



**Brothers of
the Christian
Schools**



TESTIMONIES

María Dolores and Antonio, Signum Fidei. Spain

We are a Christian couple with a common life project. We were born in Seville (Spain): Antonio Gutiérrez Salud and María Dolores Pizarraza Lauriño, who belongs to the supporting staff of the school La Salle Felipe Benito in the city of Seville, Andalusia.

Sixteen years ago, both of us committed ourselves as Signum Fidei. We have three children (one son and two daughters), all of whom are former students of La Salle School. When our children were students, we always helped to meet the needs of the school and the Brothers.

Now, as Signum Fidei, we are volunteers in two Lasallian NGOs: Proyde and Madre Coraje. We have been a host family collaborating with migrant children in the Lasallian socio-educational mission, and we have also served as catechists of adults, children and young people. Our history is linked to La Salle for almost 40 years of service and availability with its lights and shadows.



Our vocational experience comes from our baptism which marks the beginning of our journey and the need to collaborate in making the Kingdom of Jesus a reality here and now.

Our vocation is being a lifelong process. We did not receive a single individual call, but rather, as a married couple, there were many more calls in the environment in which we were involved, such as Adult Groups, Marriage Groups, School for



Parents, Retreats, Catechesis... and we were responding to them without even realising it. All this led us from “commitment to commitment” and to falling in love with the charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The Brothers were the first to make this call to us, “The Spirit blows again and again until we feel it and we let it move within us.

Our witness also led us to collaborate in the service of the most in need outside the Lasallian context but always sent by the Lasallian institution (Parish, Madre Coraje, etc.). After some time, after reflecting on it and we sensed the call to a vocation, to live our faith in a Lasallian Christian Community, we gave a free and personal response to this call to Love and Serve.

In our daily life we try to witness with the conviction that God calls us to live and love in our own context and in our own “plot of land” following the style of Jesus of Nazareth that is implicit in our Style of Life. We enjoy it all as a gift full of hope, sharing the Mission with the Brothers as a way of living our vocation.

Of all that we have experienced, we value the accompaniment in our process by the Brothers who made us discover through their experience the sense of belonging to the Fraternity. Another key point is the formation programme that we have received and are receiving. At the same time as we receive formation, we experience and share experiences with other people from other places. It is enriching to hear from their own views and experiences.

But above all the sharing of Celebration, Prayer and Life with the Brothers and with the people of our Fraternity. We have experienced the strongest moments during the Easter retreats. It was there that we discovered the Spirituality of the Founder, back in 1989, and it really touched us.

For us Signum Fidei, the personal encounter with oneself and with God in prayer is an essential point, as well as discernment by listening daily the Word of God. It is like the oxygen in our life that drives us and gives us strength for the Mission. And finally, fraternal relationships with the people who are part of this Work of God. “Living to serve” our brothers and sisters, especially those who need us most.

We feel loved by a Father-Mother God who loves us just as we are and knows us perfectly, and in whom we can fully trust. Daily reflection on what Jesus communicates to us in the Gospel helps us to live day by day (especially in these times of pandemic) with joy and above all with HOPE. In Lasallian terminology, it also helps us to be faithful to our Christian and Lasallian vocation, to live the

spirit of faith which reminds us every day “to look at nothing but with the eyes of faith, to do nothing but with our eyes fixed on God and to attribute everything to God”.

Today the Signum Fidei Fraternity is acquiring a strong revitalisation spread throughout many countries of the world, but we should not be overconfident. There is a need to continue sowing so that the future will continue to bear fruit; for this we need, in addition to the Brothers, people who are deeply committed to their vocation to the Lasallian charism.

This is good for the whole Lasallian Family: people who give witness to their faith in both educational and personal contexts.

Young people play a very important role in the mission. They need to be accompanied from the family (domestic Church). We would encourage them to ask themselves questions, to question themselves as human beings and to seek answers in the Word of God; but always accompanied, so that they can discover their vocation. In addition to their group of friends, they should not forget that there is a greater friend who never fails: JESUS!

In this Year of Saint Joseph, his figure is very important for us: he is the Patron Saint of our entire Lasallian Family in which we take part. St. Joseph teaches us to be righteous in a world where there is much injustice, and to be docile to God’s will. As the husband of Mary, he helps us to live our faith beside Her, who shows as the pathway to Jesus. He is an example of holiness to imitate as a married couple.