



LA SALLE
BACOLOD
BROTHERS COMMUNITY

DATE: **April 5, 2026**

TO: **THE LASALLIAN COMMUNITY (USLS, SJS-LS, DLSASMC)**

FROM: **BR. IRWIN ANTHONY CLIMACO FSC**
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SUBJECT: **Brothering: A Journey Toward Resurrection**
Pastoral Letter # 7 : Easter Pastoral Letter

Dear Lasallian Partners and Young Lasallians,

Easter Greetings.

As you may know, we Brothers gather each Holy Week for our Annual Retreat, a sacred time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. This year, I would like to share with you some of the reflections that emerged from that experience, in the hope that they may also speak to all of us as we come to the close of the school year and begin preparing for the next.

While our retreat centered on the theme, *“Brothering: Building up and Sharing our Experience of Jesus in a Fraternal Community,”* I believe that its insights are not meant for the Brothers alone. Whether you are serving as Lasallian Partners or journeying as students, you are part of one Lasallian community and mission. In this sense, what we call “brothering” may also find meaning in your own daily life, in the way you relate, care, and grow with others. Perhaps these reflections may also offer a deeper appreciation of the Brothers’ vocation, not as something distant, but as a witness that invites all of us into a more relational, compassionate, and Christ-centered way of living.

Over the course of the retreat, this journey unfolded in four movements, which I now offer to you as invitations. These are **connectedness, community, forgiveness, and compassion**. As we celebrate the joy of Easter, I hope that these reflections may help each one of us rediscover how we are called to live, relate, and serve as one Lasallian family.

This Easter, we do not begin with the Alleluia. We begin where we have been. In these past days, we were led into a journey that revealed what it means to brother, not simply as a title, but as a way of being. I share this with you so that you may also see how this way of relating can take shape in your own life, whether in the classroom, at home, or in your relationships with others.

It began with a simple but profound question about what binds us together. We were invited to rediscover connectedness. In a world that often feels fragmented and distant, we are reminded that we do not exist alone. Our lives are woven into one another. We are bound not only by school or work, but by presence, by relationship, and by the quiet truth that we belong to each other. To *brother* is to notice this and to choose it. For you as students, this may mean being a

good friend, including others, or simply being present to someone who needs you. For our Lasallian Partners, it may mean creating spaces where others feel seen and valued. In all these, the same spirit is at work.

From connectedness, we are led into community. Not simply being together, but truly living with one another. Community is built through patience, listening, and the daily choice to remain even when it is not easy. Whether in a classroom, an office, or a group of friends, the question remains the same. Do we create spaces where others feel welcome, respected, and at home. In this, we reflect the very life of God, who is communion.

The journey then brings us to forgiveness. Here, we encounter the Cross, where love shows its depth. Forgiveness is not easy. It requires humility, the courage to admit when we are wrong, and the grace to let go when we have been hurt. For our students, this may be as simple and as difficult as saying sorry or choosing not to hold grudges. For our Partners, it may mean healing relationships and choosing understanding over judgment. Without forgiveness, there can be no healing, and without healing, there can be no true community.

Then comes the silence of Holy Saturday. A quiet space where nothing seems to happen, yet everything is being transformed. Here we encounter compassion. Compassion is more than feeling sorry. It is choosing to stay, to listen, and to stand with others, especially when they are struggling. It is refusing to ignore or turn away. Whether it is noticing a classmate who feels alone or accompanying someone going through difficulty, compassion calls us to be present in a deeper way. We begin to realize that we do not reach out to others only to help them, but because we belong to one another.

And now, we arrive at Easter. The Resurrection does not erase the journey. It transforms it. Connectedness becomes communion. Community becomes mission. Forgiveness becomes new life. Compassion becomes hope. The Risen Christ stands before us, bearing His wounds, now transformed. In Him, we see that love does not end in darkness. It rises.

Dear Lasallian Partners, dear young Lasallians, this is the invitation of Easter. Not only to celebrate, but to live it. In your own way and in your own place, you are called to bring this to life each day. In your friendships, in your work, in your studies, and in your service.

Often, this will not be in big or extraordinary ways. It will be in small, faithful acts. In the way you listen, the way you include others, the way you forgive, and the way you care. In these simple acts, the spirit of *brothering* becomes real among us.

In the end, to brother is to love, and to love is to bring life.

May the Risen Christ renew all of us, and guide us as one Lasallian community, together in and by association..

Have a blessed Easter Season!

Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever!