



International
Council of
Young
Lasallians

What Can Young Lasallians Contribute to Lasallian Mission Today?

A Reflection by the International Council of Young Lasallians
in Preparation for the International Symposium of Young Lasallians in July 2006

It is important that Young Lasallians express their opinions on the mission.

We have been trained and formed to be a part of the mission, and we consider being a Young Lasallian to be a vocation, which is why we have a desire to be in dialogue with each other and the Institute. We feel we share this calling with all members of the Lasallian family who live the essence of the dream of St. John Baptist de La Salle, working with and for the youth and those most in need. Because we all share and believe in the Lasallian charism, we feel that we can significantly contribute to the future of the Institute by dedicating ourselves to the mission. The number of Young Lasallians around the world is continuing to grow, as is our desire to be active within the Lasallian family by offering our enthusiasm, reflection and passion to the workings of the Institute. The 43rd General Chapter has given us the power to have a voice in the Institute and Br. Alvaro Rodríguez Echeverría reminds us "You young people are the best evangelizers of other young people. You are on the same wave length and you can understand better their deficiencies, their projects and their ideas."

Young Lasallians play an important part in association.

In the last few years we have been challenged by the invitation of Br. Superior General Alvaro Rodríguez Echeverría and of the Vicar General Br. William Mann to be associated to the mission. We have a new point of view to offer and can help to renew the Institute because we are both active agents and recipients of the mission. Society is changing, making it necessary to reevaluate the meaning of association, and we believe that we as young people can better understand the direction of the changes taking place and offer new insight to the challenges that the Institute faces. Our strength is not only in our diversity but also in our ability to recognize, accept and promote the differences among us. We continually strive for unity through a spirit of faith, service and community which is not only a priority of the youth, but of the entire Institute.

Young Lasallians are currently very active and are interested in the future.

Since there are so many people doing so many things it is almost impossible to list all of them, but we know that there is much activity at local, national, regional, and international levels. It is important to focus not only on what we are doing, but also on how we are doing it. This is reflected in the way the youth are starting to discuss and think about how to live the Lasallian charism. The youth have also begun to adopt the charism as our own, to reflect on, experience and live the Lasallian mission, not only among ourselves but also in dialogue with the Institute. Young Lasallians are also currently involved in a variety of fields which include working creatively for social justice, the rights of the children, pastoral activities, and as always, the educational mission, to name a few. Doing so, we are accompanied by Brothers of the Christian Schools, and lay partners.

In the future we are aware that we have to be careful to be attentive to all youth involved. We must welcome those who are coming into the Lasallian family while making sure we continue to invite those who are already involved to constantly renew their commitment and interest. Focusing on the future of the movement in these ways will ensure that it continues to grow and flourish.