



TESTIMONIES

Br. Laurentino (Guillermo): ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR Fidelity

On 12 March 1921 I took my first breath of life into a believer, practising Christian family.

From my mother, Marta, I inherited a conscious, deep-rooted and profound faith. It was my father, Andrés, who instilled in me dynamism, concern and a constant desire to succeed. Together with my grandfather Eusebio, the teacher in the village, and at his side, I learned to love school, his school. He sowed the first seed; the sapling grew and the circumstances of the family environment paved the way for me to La Salle's school.

8 September 1934: on the way to the Junior Novitiate at Fortianell. Testing ground. Two people had a very positive impact on me: Frère Eugene and Frère Ybelin Henri, directors, respectively, of the Junior Novitiate and the Novitiate. Firm, serene and constant stringency, but with a cordial and welcoming tone. Such was the French formation.

1938: Scholasticate in Bujedo and unreserved and fearless dedication. The director, Carlos Eloy, very tactful and understanding, was a total success. We were 60 scholastics from Valladolid and Barcelona; complex and different mentalities.





July 1939: Cambrils. The civil war had left many empty spaces in the house and in the farm. Everything was “upside down”. We had to bring back order. There were 12 of us. The changes and destinations came immediately.

16 January 1940: 82 children were waiting for me in Seu d’Ugell and Brother Laurentino, aged 19, was at work. Who would have thought it! A happy learning on the way. The director, Brother Antonino Luis, a born pedagogue, inculcated in me the way, the manner, the depth and the firmness to guide the little boat. Thus, began a cycle that would last all my life with its many variants to take the path as a lover of the school and of La Salle.

One hundred years that I celebrate today, my pilgrimage, not easy at all, sometimes painful, but always smiling. Falling in love with a smile. This is the beginning of my multiple and varied activities, always parallel to the school and its environment. Creation of two musical groups: Sons del Cadí in La Seo d’Ugell and Sons de Farners in Santa Coloma. Specialising in recorder. Founder of a federated football team for young men in 1956, which still exists today in its own Campus La Salle stadium.

For 19 consecutive months of July, I accompanied my students on intensive French courses at the Catholic University of Angers. The African experience of volunteering in Togo, Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Fasso cannot be missed.

Three CELAS sessions (programs of Lasallian formation) accompanying teachers from Santa Coloma de Farners.

It has not all been a bed of roses. Tense, difficult and distressing moments have marked my path, the journey of a lover of the Lasallian school. And, as a good Lasallian, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, to Saint Joseph and to the holy Founder has been the medicine in the hard times.

I envisage the Institute with optimism, faith and hope in all the contexts and events ahead.

I seem to remember you, Brother Rafa, at a conference in Barcelona, your argument: “No one has the right to set “expire dates” on La Salle” Do you remember...? In a moment you addressed me, because of my age, to say: “Here, the present” and to a handsome young man: “This is the future”.

A message for all: Deepening the Rules. Believing in the Holy Spirit (optimism of our Superior Br Robert Schieler and the four pillars of Circular 475: Generosity and Creativity, Culture of vocations, Lasallian Pastoral Ministry and Pastoral Ministry for Association).

My final words are ones of thanksgiving. Thank you, Brothers, for sharing Lasallian experiences together; thank you teachers for your acceptance and commitment; thank you students, fertile ground for all my movements, dreams and hopes. Thank you, Monsieur de La Salle, for being as I am: A LOVER OF YOUR SCHOOL.

