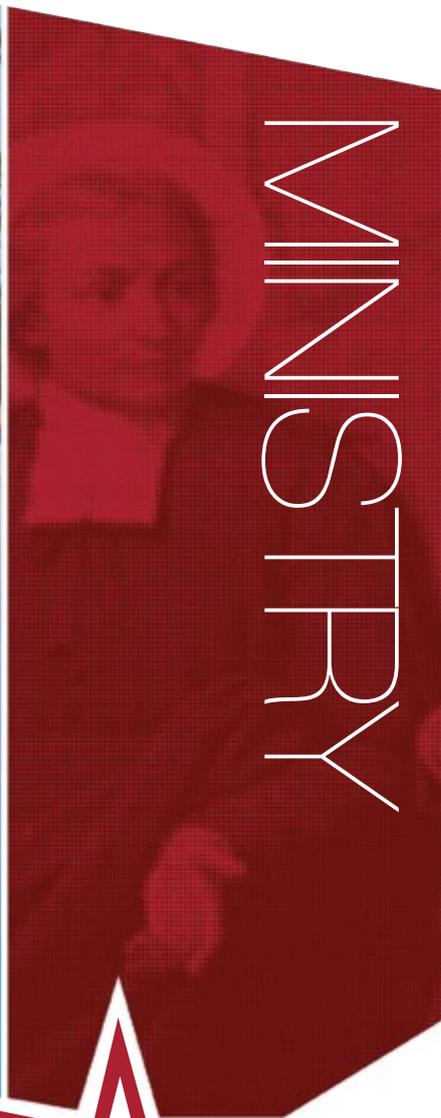


DISTRICT OF AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND • PAKISTAN • PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# LASALLIAN YOUTH



La  Salle

*Dear Colleagues,*

*On behalf of the Young Lasallians team, thank you for your interest in our programs for 2017! We hope that you will find this booklet to be a helpful resource as you plan your retreats, reflection days, and student engagement programs for the coming year. Specific information on each of our retreat programs can be found on pages 4-7.*

*In addition to describing the exciting opportunities on offer for 2017, what follows also showcases the quality of the vibrant Youth Ministry team we have the pleasure to work with across our District. Young men and women with great talent, energy, and a genuine desire to touch minds and hearts have joined our team and we are honoured to work with and support them. A description of our Youth Ministry program and the role of the Lasallian Youth Minister can be found on page 3.*

*Working to tailor each program we facilitate to the needs of your students has become our hallmark. We look forward to working with you to ensure that they are engaged in experiences which meet them where they are and challenge them to become the men and women they are called to be! Please do not hesitate to contact our team should you wish to discuss what you read in the following pages. We look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you throughout 2017!*

*Live Jesus in our Hearts - Forever!*

*Grace,*

**Amanda Proulx**

*(Assistant Director of Formation - Young Lasallians).*



# ROLE OF YOUTH

# MINISTERS



Animated by faith in Jesus, love for others, and an affinity for the mission and spirit of St John Baptist de la Salle, Lasallian Youth Ministers serve throughout the District of ANZPPNG (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Pakistan). In 2016, there were 17 Youth Ministers placed within 16 schools in all 4 Sectors of our District.

Each Youth Minister spends their time building relationships with students and staff - in the classroom and the yard, on retreats and immersion trips, one-on-one and in prayer with the whole community.

They are part of the Lasallian Youth Ministry Team, and together with other Youth Ministers and the Young Lasallians staff they help bring the Gospel adventure to life across our District. The team work together, supporting one another from a distance and in person.

Serving as a Lasallian Youth Minister provides young people with the opportunity to develop their talents for public speaking, organisation, and event planning. They take on the role of big brothers and sisters to the students entrusted to their care as well as learning how to serve as a member of staff within a school context.

Each Lasallian Youth Minister is given on-site mentorship and support by school staff, including a supervisor who is assigned to them for the year. An intensive training session is offered by the Young Lasallians staff before the start of the school year, and a mid-year follow up session is provided during the July school holidays. In addition, a member of the Young Lasallians staff is assigned to each Youth Minister as a mentor and supervisor who will check in on a regular basis with both the Youth Minister and their school supervisor.

Most Lasallian Youth Ministers serve part-time (1 or 2 days per week) while studying at university, though some serve their school or Sector full-time. A Memorandum of Understanding is established between the school and Lasallian Mission Services on a yearly basis to ensure that the needs of the school are being met and that the Youth Minister is adequately supported.

If you would like to learn more about the Lasallian Youth Ministry program or would like to discuss engaging a Youth Minister for your school, please contact Amanda Proulx at [amandaproulx@delasale.org.au](mailto:amandaproulx@delasale.org.au)

# RETREAT

# PROGRAMS

## Confirmation Retreat - Receive the Power

*The Sacrament of confirmation is a pivotal moment for us all on our faith journey.*

*For Year 6 students, it is a time when they are required to step up as young people of faith, prepared to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, with new privileges and new responsibilities.*

*Through that journey, they will need the support of family, school and parish.*

*The youth ministry team has developed a unique one day retreat program, aimed at helping Year 6 students across Catholic and public schools to prepare for the Sacrament of confirmation.*

*Through the parish-based program, the students benefit from the support of high school mentors and experienced Lasallian Youth Ministers as they engage in group-based activities, a Mass, prayers, and discussions around the spiritual significance of confirmation.*

*The students engage in fun group activities around the significance of saints and how they can be powerful role models for them in their lives.*

*They also reflect upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit, drawing upon scripture readings and prayers, aimed at helping them recognise their own unique powers, gifts and talents.*

*The program also helps forge closer ties between Catholic feeder primary schools and Catholic secondary schools as the high school students act as mentors to the juniors throughout the retreat day.*

*The program is fully supervised by qualified secondary teachers.*

*"The program was relevant to the students, pitched at their level and they were all totally immersed in it", Pastoral Associate at St Aloysius Parish, Mrs Cathy Sammut.*

*"The boys who represented the college were a credit to our school and the primary teachers on hand remarked upon the great difference they made to the success of the retreat", Religious Education Coordinator at De La Salle College Caringbah, Peter Strudwick*



## Building Community

*We all have unique gifts and talents that can help build positive communities. Being a community requires us all to be prepared to work together and to recognise and share our gifts, as well as those of others within our community.*

*This retreat day will introduce junior secondary students to the core Lasallian values of faith, service and community through a series of interactive group activities, small group discussions, and reflections around key passages from scripture. It will also build their awareness of the global Lasallian community of which they are a part, including introducing them to the life of St John Baptist de la Salle and the founding of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.*

*Through group activities, led by members of the Young Lasallians team, students develop a deeper understanding of the give and take of community and practice skills for community life, including teamwork and communication.*

*This program provides senior secondary students with a valuable chance to welcome the younger students into the school community and to foster their leadership skills as they help facilitate group activities and small group discussions.*

*The program is fully supervised by members of the Young Lasallians team.*

*"I learned that when we communicate with one another, we can build a strong and trustful relationship through faith" (Year 7 student)*

*"The message that I received from this day was that being yourself is important and respecting others for who they are is also important" (Year 7 student).*



### Inside Out

*Drawing upon key stories from the life of Jesus, this retreat is aimed at helping junior secondary students develop important skills to deal with the emotional challenges of adolescence. They also consider the impact of their behavior on others and the importance of understanding that other people experience strong emotions, too, practicing putting themselves in others' shoes.*

*Through a series of group activities, students are encouraged to take a deeper look into their emotions, triggering discussions around how best to respond to different situations that come up in their daily lives.*

*Through guided reflections paired with activities, students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the humanity of Jesus through moments when he experienced strong emotions, from the joy at the Wedding Feast of Cana, to anger in confronting the money-changers in the temple, through to the fear he experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

*As is the case with other Lasallian retreats, the junior students benefit from being guided through a series of group activities by Lasallian Youth Leaders from the senior secondary years of their school and from Lasallian Youth Ministers who have graduated from school.*

*The program has been particularly well received by students:*

*"I learned how the way we react to something can change someone's emotions and thoughts", Year 8 student.*

*"I learned more about different values and that people have different opinions about different things, so everyone doesn't think the same" Year 8 student.*



### I Connect

*Our lives centre on relationships, both with ourselves, those who surround us and with God, which in turn can help us determine how our lives can be lived.*

*But how can secondary students be encouraged towards forming positive relationships that embody Christian teaching and values?*

*Through this retreat day, the youth ministry team will draw upon key passages from scripture, prayers, and from the writings of St John Baptist de la Salle to highlight the importance of community-centered relationships.*

*Students are led through an examination of the key relationships in Jesus' life, especially with the apostles. Students are also introduced to core Lasallian concepts around community and association, looking at how De La Salle formed the Brothers and how modern day Lasallian partners and Brothers work together to advance the Founder's legacy in today's world.*

*Through a series of group activities and small group discussions, the retreat explores the key elements of positive relationships that are based upon self-sacrificial love, honesty and truthfulness, forgiveness and openness and acceptance in communication.*

*"The retreat challenged me to think out my relationships with other people and about how I could be a better person", Year 9 student.*

*"I learned the importance of connecting to your neighbours and taking time away from our electronic devices to communicate with others", Year 9 student.*



### SOS:

### Service. Opportunity. Sacrifice.

*Through this retreat day, secondary students are invited to explore the notion of servant leadership, drawing upon the examples set by Jesus and St John Baptist de la Salle.*

*Through guided group activities, prayers and discussions around scripture passages, the students are encouraged to draw links between serving others and making personal sacrifices, while also taking up the opportunities they have to serve those less advantaged than themselves.*

*Time is set aside during the retreat to allow students to explore the sacrifices Jesus made for us and the ways in which St John Baptist de la Salle sacrificed his original plan for his life, as well as his wealth, in the process of founding the Brothers of the Christian Schools.*

*There is a strong emphasis upon social justice in this retreat, as students engage in group activities on issues such as poverty, homelessness and the treatment of asylum seekers in Australia.*

*Through these activities, students are encouraged to make personal sacrifices through social justice works close to their own neighbourhoods and on the broader international stage as well.*

*Students involved in the retreat have praised the way it influenced their thinking and generated more concern for those less fortunate than themselves.*

*"Yes, it challenged me to think differently because of other peoples' experiences and suffering", Year 10 student.*

*"I think differently about third world countries and people living in poverty. I now think they should be helped even more more", Year 10 student.*

# SENIOR SECONDARY RETREAT

*The youth ministry team offers a series of retreat programs for students in Years 11 and 12, tailored to suit the needs of both all boys and coeducational schools.*

*The programs are flexible enough to cover one day school-based or two day residential programs away from the school setting.*

*The programs are all aimed at fostering the leadership skills of students through group activities and discussions, reflections upon key passages from scripture and from the life of Jesus and St John Baptist de la Salle. Each program also features an emphasis on the importance of reflection during the transition from adolescence to adulthood and throughout our lives, providing opportunities for reflection throughout the day and tools for reflection which students can take away with them.*

*The programs are all enhanced through the involvement of Lasallian Youth Ministers- young adults who can act as mentors and role models to the senior students.*

*Senior student leaders across all Lasallian schools also benefit from an annual leadership seminar held in January, which is aimed at equipping them with the skills needed in their roles over the coming year.*

## PROGRAMS



*The specific programs include:*

### **Legacy: Where your Legend Begins**

*Through this two-day residential program, senior students explore what legacy, gifts and culture they are building in their school.*

*Through a series of group activities, students develop key leadership skills across areas such as public speaking, fostering school pride, and working in a team.*

### **G.Y.M. - Growing as Young Men**

*This program is tailored to suit the needs of senior students in an all boys school.*

*It focuses on fostering the skills needed to develop respectful relationships with women and to confront social issues typically faced by young men. Significant time is spent allowing students to consider their own experiences and to think about what it means to be a man in the Lasallian tradition.*



### **L.I.F.E - Lead. In. Faith. Everyday.**

*This is a one and a half-day residential program, aimed at fostering strong values in senior students to make them more effective leaders.*

*Through a series of group activities, the students are encouraged to Lead themselves and each other to have a greater sense of Faith in each other and the inherent dignity of all persons, which comes from the gift of LIFE that God has given us.*

*The students are encouraged to see how their individual, everyday actions can lead and influence those around them.*



### **A Life Without Reflection is a Life Without Direction**

*Through this one day retreat, senior students are introduced to the importance of reflection and how it can enhance their lives and their ability to make decisions as young adults.*

*A Lasallian Youth Minister leads the students through a discussion around the life of St John Baptist de la Salle and how he came to see all events in his life as invitations from God to grow, leading him to trust in the Providence of God.*

*Through this retreat, students are provided tools with which to discern their vocation and the steps they are being invited to take to become the men and women they are called to be. Opportunities to be of service to others after they leave school are also presented, including Volunteer La Salle, Share The Mission, Lasallian Youth Ministry, and becoming a Brother.*

### **Senior students have responded positively to our programs -**

*"It helped me realise that leaders have to have a range of different qualities to be a good leader", Year 11 student.*

*"I learnt new ways [to think] about what it takes to be leader", Year 11 student.*

*"I was challenged to think differently about my relationship with God", Year 12 student.*

*"The retreat challenged my perceptions of others as well as my perception of self", Year 12 student.*



# YEARLY EVENTS

## District-Wide: Lasallian Student Leaders Seminar:

The Lasallian Student Leaders Seminar is an annual 5-day leadership program for School Captains from across the District. Students, their moderators, and the entire Lasallian Youth Ministry Team and Young Lasallians Team gather in Sydney to learn about what it means to be a leader within the context of our international Lasallian family. Practical tools to prepare students for their leadership roles are shared, and a good deal of fun is had while cross-District connections are built.

## Regional:

### Encounter Day:

Encounter Day brings together senior student leaders from our eight Lasallian schools in Sydney. It provides an opportunity for building relationships between the schools as well as leadership and faith development for the students.

### Camp La Salle:

Camp La Salle is an annual event for Year 7 & Year 8 students who may have had a challenging year or perhaps should be rewarded for improvement and/or commitment to their school. The camp is designed for students who will benefit from interaction with other young people from Lasallian schools and will enjoy working in teams and sharing their gifts and talents. It is currently held in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and New Zealand.



## One Call, Many Voices- Answer the Call

2017 LASALLIAN YOUTH GATHERING

10-14 July 2017  
De La Salle Ashfield, Sydney

The theme for the event is inspired by the Institute's theme for 2016 and 2017 and the Jubilee of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.

The last District-wide Lasallian Youth Gathering was held in Brisbane in 2014 and brought together 200 Young Lasallians from across our District and beyond.

We are anticipating great interest again next year with some outstanding keynote and breakout sessions planned.



DE LA SALLE BROTHERS PROVINCIAL OFFICE  
P O Box 3485, Bankstown Square, NSW 2200, Australia  
E: [admin@delasalle.org.au](mailto:admin@delasalle.org.au) • T: +61 2 9795 6400