

3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians: Final Reports and Outcomes



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Dear Lasallians,

We are honored to share this report of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL'14): "Building Hope Together" with you. In this report, you will find:

- I. An Executive Summary, including:
 - A. Fact Sheet of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians
 - B. Outcomes:
 1. Message to the Institute and the Lasallian Family – Feb' 2014
 2. Full List of Presented Projects and Actions
 3. ICYL letter to Brother Capitulants of the 45th General Chapter
- II. The Final Report- Preparations, Process and Experience, featuring:
 - A. A brief history of the three International Symposia;
 - B. The process leading to the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians;
 - C. The experience of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians;
 - D. The ISYL'14 Delegates' Action Plans by Regions.

Together and in association with all De La Salle Brothers and other Lasallians, Young Lasallians have a role in "Building Hope Together" as we live out the Charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle through service and prayer.

We hope you will read and reflect on the work of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians. We invite you to continue to be, or become, part of this collective journey addressing the reality and potential of young people in the Lasallian Educational Mission and its future.

In St. La Salle,

International Council of Young Lasallians

A. Fact Sheet of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians

Event Details:

Full title:	3 rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians - 2014
Acronym:	ISYL'14
Theme:	Building Hope Together
Dates:	February 9 – 14, 2014
Hosted at:	Generalate, Rome
Convoked by:	Brother Superior General – Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, and the General Council – June 2012
Organized by:	International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL)
Target Group:	Young Lasallians - Adolescents and young adults involved in the Lasallian Educational Mission. This includes young teachers, Brothers, administrators, volunteers, as well as current and former students within the age range of 16 to 35.

Participants:

Regional Distribution:

RELAL	RELAN	RELAF	RELEM	PARC	Total
7	11	4	11	8	41

Gender:

Male (FSC Brothers)	Female
24 (6)	17

Demographics:

Younger than 21	Between 21 and 31	Older than 31
5	30	6
Average Age: 27		

Intended Outcomes: To identify and prioritize objectives and lines of action for the Young Lasallian Movement. These will be referred to as Young Lasallian Mission Objectives and will be expressed in terms of Passions, Commitments, and Voice.

To link the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives directly with the Institute's Mission, and the lines of action and orientations of the broader Lasallian

Educational Mission, as expressed by the 2nd International Mission Assembly, held in May 2013.

Preparation Process: All ISYL'14 delegates were expected to respond to a preparation survey, as well as submit the response of focus groups of young people active in the Mission.

Thematic Topics:

1. Vocational Growth: Personal, Professional and Spiritual
2. Lasallian Educational Mission: Service of the Poor
3. Lasallian Educational Mission: Pedagogy and Curriculum

Outcomes:

1. Message to the Institute and the Lasallian Family – February 2014
2. Full List of Presented Projects and Actions
3. ICYL letter to Brother Capitulants of the 45th General Chapter.



Outcome 1: Message to the Institute and the Lasallian Family

*Hope is like the little sister of faith and charity, ...
it seems that the two big ones are leading the little one,
but it's not like that at all - the little sister
rather is leading along her big sisters.*

Charles Péguy¹

February, 2014

Dear Lasallians,

The Young Lasallian Movement aims at awakening awareness of the personal and collective vocational journey of adolescents and young adults involved in the Lasallian Educational Mission. This movement engages us on a personal, professional, and spiritual level to go beyond our boundaries to reach out so that we, and those we accompany, *may have life, and have it in its fullest.* (John 10:10)

Young Lasallian Mission Objectives:

1. Our Vision and Passion

As Young Lasallians, we are passionate about:

- 1.1 Making more and better use of the sometimes latent potential of the Lasallian global Network;
- 1.2 Advocating for providing young people with the tools and support required to integrate holistically their life experiences through effective accompaniment that leads to personal and vocational growth;
- 1.3 Being active in the Lasallian Educational Mission, especially through service with the poor.

This inspires us to be agents of change in our world and challenges us to be stewards of the vitality and sustainability of the Lasallian Family and the Lasallian Educational Mission.

2. Our Commitment

Hence we commit to:

- 2.1 Exploring and understanding local realities in order to respond to specific needs;
- 2.2 Connecting Young Lasallians with each other at different levels - local, sector, District, Regional, and International;

¹ Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian, during his opening address to the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, 10th February, 2014.



Superior General's address

- 2.3 Inviting the different groups of Young Lasallians to begin a reflection on accompaniment;
- 2.4 Networking among service and social justice programs and projects among Lasallian schools and works;
- 2.5 Promoting the values of faith, service, and community through exposure and connection to the worldwide Lasallian Educational Mission.

3. Our Voice

While the Lasallian Family, especially we Young Lasallians, is aware of the privileged role young people play in evangelizing other young people, there is inequality with regard to the recognition and representation of Young Lasallians in Mission and Institute structures. We wish to ensure that our participation in the Lasallian Educational Mission is effective and that the voice of Young Lasallians is heard.

Therefore, rather than only parallel structures for Young Lasallians at different levels of the Institute, we call for representation within existing structures so that our hopes and dreams find full expression in the Lasallian Family.

Hence, we **also call for:**

- 3.1 Young Lasallian representatives to be appointed at each of the schools and other works to closely collaborate with Lasallian Animators and Vocation Directors;
- 3.2 Existing and future Young Lasallian groups and resources be linked with pre-existing Lasallian structures, groups, and resources to strengthen and support each other;
- 3.3 Young Lasallian Councils at local, sector, District, Regional, and International levels to be continued or created.

Conclusion

We accept the challenge of Br. Álvaro's invitation to be Generation 'H' - *the Hope Generation*². We commit to building together a world that is more livable, more human and more fraternal. We do this mindful that we are the future and the future is now³, and that with the help of those who have marched through the night before us⁴, we can authentically respond to God's call in our lives. May the Spirit continue to open our eyes wider, so that we may touch hearts more deeply, and our work be done with greater zeal.

Finally, may the Spirit, as the Founder expressed, "help us not be troubled about the present or disquieted about the future, but be concerned about the moment we must now live." May we move forward knowing that God, "who guides all things with wisdom and serenity, whose way it is not to force the inclinations of persons,"⁵ will us "now" to commit to this work.



² Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, *ibid.*

³ Br. Thomas Johnson, Vicar General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, during his address to the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, 11th February, 2014.

⁴ Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, *ibid.*

⁵ St. John Baptist de La Salle, *'Memoir on the beginnings'*.

Outcome 2 – Full list of presented Projects and Actions

In an effort to expand on the work of *Outcome 1: Message to the Institute and the Lasallian Family*, here are the projects and actions that each thematic group presented in the ISYL prioritization process. The projects and actions have been organized under the top five commitments which are shown in bold. Displayed in italics on the side are references to the Challenges and Responses that emerged during the 2nd International Assembly for Mission in 2013.

2. Our Commitment

Hence we commit to:

2.1 Exploring and understanding local realities in order to respond to specific needs: 1.3.3

2.1.1 To identify, discuss, reflect on: 1.2.2; 1.3.1; 1.3.3; 2.3.2

- a. the formation needs of adolescents and young adults;
- b. the societal needs of our country and geographical region;
- c. global issues and concerns (E.g. Rights of the Child, Ecology, etc.).

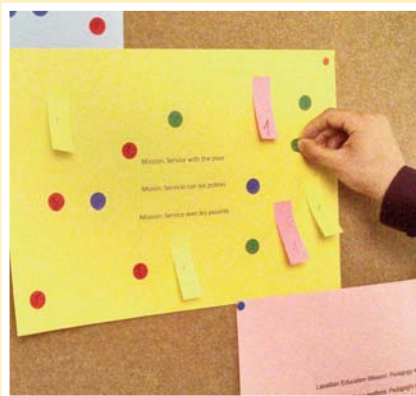
2.1.2 To act upon these by: 1.3.3; 2.1.2

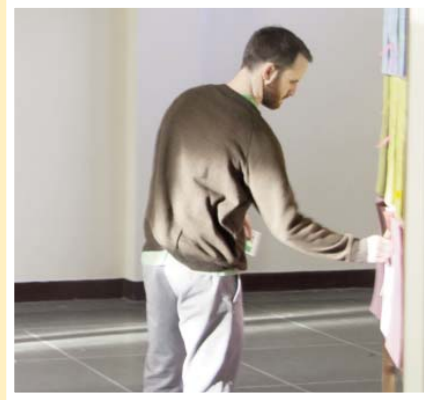
- a. providing adequate ongoing formative programs and experiences;
- b. responding accordingly through local gatherings and initiatives.

2.2 Connecting Young Lasallians with each other at different levels- local, sector, District, Regional, and International: 1.3.1; 3.1.2

2.2.1 To identify, enhance, and encourage communication strategies 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.2

- between Lasallians and institutions at all levels. This could include:
- a. Creating phone Applications for Young Lasallians to locate each other and connect;
 - b. Modeling and encouraging effective use of social media;
 - c. Promoting annual Lasallian themes (E.g., Rights of the Child, and Youth at Risk).





- 2.2.2 To expand District and Regional gatherings to involve Lasallians working outside of Lasallian schools and works; 3.1.1; 3.2.2
- 2.2.3 To reach out to the IALU-sponsored Lasallian Leadership Conference for University-aged students; 3.1.1; 3.2; 3.2.2
- 2.2.4 To introduce younger students to the Lasallian global network and realities; 3.1.1; 3.2; 3.2.2
- 2.2.5 To ensure follow-up to local, sector, District, and Regional projects and gatherings. 3.1.2

2.3 Inviting the different groups of Young Lasallians to begin a reflection on accompaniment: 1.2; 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.3.2; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3

- 2.3.1 To provide mutual support and to challenge one another in order to foster vocational growth; 1.2.3; 1.3.2; 2.1.1; 3.1.1
- 2.3.2 To provide formation that empowers Young Lasallians to carry out a peer-to-peer mentoring program that supports mutual development (E.g. student to student, teacher to teacher); 1.3.2; 2.1.1
- 2.3.3 To advocate for the holistic education of those entrusted to our care by dedicating intentional spaces and times which promote social, political, cultural, and spiritual development; 2.1.3; 2.3.2
- 2.3.4 By sharing personal experiences with other Young Lasallians when they return from formation experiences; 2.1.3; 2.2.2
- 2.3.5 By being present and accessible to youth groups in Lasallian schools and works where the Lasallian spirit needs support. 1.2.2

2.4 Networking among service and social justice programs and projects among Lasallian schools and works: 1.2.2; 1.3.1; 2.3.2

- 2.4.1 By compiling a list of existing service programs, in collaboration with existing Lasallian Foundations, and/or third parties; 2.1.1
- 2.4.2 By encouraging further collaboration among the various Lasallian Volunteer programs; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.3.3

2.4.3	By ensuring that a Lasallian Service-Learning ⁶ framework that brings together Service-Learning theory and Lasallian Pedagogy, exists and is used;	1.1.1
2.4.4	To promote self-sufficiency through, and for, our programs.	1.3.1
2.5	Promoting the values of faith, service, and community through exposure and connection to the worldwide Lasallian Educational Mission:	2.3.3
2.5.1	By encouraging formal orientation programs for the Lasallian Educational Mission aimed at new students and staff members;	1.2.2; 1.3.2
2.5.2	By inviting Young Lasallians to collaborate on and take leadership roles in existing Lasallian programs (E.g., Mission Assemblies, Lasallian Studies, Formation Programs);	1.3.2; 3.3.2
2.5.3	By engaging leaders in the Lasallian Family in conversations about the International Assemblies and the 45th General Chapter, to ensure that all appropriate objectives are carried out;	3.3.2
2.5.4	By utilizing the Institute website and other existing websites to disseminate information and ideas. Additionally, to urge institutions, sectors, Districts, and Regions to make sharing news and resources broadly a priority;	3.1.2; 3.2.2
2.5.5	By Identifying creative ways to make existing Lasallian documents more accessible. (E.g., Create videos, or document summaries for sharing);	1.3.3; 3.1.2
2.5.6	By offering Young Lasallians' linguistic skills to translate key Lasallian documents into languages other than the three official Institute languages.	1.3.3; 3.1.2

⁶ **A working definition of service-learning:** Service learning is a method of teaching that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. This form of learning emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility.

Outcome 3 – ICYL Letter to the Brother Capitulants of the 45th General Chapter

Dear Brother Capitulants,

As you gather for the 45th General Chapter, we offer you our prayers and greetings. We send you this letter to present our requests for your consideration.

The Young Lasallian Movement exists to awaken awareness of the personal and collective vocational journey of adolescents and young adults involved in the Lasallian Educational Mission. This movement engages us on a personal, professional, and spiritual level to go beyond our boundaries to reach out so that we and those we accompany may have life, and have it in its fullest. (John 10:10)

*Interested, inspired, and engaged in the Lasallian Mission we are the future protagonists of the mission, and we commit ourselves to service **with** the poor. We are inspired to be agents of change in our world and we are challenged to be stewards of the vitality and sustainability of the Lasallian Family and the Lasallian Educational Mission.*

Therefore, we need the investment of the Institute in formation experiences that affirm, engage, and speak to Young Lasallians in ways that are fresh and meaningful.

Given our experiences as a Council, as well as the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives that emerged from the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, we call on the Chapter:

- for the continuation of the International Council of Young Lasallians and the position of the International Young Lasallian Coordinator;*
- for the integration of new projects and ideas into current and successful projects (i.e. International Lasallian Days for Peace, Lumen - Digital Newsletter, Social networking presence) of the ICYL;*
- to encourage those responsible for Districts and Regions to empower Young Lasallians, especially the ISYL'14 delegates, to promote, adapt and implement the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives;*
- for Young Lasallian representation within existing structures in sectors, Districts, Regions and the Institute, so that our hopes and dreams find full expression in the Lasallian Family.*

We thank you for your ongoing support for Young Lasallians in Mission. Please know that our hopes and prayers are with you during your experience of this 45th General Chapter.

*In St. La Salle,
International Council of Young Lasallians*

Final Report: Preparations, Process and Experience

Part A: A Brief History of the three International Symposia



1st International Colloquium of Young Lasallians

This was held in 2002 in Quebec, Canada. Yanick Chamberland-Richer, led 150 participants through this gathering. The theme was “Hand in hand, let us build the Civilization of Love.” It was a result of this gathering that Brother Superior General, Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, called for the formation of the International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL).

Founding of the ICYL

The ICYL first met in 2003. Since then, the ICYL has met 18 times creating synergy among programs and sectors, Districts, and Regions, while bringing to life initiatives like:

- the Young Lasallian profile;
- the Young Lasallian creed;
- the call for the organization of the 2nd International Symposium of Young Lasallians;
- International Lasallian Days of Peace;
- Lumen - An e-newsletter for and by Young Lasallians;
- VEGA - A Formation program for Young Lasallian Leaders;
- Many Stars... One La Salle – A global initiative calling for Lasallian human star photos;
- the establishment of the position of International Coordinator for Young Lasallians;
- the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians.

The current council is comprised of 7 members, accompanied by the Coordinating Secretary for Lasallian Family and Association. The ICYL continues to explore and act on different ways to bring Young Lasallians together throughout the Institute to best enliven and support the mission.



2nd International Symposium of Young Lasallians

This was held in July, 2006 in Rome, Italy. The theme was “Mission Possible: A Shared Dream” This Symposium resulted in a strengthening of the Young Lasallian Network by focusing our efforts on formation, networking, structures and communication. Additionally, the 150 participants were able to begin a

conversation identifying the different local, sector, District, and Regional realities. Through this process, the Symposium was able to identify challenges and opportunities facing Young Lasallians and to envision collaboration.

International Coordinator for Young Lasallians

Through the work of the Superior General and his council, the role of the International Coordinator of Young Lasallians was established. The International Coordinator is currently based at the Generalate and works within the Secretariat for Lasallian Family and Association. In September 2011, the International Coordinator of Young Lasallians became a salaried position.



Part B: The journey towards the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians

Objectives of the Symposium

The 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians, seen as the clearest and most inclusive expression of the Young Lasallians' collective voice, has striven to achieve the following objectives:

- To Identify and prioritize objectives and lines of action for the Young Lasallian Movement. These will be referred to as the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives, henceforth.
- To link the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives directly with the Institute's Mission, and the lines of action and orientations of the broader Lasallian Educational Mission, as expressed by the 2nd International Mission Assembly, held in May 2013.

Why was the Symposium the best way to achieve these Objectives?

In Lasallian tradition, since the time of the Founder when he called the early Brothers together to discern their future as a group and the future of the developing Mission, major efforts at orienting the work of the Institute are always undertaken in community and through processes that express wide and extensive consultation. The same applies for the Young Lasallian Movement.

Colloquium 2002

Quebec

Led to the Superior General's decision to form the **International Council of Young Lasallians**

Symposium 2006

Rome

Led to the strengthening of the **Young Lasallian Network** – focusing on Formation, Structures and Communication

Symposium 2014

Rome

Led to the formulation of the **Young Lasallian Mission Objectives** – essential elements for a Global **Young Lasallian Movement**

Institute's Mission:

Human and Christian Education of the young, especially the poor

The Theme 'Building Hope Together'

Why Hope?

Inspired by two milestone documents published by the Institute: Circular No. 461 - *Associated for the Lasallian Mission... An Act of Hope* and Bulletin No. 254 - *Stories of Hope*, the intention of the organizing committee was to affirm and explore the role of adolescents and young adults within the Lasallian Family.

In this sense, ISYL'14 was an opportunity to celebrate and share hope:

- for the young people entrusted to our care;
- for the liberation of the poor; and
- for the Institute and the wider Lasallian Family.

Why Building?

During the World Youth Days in Toronto in 2002, Pope John Paul II challenged young people to be a new generation of builders. He reminded us that "God is entrusting to [us] the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love." This phrase was a cornerstone upon which the establishment of the first ICYL was founded in 2003.

Why Together?

Often most Lasallians find themselves deeply engaged in local commitments, but not always well connected with the global issues and opportunities that an international Institute brings with it. Hence, the inclusion of the word 'together' is twofold. First, it celebrates the unity in diversity in the



Mission inspired by the Lasallian Charism. Second, it highlights that while each dream is a personal one, the Lasallian dream should also be a collective one.⁷

The Logo

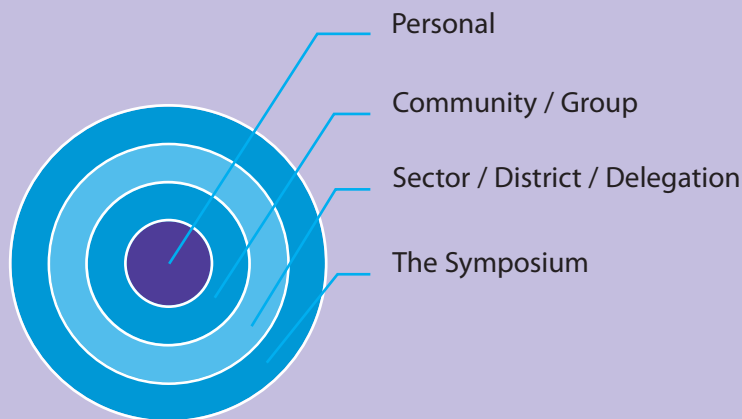
Created by the Generalate Communications' Department, the logo consists of four hands which symbolize the action needed if "building" is to take place. The star at the center expresses the Young Lasallians' commitment to be bearers of hope for the Institute and Lasallian Family. The different colors and sizes of the hands represent the concept of unity in diversity expressed by the word "together."



Preparation Process

The ICYL, through the publication of a Preparation Manual, presented to all Young Lasallians, the necessary materials needed to initiate a personal and communal reflective process prior to the Symposium. This preparation manual included a survey which each delegate had to complete, individually, as well as with at least one group of five or more young people engaged in the Mission.

This process of discernment served as an experience of profound self-awareness, and an articulation of the hopes and aspirations of Young Lasallians at various levels:



⁷ Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, addressing the participants of VEGA'09 - A pilot project promoting formation of Young Lasallian Leaders held in Rome in July 2009.

Selection of Delegates to the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians

REGIONS	Total
Regional Quota (8 per Region)	40
Superior General	10
ICYL	10
Total	57

The ICYL proposed that since the Symposium had a specific task to accomplish in a short amount of time, the number of delegates should not be more than 60. The Superior General and his Council approved plans to appoint 5 Regional Delegations consisting of 8 Young Lasallians each.

Regions and Districts were strongly encouraged to choose their delegates on the basis of:

- Gender: Ideally including 4 women and 4 men, per Region.
- Age: Whereas every Regional Delegation should not have been comprised of more than 2 delegates younger than 20 years old and not more than 2 delegates older than 31 years of age.
- Geographic and demographic considerations: Representation of the diverse cultural/social/religious/geo-political realities of each Region.
- Diverse ways of being a Young Lasallian: Representation of the many different expressions of being a YL within a Region, including a balanced inclusion of young Brothers.
- Involvement in the Mission: Delegates needed to have been exposed to and/or active within the Lasallian Educational Mission for at least 2 years.

The Superior General had the option to appoint up to 10 additional delegates to balance any shortcomings in:

- Geographic and demographic considerations: The Inclusion of key countries and/or Districts which still might not have a strong Young Lasallians presence, but could have taken advantage of this Symposium to inspire some Young Lasallians (young teachers, young Brothers, former students, in particular) to work on creating such groups and/or initiatives following their participation in the Symposium.



- Diverse ways of being a Young Lasallian: Representation of the many different expressions of being a Young Lasallian within the Institute.
- Socio- and Economic backgrounds: With the intent of ensuring the presence of delegates with different experiences of poverty.
- Invitation of delegates with particular personal skills or experiences: These could have included former members of the ICYL, young members of the Signum Fidei Movement, young members of other Lasallian Congregations.

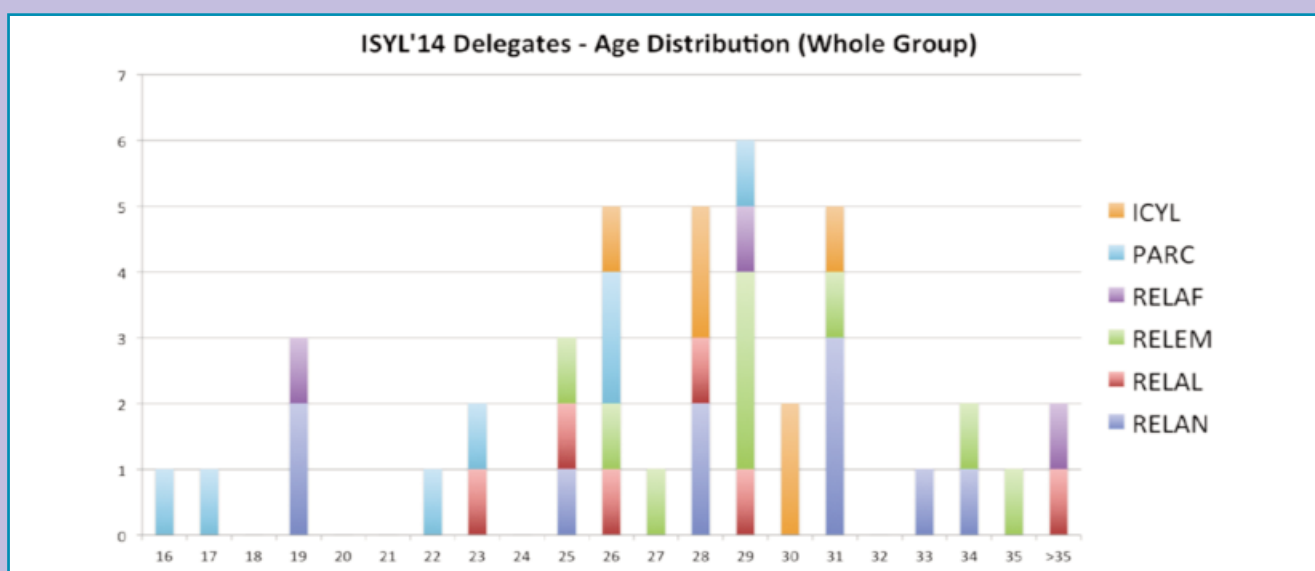
It is important to highlight that all prospective delegates were informed, early on, that accepting the invitation to participate in the Symposium, would entail committing themselves to be actively involved within their local Young Lasallian groups and/or District and/or Region, at least until 2016.

In this way, in collaboration with Districts and Regional administrators, delegates will engage others to follow up with processes needed to foster the Young Lasallian Movement where Young Lasallian groups are already in place, and assist in the organization of groups where the Movement is still in its initial stages.

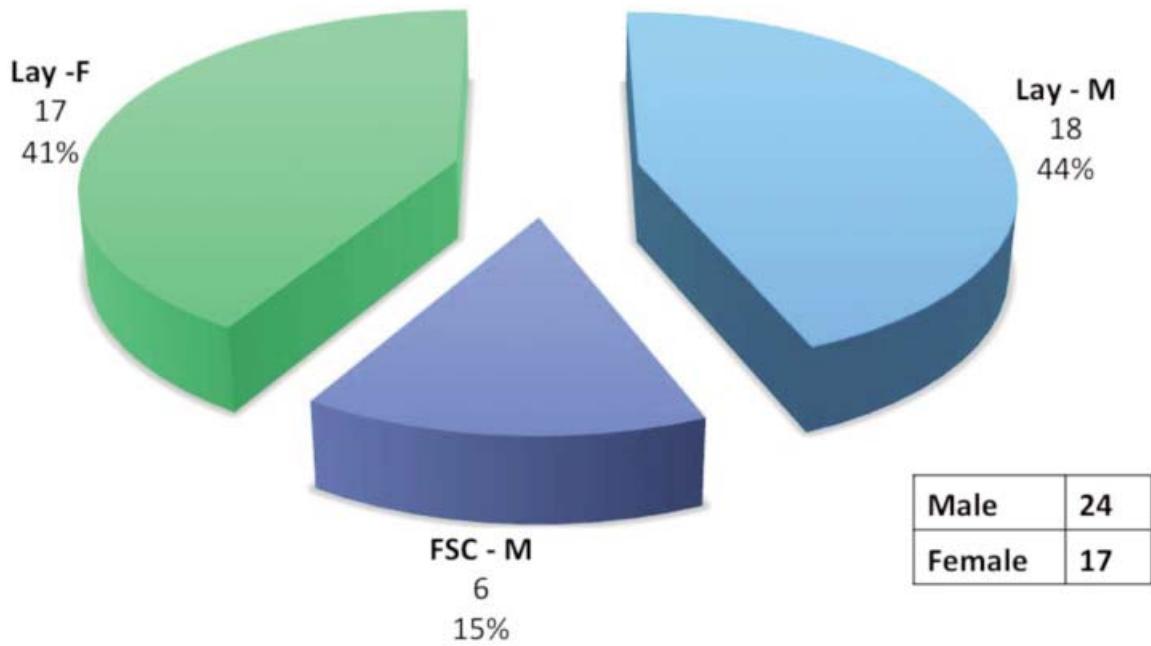
The Delegates of the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians

46 delegates were identified to participate in the Symposium. However, for visa-related and other relevant reasons, five of these Young Lasallians were not able to travel to Rome. These delegates are highlighted in the table below by the negative figures in parentheses.

REGIONS	RELEM	RELAL	RELAF	RELAN	PARC	Total
Regional Quota	8	6 (-1)	0	8	8 (-2)	27
Superior General	1	2 (-1)	4 (-1)	1	1	7
ICYL	2	1	1	2	1	7
Total	11	7	4	11	8	41

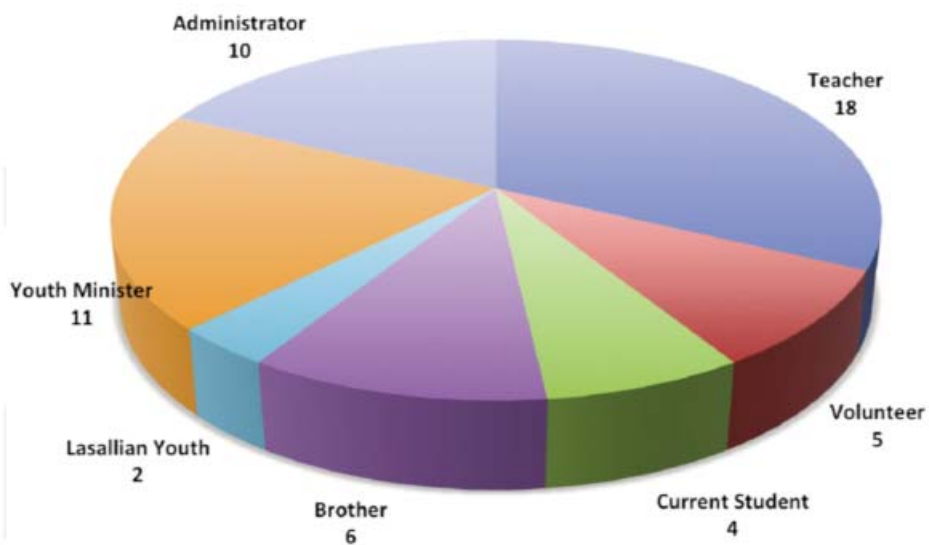


Number of Delegates

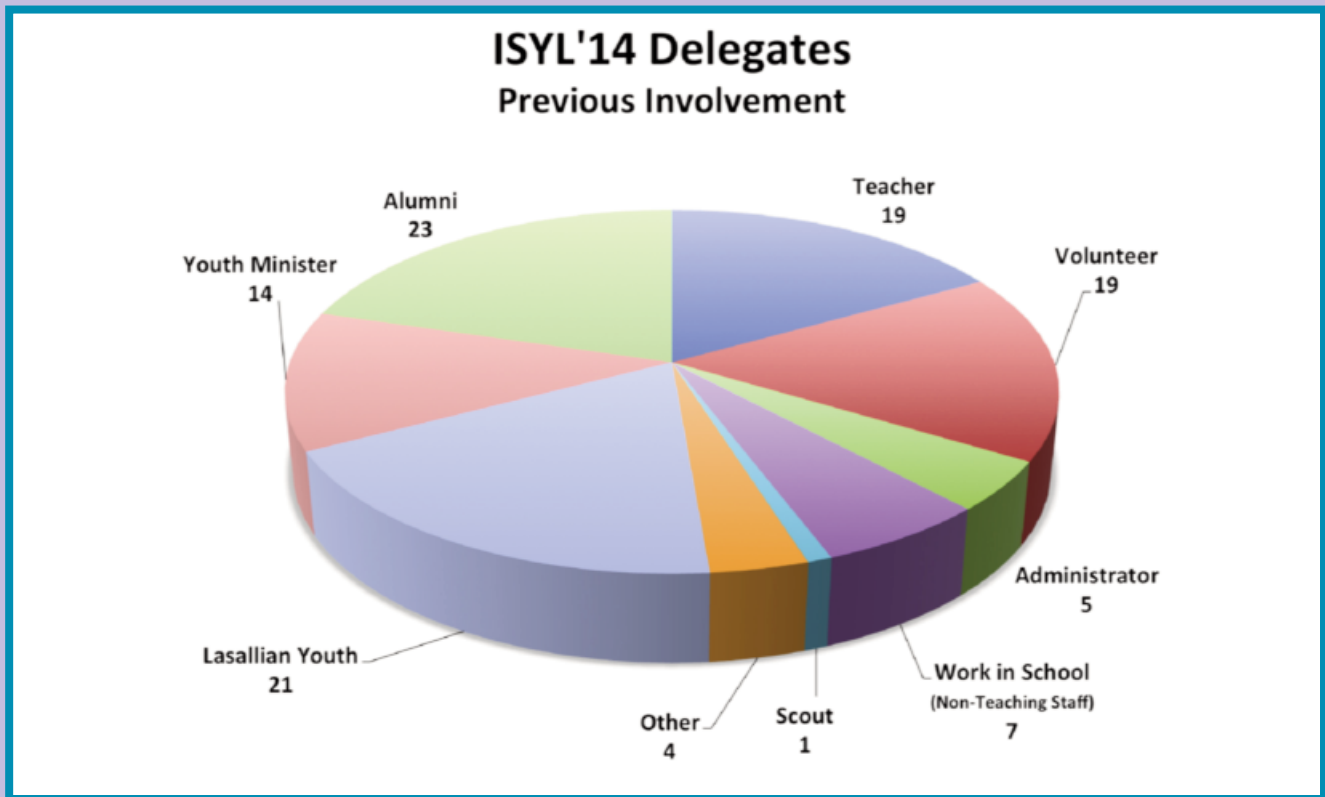


Current and Previous Involvement in the Lasallian Educational Mission

ISYL'14 Delegates Current Involvement



It should be noted that when one adds up these figures, the number is higher than the total number of delegates. This is due to the fact that some have self-identified more than one way to describe their current and previous involvement in the Mission.



Part C: The experience of the 3rd International Symposium

The Faith Dimension of the Symposium

Guided by the Emmaus Story and grounded in the four basic elements (water, fire, air, and earth), the Liturgy and Choir Service Teams led the delegates on a personal and communal journey that seamlessly connected each moment of prayer during the Symposium. Brother Enrico Muller, FSC, with the assistance of the ICYL and Symposium delegates, created and organized all of the liturgical celebrations during the week.

Each delegate was asked to bring a piece of fabric that captured the “story” of his or her homelands. The fabric could have been old or new, simple or precious, but each one held creative expressions representing a delegate’s hope for the future. Over the course of the Symposium, these single pieces of fabric were sewn together and presented as a Young Lasallian blanket of hope⁸ during the closing ceremony. This quilted expression of hope symbolized the unity in diversity of the Lasallian Family and was presented as the delegates’ parting gift to the Superior General.

Recognizing that community and service are nourished by faith, throughout the week, delegates prayed together, celebrated Eucharist together, and entered prayerfully into a morning retreat.

Community Dynamics

All delegates worked together to support and to be of service to one another. This was facilitated in a number of ways including listening and service groups. Listening groups were an opportunity for delegates to come together in small groups. This offered them a more prayerful intimate setting as well as the possibility to share feelings, and thoughts about their ISYL’14 experience. Service groups ensured attention to translation needs, setting up for breaks and socials, liturgy and choir preparations, and social media updates. Regions sponsored social gatherings during the Symposium to facilitate inter-cultural exchanges and lively community celebrations. A significant aspect of the Symposium was the welcoming presence of the Brothers of the Generalate communities at various times during the week.





Keynote Speakers and Topics

Seven speakers, three of whom specifically delivered presentations addressing the three thematic topics, enriched the ISYL'14. Each presentation outlined significant challenges for the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor, and generated an overwhelming expression of hope among the delegates.

- Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, Superior General, *Building Hope Together*;
- Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, Vicar General, *Future of the Lasallian Educational Mission*;
- Joseph Gilson, International Coordinator of Young Lasallians, *Young Lasallian Pathways*;
- Brother Charles Kitson, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor of DENA⁹, *Now Let's Go Forth*.

The Symposium began with thought provoking messages from Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, and Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, inviting delegates to “build a world more human and fraternal” while always considering “who is the least among us.” Brother Álvaro challenged Young Lasallians to be “Generation H.” A Generation of Hope that has the “strength to break the cycle” of poverty by “going against the current.” Brother Thomas invited participants to be authentic in their interactions with one another as well as those entrusted to their care. He concluded his remarks with these words, “I do not know what the future is, but I know you are the future and the future is now. Some of God’s least and lost young people are waiting for you. We are Lasallians so that the young can have a future.”

Joseph Gilson challenged delegates to “let the collective Lasallian dream” both energize and empower them. He reminded participants, that, as stated by Pope John Paul II, the “young are the

⁸ Circular 461, Chapter 5 - Acts 10:1-38.

⁹ DENA is the District of Eastern North America.

best apostles to the young.” He encouraged them to embrace that reality during and after the Symposium in all that they do and decide. Brother Charles Kitson, FSC, prepared delegates for the prioritization process infusing them with his own energy and enthusiasm while holding up the “proverbial mirror” in front of them. He not only reflected back to the delegates what he had seen, heard, and felt while sharing the week with them, but also used his tenure as Coordinating Secretary of Lasallian Family & Association (2008-2013) to position the Young Lasallian Movement within the Institute. Brother Charles drew the delegates’ attention as to why St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of the Institute -- “Joseph was called to take care of someone else’s child and we as Lasallians are called to do the same.” Perhaps, his most powerful statement was, “We need forever Lasallians, please, be forever Lasallians. Make an extravagant gesture with your life, for God’s sake!”

During thematic keynotes, delegates were introduced to ideas that would in turn inform their work in thematic groups. Thematic keynotes were given by:

- James Camden, Assistant Director of Lasallian Mission Services for the District of ANZPPNG¹⁰, *Vocational Growth: Personal, Professional and Spiritual*;
- Angela Matulli, Project Officer at De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale, Generalate - Rome, *Lasallian Educational Mission: Service of the Poor*;
- Aitor Zulaika, Educator at La Salle Donostia, Sector of Bilbao - ARLEP¹¹, *Lasallian Educational Mission: Pedagogy and Curriculum*.

In addition to keynote speakers, five delegates, each representing a Region, were invited to form a discussion panel. This panel drew together Young Lasallians engaged in the Mission in different ways. The panel included a member of a Lasallian Youth group, a youth minister, an educator, a young Brother, and a Lasallian Volunteer. The insights of the panel helped delegates to become more attentive to diversity across Regions and to highlight the power of unity within that same diversity. This was helpful as thematic groups began their work.

Thematic Groups

ISYL’14 delegates were asked to rank their preferences for involvement in thematic groups listed below.

- Thematic Group 1: Vocational Growth: Personal, Professional and Spiritual;
- Thematic Group 2: Lasallian Educational Mission: Service of the Poor;
- Thematic Group 3: Lasallian Educational Mission: Pedagogy and Curriculum.

Over the course of the Symposium these thematic groups came together to work through the following questions in relation to their theme.

¹⁰ ANZPPNG is the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea.

¹¹ ARLEP is the District of Spain and Portugal.



- What are we passionate about? (Passions)
- What are we ready to do about it? (Actions and Projects)
- How might the actions and projects be influenced by the use and development of research and advocacy; communication and technology?
- What type of support is needed, and, from whom?

With attention to local, sector, District, Regional, and global realities, each group spent significant time engaged with these questions. The goal of this exercise was to identify overarching Young Lasallian Mission Objectives for the coming five to seven years. Each thematic group included at least 12 delegates, with representation from every Region, and two International Young Lasallian Council members. Additionally, one external resource person was assigned to each group. The role of the external resource person for each group was to assist with the facilitation of a multi-lingual and culturally diverse group, as well as keeping the group aware of the broader Lasallian Mission.

Prioritization Process

On the final day, delegates were asked to prioritize the outcomes of the Symposium. The group was invited to express their preference by selecting one theme, up to two passions, and up to five projects and actions as priorities to assist in the identification, and development, of the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives.

Regional Meetings and Reporting

Delegates were encouraged to gather before and/or during the Symposium. This was an opportunity for delegates to:

- intentionally build community within the Regional groups;
- reflect on the Regional realities;
- discuss the impact of the Symposium experience;
- plan how to carry out the outcomes.

At the conclusion of the Symposium, Regions prepared a short presentation to capture their experience and outlined an action plan.



Part D: The ISYL'14 Delegates' Action Plans by Regions.

Towards the end of the Symposium the delegates gathered by Regions to commit to Action Plans. Here is a summary of these plans:

RELAL: To setup a videoconference call with the RELAL Regional Team to share with them what was experienced and receive their suggestions and support on how to share the ISYL'14 experience and outcomes to all schools and works in the Region.

- To write a summary of the Symposium (including logistics, thematic groups and priorities) This will be sent to the RELAL Regional Team for assistance on proper format and design. Once complete this would be sent to all Brother Visitors and to those involved in pastoral work. This could also be published in the bulletin of the Region;
- Video material could be used as complementary resources to the report, and could be posted on the RELAL, District, and schools' website;
- Each delegate is committed to share the report and videos in their own District, schools, and Young Lasallian groups (movements, missionaries, volunteers, etc.), as a means of disseminating information relative to the Symposium and its goals.

RELAF: The Symposium delegates discussed how resources can be allocated for the successful implementation of a long-term plan for the development of projects and groups of Young Lasallians. Ways to take the outcomes and objectives of the Symposium and to merge and integrate them with the RELAF Strategic Plan were considered. **To meet the outcomes** of ISYL'14 the RELAF delegates *will*:

- Put in place a Regional Committee that will organize a meeting of those responsible for local groups to determine what can be done to establish a Regional program of formation for Young Lasallians. This will be done through the Young Lasallians Committee of RELAF (YLC of RELAF);
- Foster better coordination among leaders of diverse pastoral activities. This will be an objective of the YLC of RELAF and will become easier once the communication channels are in place;
- Have a periodic publication whereby Young Lasallians across the Region will be invited to contribute articles to;
- Have periodic meetings at local, sector, and District levels, which could eventually grow into the Regional level. By acting locally, and thinking globally, their aim is to start with institutions that are geographically close to each other and then, to move on to the District level, and finally to the Regional level.

RELEM: RELEM delegates felt that the ISYL '14 was a great experience of going beyond borders to other Lasallian experiences. It was a good way to contrast their own ways of doing and being Young Lasallians with the witness and stories of other delegates from other Regions. ISYL'14 RELEM delegates committed to:

- Sharing the experiences and outcomes of ISYL'14, and reflections on their implications for RELEM, as much as possible and at all levels;
- Clarifying roles, duties and responsibilities of contact persons from each District. These include those appointed by the Brother Visitors, as well as the ISYL'14 delegates, and participants of the Regional Young Lasallian Formation Program held in August 2013.

PARC: Delegates proposed a structure that brings together key Young Lasallians from across the Region to receive formation, allows for resource sharing, and enhances communication. This structure hopes to create a volunteer program that delivers Young Lasallian formation to sectors of the Region where little, or none, is occurring.

These action plans are an immediate outcome of the Symposium and a resource for future dialogue with Regional leadership.

RELAN: Delegates are creating concise, coherent, and engaging resources that capture the Symposium experience and outcomes (power point, white paper, prezi, video-blog, etc.). Each delegate will participate in speaking engagements across the Region and will be actively involved within their localities, Districts, and the Region through 2016 in order to:

- Further foster the Young Lasallian Movement where groups are already in place;
- Assist the organization of groups where the Young Lasallian Movement is still in its initial stages;
- Carry out the Young Lasallian Mission Objectives coming out of ISYL'14.



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