

March 2012 – Issue 4

You are the *light* of the world (Mt 5:13)

## Editorial



Joseph Gilson, International Coordinator for Young Lasallians

Greetings from Lasallian Headquarters in Rome where the International Council of Young Lasallians met between September 26 and 30, 2011! During our last meeting, besides other things, we studied the best ways to strengthen our communication strategy, as well as the next edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDP). In fact, we will

be presenting our branding slogan and new logo in this newsletter.

You will also find that this issue features reports of ILDP activities from Central Europe (Region of Europe and Mediterranean), Colombia (Region of Latin America) and Madagascar (Region of Africa). Moreover, it includes details of the poster competition we are launching for the 6th edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDP), September 21 to October 21, 2012. For this year's ILDP, we are also hoping to build on the successful experience of last two years, which saw EMITC, the online radio of Instituto Técnico Central in Bogotá, Colombia, hosting a 24-hour radio marathon marking the final day of the initiative.

In fact, at the moment, we are compiling a list of Radio Stations linked to Lasallian ministries/ schools and communities in prepara-



Generalate

tion for next October's project. Should you be aware of any such stations (broadcasting online or not), please forward us any contact details and/or website links that could help us connect them on [icyl@lasalle.org](mailto:icyl@lasalle.org). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

While the International Lasallian Days for Peace is a month-long project, the commitment to peace and justice of many Lasallians around the world, is a way of life. The Lasallian presence in South Sudan, the Holy Land, at the Myanmar Border, and in so many other places, testifies to this. We are therefore very proud to be able to share with you some news from Young Lasallians from the Holy Land.

This issue also features the reflection of Lasallian Volunteer, Kenny Latta, who shared with us some of his reflections regarding the LVs Ride. This hope-filled 62-day venture saw Lasallians cross the United States on their bikes to raise awareness about poverty and injustice.

Young Lasallians around the world, let's keep encouraging one another to building hope and peace together, one person at a time.

Live Jesus in our Hearts ... Forever!

*Joseph*

*International Coordinator for Young Lasallians, Generalate, Rome*



We welcome Br. Pedro Bravo, fsc (RELAL), Catherine Déry (Canada Francophone) and ElissaPensa (USA-Toronto) on the ICYL team.

## “Building Hope together”



**International Council of Young Lasallians, 2011-2012** – Back row (Left to Right): **Br. Charles Kitson** (Coordinating Secretary for Lasallian Family and Association), **Br. Pedro Bravo** (RELAL), **Vanessa Abella** (PARC), **Elissa Pensa** (USA/Toronto), **Joseph C. Gilson** (International Coordinator for Young Lasallians). Front row (Left to Right): **Aitor Zulaika** (RELEM), **Catherine Déry** (Canada Francophone), **Br. Michel Zo Tolojanahary** (RELAF)

During our last meeting of the International Council for Young Lasallians, we embarked on a process of identification of a phrase that could help us push forward our message within the Lasallian Family. The result of these reflections was: “Building Hope Together”.

This tagline was constructed by considering significant words one finds in documents like the “Profile of a Young Lasallian” and the “Young Lasallian Creed”, as well as concepts we felt were important to all Lasallians. We first looked at the specific words which inspire many Young Lasallians: love, together, building bonds, enthusiasm, service to the poor, creativity, being an agent of love, vitality...all these words said something to us about the Young Lasallian Movement, but HOPE was the word that seemed most apt considering the times we live in.

Hope is an extremely important word right now. Hope, to us means so many things: hope for the young people entrusted to our care; hope we experience and share through our faith; hope for the liberation of the poor; hope for the Institute; the fact that we act as “agents of hope” when we serve; and hope in our world and in our future. In order to capture the action and energy of the Young Lasallian Movement we opted for the word “building” and then added “together” to capture a sense of shared mission, global networking and association.

We believe that “BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER” speaks to both who we are and what we do while actively reflecting the values of the Institute.

### The Logo for the International Council of Young Lasallians: Version 2.0

Following calls for Institutional Rebranding launched by the Superior General and his Council, the logo for the International Council for Young Lasallians has been updated to be in line with the new guidelines. We hope you like it!



## Lasallian Volunteer Kenny Latta reflects on the LV's Ride

The bike ride is over. Sort of.

You see, I can't seem to get LVs Ride out of my head.

Every time I close my eyes I see the asphalt shoulder of some highway in Ohio whirling past my front tire. Or I see the odometer on the handlebar slowly (oh so slowly...) making its way towards 85 miles, where I know I'll be finished for the day. Or I see myself riding over the peak of a hill, and gripping my handlebars, white-knuckled, on the way down.

Sometimes I'll be walking around our neighborhood in the Bronx and see a hole in the sidewalk ahead, and it's all I can do to stifle the instinct to shout "Hole!" and wave my hands wildly around, desperately trying to get the attention of the family behind me who, I'm sure, can see the hole quite well for themselves, thank you.

Oh, and I have such great memories that it's really become hard not to pester every person I meet with biker stories. I remember riding away from Lewis University in the morning of my first day, nervous like I was going on a first date with a girl that I knew was going to kick my butt in about 60 miles. And I remember 80 miles later, with the sun of the late afternoon burning through my helmet, telling Mario that I needed to take a break and falling – I mean *falling* – asleep in some parking lot somewhere, knowing that I wouldn't be getting back on my bike that day.

I remember the feeling of joy and sense of accomplishment that came after the first time I finished a whole day of the ride – coincidentally the first time I realized that accomplishment tastes a lot like soft-serve ice cream with chocolate sprinkles – and I remember crossing out of Ohio into Pennsylvania, and it dawning on me that I had just crossed an entire state by bicycle for the first time.

I remember the complete and utter misery of climbing the Appalachian Mountains, and the complete and utter amazement of discovering that I had, somehow, reached the top. And I remember rushing down the mountains at 35 miles per hour, wind in my hair and bugs in my teeth, only to see Tom Ludzia pull alongside and tell



Rider with LVs 2011-2012

me that I had, (unfortunately) missed a turn at the top and would (unfortunately) need to turn around and climb back up...

And, of course, I remember the excitement building as we approached the end – the sound of Zac and Rich laying into their bike bells, the sound of Karen and Glenna and Alyse singing that song, the sound of the waves crashing on the sands of the Jersey Shore, and the sound of all the friends and family cheering us on as we came around the corner and dashed to the ocean. I remember the confused faces of our fellow beachgoers as we went for a swim with our bikes; and our laughter as Nishant, desperate to protect his camera and get the perfect photo, was beaten senseless by the waves; and Mario's mom announcing to everyone around with ears to hear that we – the Lasallian family – had just biked over 3400 miles.

One final memory that has become particularly meaningful for me as I reflect on my two weeks with the ride:

I remember the sunrises. Each morning, riding east, we would find the sun low on the horizon and right in our faces. Sunglasses were little help, and I know that many of us were completely blind to what was coming up ahead. We proceeded on faith; trusting in the riders in front of us to make the right turns, point out obstacles, lead us over hills, up mountains, through valleys, and to the occasional Dairy Queen. And, being ignorant of the road ahead, it was only on looking back that we could really understand how far we'd come, and see clearly all of the things we'd passed.

Now that the ride is over, I've said that LVs Ride is on my mind, and that I can't seem to think of much else. But I'm not complaining. I am only looking back, evaluating how far I've come and beginning, as best I can, to see clearly a path paved by blessings and memories; friendships, smiles and laughs; bikes and sore butts; challenges, triumphs; and, well, one hell of a good ride.

*"We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see  
Ahead, but looking back the very light  
That blinded us shows us the way we came,  
Along which blessings now appear, risen  
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,  
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward  
That blessed light that yet to us is dark."*

Wendell Berry, *Given*

### LVs Ride Fact Box:

Number of total miles: **3,600**

Number of days: **62 (49 of riding)**

Actual dates: **6/14/2011-8/14/2011**

Average miles per day: **70**

Longest Distance in one day: **126 miles**

number of national riders: **13**

number of regional riders: **6** a person riding for 2 days – a week

number of day riders: **23**

number of overall riders: **42**

Number of service projects participated in/ visited along the way: **6**

Total sum raised: **\$107,013.40**



# International Lasallian Days for Peace

*"I assure you, insofar as you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine. You did it to me." Matthew 25:40*

This was the theme that the Young Lasallians in Lycee Prive Stella Maris, Madagascar chose during the International Lasallian Days for Peace 2011. This Group of YL realized that yes there is a need to pray for peace for our society, country and the world; but more importantly, they are convinced that they have to concretely act for peace. In fact they chose October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 to act for peace and show their solidarity and support with the physically challenged children at the centre "Rayon de Soleil Espoir" in Tamatave. It was a wonderful day of sharing with the residents: Young Lasallians shared their joys and happiness, and also material support such as food and other equipment.



Young Lasallians playing with children in poor health.

## Testimonies from some of our schools in Central Europe regarding the International Lasallian Days for Peace, 2011.

### Austria

"We used the Lasallian prayer for Peace in German, French and English in all upper classes during the morning reflection of the last week of the project, that is from October 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> we reflected on the image of 'opened doors,' where we also presented a kind of poster" – Monika Nefzger.

### Slovakia

"During religion lessons, we had moments of prayer and meditation. We burned some candles to create the right ambience for such an activity. The students were then invited to create some posters. The emphasis of the whole activity was to reach 'Peace in the heart, through the silence of the heart'" - Anna Mravcová.

### Romania – Liceul "La Salle" Pildesti

Following the initiative from ICYL, the period between 21<sup>st</sup> Septem-

ber and 21<sup>st</sup> October was dedicated to events that promoted peace. For two weeks during this period, the morning time dedicated to reflection was used to develop themes related to the various dimensions of peace in our lives. Also, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, the educational community shared a short, but intense moment of prayer for peace. The good Lord bless us with His peace!

### Romania - Iasi

In Iasi we had some activities in a kindergarten (which is not officially part of the lasallian community, however the class teacher is a former student of a Lasallian institution and an active Young Lasallian). Between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October, every Wednesday the class talked about different aspects of the peace: the peace of the soul; peace in the family; peace in some countries which are suffering because of war; peace in our community, and among our friends.

Peace is JOY! - Messages of peace on the colorful balloons



## Circles of Peace-es – A Lasallian commitment to Peace

Currently, in everyday life and thinking the traditional concept of conflict is understood. This view considers conflict as a negative, bad, unpleasant, problematic phenomenon and it is normally associated with demonstrations of violence, so that one can confuse conflict = violence or violence = conflict. On the contrary, conflict is a natural, necessary and positive process for persons and social groups and it has become as necessary for social life as air is for human life.

From this perspective, it is notable that in Colombian society conflict resolution may start from physical and verbal aggression. In nuclear families there are serious problems of child abuse and intra-family violence. To make matters worse, these households are very unstable and people confuse quality of life with comfort. They blame others for the violence that they themselves do. They have no respect for the right to life and they reinforce gender-based violence.

So then, a project that will energize peace is necessary – one that involves individual, local and community responsibility, not something as an isolated concept where the State is the one who should make this possible. This implies that peace becomes a synonym for human rights; peace, human rights and the right to peace are intimately inter-connected. The fulfillment of one of these elements requires the other elements. In short, human rights engender the need for peace and vice-versa; in order for a peaceful situation to exist human rights must be fulfilled. Suffice it to say that the concept of peace is a very global one – nation states work with the concept based on Roman law where peace is understood as non-aggression or no conflict; the term is used only in terms of war and military events and, therefore, it is necessary to understand the concept of peace from a multi-disciplinary perspective that affects all dimensions of life: interpersonal, inter-group, national and international.

In this regard, in the Usme area in the city of Bogota and in Magangué in the state of Bolivar, the Circles of Peace-es<sup>1</sup> project is being carried out. This project is a youth initiative, as there is great concern about the great amount of violence in our country. This initiative is



Leaders of the Peace-es Meeting in Usme



Builder of Peace for Jonnie Parra



a community commitment to promote a culture of peace ("peaces") as a process of transforming the culture of violence. And so this project becomes real by creating circles of peace-es in homes where young leaders ("Builders of peace-es") gather weekly with boys and girls to read stories about human rights and non-violent conflict resolution, the building of peace and values that enable a voluntary attitude of good living together. Currently the project is coordinated by the District of Bogota's Pastoral Ministry Secretariat and there are 40 young people and 100 children, boys and girls, in the Usme-Bogota area involved with this and in Magangué there are 10 young people and 50 children involved in the project.

Our objective is to create bases for good living together that will promote a voluntary cultural change towards peace (peace-es) in communities where there is a high level of violence to solve conflicts, by means of the creation of Circles of Peace-es made up of boys and girls lead by young people from their area. This project may also become a teaching tool that seeks to promote the culture of peace from an integral education that not only proclaims concepts/theory but also encourages the interiorization of actions and values that will reorganize cultural change both in the characterization of self-conflict and the way conflicts are resolved and its role in the educational process. As Saint John Baptist de La Salle would say "The basis of all integrated education is more in the strength of motivations and convictions than in the mere repetition of external behavior. The most important thing is the wealth of interiority."

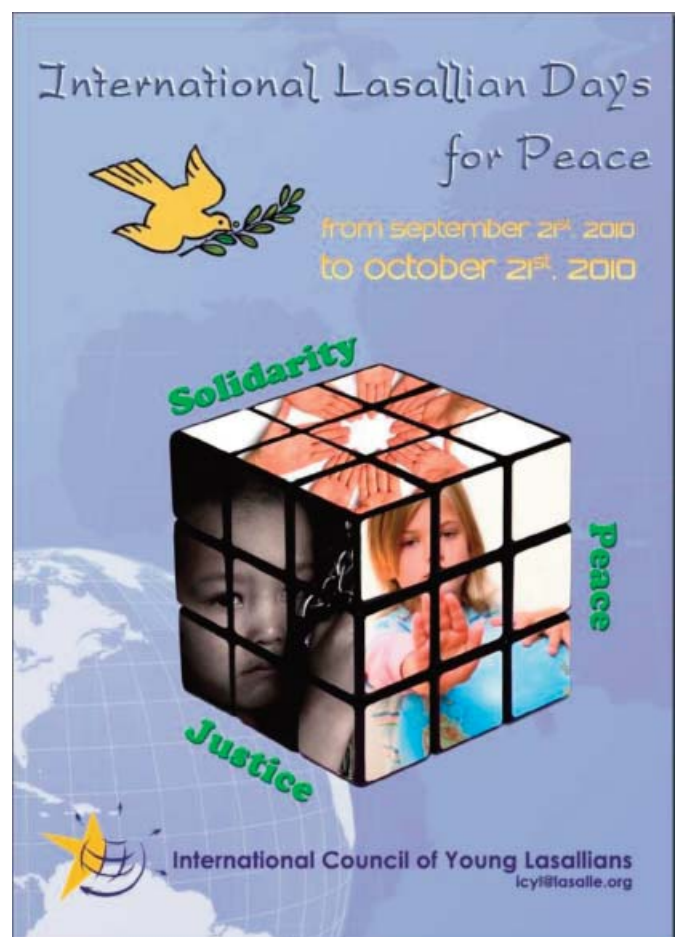
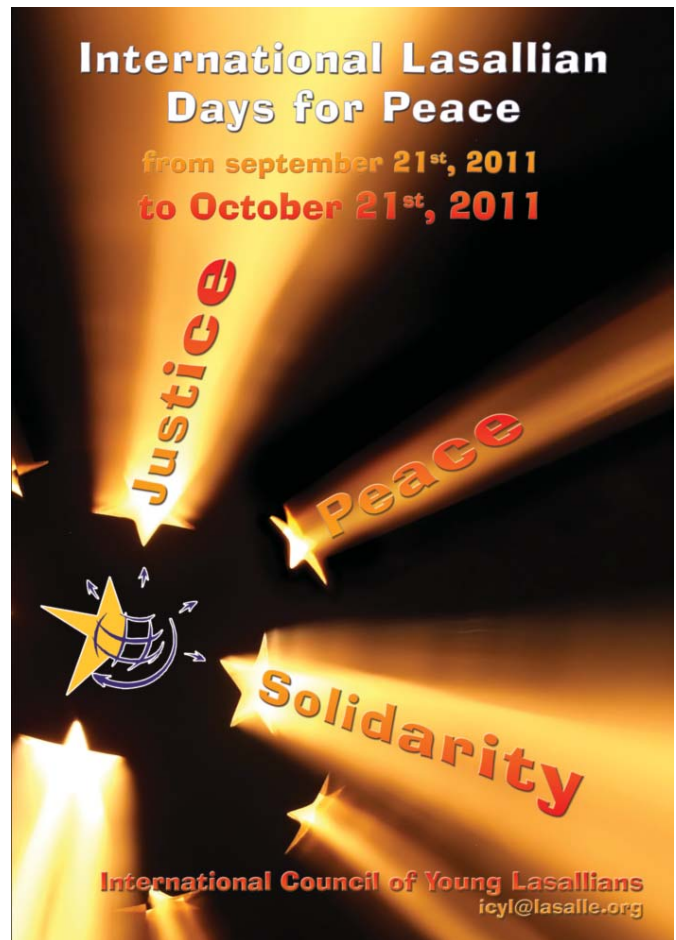
*Coordinators:  
Quena Melisa Leonel  
Karen Díaz Restrepo*

# ILD 2012 Poster-Making Contest Guidelines

Thematic question:

*Building Bonds of Peace Together: How can we be agents of peace for children in our world?*

1. The contest is open to **ALL Lasallians**, especially Young Lasallians: students, volunteers, Brothers, teachers and non-teaching personnel.
2. Only original works, one (1) entry per person, will be accepted. Photographs, images or artwork from publications or from the Internet, whose copyright belong to other individuals, are not acceptable and shall be automatically disqualified.
3. The poster must capture the following:
  - Indicate theme (Building Bonds of Peace Together: How can we be agents of peace for children in our world?);
  - Indicate dates – September 21 to October 21
  - Include text "International Lasallian Days for Peace"
  - Logo of ICYL
  - Include text "Email details and documentation of programmes and events to [icyl@lasalle.org](mailto:icyl@lasalle.org)"
4. The poster may be hand-drawn using any medium, digitally illustrated using any software application, or a combination of media (i.e. mixed media).
5. Specifications of poster:
  - a. Size of file: maximum of 8MB
  - b. File type: JPEG, TIFF, PNG
  - c. Portrait or landscape
  - d. Format of filename: ILDP\_Country\_Name of artist
  - e. Short description/explanation of artist's concept.
6. The International Council of Young Lasallians (ICYL) will choose the winning poster, while keeping in mind the comments and feedback received by all YLs through its communication channels on Facebook and Twitter.
7. Criteria:
  - a. Originality
  - b. Artist's concept in relation to theme
  - c. Overall visual impact
  - d. Universality of the symbols used.
8. The winning artist and the hosting ministry will be recognized in various Lasallian publications of the Council and the Institute.
9. Deadline of entries is April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
10. The reference email for enquiries and submissions is [icyl@lasalle.org](mailto:icyl@lasalle.org).



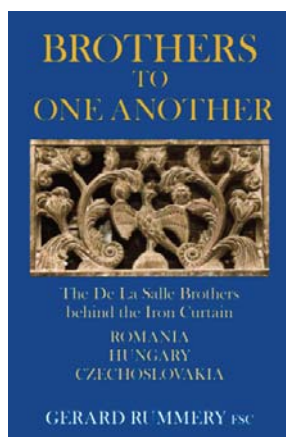
## Young Lasallians in the Holy Land: Building Hope Together



The Workshop was held at Collège Des Frères – Bethlehem. Similar Workshops are usually held at this school in Bethlehem due to the political complication that students from the west bank have to constantly face. This 24-hour workshop was held between November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The activity was attended by 12 students from Bethlehem's Lasallian Youth Group and 9 Students from Jerusalem's Youth Group along with Mr.Khamis Dabit (Jerusalem Youth Coordinator )and Mr.Ibrahim Al-Atrash (Bethlehem Youth Coordinator). The programme had a good balance of fun, prayers, talks about the Bible, as well as lectures about the Founder's life and Meditations.

### From the Lasallian Bookshelf:



Brothers to One Another.

Under the above title, Brother Gerard Rummery has recently published a book about the story of the Brothers in Romania, Czech and Slovakia and Hungary between 1948 and 1990.

It is an inspiring story of courage and of the strength of an international brotherhood.

The book is available by contacting David Lovell [[publisher@davidlovellpublisher.com](mailto:publisher@davidlovellpublisher.com)] or through booksellers giving the title and the ISBN code that follows. ISBN CODE: 978 0 9751148 5 8 (pbk)



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