



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DE LA SALLE: ON BECOMING A LASALLIAN

EVALUATION OF THE CONDUCT OF THE INTRO TO LA SALLE AND CONTEXTUALIZATION AND LIVING OUT THE LASALLIAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES SESSIONS FOR ALL INCOMING FIRST YEAR AND SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF DELA SALLE HEALTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE, SY 2016-2017

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Abstract

In De La Salle Health Sciences Institute, the beginning of SY 2016-2017 became a significant year with regards to the implementation of and living out the Lasallian Guiding Principles. The Institute programmed a 5-day Lasallian Formation activity focusing on the life of St. John Baptist De La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles facilitated by different resource persons. This program endeavored to integrate the Life of St. John Baptist De La Salle in the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute curriculum and contextualize and live out the Lasallian Guiding Principles. Specifically, it aimed to: (1.) Orient the incoming freshman and sophomore students about the life of Life of St. John Baptist De La Salle and the existence of the LGP; (2.) Involve all incoming freshman and sophomore students in the discussion of the Lasallian Guiding Principles through the different programs, team building activities and individual/group presentations and sessions; (3.) Contextualize and live out all lessons learned from the discussion on the life of Life of St. John Baptist De La Salle and conduct Lasallian Guiding Principles; and (4.) Assess/evaluate the implementation of the Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles sessions.

The rating scores show that the conduct of Day 1 - 'The Person Session' and Day 2 - 'The Inspiration' far exceeded the expectations of the first and second year students of DLSHSI. The study also shows that the programs for Day 3 - 'The Association', how the execution and delivery was done, how the facilitators delivered the program, were evaluated excellently. This could be attributed to the materials used during the program, the activities performed by the students and the line-up of facilitators. The excellent rating of the 7 items is proof that the discussion of the Lasallian Guiding principles slated during Day 4 - 'The Mission' was indeed very important for the respondents and that they were all mindful of the contents and details of the said presentations. This day 4 also completed the theoretical foundations of the students vis-à-vis the presentation of their final outputs which is an advocacy video. The excellent mean score clearly shows how successful the conduct of the session had become and how the students enjoyed and loved watching their own outputs, Advocacy Video. Finally, the excellent rating for the conduct of the Intro to La Salle and the contextualization and living out of the Lasallian Guiding Principles sessions clearly shows that the Institute is responsive to the needs of the students and that the integration of such to the curriculum effects positive change into the lives of the students.

Keywords: De La Salle Health Sciences Institute, Freshman and Sophomore Students, Lasallian Guiding Principles

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1.Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Lasallian is a term to describe a person who is personally fulfilling the mission set forth by Saint John Baptist de La Salle (La Salle Provincialate, 2009).

Being Lasallian is faithfully based on five (5) core principles: Concern for the Poor and Social Justice; Faith in the Presence of God; Quality Education; Respect for all Persons; Inclusive Community (Rocas, 2009).

Furthermore, as cited in La Salle Provincialate, (2009), in its broadest sense, being Lasallian focuses on attitudes and views of education rather than formal structures. The Lasallian vocation to compassion, commitment and togetherness comes in various shapes and sizes. It has already done so in the course of its history, and it is set to develop completely new forms to meet the needs of today. This is the story of Lasallian Association today.

Moreover, a Lasallian is one who can transform the general Christian call to discipleship into a personal vocation, living out in a specific way the call to make Christ present in the world of today (Rocas, 2009).

In an article written by Collins, (2001), she highlighted who a Lasallian is. According to her:

A Lasallian is someone who is personally committed to living the gospel values here and now. Being a Lasallian is one way of turning the general Christian call to discipleship into my personal vocation, living out in a specific way the call to make Christ present in the world of today. The general call becomes specific for me, because it comes to me through my personal experience: through my contacts with certain individuals who are significant in my life. In particular, the Lasallian insight into Christian living comes through the inspiration of one man and the spirituality he developed.

The statements above clearly show the Lasallian distinct identity. Given all of these, being a Lasallian entails a lot of expectations and commitment. This involves faith, service, community, education, scholarship, transformation, compassion, excellence, commitment, and a lot more.

But when do we really say we have really become Lasallians, in words and in deeds? How do we measure the Lasallianess in us? How do we manifest the Lasallian Core Values? What guides us in the Lasallianization process?

This has become the foremost purpose of the introduction of the Lasalian Guiding Principles of the Philippine Lasallian Family which contain the fundamental guiding principles that the De La Salle Philippines follows as it strives to live out the Lasallian Mission in the Philippines. This is composed of three (3) documents, the Foundational Principles of Lasallian Formation, the Principles of Lasallian Education in the Philippines, and the Principles of Lasallian Social Development which are products of an ongoing effort to define and clarify the nature of the Lasallian presence and mission in the country today (Lasallian, 2009).

2. Theoretical Framework

As clearly stipulated in the document about the Lasallian Guiding Principles, these are the direct result of resolutions passed during the First Lasallian Family Convocation of 2003 calling for the strengthening of the sense of Lasallian identity and the deepening of the Lasallian charism

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among individuals and institutions in the Philippine District. Each of these statements builds on three (3) values which are fundamental to Lasallian identity: the spirit of faith, zeal for service and communion in mission. Furthermore, the intent of each of the three documents is to articulate the commitments that flow from these values in relation to the training and formation of Lasallian associates and partners, the conduct of the Lasallian educational mission in schools and the socio-political involvement of the Lasallian Family.

I am unsure what is meant by 'formator'?

In its truest sense, all Lasallian educators are considered formators by virtue of their participation in the Lasallian experience of education and formation as highlighted in the LGP manual. Moreover, those who enable persons to acquire vision, values and practices through activities initiated by the campus ministry, social action, guidance counseling, and Lasallian Family offices are considered in a more formal sense as Lasallian formators.

Today, the mission of human and Christian education is a wide ranging collaborative effort entrusted to men and women of diverse backgrounds and gifts, who, in creative fidelity to De La Salle's Vision, commit themselves to making the benefits of a transformative human and Christian education available to all, most especially to the poor. Each member of the Lasallian Family lives out this commitment through association in a Lasallian educational project according to his or her particular role and area of competence. By our efforts to ensure the vitality, relevance and effectiveness of the educational project, all who participate in and support such work act as partners in the educational process (Lasallian, 2009).

Education is viewed here as a collaborative effort that involves teachers, administrators, students, auxiliary staff, alumni, parents, and supporters committed to furthering the Lasallian Mission. Collaborating together in a spirit of fraternal solidarity, these groups constitute a community that incarnates and expresses human and Christian values, particularly those of faith, zeal for service and communion. Such a community educates and forms both by way of its curricular offerings and by the quality of its communal life (Lasallian, 2009).

3. Objectives of the Study

This program endeavored to integrate the Life of St. John Baptist De La Salle in the DLSHSI curriculum and contextualize and live out the Lasallian Guiding Principles.

Specifically, it aimed to:

- 1. Orient the incoming freshman and sophomore students about the life of SJBDLS and the existence of the LGP;
- 2. Involve all incoming freshman and sophomore students in the discussion of the LGP through the different programs, team building activities and individual/group presentations and sessions;
- 3. Contextualize and live out all lessons learned from the discussion on the life of SJBDLS and conduct LGP; and







4. Assess/evaluate the implementation of the Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles sessions

DAY 1 - THE PERSON (background of the program/objectives, De La Salle Philippines and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute in focus (structure and people and functions), Vision-Mission-Values-Creed of DLSHSI, the Lasallian prayer, and sharing of expectations)

DAY 2 - THE INSPIRATION (life of SJBDLS, video presentations, discussion of the expected output of the students, and workshops/individual/team building activities).

DAY 3 - THE ASSOCIATION (who is a Lasallian?, who is a La Salle student?, the kind of life that a La Salle student should have in dlshsi, what is expected of a dlshsi student?, the things that a La Salle student shouldn't do, and workshops/individual/team building activities

DAY 4 - THE MISSION (the Lasallian guiding principles, video presentations, living out and contextualizing the Lasallian guiding principles, and workshops/individual/team building activities)

DAY 5 - THE CELEBRATION (sharing/reflections/processing/evaluation, final presentation of output and recognition ceremonies)

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

This study utilized the descriptive research survey technique. A survey is a non-experimental, descriptive research method. Surveys can be useful when a researcher wants to collect data on phenomena that cannot be directly observed (such as opinions) (Texas University, n.d.).

A survey is a means of gathering information about a particular population by sampling some of its members, usually through a system of standardized questions. It can be conducted by mail, telephone, personal interview or internet. It can be administered either to individuals or groups. Questions may be related to behaviors, beliefs, attitudes and/or characteristics of those who are surveyed. The aforementioned research technique was employed in this study considering that the purpose of a survey is to elicit information which, after evaluation, results in a profile or statistical characterization of the population sampled (Fair fax County Government, n.d.).

4.2 Respondents of the Study

The study used the incoming freshman and sophomore students for a total of 1,303 from the seven (7) colleges of the Institute namely: College of Humanities and Sciences, College of Pharmacy, College of Medical Laboratory Science, College of Nursing, College of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medical Radiation Technology, and College of Medicine, as respondents of the study. The students were all required to attend the 5-day session.

4.3 Research Instrument

Data for this study was collected with the use of a researcher-made and validated survey questionnaire. The questionnaire is a structured technique for collecting primary data in a





marketing survey. It is a series of written or verbal questions for which the respondents provide answers (Quick MBA, 2008).

A self-made survey-questionnaire was prepared by the researcher and validated by the pool of facilitators and formators who volunteered to facilitate the conduct of the Intro to La Salle and LGP sessions. It was pilot-tested to the College of Humanities and Sciences and had undergone reliability testing using the Cronbach's Alpha in which the alpha coefficient for the 39 items is 0.848, suggesting that the items have a good internal consistency.

Based on the items contained in the questionnaire, the questions were grouped according to the following: The Person with 8 items; The Inspiration with 8 items; The Association with 7 items; The Mission with 11 items; and The Celebration with 5 items. Commendations and recommendations relative to this were also noted. This study used a 5-Point Likert Scale to evaluate/assess the implementation of the conduct of Intro to La Salle and contextualization and living out the Lasallian Guiding Principles.

- 1= Poor; Does not meet expectations
- 2= Needs Improvement; Sometimes meets expectations
- 3= Fair; Meets expectations
- 4= Good; Exceeds expectations
- 5= Excellent; Far exceeds expectations

4.4 Data Gathering Procedure

The survey-questionnaire was distributed to all participants during the first session day for all the three batches. The same was retrieved during the Day 5 session of the said program. The program started on July 18, 2016 and ended on August 12, 2016.

4.5 Statistical Treatment of Data

In order to evaluate and assess the implementation of the conduct of Intro to La Salle and contextualization and living out of the Lasallian Guiding Principles sessions, the following descriptive statistical techniques were applied: mean; and standard deviation. The following was used to interpret the results of the study:

4.21 – 5.00	-	Excellent; Far exceeds expectations
3.41 - 4.20	-	Good; Exceeds expectations
2.61 – 3.40	-	Fair; Meets expectations
1.81 – 2.60	-	Needs Improvement; Sometimes meets expectations
1.00 – 1.80	-	Poor; Does not meet expectations







5. Results and Discussion

The following presents discussions relative to the different objectives presented in this study:

Objectives

- 1. Orient the incoming freshman and sophomore students about the life of SJBDLS and the existence of the LGP;
- 2. Involve all incoming freshman and sophomore students in the discussion of the LGP through the different programs, team building activities and individual/group presentations and sessions;
- 3. Contextualize and live out all lessons learned from the discussion on the life of SJBDLS and conduct LGP; and
- **4.** Assess/evaluate the implementation of the Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles sessions.

The Conduct of the Program

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academics adhered to the following:

- 1. Distribution of assignments per facilitator, per group, per schedule, and per session;
- 2. Distribution of all materials specific to the topics, facilitators, groups, and sessions;
- 3. Identification of room assignments;
- 4. Distribution of the class list;
- 5. Conduct of the program through the following activities:
 - 5.1. Setting of expectations
 - 5.2. Diagnostic Exam/Quizzes
 - 5.3. On-line searching and googling
 - 5.4. Meta Cards Presentation through group activities
 - 5.5. Sharing and presentations
 - 5.6. Case Analyses through the discussion of the Student Handbook
 - 5.7. Lectures, presentations, demonstrations, Q and A Sessions, feedback, processing, and evaluation
 - 5.8. Video presentations
 - 5.9. Music Adaptation for the Lasallian Prayer
 - 5.10. Video Making based on the Advocacy of the group
 - 5.11. Culminating activity and graduation ceremonies

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5.12. Awarding

TABLE 1: Evaluation of the Conduct of Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles Session for Day 1 - The Person

ITEMS	N	Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretation
DAY 1-THE PERSON				
I have experienced an orientation program relative to the conduct of Intro to La Salle and LGP sessions.	1303	4.299 3	.7148 1	Excellent
I have been given a clearer background of the Institution where I now belong through the presentation of the De La Salle Philippines and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute and their Structures.	1303	4.44 05	.6817 5	Excellent
I have fully appreciated now the contents of the VISION-MISSION-VALUES-CREED OF DLSHSI after the session.	1303	4.387 6	.7265 4	Excellent
I have now fully appreciated the Lasallian Prayer.	1303	4.542 6	.6796 3	Excellent
I have been given the opportunity to share my expectations about the session/activity.	1303	4.06 83	.8573 0	Good
I have seen the relevance of the activities and have enjoyed them at the same time.	1303	4.155 0	.8436 5	Good
I have seen that the facilitators have prepared for the session.	1303	4.391 4	.7642 1	Excellent
I have noticed that the venue is conducive for the kind of session we have had for the day.	1303	4.458 2	.7485 1	Excellent
Average (Day 1)	1303	4·34 41	.570 35	Excellent

Table 1 reveals that generally, the students affirmed that the **Day 1 Session - The Person** was generally conducted excellently with 6 excellent evaluations out of 8 items, as evidenced by the mean score of **4.3441**. As regards the specific items contained in this table, the respondents rated the following with excellent evaluation: I have experienced an orientation program relative to the conduct of Intro to La Salle and LGP sessions; I have been given a clearer background of the Institution where I now belong through the presentation of the De La Salle Philippines and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute and their Structures; I have fully appreciated now the contents of the VISION-MISSION-VALUES-CREED OF DLSHSI after the session; I have fully appreciated now the Lasallian Prayer; I have seen that the facilitators have prepared for the session; and I have noticed that the venue is conducive for the kind of session we have had for the day. The rating scores show that the conduct of Day 1 - The Person Session Far exceeds the expectations of the first and second year students of DLSHSI.



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TABLE 2: Evaluation of the Conduct of Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding PrinciplesSession for Day 2 - The Inspiration

ITEMS		Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretation
DAY 2-THE INSPIRATION				
I have seen that introductory activities relative to the Life of St. John Baptist De La Salle has been conducted and participation of everyone has been accomplished.	1303	4.345 4	.7418 7	Excellent
I have fully appreciated who St. John Baptist De La Salle is after the session.	1303	4.458 2	.7127 7	Excellent
I have seen the full attention and participation of everyone.	1303	3.955 5	.9113 6	Good
I have observed that everyone has been given the opportunity to share his/her thoughts about the topics during the session.	1303	4.04 91	.8732 5	Good
I have observed that everyone has been very comfortable sharing his/her thoughts about the topic.	1303	3.936 3	.9081 1	Good
I have seen the relevance of the activities and have enjoyed them at the same time.	1303	4.142 0	.8758 3	Good
I have seen that the facilitators have prepared for the session.	1303	4.391 4	.7811 1	Excellent
I have noticed that the venue is conducive for the kind of session we have had for the day.	1303	4.413 7	·7579 8	Excellent
Average (Day 2)	1303	4.2 1 27	.637 20	Excellent

It can be gleaned from Table 2 that in regard the conduct of **Day 2 Session - The Inspiration**, the respondents agreed that it far exceeds their expectations, as reflected in the mean score of 4.2127 with a standard deviation of .63720. Specifically, it can be noticed that out of the 8 items presented, 4 have excellent ratings and 4 also have the good ratings. Positively, when the general mean score was computed, the over-all rating still showed an excellent conduct of the said session.







TABLE 3: Evaluation of the Conduct of Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles Session for Day 3 - The Association

ITEMS		Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretatio n
DAY 3-THE ASSOCIATION				
I have seen that introductory activities relative to the topics for the session has been conducted and participation of everyone has been accomplished.	1303	4.317 7	.7490 2	Excellent
I have fully appreciated what is expected of me as a Lasallian and as a Lasallian student.	1303	4.416 0	.7133 5	Excellent
I could personally say that I have now fully understood the things that I shouldn't do as a Lasallian student after the session.	1303	4.426 7	.696 02	Excellent
I have seen the relevance of the activities and have enjoyed them at the same time	1303	4.270 9	.8152 6	Excellent
I have seen that the facilitators have prepared for the session.	1303	4.421 3	.7225 2	Excellent
I have noticed that the venue is conducive for the kind of session we have had for the day.	1303	4.42 06	.7171 0	Excellent
I have observed that the discussion of the topic-The Association has promoted an atmosphere of active participation, commitment and solidarity in our group.	1303	4.345 4	.7408 4	Excellent
Average (Day 3)	1303	4·37 40	.599 62	Excellent

Table 3 clearly presents that in terms of the evaluation of the respondents on the conduct of **Day 3 Session - The Association**, all of them affirmed that this session far exceeds their expectations, as seen in the mean score of 4.3740 with a standard deviation of .59962. The rating shows that the programs for Day 3, how the execution and delivery was done, how the facilitators delivered the program was evaluated excellently. This could be attributed to the materials used during the program, the activities performed by the students and the line-up of facilitators.







TABLE 4: Evaluation of the Conduct of Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles Session for Day 4 - The Mission

ITEMS	Ν	Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretation
DAY 4-THE MISSION				
I have been given a copy of the Lasallian Guiding Principles.	1303	4.560 2	.7005 7	Excellent
I have experienced that a good orientation relative to the conduct of LGP session has been done.	1303	4.330 8	.7672	Excellent
I have been given a clearer background of the Lasallian Guiding Principles during the session.	1303	4.34 08	.7491 4	Excellent
I have now a clear understanding of the contents of the Lasallian Guiding Principles after the session.	1303	4.307 8	.7658 2	Excellent
I have been given the opportunity to share my expectations about the session/activity.	1303	4.115 9	.8673 6	Good
I have observed that everyone has been given the opportunity to share his/her thoughts about the topics during the session.	1303	4.130 5	.8514 1	Good
I have observed that everyone has been very comfortable sharing his/her thoughts about the topic.	1303	4.061 4	.8907 7	Good
I have seen the relevance of the activities and have enjoyed them at the same time.	1303	4.188 8	.8530 9	Good
I have seen that the facilitators have prepared for the session.	1303	4.397 5	.7498 4	Excellent
I have noticed that the venue is conducive for the kind of session we have had for the day.	1303	4.419 0	.7380 4	Excellent
I have observed that the discussion of the topic - The Mission has promoted an atmosphere of active participation, commitment and solidarity in our group.	1303	4.321 6	.7849 7	Excellent
Average (Day 4)	1303	4.28 87	.618 72	Excellent

Taking into consideration the conduct of the **Day 4 Session - The Mission**, Table 4 highlights that over-all, the respondents believed that it far exceeds their expectations, as supported by the mean score of 4.2887 interpreted as Excellent. Significantly, out of 11 items in this session, 7 were rated excellently. This is a proof that the discussion of the Lasallian Guiding Principles slated during Day 4 was indeed very important for the respondents and that they were all





mindful of the contents and details of the said presentations. This day 4 also completed the theoretical foundations of the students vis-à-vis the presentation of their final output which is an advocacy video.

TABLE 5: Evaluation of the Conduct of Intro to La Salle and Lasallian Guiding Principles Session for Day 5 - The Celebration

ITEMS	Ν	Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretation
DAY 5-THE CELEBRATION				
I have experienced that a review of the previous sessions and activities have been conducted during	1303	4.421	.7246	Excellent
the last session.		3	4	
I have witnessed wonderful presentations from the different groups.	1303	4.547	.6656	Excellent
		2	2	
I have seen that the final outputs of the 5-day session are clear manifestation of the success of the	1303	4.461	.7225	Excellent
program.		2	7	
I find the conduct of the Intro to La Salle and LGP session very relevant, helpful and contributory to my	1303	4.46	.7486	Excellent
development as a student and as a Lasallian.	8	05	4	
I can now proudly say I am a true Lasallian.	1303	4.643	.6422	Excellent
	N N	1	5	
Average (Day 5)	1303	4.50	.582	Excellent
		67	29	

Table 5 presents the evaluation of the respondents in terms of their experience in attending the **Day 5 Session - The Celebration**. The table points out that the all items contained in this session were all rated excellently, as reflected in the mean score of 4.5067 verbally described as far exceeds expectations. The said mean score clearly shows how successful the conduct of the session had become and how the students enjoyed and loved watching their own outputs-Advocacy Video. This day also was celebrated through the distribution of the certificate of completion and the token for all those who successfully completed the 5-day program.





ITEMS	Ν	Mean	Std. Devia tion	Verbal Interpretation
DAY 1 - THE PERSON	1303	4.344 1	.5703 5	Excellent
DAY 2 - THE INSPIRATION	1303	4.212 7	.6372 0	Excellent
DAY 3 - THE ASSOCIATION	1303	4.374 0	.5996 2	Excellent
DAY 4 - THE MISSION	1303	4.28 87	.6187 2	Excellent
DAY 5 - THE CELEBRATION	1303	4.506 7	.5822 9	Excellent
OVERALL MEAN	1303	4·34 49	.530 81	Excellent

TABLE 6: Summary of Evaluation

In summary, the over-all result of 4.3449 with an excellent rating verbally described as far exceeds expectations is a manifestation and an empirical proof of the success of the program. Notably, the individual mean score and standard deviations per session day reveal that the objectives of the program were met, the facilitators and the secretariat did their very best to be able to have a better result. The excellent rating for the conduct of the Intro to La Salle and the contextualization and living out of the Lasallian Guiding Principles clearly shows that the Institute is responsive to the needs of the students and that the integration of such to the curriculum effects positive change into the lives of the students.

Commendations and Recommendations vis-à-vis the Conduct of the Intro to La Salle and Contextualization and Living Out the Lasallian Guiding Principles Sessions

Significantly, almost all respondents are positive of the program. As regards the recommendations, it would be important to note the following: (1) Maybe coordinate more with the presentations of the speakers because sometimes they are redundant with what were already given earlier; (2) Free food/snacks; (3) Increase the sharing time to have the participants actively share their thoughts, not just do the activity/task at hand; (4) Have more interactive workshops and lecture sessions; (5) Given the opportunity, the activity can be fine-tuned more, especially in the area of delivery and visuals of the lessons; (6) Better planning and training; (7) More lively facilitators; and (8) As early as this orientation is, punctuality must be enforced. Appendix 5 presents the complete list of commendations and recommendations.



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