

July 10th, 2013

Dear Delegates of the 1st International Young Brothers Assembly,

Thank You!

On behalf of your fellow Young Lasallians, we would like to open this letter by expressing our deep gratitude for, and heartfelt appreciation of, your life-long commitment to the Institute and the Lasallian Mission. Thank you for having opted to live your Lasallian vocation, as Brothers. Your witness is an inspiration to other Young Lasallians as we jointly continue to work to provide for the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor.

This wonderful and historic assembly, intended to provide you with a channel for your voice to be heard at two important Institute events in 2014, is a source of hope and encouragement to us all. Here we are referring to the 45th General Chapter, but also to the 3rd International Symposium of Young Lasallians to be held in February 2014. Brothers, may these days also provide you with the opportunity to link your assembly with this other major Young Lasallian Institute event. Perhaps this might take the shape of a written or recorded message sharing your collective hopes and aspirations for our Movement; our joint involvement in the Mission, the future of the Institute and the promotion of all Lasallian vocations, particularly for the Brothers.

As we continue to journey together, some might be tempted to be afraid of, or hesitant about, our common future in the Lasallian Mission. Brothers, especially for those of you who come from Districts or Regions with seemingly challenging prospects or dwindling numbers within our religious communities, allow us to invite you to be convinced:

- that you shall never be alone,
- that your life witness and commitment will always be a reason for celebration and unity within the Lasallian Family,
- that God will not abandon this Institute because the “the need for this Institute is very great.”

In this spirit, we believe that it is essential to continue to nourish each other’s vocations, as Young Lasallians. May we support one another as we continue to **build hope together**.

We conclude by wishing you a most fruitful and inspired assembly. We do this with the certainty that:

“God is so good that he does not leave unrewarded the good work that is done for him and the service that is rendered to him, especially for the salvation of souls. If it is true that God rewards so generously even in this world those who have left all things for him, that they receive a hundredfold in this life, with how much more reason will God reward even in this present time those who have devoted themselves with zeal to spread his kingdom!” (MT 207).

In La Salle,

International Council of Young Lasallians

