



Responses to Questions Posed by Symposium Delegates

[2 August 2006]

How can we explain to our Districts and Regions what ICYL is and how can it better do its job?

The ICYL fosters awareness, sharing, and interaction between or among individual Young Lasallians and Young Lasallian movements. The ICYL is one of the international advisory councils, whose role requires the approval of and works to assist the Superior General and the General Council. The ICYL is a way for Young Lasallians to have a voice because it hears varied proposals and brings them to the awareness of the Institute. The work of ICYL could be better aided by a full-time Secretariat working from the Generalate in Rome as well as by the full participation and interest of all Young Lasallians and the support of the Districts.

What does "Youth Movement" mean? To what does it refer?

The movement of Young Lasallians refers to the community of young people committed to the Lasallian Mission and united by the spirit of De La Salle. The International Council of Young Lasallians has been formed to encourage existing local, District, and Regional programs to build on the common identity we have as Young Lasallians. There is an international effort to reach out beyond our local realities to broaden our relationships and understanding on a larger level as we attempt to keep Young Lasallians connected throughout their growth and formation. Currently, there is no formal International Lasallian Youth Movement.

Why do we have an age specification?

Young Lasallians are defined as being between the ages of 16-35 because these are the guidelines set and followed by both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI regarding participants of World Youth Day.

How do you understand and live the Lasallian charism and a life of faith without being Catholic? How does the ICYL embody this?

The 43rd General Chapter speaks to the role of people "of other religions and persons of good will who share in the Lasallian mission" (*Documents of the 43rd General Chapter*, p. 81) and recognizes the contributions of such people as well as their ability to live the Lasallian charism. However, this question must be addressed by the distinct Regions and Districts in all parts of the world as religious and cultural difference impact local responses. The ICYL encourages dialogue on this topic.

What is the ICYL going to do about the association of young people?

It has been pointed out that the current structures available for the association of young people do not necessarily fit the needs and desires of all the youth. We are working with the Organizing Team of the Symposium to guarantee that the document being presented to the International Assembly of 2006, on behalf of the delegates of the Symposium, will propose that the ideas and structures about association be reviewed and reconsidered by the Assembly participants and the Institute.