

**SUBJECT: 2026 FALL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION
10/06/2026**

SUMMARY

The **2026 Association of Governance Leadership (AGL) Fall Convocation**, held September 25–26 at St. John's College High School in Washington, DC, gathered Lasallian board chairs, chief administrators, and District leaders around the theme **"Strategic Lasallian Leadership: Charism as a Bridge to Our Future."** St. John's provided a beautiful setting for a program filled with high-impact presentations, targeted table discussions, and a virtual visit by Brother Bob Schaefer from the Plenary Meetings being held in Rome.

Its central message was that leaders share responsibility for carrying the Lasallian mission forward through faithful, creative responses to the needs of young people. Prayer, dialogue, and fellowship reinforced the gathering's purpose: renewing association as a shared commitment to spirituality, community, and mission.

Creative fidelity provided the framework for leadership. In his keynote, *Faithful and Forward: Leading Lasallian Ministries Between Heritage and Horizon*, Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, PhD challenged leaders to advance the mission by removing barriers and transforming lives. He identified five guiding practices: begin with people; distinguish essential commitments from adaptable practices; respond to contemporary realities; keep institutional administration in service of mission; and work together and by association. Human dignity, educational justice, holistic education, and shared responsibility remain foundational, while programs, technologies, and structures must respond to changing needs.

Brother Robert Schaefer linked the fulfillment of that responsibility to fidelity to Christ and the formation of young people. Speaking from Rome, he affirmed the importance of enrollment, financial strength, facilities, and academic achievement while asking leaders to look deeper: What kind of person is a Lasallian education helping to form? He emphasized that students encounter God's love through adults who listen, persevere, set high expectations, and make room for those otherwise overlooked.

He also announced that, beginning July 1, 2027, Brother James Butler would be joining the Provincial staff with a focus to accompany individual chief administrators as they begin Lasallian leadership, and to participate in leadership search committees to support boards in discerning leaders who embody the mission.

Formation emerged as an ongoing institutional responsibility. District presentations emphasized the importance of funded, intentional local formation plans for trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff, with opportunities for the wider school community. Presentations by Lew Clark of La Salle College High School and Dr. David Palank, PhD of San Miguel School DC illustrated how orientation, mentoring, retreats, shared meals, weekly virtues, and reflection with students can make Lasallian identity part of everyday school life for faculty and staff as well as the students.

Governance sessions connected mission to concrete responsibilities. Jim Logan’s presentation clarified canonical sponsorship, the Sole Member’s reserved powers, and the responsibilities of Board Chairs, Chief Administrators, and Member Representatives. Succession planning table-discussions addressed emergency readiness, leadership development, talent retention, and continuity across administrative and board roles. The materials prompted participants to identify specific follow-up actions and collaborators.

Sustaining the ministry was another table-discussion topic highlighted the significance of building a philanthropic commitment across stakeholder groups to the Ministry’s purpose and impact. Fundraising discussions focused on a clear case for support, student-centered storytelling, trustee engagement, donor relationships, and accountable stewardship. Affordability, scholarships, and service to students on the margins were presented as central expressions of the mission. Participants were invited to connect annual giving and capital campaigns to the lives and futures their ministries seek to transform.

In spite of potential damaging weather at home, participants took this opportunity to form deeper relationships with fellow Lasallians over the numerous meals, social breaks and exercises as well as the programmed sessions.