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Brothers and Lasallian Partners,

Our District Leadership Team has been closely monitoring the developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and our on-going response as a District to the health and safety needs of our Brothers, Partners, and ministries. As I am sure you know, the latest news concerning this pandemic and its spread has not been encouraging.

It is in light of this, I write to share that I have directed our Office of Education Director, Michael Daniels, to cancel all scheduled Office of Education events through July 31, 2020. I am also cancelling Brother formation and vocation events through the same time period. A communication regarding the specifics of these cancellations accompanies this letter.

The realities that I had to consider in making this decision were first pastoral and then logistical ones. As Visitor, I have no greater responsibility than to care for the well-being of the members of our District family. I also must guarantee the good organization and smooth operation of our District structures and programs. Ultimately, it is up to me to respond to any conditions that threaten to negatively impact either of those areas.

With no way to predict either the development or the human impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the foreseeable future, I am convinced that the most prudent course of action is to suspend our aforementioned District programs until such time as I can know those things with certainty. Regrettably, it may be some time before that is possible. In the meantime, we must be as cautious and deliberate as we can to stay safe and to help keep our communities as healthy as possible. Our measures do not preclude the possibility of forming online meetings and formation options.

All this being said, I take great consolation in knowing that our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, was a man of great practicality and even greater faith, a perfect model for times like these. As he once wrote to one of his Brothers who was experiencing difficulties, "Take care not to let yourself be discouraged by anxieties and ailments; life is full of them." With God's guidance, we will do the things that must be done to care for each other and ourselves, and we will weather this storm successfully by weathering it together.

Please know that I am grateful for and confident in your support and all of your work in our Lasallian Catholic Mission. Throughout this time of uncertainty, may we find comfort in our loving God who assures us that caring for those who are vulnerable is paramount to our human family and foundational to the common good of all.

May God bless and protect all of you.

Bro Donald Johanson, FSC

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Visitor

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