

Report to the General Chapter

May 2022



International
Symposium
of Young Lasallians
First Phase

INTRODUCTION

The 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians

The unfortunate events in 2020 led to the postponement of different Institute gatherings, including the ISYL. The Symposium was first planned to be held in a face-to-face format in November 2020 at Casa Generalizia in Rome, Italy. As we navigated through a difficult year of the pandemic, we learned to adapt to the many changes and disruptions caused by this global health crisis. After a series of conversations with the International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL) and in consultation with Institute leadership, we have decided that the *4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians would take place in two phases.*



The *first phase was held online* and included asynchronous activities, preparatory sessions, and virtual gatherings during the week of *October 18th to 22nd, 2021*. Phase 1 was focused on *direction setting* for the global Young Lasallian movement and the writing of proposals. This online process, however, began as early as June 2021 with some preparatory activities.

The second phase will be an in-person gathering scheduled for November 2022. Phase 2 will focus on *identifying ways to implement the proposals*, collaboration and networking.

THE THEME

The theme of the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians is *"United in Community & Mission - Being Protagonists for the Future!"*.

The main objective of this gathering is to create strategic directions and lines of action that will guide the International Young Lasallian movement in the next 7 years.

We need the voices and action of young people who are passionate, committed, and engaged to encourage us to go further. Young people are the drivers and the architects of the future that the Lasallian community needs today.

The 4th ISYL will serve as a springboard to the future, as we take the hopes, dreams & challenges of today's world in our hands - we reflect on where we are now as a movement, guided by the mission objectives set during the 3rd ISYL in 2014 and the YL four areas of priority stipulated in Circular 470. It is through a process of listening intently to new and emerging realities, that we would be able, as an Institute, to know better how to accompany Young Lasallians who are directly involved in the schools and in our various ministries. Through the ISYL 2021 - 2022 process of reflection and planning, our hope as a movement is to ensure a sustainable future, engaging more Lasallians through mission and action.



International
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OBJECTIVES

SHARE

the experience of an international Lasallian community to strengthen global cooperation and awareness within and outside the Young Lasallian network;

REFLECT

on how we engage with the poor in light of the new realities and real world challenges today;

ASSESS

the vitality of the Young Lasallian movement and **propose a collective plan of action;**

ENCOURAGE

networking, collaboration, and sharing of best practices.



THE ISYL PROCESS

The two phases of the 4th ISYL

The ICYL opened the Symposium invitation to two delegates per District/Delegation and from the International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU). The first delegate is the one invited to attend both Phase 1 and 2, while the second delegate only attended the online part of the Symposium in Phase 1.

The main goal for the ISYL is to *create proposals on how Young Lasallians can drive or guide the future of the Lasallian Community worldwide*. In order to achieve this goal, the ICYL decided to mix methodologies and strategies that involve pre-sessions and virtual sessions during phase 1 and in-person meetings during phase two.

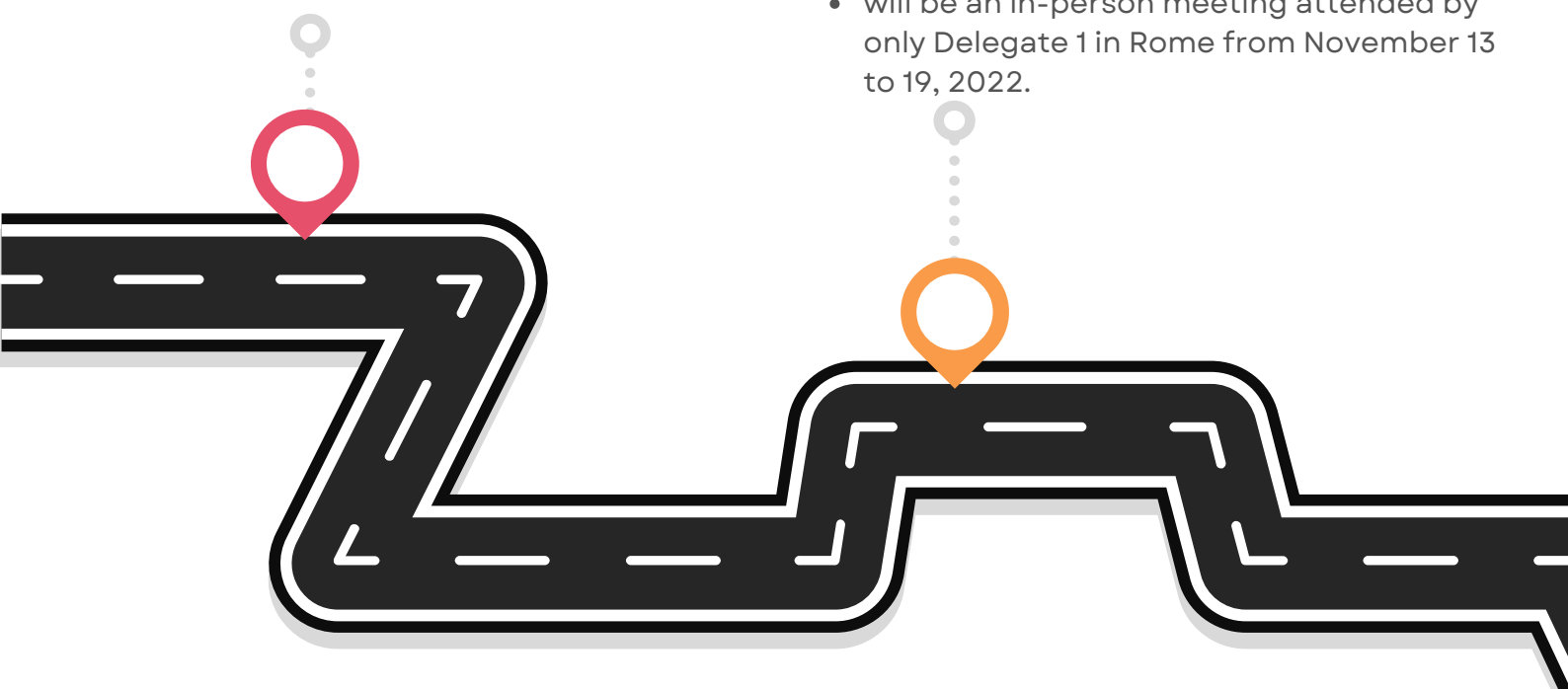
The roadmap below summarizes the planning process of the ISYL :

ISYL Phase 1 - Online 2021

- was attended by Delegates 1 & 2.
- It involved preparatory sessions, Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs), support materials (Institute Documents and keynote videos) and proposals writing and voting.

ISYL Phase 2 - In Person 2022

- will be an in-person meeting attended by only Delegate 1 in Rome from November 13 to 19, 2022.



ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

JUNE

Preparatory sessions began on June 30, 2021 with a virtual gathering held on Zoom that aimed to orient the delegates on the ISYL process. As a first task, each delegate would host two focus group discussions. The delegates' task was gathering Young Lasallians (i.e. Young Lasallians who are actively engaged in the Lasallian mission - Young Lasallian Professionals, Volunteers, Collegians or high school students) from their local communities. Prior to the focus group discussions, delegates and focus group participants would read the entire document of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians Final Report and Outcomes and Circular 470 (pages 46-47).

JULY AND AUGUST

The organization committee provided questions to structure the conversations that took place in July and August 2021.

Delegates did a great work with their communities in putting together very thoughtful and helpful Focus Group Discussions. With the information they gathered from their personal and local perspectives, they were invited to think about the global young Lasallian reality using the answers from the Focus Group Discussions.

During the month of July, they had the opportunity to listen to the voices of other Lasallians engaged in the mission through the keynote presentations and documents that constitute our common ground for the future vision of the Institute. We believe that this process helped them to enlarge their knowledge about our global Lasallian Family and helped them construct some ideas for the future of the Young Lasallian movement.

The next step for the groups was to work on creating proposals. Each of the delegates were assigned into language speaking groups. *The delegates were assigned to a working group to discuss one area of priority and create one proposal.* There were 2 groups on Culture of Vocations, 3 groups on Service with the Poor, 2 groups on Communications and Networking and 2 groups on Sustainable Organizational Growth.

ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

SEPTEMBER

The goal was to write proposals that will focus on the International Young Lasallian movement and impact Regional, District, and local Young Lasallian groups. On September 23rd, the ICYL received the 9 proposals under the four areas of priority.

On September 30, 2021, a synchronous session via Zoom was held to share the consolidated proposals with all the delegates. In each proposal, delegates had the opportunity to suggest actions that guide us into the bright future of the global Young Lasallian movement for the next seven years.

Some of the points brought by the groups for the area of priority ***Culture of Vocations*** were the emphasis on the different vocational responses, as teachers, religious and volunteers; the importance of formation, dialogue and sharing of experiences; the understanding of the diversity in the concept of vocation in different districts and regions and the discussions about different topics, including gender and race.

For the area of priority ***Service with the poor***, it was highlighted by the groups the importance of listening and reflecting about the different realities aiming to ensure that the voices and experiences of people in need are taken into account; sharing best practices regarding service projects and volunteer programs; understanding the issues as a cross-section of Lasallian formation and identity; recognizing the different types of poverty (spiritual, cultural, social opportunities) and looking for creative solutions for Young Lasallians who struggle in these areas. Another interesting idea that came out is that we should go beyond the idea of giving and receiving but rather, focusing on how to work together on solutions.

For the area of priority ***Communications and Networking***, the main topics observed in the suggestions refers to assess local efforts, their own characteristics and their reality in order to guide them towards a unique and inclusive project; promote the communication tools that already exist and diversify the message we want to convey; the importance of face-to-face and virtual meetings in strengthening the connections within and outside the Lasallian community.

ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

With regards to the area of priority *Sustainable Organizational Growth*, the observations made by the groups were concentrated in defining and publicizing the structures, mechanisms and projects generated by the Lasallian youth movements; consider the provision of human and financial resources; ensure collaboration between organizations in the different levels inside the institute and with external organizations as well and invite the Lasallian community to envision our future in line with how we envision our society.

Based on the information we have shared in this session; we invited the delegates to refine their proposals, through the comments and suggestions from other groups, and then make the necessary revisions, if or when applicable.

OCTOBER

Actual online meetings of the ISYL were held during the week of 18-22 October 2021.

For the *October 18th* online gathering, each one of the nine groups chose a facilitator and a spokesperson to introduce their proposal. After the short presentations, the delegates had a moment of group work to discuss this consolidation of proposals. They could review the proposals for the 4 priority areas and make comments on.

On *October 20th*, the proposal groups had time to continue their discussions to give feedback about the proposals if necessary.

Most of the suggestions they brought to us showed agreement with the core ideas of the plans for the four areas of priority. Some groups, for example, highlighted important points mentioned in the text of the proposals. Others made interventions that identified the plan of actions that will be discussed in the second phase of the symposium.

Based on the work that the nine groups have done so far, the ICYL *worked in summarizing the proposals for the voting process.*

ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

The final proposals presented for voting on October 22nd were the result of putting together the groups' ideas and of the work in phrasing the text of the proposal in order to keep them consistent with the documents of the institute.

During the session, *each one of the delegates were called to vote on the 4 proposals, based on the 4 areas of priority.* The approved proposals would be presented to the General Chapter in May 2022 and would be further developed into concrete lines of actions in November 2022, when we will gather in Rome for the second phase of the symposium.

During the online meeting, the ICYL presented, one at a time, the proposals based on the 4 areas of priority. The delegates voted on each proposal with the use of the "Zoom Poll" feature that appeared on their screens. The proposal would be approved if obtained by a simple majority of 50% +1. Only the Symposium delegates and the International Council of Young Lasallians were able to vote. Below are the approved proposals under each area of priority.

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ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

- Promote Lasallian vocations, emphasizing inclusivity, and openness to young people of all religions, beliefs, and ideas.
- Provide opportunities for quality formation experiences and encounters to engage and connect young Lasallians, while maximizing the use of online platforms.



SERVICE WITH THE POOR

- Strengthen Lasallian formation on the theme of social justice and promote a deeper understanding of social problems as well as the different forms of poverty to encourage Young Lasallians to address real-world challenges.
- Respond to the real needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups in order to ensure that service and mission projects achieve impact and empower communities to become self-sufficient.

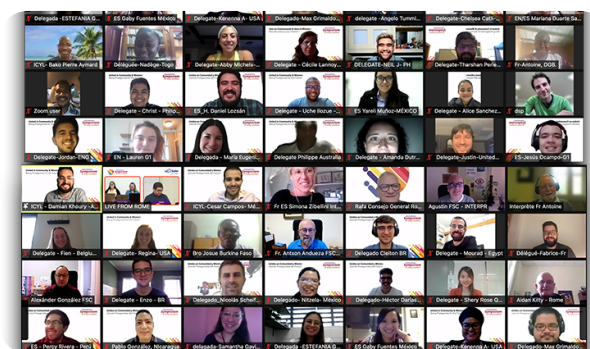


ISYL PHASE 1

Online 2021

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING

- Strengthen collaboration through the global Young Lasallians online community to continue to provide a platform where ideas, best practices, and resources can be shared.
- Maximize the use of social networks to promote the different works and projects of Young Lasallian groups worldwide.



SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

- Ensure that structures and mechanisms are in place at the Local, District, Regional and international levels, with adequate allocation of human and financial resources, to guarantee sustainability and quality programs for Young Lasallians.



ISYL PHASE 2

November 13 - 19, 2022

ISYL Phase 2 will be an in-person meeting attended by only Delegate 1 in Rome from November 13 to 19, 2022. The outcome is to establish lines of action and areas for collaboration.

The Young Lasallians gathering will take place together with the International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and will be a great opportunity to reflect and plan together building new paths towards the future!



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