

12 June 2009

Dear Parents and Friends

## ***Call to Arms***

This is a plea to all in the Lasallian family to help our brothers and sisters, like Nihilan and Thayan, in the war-torn district of Mannar in northern Sri Lanka.

The end of the fighting between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan Government troops is a welcome relief to tens of thousands of people displaced after 30 years of fighting. The impact of this war on innocent children and families is horrific. These children have never known a life without war. Many have had no education. No childhood.

We can assume the return to “normal” life is going to be several years away. Farming and fishing have been impossible in the war areas; education and health have been non-existent. Despite good intentions the victorious Sri Lankan Government will be intent on ridding all trace of the Tigers and their sympathisers.

An immediate impact on the Lasallian Foundation is a request for funds to support between 80 to 100 orphaned boys and girls. Most of these children have seen their parents killed. Others have no knowledge whether their parents are living or not.

We need to clothe feed, shelter and educate these traumatised boys and girls. The quicker a regular pattern of life is established the better.

**We are aiming to raise \$75,000.** Our appeal is to you. If all families in our schools, teachers, donors, alumni, supporters, and the general community pitch in we can achieve this for 2009. These funds will enable the Brothers to build a permanent home for these children, like Nihilan and Thayan, who are currently in a temporary shelter. This funding will also support recurrent costs of this home for the first three years. Hopefully, we will be able to reunite some of these children with their families in the future.



My name is Nihilan. I am 11 years old. My father is a farmer but his land has been occupied by security forces. My father is now unemployed. Our family has been displaced many times. We have no home due to this war.

The recent tragic bush fires in Victoria roused this nation to great generosity. We wept; we gave generously and we thanked God for those who were safe. It was so close to home. It touched someone we loved or knew. We felt obliged to help. And so we ought to, and the response was appropriate. The media was on top of this and dedicated many pages and many hours of footage and space to this single event. It was local. It was close to our hearts and interests therefore it warranted the dedication of time, staff and space.

**This appeal is for the children we will not meet. In a country we will not visit.** A scenario not given great attention to by the media. Our lives will be untouched by this. But we ask you to give because of the solidarity you feel with our Lasallian family.

We wish to reach out to those children who have become innocent victims of a long and bloody war.

***We give because we can.***

***We give because we can make a difference.***

Yours sincerely



Brother Paul Smith fsc AM  
Chief Executive Officer



I am Thayan Delaxon, age 15. My father is unemployed, and my mother and sister live in a refugee camp. My other sister has been conscripted by the Tamil Tigers and we have not heard from her in years.



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I wish to make a tax deductible donation of  \$50  \$250  \$500  Other \$.....

Cheque or money order enclosed (*made payable to Lasallian Foundation*) Signature.....

Master  Visa No: ...../...../..... Expiry Date: ...../.....

Supporter Number: «DONORNUMBER»

Title: ..... Name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode: ..... Email: .....

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**I would like to receive more information about:**

- The Lasallian Foundation's Bequest Program
- The Lasallian Foundation's Project Sponsorship Program