



*"...I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

## **PREPARATORY COMMISSION WELCOME STATEMENT July 29, 2013**

Brothers:

Welcome to the International Young Brothers Assembly!

Bienvenidos a la Asamblea Internacional de Hermanos Jóvenes!

Bienvenue l'Assemblée internationale frères Young!

At our Opening Liturgy this evening, we will hear the welcoming words of Brother Edmundo Fernandez, FSC, Visitor of LEAD, our host District and the words of our Brother Superior who arrives later this afternoon. With this in mind, the Preparatory Commission would like to share with you the following words.

The Genesis account of creation tells us that the first words God dictates are "Let there be light and there was light" (Gen 1:3). In the gospel of Saint John, Jesus proclaims "I came so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10)—a movement from the very literal to the hope of God's promise of salvation. In the role of delegate, you are the light God has provided to represent the hopes, dreams, and concerns of all of the Young Brothers. The assembly provides the opportunity for a fraternal gathering that in a special way can provide abundant life to each of us. As you know the passage from John's gospel is the theme of our assembly so let us make this our prayer for one another.

It may help to recall our holy Founder who directly refers to this passage in four of his meditations. In one place he writes, "This is also something we ought to attribute to the action of the Holy Spirit, who comes in a soul only to give it the life of grace and to cause it to act with grace" (Med 45.1). In his meditation on the Annunciation he uses the passage to



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reflect on the purpose of the Word becoming incarnate (Med 112.3). In another place he reminds us that we must be mindful of these words since "You must also enter into his purposes and goals" (Med 196.3). And in the final reference Saint La Salle reflects, "this had to have been the kind of ardent zeal you felt for the salvation of those you must instruct when you were led to sacrifice yourselves and to spend your whole life to give these children a Christian education and to procure for them the life of grace in this world and eternal life in the next" (Med 201.3).

It is with deep confidence in this statement that the Preparatory Commission gives thanks for each of your lives and the light it provides to our Institute and those you serve. Over the coming days Brothers we hope the spirit of our Institute, a spirit of faith and zeal, allows each of you to discover more deeply the light of your heart and the many ways our vocation is called to provide abundant life in our world today. Finally, we hope this is not only a time of reflection, but a time to share the joy of our lives and celebrate our brotherhood.