

Service Learning Conference
"Current Status and Future Prospects of Service Learning"
Bethlehem, Palestine, May, 2023

Workshop

The Lasallian Spirituality as Grounding for Service Learning Discernment and Reflection

Content:

Since the early times of the Lasallian Mission, John Baptist De La Salle and the first Lasallians identified and developed a spirituality of their own. This spirituality has served as grounding and support for their educational undertakings for nearly 350 years. Lasallian Spirituality, characterized by its double contemplation of God's presence and plan, and the needs and aspirations of people it aims to serve, is very well suited to inform, enrich, support and process Service-Learning initiatives and projects from a Christian-Catholic perspective. Inviting the participants to approach this workshop from a state of suspension of judgment and belief or disbelief, the presenters will explain the basic elements of Lasallian Spirituality and their implications in Service-Learning. They will also provide them with practical and theoretical tools to adapt it according to the focus of their own institutional and personal mission and values. Once adapted to each particular reality and context, this spirituality might serve to inform and enrich Service-Learning initiatives from the discernment and planning levels all the way to the post-service reflection stage. Lasallian Spirituality can help imbue deeper human and spiritual meaning into Service-Learning initiatives and can help Service Learning to better respond to the needs and deep yearnings of both the providers and the recipients of its actions, as it empowers mutual learning and enrichment.

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