

FSC DENA Strategic Planning 2017
Service to the Poor (STTP) Subcommittee
September 2017
Report of Progress

Activities and Process

The committee has had a number of conference calls and email exchanges. Those occasioned the following:

- Receiving and reviewing DENA ministry replies to LMAP questions regarding STTP
- Receiving and reviewing DENA ministry data on financial aid/tuition/enrollment information
- Creating of guiding questions for initial insight and conversation with others
- Sharing of guiding questions with others for thoughts and input
- Reviewing comments from others on guiding questions
- Conversation regarding the different ways STTP is accomplished at different ministry types
- Discussion of the need for an enduring strategic process on this topic rather than single action
- Conversation regarding the need to investigate other than ministry level activities for STTP
- Conversation regarding DENA mission and ministry office activities for commitment for STTP
- Conversation regarding DENA related corporations activities related to STTP
- Conversation regarding DENA/Brothers and "Corporate poverty and simplicity"

Conversations all lead to consideration of topics for large group conversation and inputs, perhaps in focus groups. Other activities form the basis for currently developing strategic direction.

Issues and Opportunities for DENA to consider to move STTP forward

- I. How are ministries making forward progress in their efforts to serve the poor as part of LMAP with specific consideration to access, financial aid, mission program investment, and student/faculty/family activities for STTP. Process must look critically at current position and map out goals to grow in this area continually from review to review (It is never done).
- II. Engage DENA finance committee in a global/comprehensive look at how DENA uses its Mission and Ministry resources in STTP now and what effectivenesses and efficiencies, and decisions regarding options available would increase the ability to reinvest resources for STTP in DENA ministries.
- III. Engage Mission Executive Council on discussion of STTP in terms of global goals to increase access to schools, make direct service activities more central and available in all ministries, and grow the links between DENA ministries to support each other much like we do with international twinning.
- IV. Ask Brother Visitor and others for input in how this questions of STTP should be considered by the Brothers of DENA, not just the ministries. Commitments to volunteer, share resources and space, part time ministry opportunities, coordinating resources?
- V. Commitment to keeping STTP on the agenda and in the conversation for board member orientations, DENA board education, and at annual meeting of board chairs and school administrators. If not educated and focused on the priority is easily lost.

Questions for Focus Groups and other Engagements

1. Lasallians are committed to providing a human and Christian education to youth, especially the poor. (a) How does your ministry currently live out its commitment to be “especially” for the poor you serve? (b) How do you as a Lasallian work to make sure you model/demonstrate a commitment to be especially for the poor?
2. What next steps should we take at the individual, ministry, DENA, and Brother Community levels to increase access to Lasallian education?
3. What should be the balance of our commitments to use our resources for (a) access for those who would not otherwise be able to consider attending a Lasallian school, (b) support for middle class students to attend, (c) investment in mission based/STTP activities, (d) philanthropy to others (outside DENA) or sharing within DENA?
4. How do we prevent ourselves from becoming the “writing masters” of our time?

Prior questions and conversations of this group engaged, school administrators at various types of ministries, board members, and fiscal officers. We believe a formal focus group representing some of those folks as well as Brothers and DENA office staff would be of assistance in moving these considerations forward.