



Associated for the Lasallian Educational Mission

**"Mission: Possible!
A Shared Dream"**

**Report of the 2nd International Symposium of Young Lasallians
For 1a International Assembly of the Educational Mission Lasallian
Rome, 25 – 30 July 2006**

1. Lasallian Educational Mission

1.1. Analysis of the situation

1.1.1. Realities

We participants in the Symposium (young people between 15 – 35 years of age), are committed in different aspects of the Lasallian Educational Mission that include various areas:

- Volunteer programs of varying lengths with indigenous people, physically challenged people, the fourth World, social education, re-incorporation into society, camps with children and young people from schools, with marginalized children and young people, animating Christian reflection groups, leisure activities...
- Lasallian and other kinas of formation... (i.e. with religion teachers)
- Participation in District, regional and international structures: as part of the District Council, the national team for pastoral ministry, regional groups for the animation of youth movements, local pastoral ministry teams, on administration teams in schools, on the International Council of Young Lasallians, with communities of Brothers or other lay people...
- Involvement in pastoral activities with children and young people, summer camps, catechesis with children, leisure time monitors, Christian groups, accompanying young people, missionary conscience-raising...

- Organizing youth gatherings at the District, regional and international levels...

1.1.2. Obstacles and difficulties

Among the obstacles and difficulties for the Lasallian Educational Mission the participants in the Symposium highlighted the following:

- Low level of participation by some in the Lasallian programs.
- Lack of communication and coordination between the youth groups on the local, District, regional levels in some places.
- Scarcity of economic resources in some Districts does not allow us to carry out some activities and commitments we have assumed.
- Lack of support by lay people and Brothers in some Districts and/or areas.
- Lack of recognition of the work we do as young people on the part of the administrative structures for animation in some Districts and areas of the Institute.
- In some cases, a lack of leadership as points of reference and encouragement to continue our Lasallian commitments.
- Lack of opportunities for Lasallian formation, pastoral ministry, voluntary work... in some Districts and Regions.

1.2. Vision

As participants in the Youth Symposium, we believe that we ought to promote the following kinds of activities:

- Increased relations between Brothers and lay people in educational – pastoral activities and in formation.
- Offers of short-term and long-term volunteer programs and the formation necessary to allow volunteers to respond to those in need.
- Make better use of Brothers and adult lay partners to accompany youth groups.
- Greater commitment in the defense of the rights of children by promoting conscience-raising activities and by denouncing abuses.

2. Association

NOTE: Based on the analysis of the work done in the regions during the Symposium to prepare this report, we point out that terms such as Shared Mission and Association are, in most cases, far from the reality of young Lasallians. Or perhaps it might be more accurate to say that young Lasallians make no distinction between Lasallian Educational Mission, Shared Mission and Association. For this reason, much of what follows is a repetition of those aspects already

presented in the section dedicated to the Lasallian Educational Mission.

2.1. Analysis of the situation

2.1.1. Realities

We participants in this Symposium share the Lasallian mission in many different ways:

- Participating in both Lasallian formation and others kinds of formation opportunities, prayer, youth ministry, retreats, Christian reflection groups, life review groups...
- Attempting to respond to the signs of the times within the reality of the marginalized.
- Participating in pastoral ministry with children and young people.
- Accompanying and welcoming children and young people who have family or learning problems...
- Participating in missionary projects in the Third World.
- Promoting Lasallian Youth gatherings on various levels: Holy Week retreats with youth, District, regional and international gatherings, marches, pilgrimages...
- Creating resources for Lasallian pedagogical formation for other young Lasallians.
- Building community with Brothers and lay partners.
- Building Lasallian Christian Communities.
- Attempting to practice the values of FAITH – FRATERNITY – SERVICE in our daily lives.
- Participating in middle term and long-term volunteer experiences.
- A few instances of associating to a District.
- Maintaining relationships with other young Lasallians all over the World through new technologies of communication.

2.1.2. Obstacles and difficulties

Among others, we participants in the symposium point out the following obstacles and difficulties to association and sharing the Lasallian mission:

- For many of us the difficulty to understand the separation between the expressions Lasallian Educational Mission, Shared Mission and Association.
- Insufficient use of new Technologies of communication to maintain relationships among us.
- In many areas, lack of opportunities that help alumni continue their commitments in the schools once their studies are over.
- Lack of a forum to share mission with Brothers and adult lay partners.
- Lack of structures to promote association among young Lasallians.

- A rather widespread lack of the awareness of the need to create networks for ongoing contact and communication among ourselves. These could break down the local, District, regional, ethnic or even religious barriers...
- In many cases, lack of presence and accompaniment by Brothers in the youth groups as a means of spreading the charism.

2.2. Vision

Among other, actions, we participants point out the following:

- Guarantee Lasallian identity among the older students so that they can commit themselves to activities related to the Lasallian Educational Mission once they leave school.
- Promote reflection and work groups among alumni.
- Promote Lasallian volunteer experiences at the international level to break down District and regional barriers.
- Reflect on ways of transmitting the content of the expressions Shared Mission and Association in terms that are accessible for us and show us real examples of how we can live these two realities.
- Think of some type of association of Young Lasallians to the institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools at the District level that is different from that of adults.
- Offer more Lasallian volunteer experiences lived in community of Brother with a concrete commitment to the Lasallian Educational Mission in favor of the needy.

3. Organizational Structures

3.1. Analysis of the situation

3.1.1. Realities

The structures of the youth movement in the different parts of the World is quite varied, some that have existed for a long time, others that seem to be struggling to establish even a minimal structure. The following examples come from the information provided by the participants in the Symposium:

- Local, District and regional youth associations.
- Youth ministry centers.
- Retreat houses.
- Centers or halfway houses for re-integration into society.
- Groups of lay people: Signum Fidei, UMAEL, Third Order, and Alumni...
- District and regional Lasallian Youth Commissions.
- International Council of Young Lasallians.
- Scout groups.
- Missionary awareness groups.

- Associations for the defense of the rights of the child.
- Lasallian formation courses, leisure time, animation of Christian groups...
- Christian communities.
- Catechumenate programs.
- ...

3.1.2. Obstacles and difficulties

Among others, we point out the following obstacles and difficulties regarding the structures of youth groups:

- In many cases, a lack of material resources.
- In some areas of the Institute, a lack of representation of youth people within the local, District and regional structures.
- In some cases, a lack of support by the Brothers.
- In some situations, a lack of structures Lasallian formation, volunteer, or ministry programs...
- A lack of communication between the groups within a District, or within the region in the majority of cases.
- In some cases, a lack of recognition on the part of existing youth programs.
- In some Districts and/or regions of the Institute, a lack of communication with the International Council of Young Lasallians.

3.2. Vision

Among the actions proposed by the Symposium to guarantee the existence of a structure for Lasallian Youth at various levels, we point out the following:

- Create the necessary Lasallian Youth structures where they do not presently exist.
- Creation of a network of youth groups at the local, District, regional and international levels.
- Carry out Lasallian Youth Gatherings at the, District, regional and international levels.
- Guarantee the presence of young Lasallians in structures for animation at the local, District, regional and international levels.
- Improve communication between the International Council of Young Lasallians and the local, District and regional structures.
- Offer formation programs adapted to the reality of young people (study, work...).