

LSJSA Annual Retreat 03Feb2024

2023 end of the year and 2024 beginning of the year retreat

### **Summary**

The agenda for the retreat was distributed to all Lasallian Saint Joseph School Association (LSJSA) members through WhatsApp. We had one special invited guest, Mr. Colin Crawford. The meeting was conducted via zoom. It started and ended on time.

### **Agenda and minutes**

#### **Prayer:**

The prayer session was initiated with a prayer to St. Joseph, followed with Rosary, and concluded with a prayer to St. John Baptist De La Salle (Dr. Ghiorghis Ghenbot, Mr. Kiflesus Ghebrekudus and Dr. Amanuel Abreha).

#### **Guest speaker:**

Next, Mr. Colin Crawford, invited speaker, followed with a presentation, 'Association and the Lasallian World Today'. Mr. Colin teaches at St. John's College High School Washington, District of Columbia (his presentation is attached).

#### **Spiritual Reflection:**

Mr. Yosief Woldetensae gave a reflection on love, that is, brotherly love. He quoted edifying verses from scripture. At the end, he provided a personal testimony on how several years ago one of our members (Mr. Amanuel Giorgis) had helped him during one of his dire needs. This was spontaneously followed by other examples.

#### **Update from Eritrea:**

We were hoping to get an update on our Eritrean Brothers from Bro. Esayas. Unfortunately, this did not work out. However, Mr. Hiab Ghebresellassie, one of our members, indicated that he had recently talked with Bro. Betre Fisseha who briefly updated him on the Brothers in Eritrea.

#### **Updates from La Sallian St. Joseph School Association Leaders:**

The following three Regional Team Leaders gave updates on their respective areas. Mr. Mussie Ghirmay (Europe) – discussed the status of the association members in Europe, and of members who actively contributed this past year (Norway, France, United Kingdom). Mr. Demsas Uqbamicael who assists Mussie attended the retreat. Mr. Dawit Ghirmay – discussed the Canadian side, and finally Mr. Amanuel Giorgis – presented the USA side.

The three regional leaders indicated that they had sent the annual La Sallian Saint Joseph School Association greeting cards in the name of LSJSA to the Eritrean De La Salle Brothers.

In general, team leaders noted that members could do better with respect to participation and coming up with creative ways of energizing association members.

**Planning and adjustment to 2024 Calendar:**

It was noted that conducting regular meetings during summer months was difficult (due to graduations and weddings). Moving forward, it was agreed not to make any changes to the current schedules. Instead, announce any changes to the standard schedule well ahead of time. It was agreed to review the remaining topics not covered in 2023, and determine which ones to cover in 2024. For the good of the association, it was also agree to include a prayer for deceased immediate relatives of the association members.

**Closing prayer:**

The retreat was closed with a prayer. Participants stayed around for casual conversation.