Possible Immersion & Service Sites

Site 1:
St. Joseph's Boys Village
Genguvarpatti, India

Site 2:
St. La Salle Higher Secondary School
Tuticorin, India

Site 3:
Mannar
Sri Lanka

Site 4:
Maymyo or Yangon
Myanmar

"Their preferential option in favor of the poor, continually enlightened by a view of faith, helps Lasallian educators to recognize the inequalities to which society gives rise. In their desire to make it possible for poor people to live with dignity and to be open to the Good News of Jesus Christ, Lasallian educators show genuine creativity in responding to the needs of the poor."

- Article 41 (adapted)
Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

The faces of Sri Lanka

"Continue to offer programs and provide guidelines for encouraging individual Lasallians to interrelate with other Lasallian ministries in other Districts, the Region, and the Institute."

- District of San Francisco, Action Plan 2007—2011

For More Information Contact:
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Vandhu Paaru

"Come and See"

An International Immersion Program for Lasallian Educators Summer 2019

India—Sri Lanka—Myanmar
June 16 - July 12, 2019

A Program Sponsored Cooperatively by:

District of San Francisco New Orleans
Delegation of India
District of Colombo
Lasallian East Asia District

". . . our dream for the future; an availability to serve the Lasallian mission *beyond our borders*, where our presence may be more needed, with regional or international initiatives, a sign of a universal fraternity that responds creatively to urgent and timely situations."

-Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría
former Superior General

Rationale

Immersion experiences offer participants one of the most profound means of Lasallian formation available, through direct work with the poor in the spirit of the Lasallian tradition. Vandhu Paaru over the last several years has been found to provide participants:

- A self-discovery of new talents, perspectives, and their role in the Lasallian and Christian mission at home.
- An increased awareness of and renewed commitment to the Lasallian worldwide mission.
- The development of emotional and intellectual connections to Lasallian educational communities in the International Institute.
- A new appreciation of Christianity through the experience of Church in the Asian context.
- A chance to integrate new global perspectives into personal teaching experiences.
- An opportunity to provide practical support for specific needs through physical labor and teaching.
- A chance to build Lasallian Association for mission at an international level.
- An experience of a lifetime!

Seeing the sights in Myanmar

The Program….

The program involves a three week experience on the ground at a Lasallian ministry in India, Sri Lanka, or Myanmar and will be building a partnership with the Brothers and ministries in Southern India, the Mannar area in Sri Lanka or Maymyo in Myanmar. In India, participants are asked to be involved in construction projects, teaching English, and providing recreation to young people in one or more ministries. In Sri Lanka, participants will be asked to teach English to 14-18 year olds. In Myanmar participants will be asked to teach English at a learning center and work with candidates to the Brothers on English skills.

Living in Faith...

"In this community, it is very easy to sense God's presence in the smiles of the destitute children. I think this is truly what it means to be a Lasallian: To help children smile, feel loved, and experience long-lasting happiness."

- Ismael Ruiz, 2016
Religion Teacher
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco

Living In Service to Others…

"St. John Baptist de La Salle said to touch the hearts of students and to inspire them with the Christian Spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform and one that God expects of you. Each day I spend with the Brothers in India I witnessed miracles."

- Amy Gonzales, 2007
Student Support Services
Saint Mary's College High School, Berkeley

Living in Community...

As part of the experience, participants live with the De La Salle Christian Brothers and join them for meals and daily prayer. The weekends are spent sightseeing and joining the Brothers and the locals in special celebrations or events.

Selection/Criteria

This opportunity is open to all faculty and staff members of Lasallian institutions in the District of San Francisco New Orleans who:

- Are willing to experience simple living conditions and work directly with the poor.
- Exhibit flexibility; individuals who can handle schedules and plans changing at the last minute.
- Can work independently.
- Follow directions with a willingness to serve and learn.
- Are willing to share and integrate the experience into their life at school upon returning home.
- Are able to participate in all preparation and follow-up sessions.
- Are persons of faith with a desire to strengthen their commitment to the mission of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Cost

Cost to individual participants will be **$1500.00*** not including passport, visa fees and immunizations. Ministries will cover the remaining costs of the program, which include travel and worksite project expenses.

Application Deadline

Please submit applications to your designated school administrator or Brother Director for approval. Applications are due to the Office of Education by **March 1, 2019.**

Preparation & Follow-Up

A preparation retreat will take place for all participants ***April 21, 2019*** in Napa, CA. This will be a time to meet other participants, prepare personally and spiritually for the experience, and hear firsthand from others who have participated in the past. In addition, one to two personal conferences will take place prior to departure.

LASALLIAN EDUCATION
Transforming Lives Since 1680

**Suggested cost for participants. Costs will be negotiated with individual ministries.*