



DATE: **April 30, 2026**

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

FROM: **BR. IRWIN ANTHONY CLIMACO FSC**  
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SUBJECT: **Looking Back with Gratitude, Moving Forward with Hope**  
*Pastoral Letter # 8 : End of School Year Message*

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Dear Lasallian Partners,

Greeting on the 375th Birthday of St John Baptist de La Salle!

As I often share in our formation sessions, I do not fully subscribe to the saying that “experience is the best teacher.” For me, it is **a reflected experience** that truly teaches, because everything only begins to make sense in retrospect.

As we come to the end of this school year, I invite each one of you to pause and look back on the journey we have taken together.

It may feel like this school year has been unusually long. From beginning in August and then shifting back to a June or July opening, we found ourselves moving through a tight and demanding timeline. And yet, despite how stretched it may have felt, we now arrive at its end with a quiet realization: *parang kailan lang, tapos na naman ang isang school year.*

This year, in particular, has not been easy.

We have gone through so much together. The Kanlaon Volcano eruption, back to back typhoons, and intense flooding that even reached parts of our campus. Alongside these were the growing mental health challenges within our community. And yet, through all of these, you were there. You did not let go. You showed up for one another, with one another.

For that, I say congratulations, and thank you.

Looking back is not simply about remembering. It is about understanding. It is about asking ourselves: Who have I become through this year? How have I lived out what it means to be Lasallian?

In my first pastoral letter this school year, we returned to the heart of our identity. What it means to live our core values of Faith, Service, and Communion through the Lasallian Attributes. Today, I invite you to revisit them, not as ideals, but as lived experiences:

- Have I carried myself as a **Lasallian Lady or Gentleman**, with dignity, respect, kindness, patience, prudence, and gentleness? Did I take time for silence, reflection, and prayer, allowing my faith to deepen beyond routine?
- Have I grown in **confidence**, learning to trust my abilities and face challenges with courage, knowing I am not alone?
- Have I become more **competent**, not just in knowledge and skills, but in character and integrity?
- Have I remained **committed to excellence**, not settling for what is easy, but striving to give my best in both big and small things?
- Have I been truly **concerned for the marginalized**, seeing, reaching out to, and standing with those in need?
- Have I **contributed to society**, using my gifts not only for myself, but for others and for the common good?
- Have I lived with **compassion**, with a heart that understands, that is willing to help, and humble enough to seek help when needed?
- Have I taken responsibility to **care for the Earth**, in the choices I make, in how I treat my surroundings, and in how I respect creation?
- Am I growing into a **future leader**, one who serves with integrity, wisdom, and a sincere desire to uplift others?
- And in all these, have I remained a **proud Filipino**, embracing the richness of our identity, culture, and shared story?

As we reflect on these, we may realize that growth does not always come in grand, visible ways. Often, it is found in quiet perseverance, in unseen sacrifices, in daily faithfulness.

More importantly, we may also recognize that in the midst of these challenges, we have become beacons of hope not only within our campus, but also for the wider communities of Bacolod and Negros. In moments when it would have been easier to withdraw, we chose to stand together, to help, and to serve. And for all of this, we give thanks.

To our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and everyone who has journeyed together this year, thank you. No effort done out of love is ever wasted. Every lesson prepared, every task completed, every extra hour given, every act of patience, every silent sacrifice, these matter more than we often realize. We see you. We recognize your hard work. We are grateful for your dedication.

If you have stayed long enough in a school, you already know this truth: our work and our mission never really end. And yet, moments like this remind us that rest is also part of the mission.

To those who will have a break, take it fully. Enjoy it. Reenergize not only your body, but also your mind and spirit. Allow yourself the space to breathe, to pause, and to be renewed.

To those who will continue reporting during this summer break, may you still find time to rest in the midst of your responsibilities. Even in continued service, you deserve moments of stillness and restoration.

And for all of us, may this season be an invitation to return to what truly matters. Spend time with the people who matter most, the ones we often unintentionally set aside in the busyness of the school year.

Because in the end, while our mission continues, so too must the care we give to ourselves and to the relationships that sustain us.

As we look ahead, we are also reminded that new challenges continue to emerge. With the ongoing oil crisis brought about by conflicts in the Middle East, many among us, especially those who rely on daily transport for their livelihood such as jeepney and tricycle drivers, are among the most affected.

In your own simple ways, I invite you to reach out. Acts of generosity need not be grand. The truest form of generosity is often found when we give even when we have little.

Perhaps we can offer this as a birthday gift to Saint John Baptist de La Salle today, a quiet act of kindness, a small sacrifice, a sincere gesture of care. Trust that what is given in love will always find its way back, often in ways we do not expect.

Paraphrasing his words, “the reward for good work is more work.” And so, as we close this school year, we also begin preparing our hearts for the next, ready once more to teach minds, touch hearts, and transform lives.

Let us continue to pray for one another, support one another, and walk together in this shared mission. We are, after all, in this together and by association.

And today, in a special way, we celebrate the 375th birthday of our founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle. May his life and example continue to inspire us to remain faithful in our calling, generous in service, and steadfast in hope.

As we move forward, may we do so with grateful hearts, reflective spirits, and renewed commitment.

Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever!