



LA SALLE
BACOLOD
BROTHERS COMMUNITY

DATE: **October 10, 2025**

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

FROM: **BR. IRWIN ANTHONY CLIMACO FSC**
Community Director De La Salle Brothers - Bacolod

SUBJECT: **Our Digital Witness: Posting with Kindness and Integrity**
Pastoral Letter # 4 on Freedom and Responsibility in the Digital Age

Peace in Christ!

In recent weeks, a “Freedom Wall” page has surfaced within our community’s social media spaces. It has become, for many, a venue to express thoughts, feelings, and opinions, sometimes serious, sometimes playful, sometimes deeply personal. It is understandable. Each of us carries within a desire to be heard, to connect, and to belong.

As someone who is also chronically online, I admit that I find some posts amusing, entertaining, and humorous. Others reveal the realities of our young people and of our institution, especially those that call attention to matters that need to be addressed. Some even show the spirit of *bayanihan*: students helping fellow students in need. And, of course, there are the many posts about *kilig* and the search for one’s “forever.” These remind us that behind every post is a human story seeking to be known and understood.

Yet, I also know the pain that comes when freedom is misused. Having once been a victim of online bullying, hasty generalizations, fake news, and defamatory content, I understand how damaging words can be when spoken without care or accountability. Freedom without responsibility easily turns into harm, especially when one hides behind anonymity.

This letter, therefore, is not a call to shut down the page nor to silence anyone’s voice. Rather, it is an invitation to all who post, react, or manage these spaces to exercise discernment and responsibility. I especially appeal to the anonymous page administrators to recognize the influence they hold. What they allow to be published can either build community or break it. May their stewardship of these platforms be guided by fairness, empathy, and the Lasallian values we all uphold.

As a Lasallian community, we are reminded that our speech, whether spoken or written, public or online, must always be anchored in truth, respect, and love. Saint John Baptist de La Salle urged his first teachers to “speak with gentleness and prudence.” The same wisdom applies to how we post, comment, and share today.

Let our “freedom walls” become spaces of encouragement rather than judgment, dialogue rather than division, truth rather than rumor. May we learn to use our voices not to tear down but to build up, not to hide behind words but to stand for what is true and good.

In an age where communication is instantaneous, discernment becomes more necessary than ever. Before we post or react, may we learn to pause and ask: *Will this bring light? Will this heal? Will this reflect the dignity of the person I am and the community I belong to?*

As we navigate this digital age together, let us reclaim social media as a space for authentic encounters, a place where faith, respect, and compassion may flourish.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!