

because it seemed he had overstayed his visa. The ensuing dialogue (in French) held up the exit line for some five minutes, so that when the Brothers were allowed through and were making their way to the departure lounge, an officer dressed in an air force captain's uniform caught up with them and asked (in French) the cause of the holdup. In the conversation that followed when the Brothers identified themselves as De La Salle Christian Brothers, the captain said, "I was a pupil in your school at Saint Marc's Alexandria for ten years! I would like to offer you some coffee." The two Brothers, knowing that this was still Ramadan, the fasting month, accepted the offer and noted that only two cups were ordered. Then the former pupil spoke with great affection of his years at the school and of his fond memories of the men who taught him. As their plane was called and the Brothers began to thank the captain for the coffee, he said to them, "Brothers, today I'm in charge of a plane and when I'm at the end of the runway and have received the signal to take off, the last thing I will say to myself, as I always do, is *Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of Allah* [the Arabic word for God]! You taught me that!"²

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God!

Endnotes

1. Gerard Rummery, FSC, holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Lancaster University. He served two periods on the staff of the International Lasallian Center (CIL) in Rome and was twice elected to the General Council of the De La Salle Christian Brothers (1986-1993 and 1993-2000). He remains a presenter and researcher with Lasallian Education Services in Australia.
2. A personal experience.