

Joining the Young Lasallian Community

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Over the course of a single weekend, I experienced the Lasallian Mission first-hand, through many conversations and activities performed with other Young Lasallians in RELAN. Initially I was worried that I would somehow not fit in or I wouldn't be able to relate with the others who have gathered; I quickly learned that this was not the Lasallian way and that I had nothing to be uneasy about.

I attended Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, where I had been introduced to Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the work of the Christian Brothers, but this was my first formation experience as a Young Lasallian and a new employee at Christian Brothers Conference in the Office of Lasallian Education. I didn't really have any expectations, but I was amazed at how quickly our group of 43 formed a community.

The entire weekend was centered around the Mission and how we as Young Lasallians could work to carry out the Mission through our chosen vocations. It seems everyone agreed that without the Mission, we wouldn't have anything to work toward.

Many people at VEGA were educators. A challenge that I had to overcome was being able to take the ideas and themes about teaching and educating that we talked about and relate them to my work as Communications Specialist. I don't work with students every day, which forces me to strive to provide a "human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor" in a different way.

Having newly joined the Regional office, I had a sense of how broad our Lasallian world really is. What I didn't realize was how many different roles Lasallians can have. The Mission is really a collective Mission. It takes people in all types of vocations in order to carry out the work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

We know that the vision of the Lasallian Mission is based on faith, service, and community. I now understand why it was so easy for our Young Lasallian group to form a community and many new relationships that we will take with us.

It is Lasallian to welcome others.

It is Lasallian to connect with others.

It is Lasallian to grow and learn through the guidance of others.

A quote that was shared from a fellow VEGA participant that really sums up our experience is, "Enter to learn, leave to serve." While known by many Lasallians, this was a new phrase for me. I thought it was so fitting because it was exactly what each of us did. We gathered together and learned new ideas that we will take with us as we serve God through the Mission. We are called to lead by example and create a promising future for those entrusted to our care.

