



LA SALLE
BACOLOD
BROTHERS COMMUNITY

DATE: **September 18, 2025**

TO: **THE LASALLIAN COMMUNITY (USLS & SJSLS)**

FROM: **BR. IRWIN ANTHONY CLIMACO FSC**
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SUBJECT: **Building a Culture of Integrity: A Lasallian Call to Honesty and Accountability**
Pastoral Letter # 3 on Nurturing Honesty, Integrity, and Accountability in Our School and Homes

On Nurturing Honesty, Integrity, and Accountability in Our School and Homes

Our country continues to be confronted with issues that test the moral fiber of our society: questions of truth, justice, and accountability in public life. As one Lasallian Family, we stand in solidarity with the call for justice and integrity expressed by the Philippine Lasallian Family in its recent statement. Yet while we raise our voices together on matters that affect our nation, we must also remember that true change begins within. The culture we wish to see in our society must first be cultivated in our homes, in our classrooms, in our offices, and in our daily choices.

I recall a line posted in many schools years ago: *“Be honest. Even if others are not, even if others will not, even if others cannot.”* This simple reminder remains timeless. It tells us that integrity is not dependent on what others do, but on who we choose to be.

St. John Baptist de La Salle reminds us: *“Examples make a much greater impression than words.”* If we want to build a community of integrity, then our witness must come first. Every teacher, parent, leader, and student must ask: *Am I living the example I wish others to follow?*

The Gospel also challenges us in the words of Jesus: *“Let your ‘Yes’ mean Yes, and your ‘No’ mean No.”* (Matthew 5:37). Our Lord calls us to live in such a way that our words and our actions are aligned in truth. Honesty is not optional for a Christian; it is the very measure of our discipleship.

For our teachers and staff: Your example speaks louder than your lessons and tasks. By being truthful, fair, and consistent, you teach more than any textbook ever could. The young look to you not only for knowledge, but for models of integrity in action.

For our administrators and leaders: Accountability and transparency must guide all our decisions. As stewards of our school’s mission, we are entrusted not only with resources but also with the moral direction of our community. Every policy we craft, every choice we make, becomes an example for others to follow. Let our leadership be marked not by privilege or power, but by service, justice, and integrity, so that our community may always experience governance that is trustworthy, fair, and life-giving.

For our parents: The home is the first school of honesty. Children learn integrity not only from what we tell them, but from what they see us do. Whether in small matters like keeping promises, or in bigger choices that show courage and fairness, the lessons of honesty begin at home.

For our students: You are the heart of our mission and the hope of our country. The habits you form today—whether you choose honesty in exams, responsibility in commitments, or courage in speaking the truth—will shape the kind of leaders you will be tomorrow. The formation of your conscience begins here and now. To act with integrity is to allow Christ to live in your heart and guide your decisions.

At the same time, we must also remind ourselves that not everything is about money. While it is important for our daily needs and sustenance, we must never allow it to become the ultimate measure of success or the driving force of our choices. Greed blinds us to what truly matters and can lead us to compromise our values. If we measure success only in wealth, we risk losing sight of honesty, justice, and service. True Lasallian education forms men and women who see beyond material gain, and who live with a heart anchored in generosity, simplicity, and faith in God.

Our work of education is not only about pursuing academic excellence. It is also about forming consciences, our own and those of the next generation. This is a sacred responsibility. If we fail to live out honesty in small things, we weaken our capacity to demand integrity in larger matters. But if we remain faithful to truth and accountability in our everyday life, then together we help lay the foundation of a more just, honest, and compassionate society.

As Lasallians, let us remember that the change we desire in our nation must take root within us first. May we nurture a community where honesty is honored, integrity is expected, and accountability is embraced, not as burdens, but as the natural expression of our faith and love for God and neighbor. And in the spirit of the *One La Salle Prayer*, may we always strive to “*be the change we want to see*” and live out our mission with faith, service, and communion.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!