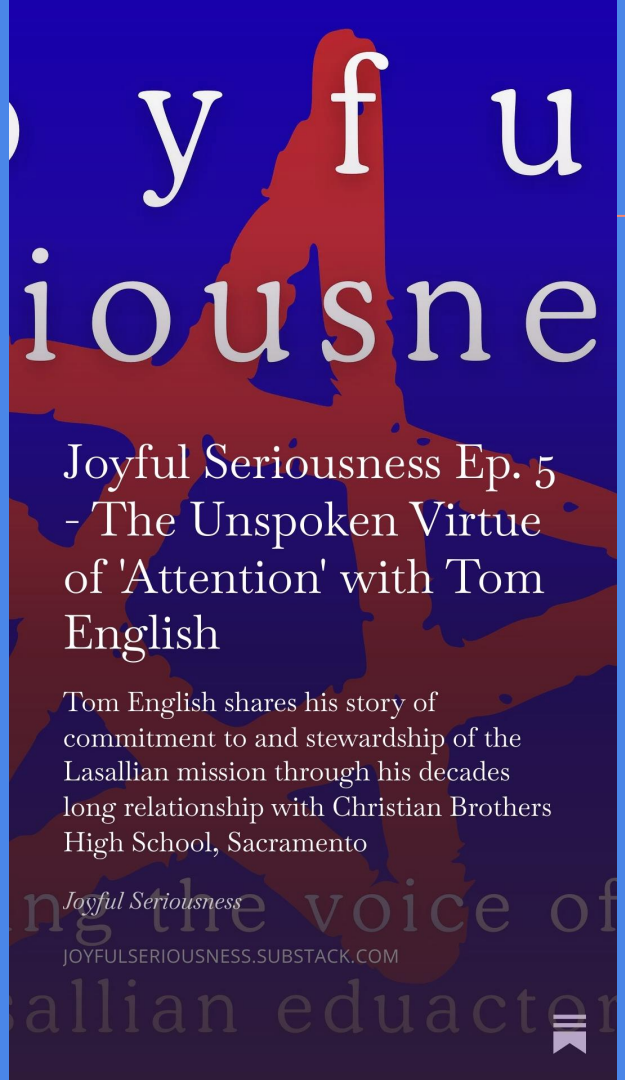
joyful seriousness

centering the voice of the Lasallian educator



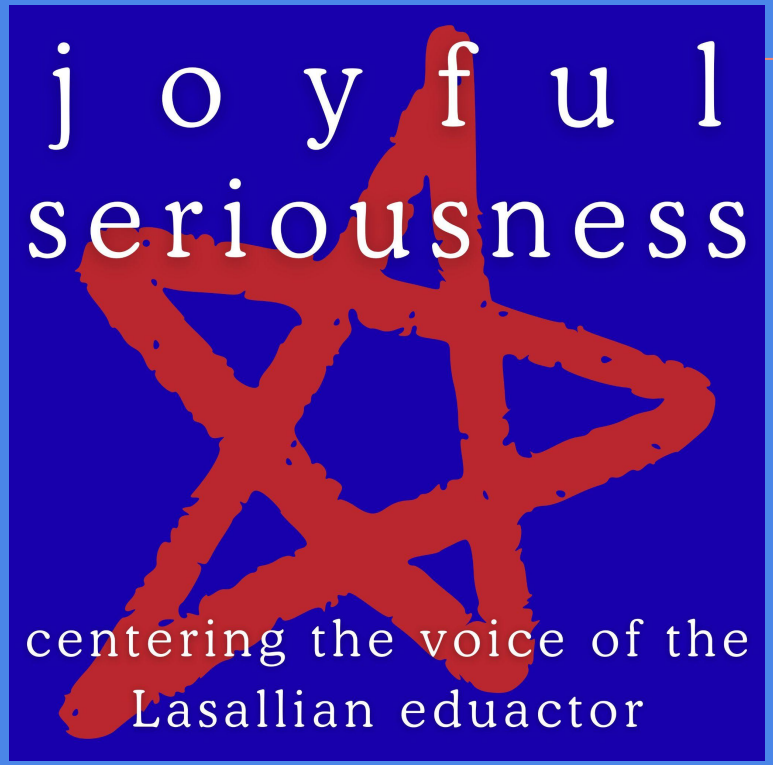
What is Joyful Seriousness?

"Always take great care to be serious in class; the good order of the school depends a great deal on that." (DLS, Letter 8: To Brother Hubert)

We Lasallians exercise this mission of the Church when we awaken in young people a serious attitude towards life (Declaration 43)

What is Joyful Seriousness?

Joyful Seriousness explores the sacred work at the heart of Lasallian spirituality and ministry—the call to participate in God's saving work through education. The podcast reflects on the profound responsibility of forming young people while also celebrating the deep joy that comes from working in schools and accompanying students in their growth.



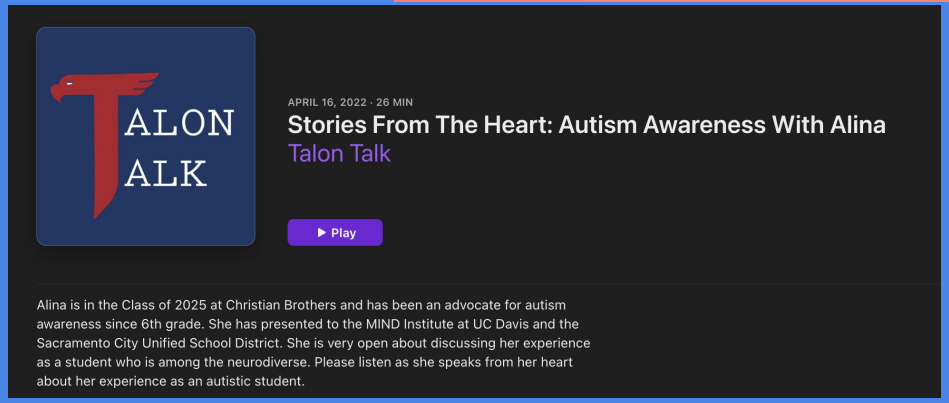
What is Joyful Seriousness?

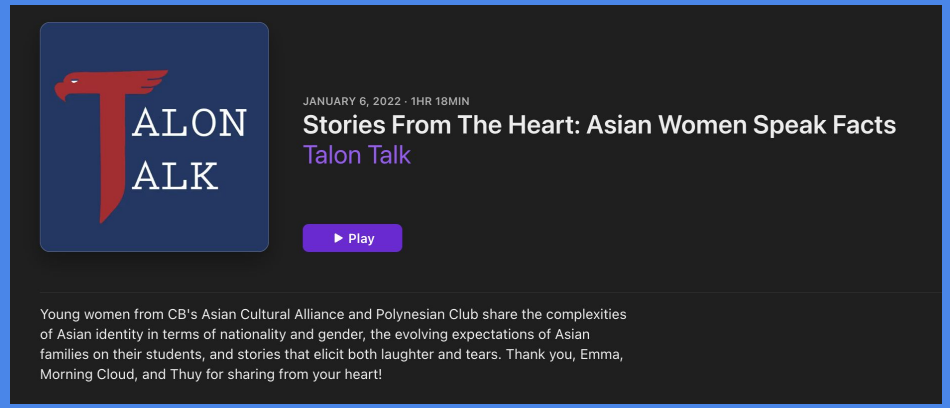
This spirit of joyful seriousness emerges when the professional and spiritual dimensions of our vocation merge in service to something greater than ourselves: the building up of the Kingdom of God through our ministry, our relationships, and our shared commitment to the young people entrusted to our care.

“Christ is the Light... Light Gives Us Color... Color Gives Us Stories... Stories Light Our World”

I hand painted this phrase on the beams of my first classroom in Sacramento, CA at Saint Patrick SUCCEED Academy where I taught 7th Grade humanities. Something about the power of stories has always stuck with me. They are an essential part of the transmission of memory and human emotion.

My First Podcast





My first podcast was also about storytelling, but based on the voice of students. It was called, “Stories from the Heart.” This was a DEIB initiative at Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento. It gave a voice to students on campus to share their experience based on identity and expression.

What is this project?

This project takes the form of a podcast and is designed to continue the spirit and intent of the John Johnston Institute. This project focuses on these two desired outcomes of JJI:

- **explore, both personally and communally, their spiritual and vocational journey, within the context of the mission.**
- **demonstrate an increased awareness of and responsibility for animating and sustaining the Lasallian mission at the local level, and**
- **associate intentionally for mission with the broader Lasallian family.**

https://lasallian.info/programs-events/johnston//em

What are you hoping to bring to your ministry as a result of this project?

This podcast is an opportunity for encounter, featuring Lasallian educators sharing their real experiences. It features bite-sized and longer-format episodes. The focus is not pedagogy. The ideal outcome is inspiration. The stories are heartfelt and emotional conveying the real commitment of Lasallian educators.

What pieces from the Johnston Institute have been incorporated to the project?

Each episode focuses on a series questions based on the Five Thresholds of Vocation published in The Pilgrim's Handbook. These questions were shared to JJI participants by Br. David Caretti, FSC and Ms. Janell Kloosterman, AFSC . The thresholds are: **induction, belonging, commitment, co-responsibility, spirituality and wisdom.**

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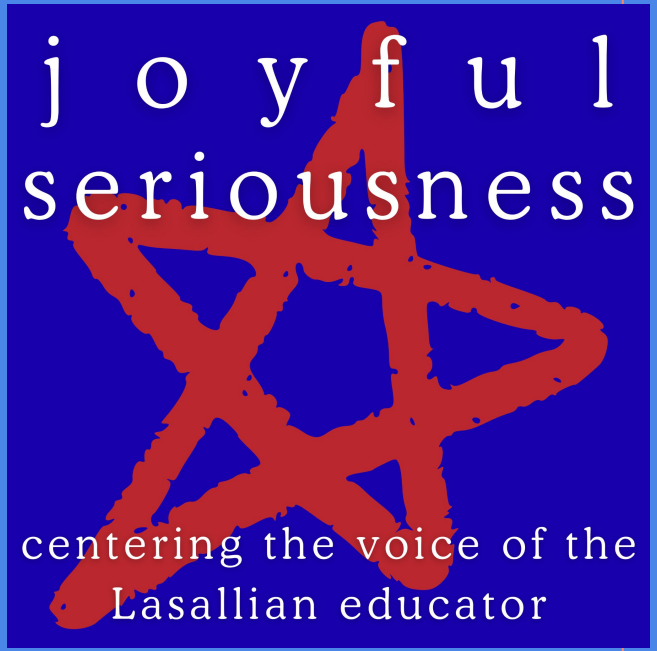
Who?

Who are the beneficiaries of this project?

Joyful Seriousness focuses on the stories of educators who have achieved or are working towards the point of having **wisdom** to share with other educators. This collection of story and wisdom will hopefully serve as a reservoir of knowledge and experience for any Lasallian educators at any point in their vocational path.



Who is the lead on this project?

Julian Elorduy is celebrating his 11th year as a Lasallian Educator. He has worked as a teacher, department chair, council moderator, summer school coordinator, interim principal and assistant principal.

Sharing Stories...

Building connections and sharing stories is a key focus of this podcast. ***JS*** will feature stories and interviews that highlight meaningful conversations that inspire Faith, Zeal and Communion.

The first episode was recorded in August 2025, the goal is to host 10 episodes by the Summer of 2026.

Episode Outline

Episode 1 - “Joy as the Unspoken Virtue” - Georgine Clark, Retired Teacher, Department Chair,

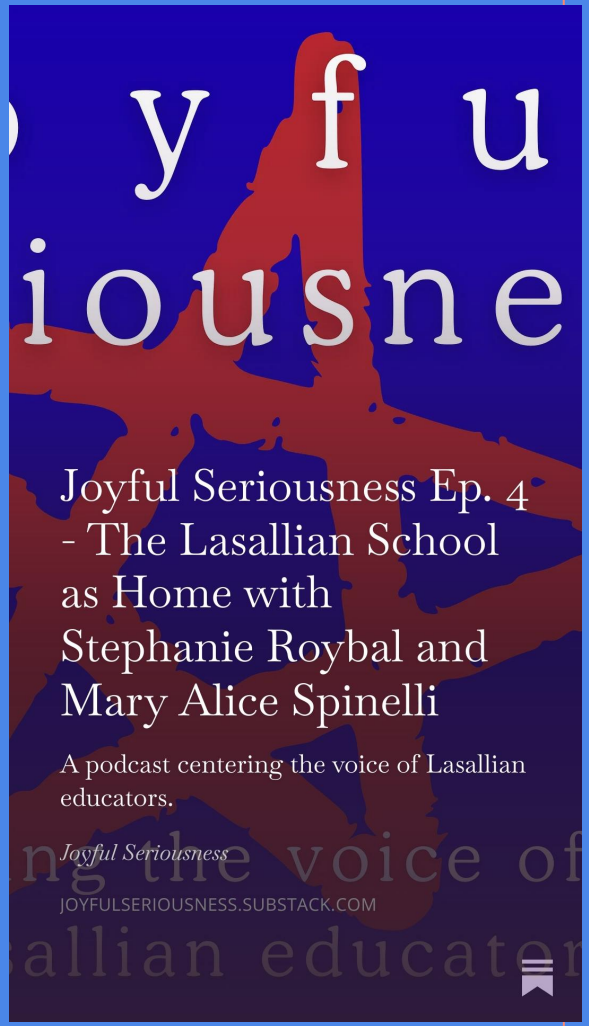
Episode 2 - “Following in the Footsteps of DLS” - Thomas Guro, Teacher, Department Chair,

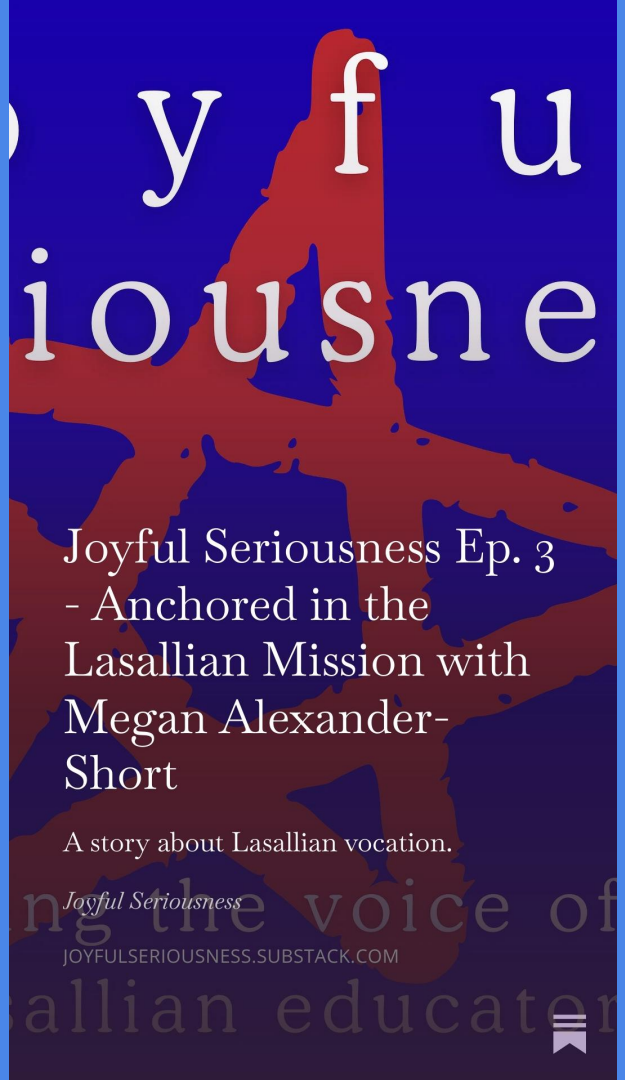
Episode 3 - “**Anchored in the Lasallian Mission” -** Megan Alexander-Short, Lasallian Student Life Director, Justin-Siena High School

Episode 4 - **“The Lasallian School as Home” -** Stephanie Roybal and Mary Alice Spinelli , Teachers, Department Chairs

Episode 5 - Thomas English, Retired Teacher, Department Chair and Administrator

Future episodes: Dr. Jan Mines, AFSC, Mr. Dave Desmond, Mr. Tim Joy





Conclusions

This podcast is a valuable resource for educators looking to stay inspired and connected. With its accessible format, practical advice, and focus on community, it supports your teaching journey and professional growth. Join us to learn, share, and grow together in a friendly and supportive space dedicated to education.