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You are the *light* of the world (Mt 5:13)



Antoine Béland, International Coordinator for Young Lasallians

Greeting from the Generalate in Rome! This is moment that you all have been waiting for: the moment to read your next issue of LUMEN! It is a first for me, and it is an honor to present this one, in which you will discover more about the projects of the Young Lasallians at the international level, as well as other projects in every region of the world!

In this issue, you will find the latest news from the International Council of Young Lasallians, which held its annual meeting in Rome last February. The Council was inspired by the outcomes of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, which in February 2014, convened 41 young people from 24 countries, and by other important documents from the Institute to build a plan and a

vision for the future. The Council has identified the most important topics for youth in the Lasallian Family and has worked on a plan that looks towards 2021. Presentend here are the areas of priorites for Young Lasallians.

Let's not forget the International Lasallian Days for Peace! The 9th edition of this campaign ended on October 21st and was a great success. This year's theme was the Beatitude *"Blessed are the peacemaker: for they shall be called the children of God."* (Mt 5:9). As we reflect on this, we are mindful of the difficult situation of migrants and refugees around the world, especially in the Middle-East and in Europe. You will find here an overview of the successes of this year's campaign along with details about five initiatives, one for each region.

Through this issue, I hope you are inspired to build a world where peace and love are a little more present everyday!

Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever!

Antoine
International Coordinator for Young Lasallians



The Young Lasallians Movement... Towards 2021

Listed below are the four areas of priorities for the growth of the Young Lasallians Movement in the coming years. They emerged not only from the report of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, but also from the outcomes of some other important Institute meetings during the last years: the 45th General Chapter, the International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission and the International Assembly of Young Brothers.

Vision and Mission

Culture of Vocations

Our goal is to contribute to the processes needed to nurture a “Culture of Vocations” that challenges and supports adolescents and young adults involved in the Mission to experience a journey filled with life to its fullest.

This culture acknowledges and is in communication with the societies in

which we live. It is a culture that factors in the multitude of options that young people have. It recognizes the various of being young while also being a member of a community of believers. It is a culture that promotes the Lasallian charism as a lens, through which one can look into oneself, society, and the Church.

This enculturation requires an attitude and approach that places the individual at the center. While it is to be considered good practice that certain specific itineraries, or ways of life within the Lasallian Family, are accentuated, we call for a culture of vocations that rejoices in all possible vocational paths. Hence, the ultimate goal of any program is to accompany young people in discovering their true calling and becoming the most authentic version of themselves in service to others. Clarity is crucial in allowing young people to trust and commit to wherever a journey of self-discovery might take them.

This is achieved through high quality developmentally-appropriate formation and accompaniment experiences and programs at different levels.

Service with the Poor

Our goal is to promulgate the intuition leading to the change in language from “service of the poor” to “service with the poor,” as this points us to a truth at the heart of our charism. “The poor are ‘living images of Jesus Christ’ (Med 80.3) and they are living Good News for us.” (General Council, 2014)

The word “with” highlights the dialogic nature of the relationships we seek to build. It also implies a horizontal relationship that gives people we “serve” a name and makes them protagonists of their own stories of salvation. It offers dignity, voice, and empowerment, acknowledging we are in this together. It also speaks of our lived experiences, which testify that the ones to be served and sometimes saved are the servers themselves. Indeed we wanted to highlight how lives are changed thanks to those human horizontal relationships. This priority brings to life the desire of Young Lasallians to be agents of change actively engaged in our shared mission. This compels us to urge those involved in immersion and volunteer programmes to explore the roots of social injustice and poverty through the Lasallian lens.



The General Council surrounding the International Council of Young Lasallians during its last meeting in February 2015

Vitality and Structures for the Future

Communications & Networking

Our goal is to develop a culture for sharing which empowers and inspires. It establishes a natural disposition towards communication that makes every Young Lasallian responsible for the promulgation of his or her good news. It is hoped that this will contribute to the building of a wider and deeper awareness of the bigger picture, a realization that indeed, we're all part of something bigger. For this to become a reality, one priority is to strengthen dialogue.

Young Lasallians and various Lasallian Youth groups from different sectors, Districts and regions can be strengthened by developing a strategic communication and networking plan which includes resource sharing.

Networking and communications are interconnected. The former centers on the sharing and being in relationship with others, the latter focuses on the means to make it happen.



A strong moment of community and solidarity at the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, in February 2014

Sustainable Organizational Growth



Group photo for the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, in February 2014

Districts. We would encourage Districts to invest and engage our demographic group not merely as receivers of the Mission, but also as protagonists in its unfolding.

It is our intention that projects, initiatives and efforts are supported by structures, policies and follow-up mechanisms that will ensure continuity in Lasallian initiatives for adolescents and young adults.

As Young Lasallians, we feel inspired "to be agents of change in our world" and challenged "to be stewards of the vitality and sustainability of the Lasallian Family and the Lasallian Association and Educational Mission." The involvement and commitment of Young Lasallians guarantees creative inter-generational dialogue which can assist the Lasallian Family on its journey "beyond borders."

Our goal is to foster processes and strategies that promote sustainable organizational growth through self-sufficiency and accountability. This goal requires us to establish clear expectations and commitment on the part of key Regional, District, and Young Lasallian leaders which can only be dynamic and fruitful through constant dialogue. This thus encourages representation of Young Lasallians in structures across the Institute.

We recognize that we cannot impose such structures. We plan to be present, supportive, and encouraging to all

The International Lasallian Days for Peace 2015



This year, more than 40 educational ministries across 18 countries organized an event to celebrate and promote peace as part of the International Lasallian Days for Peace. A new interactive world map available to all also lets you quickly see all these initiatives through the following link: [click here](#)

Here are five of these creative initiatives, one for each region. Allow yourselves to be inspired for next year!

PARC – A Facebook page active every day in Hong Kong

The Lasallian Family in Hong Kong created a Facebook page for the International Lasallian Days for Peace. A passage of the Bible related to peace was posted every day, along with a picture which well-represented the passage. Many messages from the Pope, as well as news from parts of the world where our prayers were much needed, were also posted regularly.

The various initiatives organized in the schools of Hong Kong were also shared on this page, including service prayers and the screening of a movie related to peace as well as a discussion following it.

Also published on the page were two contests organized in the schools, a drawing competition (which received more than 600 entries) and a photo contest. A stronger presence on social media is an excellent way of sharing news, prayers and projects with all the Lasallian Family!



The profile picture of the Facebook page

BELEM – In England, students put themselves in the shoes of refugees

At De La Salle St Helen's, in England, the pupils created a big display on the theme of the migrants and refugee crisis. The title of the project, "Don't criticize anyone unless you have walked a mile in his shoes", clearly indicates the purpose.



Children sitting in circle, the winning picture of the photo contest

The pupils were invited to put themselves in the shoes of the refugees in order to better understand their reality, and then to think about what they could do to help anyone in need.

On the display, the feet represent those of the refugees, while the hands are symbolic of reaching out to those who need help, understanding and compassion. It was a beautiful example of a responding to the urgent needs of today!



The display created by the students at De La Salle St Helen's



The mural for peace made by the students from Miguel de Bolonia College

RELAL – In Mexico, a project of conviviality echoes as far as a local television channel

At Miguel de Bolonia College, in San Juan de los Lagos, Mexico, every student in the educational community had the chance to participate in the Sana Convivencia (“Healthy Living Together”) project, which unfolded throughout the month that lasted the campaign. Every week, they were invited to pray or reflect about peace at different levels: first in their family, then in their community, and finally in their country and the world. The prayers were written on little pieces of paper which were assembled together to create a large mural which grew bigger every week.



The closing ceremony in Miguel de Bolonia College

Some prayers, songs and dances related to peace also played an important role in bringing peace to the minds of the students. It ended by a great evening of prayer and celebration, during which a local television channel in San Juan de los Lagos was present to cover the story! This is a good example of the impact our Lasallian network can have in our communities and of a project that has significant impact on the students!

RELAN – A different initiative each day for a week in a university in the United States

Numerous events were planned over one week on both the Minneapolis and Winona campuses (Minnesota, USA) of Saint Mary’s. Events on the Minneapolis campus included prayer and reflection opportunities, a food and clothing drive, and a cultural awareness program with students at De La Salle High School. Additionally, volunteers assembled bags of food for the homeless and conducted a bake sale to raise money for the Syrian refugee crisis.

The theme on the Winona Campus was “Immigration: I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Events were designed to provide opportunities to explore and engage with this theme. Rebecca Scholtz, staff attorney with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, joined students in a discussion about the legal process of immigration for unaccompanied minors from Central America. Other conferences were also scheduled. Additionally, there was a daily prayer at noon throughout the week-long initiative and a program highlighting fair trade goods was held.

Steven McGlaun, Dean of Campus Ministry, indicated that the goal of the week was to “allow the community to look at the issue of immigration from different angles.” He added, “Everything we are doing is aimed at one simple goal: to move beyond the rhetoric and the simple answers and focus on the fact that at its most basic level, immigration affects people—real people, people with families, with hopes, with fears.”



Rebecca Scholtz addressing some students during the Lasallian Week of Peace at Saint Mary’s University



Students making a contribution



A glimpse of the final result of the wall of peace

RELAF – A project imbued with a great hope in South Africa

This project is particularly inspiring. Andrew Bishop was teaching at De La Salle Holy Cross College in Johannesburg when he participated in the last International Symposium of Young Lasallians. Shortly afterwards, he left to teach in another catholic school, Saint Andrew's School for Girls. Although St. Andrew's did not belong to the Lasallian network, Andrew wished to continue to share the Lasallian charism in his new location. Like Lasallian schools, the school demonstrated a strong sense of community and numerous service projects.

With the assistance of the Chaplain at the school, a project took shape. The students created their own poster for peace based on this year's campaign's official poster, and all of the posters were then assembled to create a wall of peace. The students appreciated the project and more initiatives are already being planned for next year. Andrew says that this shows that "the Lasallian virtues and values are applicable to all good educational institutions, regardless of the denomination, the country or the religion". This is a wonderful example of our Lasallian charism reaching way beyond our ministries, as we are called to go "beyond borders"!



From a single event to a long-term project, from social media to "beyond borders", everything is possible, and every action counts to promote peace in the world! We to have given you good ideas as to how to participate in the next edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace!

And to close this issue and celebrate all that you, Young Lasallians, have already done and will continue to do for peace and for the Lasallian Mission, here is a thought from our Founder Saint Jean-Baptiste De-La-Salle.

"May God continue what he has begun in you."

Blessings to all this Advent!