

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
UNITED STATES-TORONTO REGION
HECKER CENTER, SUITE 300, 3025 FOURTH STREET NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1102



12 April 2011

Dear Brother Dennis and Chapter Delegates,

While we continue our visit to the Midwest District please know that we are with you in spirit and prayer as you begin your first District Chapter. This is an historic moment for the District of Eastern North America. Significant achievements have already been accomplished since the Constitutive Assembly and the creation of the new District on 09-09-09.

Recalling your desire to establish a new entity in eastern North America and not merely merge three districts into one, we take note of the five affinity groups that are part of your organizational structure. These groups, with membership from the three legacy districts have accelerated the sense of a new reality. They are and will continue to be a creative resource bringing vibrancy to the Lasallian mission.

We are particularly pleased by the openness of Brothers to assume new assignments and move to communities across the legacy districts. A District's vitality and viability depends on this fundamental aspect of apostolic religious life. We sincerely thank those Brothers who have generously made themselves available for emerging District needs and for the larger needs of the Institute.

Your commitment to the promotion of the Brothers' vocation is exemplary. The four young men currently in the Regional novitiate are signs of hope for the future. Every Brother in the District is responsible for promoting vocations. During your days of deliberation you may wish to explore ways to enable each Brother in this role.

Circular 641, *Associated for the Lasallian Mission ...an act of Hope* welcomed the phenomena of "non-residential" forms of Lasallian community life. Your District is a leader in this area with association groups in Rhode Island, Philadelphia, and New York City. We encourage and support the initiative you and your partners are taking to live fully this graced moment of Lasallian association for the mission.

Finally Brothers, we recognize we are living a difficult moment in history. Difficult for our Institute, our Church and our world. But this is a good moment because it is God's moment, God's time. This is the time God has given us. As men of hope and followers of Jesus, with eyes open and hearts burning, let us use our time well. The poor and the young need us. May the Holy Spirit be present and guide you throughout your days of deliberation.

Fraternally in St. La Salle,

Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria
Superior General

Brother Robert Schieler
General Councilor