



International Council of Young Lasallians

Profile of the Young Lasallian¹

Associated in the Educational Mission, Young Lasallians,² coming from different realities and whatever their vocation, are called to be protagonists of a personal and community project by becoming permeated with the Lasallian charism which shows itself in the linking of Faith, Community and Service.

Young Lasallians unite themselves around a common spirit and mission. Through a process of discovery, sharing and integration, Young Lasallians live, in varying degrees, the following five characteristics:

1. "A vocation to be lived in reference to the charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his values;
2. a life of faith which discovers God in everyday reality in the light of Scripture and, for persons of other religions, according to their own sacred texts;
3. a community experience lived in diverse ways and according to the identity of each one;
4. a mission associated with the educational service of the poor and which implies a certain duration of time;
5. a universal openness which transcends the person and the local reality."³

Sent to share the same mission with all Lasallians of the world, the Young Lasallians live in their own way, what the Founder wished and what the Brothers try to live still: to respond to the educational and spiritual needs of the children of the working class and the poor. Three large fields of action (even though they are not exclusive) can sum up the specific expression of this Lasallian Mission for Young Lasallians:

1. touching the hearts of children, based on a knowledge of their rights and of their needs, while trying to be active agents in the education service;
2. promoting social justice, based on a good knowledge of what is socially at stake so as to be able to target injustices;
3. living Lasallian values so as to be a visible sign of the Love of God, while seeking, wherever this applies, to be active in the pastoral ministry and faith formation of the young and in transmitting these values to others in an authentic manner.

United in the spirit and in the mission, Young Lasallians display a rich diversity, as much on the vocational, cultural, generational and religious level as on the professional level. Thus a profound respect is lived among the young people, whether they be lay people, Lasallian Sisters or Brothers, clerics, students or those working professionally, Catholics, members of another religion or belief system. No discrimination, whether sexual, racial, political, linguistic or other is encouraged in the

¹ This is a working document that will continue to be revised over time.

² It is interesting to note that, depending on Districts, the Young Lasallians are known by different names.

³ Brothers of the Christian Schools, *The Acts of the 43rd General Chapter: "Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor as a Lasallian Response to the Challenges of the 21st Century."* Rome: Casa Generalizia, page 4.

various Young Lasallian movements around the world.⁴ The generally accepted age of Young Lasallians fluctuates between 16 and 35.

Following in the footsteps of John Baptist de La Salle, himself an innovator in his time, Young Lasallians display a bold creativity in the world of today. They therefore commit themselves to a multitude of service projects, whether in favor of the poor, children and young people, education, the environment or any need inspired by the Lasallian mission and spirit. Furthermore they operate at local, national and international levels.

Young Lasallians are, therefore, the constructing agents of a world of love, who act in association with the Lasallian Family and in collaboration with all persons and groups of good will.

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⁴ Following Quebec 2002, the first International Symposium of Young Lasallians, a synthesis was made by the International Council of Young Lasallians. Expressed in the form of a Creed, this synthesis could, in its entirety or in part, help the teams and the movements to proclaim their commitment and their adhesion to the Lasallian Family. It is based on this Creed that young persons might each construct their own Lasallian identity by stating what they believe in and what animates them.