



**Brothers of
the Christian
Schools**



TESTIMONIES

SAINT JOSEPH, OUR PATRON SAINT VLADIMIR GOMEZ ESCARTIN Puerto Cabello - Venezuela

Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” John 14: 23

I am a Lasallian old student of Colegio San José La Salle in my city, a founding member of our Lasallian Alumni Association and representative for Venezuela of the World Organization of Alumni of Catholic Education -OMAEC-. I am married to Virginia and we have three wonderful children, Luis Alfredo, María Verónica and María Laura.

Actually, in one way or another, my personal and family life has always been linked to La Salle, both as a student, spending some 9 years at the school; then as a representative, my three children are also former students of the school; and as an old student committed to the mission, either through our local Alumni Association or through the World Union of Lasallian Alumni.

I have always thought that in my country, the Lasallian alumni undergo two stages: in the first one, we appreciate the academic formation received in the classrooms of our institution; but in the second stage, and this is the most important one, is when we form a family, that is when our responsibility becomes greater, because following the example of Saint Joseph, we become parents, guides, breadwinners, protectors of the family, living examples of the values of faith, fraternity, service, commitment and justice in which we were formed.



The patron saint of the Municipality of Puerto Cabello in Venezuela is Saint Joseph, the patron saint of the school where I was formed is Saint Joseph, and the patron saint of the Institute is Saint Joseph; that is to say, our Lasallian formation has always been linked both to the values of the Institute and to the example of Saint Joseph.

It is no secret that in Venezuela we are facing very difficult times, and this duality, which in reality is not such, of Lasallian and follower of the example of Saint Joseph, is what has kept us strong, firm and united as a family; today, two of our three children have emigrated from the country, seeking a better future, a better quality of life, and in spite of the distance and the borders, we remain united as a family, and I believe that the glue that keeps this union are those values in which we were formed and which we live in our family.

May God grant us that this year dedicated by Pope Francis to Saint Joseph turn out in the strengthening of the family as the primary institution for education in the faith, indeed the first school, the core for the formation of more and better Christians.

Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever.

