



a publication
by and for
Young Lasallians

Lumen

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

Special issue: The Lasallian Gathering of the World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow!

Discover in the next few pages everything there is to know about the event of the year in the Young Lasallians Movement. More than 400 people made the trip to the gathering, which was held during the World Youth Day (WYD) in Krakow, Poland, the encounter of more than a million young people from the whole universal Church. The theme of the gathering was the same as the WYD's, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Mt 5:7)



A brief summary

It is now a tradition for the Young Lasallians to organize a gathering whenever the Church celebrates the World Youth Day. This makes it possible to count every two or three years on an event that is an opportunity for young people from all over the world to experience the international nature of the Lasallian Family and deepen their commitment to the Mission.

This year, over 400 people from twenty different countries were invited during an afternoon in the parish of St. John Cantius to meet, share and pray together. Welcomed by the parish priest and the Brother Auxiliary Visitor of the District of Poland, young people also had the chance to hear Brother Robert Schieler, Superior General, talk to them about mercy, and what it means to be merciful in a Lasallian perspective.

Then there was a long moment when young people were able to discuss and share their personal vocation story and their experience in the Lasallian Mission. This was followed by a presentation on the Fratelli Project, which attends refugee children in Lebanon, and then by a moment of prayer. When the time came to conclude this short and intense celebration, one could read through the bursts of joy and the fraternal accolades that the Lasallian Gathering had been great success for all.

For the curious, here is the list of countries of origin of the young people who participated in the event. It should be mentioned that 35 Brothers from different countries were present, including the General Councillors Br. Aidan Kilty and Br. Rafa Matas.

Canada	Poland	Slovakia
Mexico	Portugal	Nicaragua
United States	Australia	Singapore
Lebanon	Palestine	Philippines
Brasil	Jordan	Malta
Dominican Republic	Egypt	Venezuela
Spain	Romania	France



Stories that come out of the ordinary!

Here are two stories that deserve to be told in connection with the Lasallian Gathering of WYD.

A happy reunion



Grace Haymond, a girl attending the Justin Siena High School, California, had a special reason for wanting to participate in the Lasallian Gathering of WYD. Last year, at the Lasallian Assembly Youth of her District (San Francisco - New Orleans), she had made friends with three Lasallians from Mexico, two students and a Brother. Having maintained these friendships throughout the year, she learned with joy that her three friends were going to travel to Krakow this year and that they were able to meet again in the Lasallian Gathering.

“That was one of the happiest moments I think I have ever experienced. [...] I learned how powerful our family is, how loving, and how much we can and have made a difference in the world. I’m excited to bring back this energy to my high school in Napa, California and I can’t wait for Panama 2019!”



A local celebration with a universal flavour



Unfortunately, not all Lasallians can go to the World Youth Day, money and distance being considerable obstacles. Fortunately, our educators are unstoppable when they want the young people entrusted to them to live unforgettable experiences. Ria Greene, Deputy Principal at St Bede's College, near Melbourne, organized on July 30 a retreat day which was meant as a local WYD experience for about 60 students and young adults in the Melbourne area. Many workshops, a pilgrimage, a mass and a Polish cultural

experience: so many activities that brought young people to feel part of the World Youth Day, even thousands of kilometers away from Krakow. An initiative which can certainly inspire many for the next World Youth Day!

Testimonies

Here are some testimonies of Lasallians from all backgrounds who participated in the gathering. One thing is clear from their stories: their joy of having attended this great event!



The Polish people were extremely welcoming and friendly. They welcomed us and left a good impression on us by their sense of service, exercised with humility and discretion. During this WYD, young people from all over the world formed one people of God united to live peace, love and mercy. WYD is a discovery of one's self, one's faith and of the others.

Brother Sami Hatem, Lebanon

Sometimes, being from a small country like Malta, it is difficult to understand all the work that the Brothers are doing throughout the world. A meeting like this shows that the mission of announcing Jesus and his love is truly present worldwide.

Claude Spiteri, Malta



I had the chance to live the WYD in Krakow with a nurturing group of Brothers and Lasallians from Spain and Portugal, forming a very rich temporary community. This richness is due to the trust and good atmosphere that prevailed and by our common desire to live our ecclesial dimension "together and by association." We were able to learn more about the Lasallian Mission in Poland, collaborate to the Vocations Centre and sing at the Youth Festival. It is really striking to pray in silence surrounded by over a million people with Pope Francis, and it is no less moving to share with Lasallians from Mexico, Vietnam and the United

States, seeing how our children's dreams are coming true little by little through our own vocation. It was an important experience that helps me to follow my path as a Brother, a Lasallian, a Christian and an educator. Thank you for everything!

Brother Jorge Sierra, Spain

The Vocations Center



The Lasallian Family also participated in the Vocations Center, one of the events organized during the World Youth Day. For four days, Brothers and other Lasallians took turns to present the Lasallian Mission to the thousands of pilgrims present. Special emphasis was also placed on Lasallian Vocations, especially that of the Brother of the Christian Schools. It was a great opportunity to promote

our work with people from all backgrounds interested in learning more about or even to discover the vocation of the Brother.



This is the end of this special issue on the Lasallian Gathering of World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow. To see more photos, videos and testimonies of Lasallians from around the world, look for the hashtag #WYDLaSalle on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and share your favorite photos!

As you may know, the next World Youth Day will be held in Panamá in 2019. We hope to see you there!