: “Take up your cross daily and follow me.”

May St. Brother Solomon teach us not merely to carry our crosses, but to carry them with faith, with hope, and with love.

May he pray for all our teachers, our administrators, our non-teaching personnel, our students, our families, and everyone who shares in the Lasallian mission.

May we have the courage to choose what is right. May we have the strength to remain committed. And may we never forget that the work we do, especially when it is difficult and unseen, can become an offering of love to God.

St. Brother Solomon Leclercq, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.