



**Brothers of
the Christian
Schools**



TESTIMONIES

Helena Lagarda Planas

My name is Helena Lagarda Planas. I live in Sant Celoni (Catalonia) and I have been working at La Salle Sant Celoni for 20 years. I am married and I have two children, one is 22 years old and the other one is 13 years old. I am a non-teaching educator; I serve as the academic secretary; I assist and deal with children, families and teachers.

As soon as I arrived at La Salle and from the hand of Brother Joan Escalé, I understood that it was not just a simple job. There was something else. I found in this place a new family, Brothers and companions who shared with me the faith and service as well as this fraternity that unites us so much.

Some years after I started working, the Brothers left the community (I still miss them!!!!) and from then on, the Community of Associates started to move on its own.

In a couple of years, I joined that community and after some time of reflection I decided to make the public commitment. This was in 2015.

I understand that from my point of view as administration staff and being in a strategic place of work where I can connect with the whole educational community, in one way or another I can transmit to everyone the message, the charism, the Lasallian vision...





Associated with the Lasallian Mission, I try every day to give the best of myself in order to carry on the Lasallian charism. All this accompanied, of course, by my community. A community which is now a bit special because we are not all in the school, but we try to meet on Wednesdays to share faith and life.

I am also a member of the La Salle Catalunya Associates' Driving-force Team and I am the Sector's representative on the ARLEP Associates' Coordinating Committee. Both experiences are very enriching for all of us as we share a network, both at the level of Catalonia and ARLEP. So, I am fortunate to have three different Communities, at different levels, but with the same enthusiasm and the same mission. We feel united.

It helps me every day to live the Mission with joy and fidelity to see that it is worthwhile. I feel fulfilled in my service and I feel that my communities deliver me what I need and offer me a broader vision than that one could live alone at home. It is worthwhile to see how we take care of the children and the families and the companions and sometimes we give them the touch of light that is needed. I like to accompany the people I am close to and take care of them. I feel good that way. I also feel accompanied, it's reciprocal. I feel lucky.

I see that the Lasallian family is growing little by little. The communities are now expanding. Some communities are mixed, some are only composed of associates, and some are welcoming new members who are in line with us but prefer not to make a public commitment.

I end up thinking that for me it is important to make this commitment, but it is something very personal, so I find it wonderful that people who feel called, but do not do it, can participate with us and can do their bit. What could be better than this! Wherever and whatever it is, and whatever the name be: united in La Salle.

I believe that Saint Joseph is one of the great characters of history. His faith, his attitude, his knowledge and his love are a great example to us all. He shows us and guides us and helps us to believe in that faith. He protected his family and cared for them. Those of us who are fathers and mothers also live and act in this way.