

**1. So far in your Lasallian journey, what have been the most joyful and peaceful experiences? What has disturbed or made you anxious? Describe your experiences.**

I, like many others, consider my Lasallian journey to be a fresh start. The college experience is drastically different from high school, signaling a transition from one's teenage years into adulthood. Students are free from the shackles that once bound them in their high school years and placed in a new environment where they need not be weighed down by any past regrets. But with change comes uncertainty, and with uncertainty comes anxiety for the future. It's difficult to separate my most joyful experiences from my most stressful ones, mostly because it feels as if they are two sides of the same coin.

For instance, before the start of the first term, I was looking forward to meeting new people, despite being introverted at heart. Beaming with optimism, I vowed to interact with more people than I did in high school. When the term started, however, I could not help but struggle to establish lasting connections in the ever-competitive university environment. It was as if I was trying to find my balance crossing a shallow but rapidly-flowing river—I was being swept away with every step I took.

Eventually, however, I managed to reach the other side. I managed to open up my heart and built relationships with friends among whom I feel like I can be myself. Despite my initial anxieties, I managed to find peace and am now content with where I stand. Never before have I felt this confident facing the uncertain future with my head raised and my heart cleansed of all regrets; I will thus continue to live out my university years in pursuit of a brighter tomorrow.

**2. What gospel stories or other inspirational literature resonate with your current experiences? What stories from the life of the Founder connect with your experiences? Where do you think God is leading you? How is God moving in your life? (Where do you see your life heading? What significant changes or developments are occurring in your life?)**

St. La Salle's mission of making education more accessible resonates with my goal of being able to make a lasting positive impact on the world. Likewise, gospel stories such as that of the *Good Samaritan* echo the values I wish to practice when living my day-to-day life. Fictional works such as Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* inspire me to see the world through the innocent eyes of a child, striving to never lose the child-like hope in the midst of an increasingly indifferent world. All these stories bring together the goals and values I wish to incorporate in my life.

God, acting through such sources of inspirations that drive me to become the best possible version of myself, is leading me to a life that lifts up the spirits of those around me. My growth as a person in recent years has surprised even myself—I am slowly becoming more approachable and open to mingling with my peers, for instance. I believe such developments as stepping stones to follow such that what I accomplish with my life can reach even greater heights.

All this, in my view, is my way of giving back to the Divine that created me, the family that nurtured me, the friends that stayed with me, the teachers that shared their knowledge with me, and every person who helped shape who I am today. As mentioned, the future is uncertain; I do not know what it holds for me, and I am unsure of how much further I can walk the journey of life. Regardless, I will live out this journey hoping that my growth over the past years will allow me to gift others with the same blessings that have helped me all throughout my life so far.

### **3. What specific and doable actions can you take in response to God's invitation and movement?**

An adage I live by is to *live every day hoping to be a better person than I was yesterday*. Compared to how long human society has persisted—much less eternal life—our time in this world is incredibly transient. I want to spend that time helping to make the lives of those around me better, even through small things such as tutoring my friends struggling in certain subjects or supporting those who are in need of a shoulder to lean on. They are, after all, part of the reason why I am who I am today.

Furthermore, as my passions lie in STEM, specifically computer science and adjacent fields, my ultimate goal is to be able to help progress technology in service of the common good of humankind. Working towards that goal, I will be vigilant in maintaining my academic standing. This will be my way of giving back to my family, who has provided for me and allowed for me to receive quality education from preschool to university.

Finally, I will do my utmost to practice my faith and engage in self-reflection regularly. It is only by looking back at the past, being grateful for every small blessing that I have received, that I can proceed with each day with a clear mind. Gratitude lies at the heart of the purpose I find in everything I have accomplished—it is the one thing I must never forget even at my lowest moments. By giving thanks, I pass on the blessings I have received and, hopefully, make the world a slightly better place.