



**PASSIONATE  
WITNESSES  
OF FRATERNITY**

FSC, Rome

SIGVVM FIDEI



**Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools**

**II INTERNATIONAL  
YOUNG BROTHERS**

**ASSEMBLY**  
II IYBA

La  Salle



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# II INTERNATIONAL YOUNG BROTHERS

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ROMA, ITALIA  
FRATRES SCHOLARVM CHRISTIANARVM  
**CASA GENERALIZIA**

# *Dear Brother,*

**T**oday we want to begin this letter by thanking you for the love, commitment, passion and generosity with which you are living your life as a witness for Jesus Christ in the midst of a world in which many people are going through difficulties that you and I already know and that we must continue to know.

Usually, our daily lives become opportunities to build projects, to create spaces of formation for our partners, to accompany our students, to focus on our mission tasks... but very rarely do we give priority to ourselves.

We do not intend that today you adopt a posture of self-referentiality or self-centredness, nor that you completely forget those whom God has placed in your path. We only want you, like us, to take a moment to rekindle the flame of your vocation, to rediscover the strength of your convictions, to dare to listen to the calls that, through the Church and our Institute, God is making to us to continue dreaming and,

especially, to recognise that together we are  
PASSIONATE WITNESSES OF FRATERNITY.

Before you get to know the experience we Young  
Brothers had at the II International Young  
Brothers Assembly (II IYBA), we would like to  
ask you:

***What does it mean for  
you to be a "passionate  
witness of fraternity"?***



Four horizontal dotted lines for writing, contained within a light blue rounded rectangular box.



Thank you for taking the time to share this response with us.

Now that your mind and heart are more connected to the content of this message, we invite you to relive with us an experience that is leading us on new pathways to transform lives.

# 1 / *The luggage was ready...*

On 10 April, 2021 we first met as a group of Brothers from different parts of the world. We were looking forward to participating in the II International Young Brothers Assembly, which was being prepared since July 2019, in view to exchange experiences and share dreams that would contribute to the vitality of our Institute.

It was an important mission. We felt very pleased to prepare this experience which, in the aftermath of the pandemic, led us to plan three major junctures as Young Brothers.

- ★ The first one was to prepare a document where we could share with the Brothers of the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter the challenges, dreams, and points of our life that needed to be discussed and taken into account in order to enliven our Institute.
- ★ The second one was specifically our participation in the General Chapter and to give a word to each of the Brothers about



the feelings, insights, concerns and hopes of the Young Brothers as we continue to live passionately our consecration. It was exciting to have Brothers representing us and sharing our reflections.

- ★ Finally, the last stage was experienced a few months ago in our Generalate, where we, 36 Brothers from all the Regions of our Institute, gathered to embrace with responsibility the calls of the Church and those of the General Chapter in a spirit of synodality and fraternity as consecrated Brothers who are passionate about proclaiming Jesus Christ.

So, with these reflections, the dreams and the initial work, we were ready to get together, listen to the Chapter's comments and set to work to dream up a way to bring to life what we had brought forward.

The feeling of arriving home is unique; perhaps you have experienced it at different times, especially when you feel that your Brothers are waiting for you and show it to you with a word, a token or a fraternal hug. These gestures were the protagonists of the in-person gathering and the beginning of an Assembly that for some months we had been longing to become a reality.

# 2 / *Witnesses of Jesus Christ, Witnesses of Fraternity*

**T**he methodology of the Assembly was led by our Brother Dylan Perry, who together with the other Brothers of the preparatory commission (Miguel Marcos, Brinesh Villavarayen and Bako Aymard) set up a wall to capture in a creative, renewed and audacious way the words that we as Young Brothers want to share with the Institute and all those who form part of it.

We would like to invite you to experience each step of our methodology and to discover what we achieved as a community at each stage.

## ***a. Passionate Witnesses of Fraternity***

As you did at the beginning of this letter, the members of the Assembly expressed what it

meant for each of us to be passionate witnesses of fraternity and thus to formulate a Guiding Statement that would set the horizon for each of our reflections and our agreements during these days of work. We finally agreed that:

**FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, WE, THE YOUNG BROTHERS, WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AS PASSIONATE WITNESSES OF FRATERNITY IN THE SERVICE OF A WORLD IN NEED OF GREATER SOLIDARITY.**



We would like to share with you that this first exercise allowed us to discover that there were feelings and convictions in common that would give a good direction to the work that was just beginning, among them:

- 1. The centrality of our life is Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Passion, life and fraternity expressed through the gift of ourselves to others.**
- 3. The Lasallian dream of finding God in those most impoverished, in the peripheries, being landmarks of solidarity and justice.**

In that way, the methodology encouraged us to recognise that we are part of a marvellous Institute that does much good in different parts of our planet. We are meaningful, you are meaningful and so we reiterate our gratitude for contributing to this task which, since the time of our Holy Founder and the first Brothers, we have undertaken together with many Lasallians with creativity, generosity and assurance.

## ***b. Our Strengths and Hopes***

Before we get to know what we find in common as an Assembly, how about answering a question with which we began this part of our work.

## **WHAT MAKES OUR INSTITUTE MEANINGFUL?**

We convey to you that, after a good time of reflection and discussion, we recognised that there was a group of strengths with many similarities and which, captured on the discernment wall, would help us to better realise the hopes we had for this gathering and for the future of our Institute. This is what we put together in this session:



What makes our Institute meaningful?	Hopes for the Assembly
When we are Brothers to each other, and generate fraternity by becoming "available persons".	Build community with young Brothers.
Seeing God in the poor: provide with quality human and Christian education to make a real and profound impact on the lives of the poor.	Share best practices on vocation, catechesis and education.
Association for Mission, walking in a synodal way, building the Lasallian Family.	A place to express ourselves and be really listened to and understood. To develop great projects to be taken seriously.
Persevere in living our charism faithfully, even facing oppression and persecution.	Share experiences and suggest proposals to improve the life of young Brothers.
Leverage our international character by celebrating our diversity and using our resources	Leave this meeting more united and in love with our vocation and our Institute and disseminate it (to be leaven).

## DO WE COINCIDE WITH SOME OF THE STRENGTHS YOU WROTE ABOUT?

### ***c. The calls***

Up to this point in the Assembly, we were trying to understand the role we should take on as young Brothers, in the Church and in the Institute. We then approached the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* to get a sense of the calls from the Church, and we reviewed the Documents of the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter to identify the calls made to us by the Institute.

This exercise was very special, and we invite you to do it sometime with your Brothers in community, because it is a way of acknowledging the meaningful things we do in our communities and in the places of mission, but also to discover what is lacking in order to be consistent with what we are universally called to do.

What we were able to consolidate as calls of the Church and of the Institute was driven by the desire to return deeply to the essence of our vocation, by the importance of caring for oneself and for the Brothers, by the need to constantly

revitalise our life and by the importance of acknowledging that

**ALTHOUGH CONSECRATED LIFE IS NOT SOMETHING NEW IN THE WORLD, IT IS AN ACT OF COURAGE. CONSECRATED LIFE IS WORTH WITNESSING IN THE AWARENESS THAT IT IS OUR WORDS AND GESTURES THAT RADIATE GOD IN THE PLACES WHERE WE ARE.**



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## *We recognised these calls:*

Of the Church	Of the Institute
★ Seek God	★ <b>Seek God in those most impoverished, in the peripheries</b>
★ Fidelity to our Calling	★ International Awareness of the Mission
★ Dialogue and Encounter	★ Being Catechists and Educators
★ <b>Be Leaven</b>	★ <b>Be Leaven</b>
★ Witnesses of Fraternity	★ Fraternal Communities



We assure you that behind these calls that we have contributed, there is a very deep reflection that strengthened us to prepare ourselves for the next step of the methodology, where we propose some challenging, confronting and creative dreams; in the words of Br. Armin,

“DREAMS THAT LEAD US TO RESET OURSELVES TO BE LEAVEN, FINDING GOD IN THE PERIPHERIES, RECEIVING AND WELCOMING IN OUR HEARTS THE DESIRE TO BE VULNERABLE AND ADOPTING AN ATTITUDE OF PERSONAL CONVERSION THAT RENEWS OUR SPIRITUAL AND APOSTOLIC LIFE”.

#### *d. Our Dreams and Barriers*

Our conversations and spaces for reflection allowed us to acknowledge that we young



Brothers have a special sensitivity for the poor, for the peripheries, for giving our lives to others, for speaking about what we do and who we are. We are young Brothers who begin this journey with the eagerness of taking risks, living adventures and feeling useful in the places of greatest need in the world. This desire to serve, as in you, is within us.

We dared to dream big, being faithful to what we had shared so far in the Assembly. These were the four dreams that gained more strength and will inspire the next phase of work:

- 1. By the year 2029, all the Brothers of the Institute will live an experience of evangelisation through catechesis.**
- 2. By the year 2029, the Brothers of the Institute will have made the peripheries their home. They will be poorer and more consistent with our founding inspiration.**
- 3. By the year 2029, Brothers and Partners will be less stressed, more motivated and fulfilled in their vocation.**
- 4. In 2029 the Institute will leverage interculturality to be more supportive and mindful.**

You may be thinking, as we did, that these dreams are very difficult to fulfil, or perhaps it is an approach that is far beyond reality. However, this was a strategy to identify the barriers that prevent us from materializing them: aspects of our lives

that have been discovered since the origins of the Institute as obstacles to better serving others.

We came up with these barriers:

- 1. Restrictions, government and immigration policies and political situations of countries, existence of Districts.**
- 2. Lack of willingness or enthusiasm of the Brothers to do catechetical work / Difference in values and attitudes due to the generation gap.**
- 3. Lack of appreciation of teachers' work.**
- 4. Lack of structure, time and desire for self-care.**
  - Difficulty in setting boundaries; it's not all about work.**

- 5. Lack of spirituality.**
- 6. Indifferent attitude of the Brothers: living too attached to what we are used to.**
  - We are unclear about the concept and experience of "simplicity of life".**
  - Slavery to material things, to comfort, to live comfortably.**

Without imagining it, these barriers allowed us to glimpse five themes from which we would delve a little deeper to arrive at some projects where everything we had reflected on so far would begin to take shape and become a reality with creative, risky and impactful proposals to revitalise our lives, that of our communities and the mission we carry out in the places where we find ourselves.



## *e. Projects*

It was time to begin to define what had been our work and our motivation for a week. It was time to dare to come up with bold ideas that would address the needs that we had managed to pond to this point in the methodology. Thus, we began to formulate concrete projects with a defined purpose; we even thought about who could be involved in making them a reality. These were:

### **1. COMMUNITY LIFE**

We recognise that, inspired by the Trinitarian Community and motivated by the charism of the Founder, we Brothers, as consecrated men, are called to build communities: **sharing the Gospel, living our Lasallian heritage, and caring for the personal and spiritual growth of all members.**

### **2. INTERNATIONALISATION**

Following the calls of the Church and the Institute **to build a more fraternal world in solidarity with the realities of the poor and vulnerable ones**, we young Brothers respond to this inspired on the international character of the Institute in order to build bridges of dialogue and foster a culture of encounter.



### ***3. SPIRITUALITY***

Mindful of the legacy received as Lasallians, we are called to: deepen our Lasallian spirituality; review our spiritual practices in order to renew them; cultivate a mysticism of open eyes in which we are attentive and available to the signs of the times; **feel called to holiness, following Jesus as Lasallians: accompany and allow ourselves to be accompanied in our spiritual life.**



#### **4. FORMATION**

We recognise in individuals (Brothers, Partners/ Associates and students and all those entrusted to our care) all that they bring to the Institute, and we embrace both their gifts and their weaknesses. We are called, as young Brothers, to ensure **a holistic Formation Program (personal, spiritual, psycho-affective) that promotes the safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults in our diverse Lasallian world (46<sup>th</sup> GC Number 4.1).**

#### **5. CATECHESIS**

We recognise that catechesis is an essential element of our vocation and a way of finding salvation. **We are called to revitalise our vocation as catechists by speaking explicitly about Jesus in our communities and in the peripheries.**

#### ***f. Bold proposals***

Having clarity in the purpose of deepening each of the themes and projects of reflection, the enthusiasm, creativity and desire to realise several of the comments and dialogues raised

in the different groups, led us to formulate a significant number of proposals on which to work and make a reality in our places of mission, but especially in the Institute. After discernment on nine proposals, we decided to work resolutely on three of them.

We share with you our bold proposals:

### ***1. ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PROPHETIC COMMUNITIES:***

That an international mission community be created or reconstituted in the peripheries, with flexible time commitments. That each District/Region have a community on the peripheries to provide a service to the poor and revitalise the lives of Brothers and other Lasallians. Create a directory or a portfolio of short-term programmes between Districts that encourage Brothers to have some immersion experience outside their District/Region.

### ***2. PROMOTE A HOLISTIC FORMATION PROGRAMME***

Draft a manual/statutes on safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults (on the dangers of addiction, abuse, bullying, suicide attempts, etc.); and strengthen the inclusive and holistic Brother Formation Process (spiritual, psycho-affective, mission-oriented) and Formation

for Lasallian Partners/Associates; Develop Intervention Programmes for Minors and Vulnerable Adults (and even Brothers in crisis).

### **3. *CONVENE A LASALLIAN YEAR OF CATECHESIS***

Dedicate a Lasallian Year to Catechesis, animated by the young Brothers and Young Lasallians, including opportunities to share best practices in catechetical work at District, Regional and Institute levels.

It has been a wonderful job. At times it has been exhausting, especially in terms of the translation and understanding of what others want to express. However, the language of fraternity has become more international than any other and in the midst of laughter, concerns, life stories, questioning, joy and multiculturalism, we managed to achieve the objectives proposed for this II Assembly of Young Brothers.

Our conclusion was guided towards addressing one of the calls of the General Chapter, specifically the creation of a stable Committee of Young Brothers (46<sup>th</sup> GC 46-P.3) and as an Assembly we listed some criteria that can be taken into account by the Brother Superior General and his Council for the setting up of such a Committee. These criteria are:

- A.** It shall be composed of at least three Brothers who have participated in the last Assembly of Young Brothers.
- B.** Its members will have had at least one international experience that allows them to have a vision of the Institute.
- C.** Each Brother on the committee knows and is fluent in at least two of the official languages of the Institute.
- D.** The Brother should stand out by a spirit of leadership.
- E.** Brothers with training in leadership, accompaniment and pastoral ministry.
- F.** Open-minded Brothers with good communication skills.

We hope that, like us, what we have dreamt and shared will fill you with enthusiasm to continue to be passionate witnesses of the fraternity in every place where we may be sent. We hope that the next Assembly, which is preparing to be held for its third edition before 2029 (46<sup>th</sup> GC-P.2B), will allow us to see what we have proposed become a reality.



# 3/ *La Salle is growing!*

**W**e could not share with you this summary of our Assembly without telling you how important it was to meet the Young Lasallians last week, who definitely filled us with joy and motivation to continue to grow vocationally. How important it is to feel that others recognise the value of assuming with such generosity and radicalism a religious consecration in these times when it is not very common in the life of a young person.

Being with the young people made us recognise that every day La Salle is growing. The desire to serve and to bring hope to other places, but above all to proclaim Jesus Christ from what we live day by day, enriches our identity as Lasallians and challenges us to live passionately the legacy that St. John Baptist de La Salle left us and which is constantly being renewed.

From this sharing with the young people, the satisfaction remains that we have lines of action, proposals and views that can be connected to join forces and work for the challenges that today's



world address to our Institute. Beyond sharing these common dreams, it seems to us more important to mention those aspects which inspire the actions of the young people and which become a motivation and a call for us as consecrated men:

- ★ Make a strong vocational commitment, but in a special way to that of the De La Salle Brother. Young people underline the importance of our life and consecration in the Church and in places where there is a Lasallian presence. This is a call that should encourage us to share our life and to motivate others to assume a happy consecrated life.





- ★ Continue to strengthen our mission with the most impoverished, in the peripheries, in places where social justice is lacking. Today, together with the Young Lasallians, we must be part of this dynamic of going out to meet Jesus in the most vulnerable.
- ★ Make networks and telecommunications an opportunity to creatively proclaim Jesus and to motivate others to serve, to join in this cause of dignifying the lives of so many suffering human beings in the world. Brother, once again we are called to be innovative in the way we do our evangelising task.

As you can see, it was very important to listen to other voices, to allow ourselves to be encouraged by young people who are passionate about the Lasallian vocation and to feel more like Brothers alongside them.

# 4/ *Believe, create and take risks*

Finally, we would like to echo the words addressed to us by our **Brother Carlos Gómez**, Vicar General, at the closing of the II International Assembly of Young Brothers and the Symposium of Young Lasallians. He gave us three words which become a missionary commissioning which recharges us with energy to continue committing our lives to the service of those most in need, but especially of our Brothers.

## *A. Believe*

The centre of our life and our vocation is Jesus Christ, and the first thing we must do is to

believe in Him, who is God himself incarnate. We must believe in his message, in the possibility of finding him in our Brothers, in those who suffer, in every day of our lives. We are invited to believe in ourselves and in the Brothers whom God has placed on our path to make fraternity possible and to proclaim the Gospel in the places of mission to which we are sent.

### ***B. Create***

The recognition of the gifts received by God, the encounter with Jesus and community life should lead us to a process of interior conversion in order to communicate and live the Gospel with creativity, astonishment and among those most in need. We must come together in community and create new things, daring projects that revitalise our vocation and make us fall more and more in love with our consecration.

### ***C. Take a risk***

We hear many times that we need to get out of our comfort zones, and it is definitely necessary to do so because "without risk there is no life, without life there is no passion, without passion there is no reason to stay forever".



Brother, with these words, with gratitude for having taken the time to read the summary of our gathering, but especially for uniting your feelings to ours, we bid you farewell, encouraging you to recognise how important you are for us, for the history of the Institute and for all the people that God continues to entrust to you so that you may proclaim Him with joy, determination and the conviction that you have consecrated your life entirely to Him.

***Live Jesus  
in our  
hearts...***

***Forever!***





RES SCHOLARVM CHRIST



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