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Welcome Letter

Greetings, new and seasoned Lasallian Youth Moderators,

Thank you for taking on the ministry that is Lasallian Youth, a unique and important component of the Lasallian mission. This manual is designed to help you understand your role as moderator and provide you the resources necessary to establish a well-functioning Lasallian Youth within your ministry. We have included background information, thought-provoking questions, potential structures, the realities of Lasallian Youth today and more to help you help your students build their very own, student-led Lasallian Youth.

As you review the resources, we invite you to contact us with any questions or ideas. Thank you for your commitment to the Lasallian mission and forming the next generation of Lasallians.

In the spirit of De La Salle,

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What is Lasallian Youth?

Mission Statement: Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the story of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Lasallian Youth is a movement of young people in Lasallian ministries that has been positively impacting the world for over 30 years. Those involved in Lasallian Youth seek a greater understanding of themselves and the world. Representative of the diversity within the Lasallian family, all are invited and welcomed. Lasallian Youth gather regularly for Lasallian formation and reflect on their experiences of faith, service, community and social justice.

Lasallian Youth and Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Lasallian Youth derives its name from Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers). He actively lived his life in response to God’s will. In time, this led him to start a system of schools that revolutionized the education of youth at that time. It was a system that brought the children of the poor and the children of the working class together. De La Salle saw education as a saving factor in the lives of the young.

In his meditations, De La Salle advised his teachers, “Teach your disciples the knowledge of God. Make known to them the truths of the Gospel. Train them to put them into practice” (Meditations for Sundays and Feast Days 100.2). Through Lasallian Youth, we are responding to and encouraging his elements of Lasallian spirituality: faith, service, community and social justice.
“Often remind yourself that you are in the presence of God.”

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE
(Letter 3 - to Brother Denis in Rethel, May 30, 1701)

Faith

In the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

One of the principles De La Salle insisted on in the schools he founded was the constant remembrance of God’s presence. So central to his faith development was this exercise that he insisted that each class in his schools vocally recall the presence of God every half hour.

“The Lasallian mission of human and Christian education is completed when each young person discovers the meaning of his/her life, deepens his/her particular way of serving God in humanity and develops the means of action that makes it a reality.” (Circular 475, p. 28)

Our Lasallian charism of faith and zeal underpins our Lasallian spirituality of 1) belief in the presence of God 2) a trust in Divine Providence: that God always accompanies us and his will can be discerned 3) we are to trust in God’s grace and live the mission with zeal.

Modern Day Application

♦ The Lasallian mission welcomes all people of good will, regardless of their faith tradition or beliefs to be a part of a community that is of service to those who are on the margins. (Superior General’s Pastoral Letter of 2019, Lasallians of all faith and good will)

♦ Lasallian Youth offers accompaniment to young people on their spiritual journey.
“Let the way you live be that of the Gospel.”

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE
(Med 84.3 - feast of St. Thomas, apostle)

Service

In the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Another principle that guided De La Salle’s spirituality was that students be aware of and concerned with one another’s welfare. The students were encouraged to be each other’s “keeper,” helping each other in their areas of need.

Since the beginning of the Institute, it has responded boldly and creatively to the signs of the times to address forms of poverty through the educational works it has established. Throughout its history, the Institute has often discerned what is right and just. In the past 15 years, many of our responses have been documented in Bulletins 247 (The Rights of the Child), 248 (Education Innovations), 249 (Educating in Justice) and 253 (Children and Youth at Risk); and MEL Bulletins 7 (Priority of the Poor) and 20 (Educational Service of the Poor).

We are all created in God’s image, called to live in community, with responsibilities for sharing resources and caring for creation. (Lasallian Reflection 1)

Our service must be toward those in need, on the margins, and beyond our borders. Lasallians must creatively find ways to live the Gospel message of love of neighbor through direct service and working for peace with justice.

Modern Day Application

♦ Lasallian Youth is committed to orienting works of service within the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, paying particular attention to the justice dimensions of the charitable works.

♦ Lasallian Youth provides the opportunity to encounter “their neighbor” in a way that respects and celebrates the God-given dignity of each person. Lasallian Youth approaches the practice of Gospel encounters knowing that one learns through mutual dialogue.

♦ Lasallian Youth encourages a direct response to needs/signs of the times, particularly through acts of solidarity and advocacy.

“The measure of our compassion lies not in the service of those on the margins...but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them.”

FATHER GREG BOYLE
“God of love, set me aflame with love for you and for my neighbor.”

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

(Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer - example of considering Jesus Christ in the form of the Blessed Sacrament)

Community

In the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Contrary to the common practice of the day, De La Salle turned schools into places where teachers and students worked in a caring atmosphere of respect for one another. Lasallian Youth both share in and are the focus of this mission.

“The great genius of Saint John Baptist de La Salle was not the creation of the Christian school, as it had already been invented. His great success was that each school should be animated by a community. ‘Together and by association’ was the soul, the essential piece that incurred success of those original communities.” (Circular 475, p. 50)

Modern Day Application

♦ Lasallian Youth are the “protagonists of their own story” and the program helps them to discover their gifts and talents that can serve the community (Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC).

♦ Lasallian Youth offers a space where young people are safe to be their unique self.

♦ Young people today are seeking places of belonging, and Lasallian Youth strives to be that welcoming inclusive community.
In the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

While social justice was not yet a term that was developed or used in De La Salle’s time, the practice was still very much alive. Social justice is to “distribute wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.” De La Salle aimed to distribute opportunities to the poor boys of Reims by providing them a quality education.

De La Salle believed in equity. It did not matter what social class the boys belonged to, he believed that they all deserved to obtain salvation through the Christian Schools.

De La Salle is famously quoted saying, “Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king.” (Med 139.3) Devoted to the Gospel message, we know that De La Salle encouraged his Brothers to “lift up the lowly” (Luke 1:52) through their educational accompaniment to their “young brothers,” or students.

Modern Day Application

♦ Lasallian education is no longer limited to young boys in France. Today, Lasallian education has expanded its mission to include groups such as girls and young women, and students of marginalized races, religions and cultures.

♦ Lasallian education still aims to provide quality education, especially to those who find themselves on the peripheries, whether that be economically or socially.

♦ Lasallian Youth are encouraged to discover that they live in a society that is systemically unjust. This awareness should permeate the other three elements of faith, service and community.

♦ Lasallian Youth realize that injustice and its resultant poverty and misery are often the result of human decisions and that human acts can make a difference, starting with their own. To learn the causes of injustice is to challenge one’s own lifestyle and attitudes.
Lasallian Youth History

A group of students and Brothers in Spain developed a youth movement in the 1960s based on the values of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the principles of faith, service, community and social justice with an emphasis toward social justice. This movement has since spread throughout the international Lasallian community with Lasallian Youth groups active worldwide, including Spain, France, Malta, Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, Québec, the Philippines, Australia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Kenya and the United States, to mention a few.

A great catalyst in the spread of the Lasallian Youth movement has been gatherings on the District, national, Regional and international levels that have encouraged and inspired participants to become more involved in their local areas. In the United States, the movement traces its start to 1987 when a group of high school students participated in an international gathering of Lasallian Youth in Québec.

Inspired by their experience, these students formed local high school Lasallian Youth groups and hosted a national Lasallian Youth Gathering in Chicago the following year. The national Lasallian Youth gathering became an annual event in the United States, and the number of students increased as more and more schools established Lasallian Youth groups.

Soon the size of the gatherings became so great that three Lasallian Youth assemblies were hosted each summer: one amongst the three Districts on the East Coast, one in the Midwest District, and one on the West Coast.

East Coast Districts/DENA

Following the national Lasallian Youth assemblies, the three east coast Districts of New York, Baltimore and Long Island-New York (LI-NE) established a rotating schedule for hosting the now annual Lasallian Youth Summer Assembly within their District. The weeklong assembly focused on the Lasallian tenets of faith, service, community and social justice.

Generally, each of the Districts’ secondary schools would send a delegation of students and Lasallian Youth moderators to the assembly.

In 2009, the legacy Districts of the East Coast formed what is now the District of Eastern North America (DENA). The responsibility for the annual summer assembly was assigned to the Office for Mission and Ministry. The summer assemblies continued on an annual basis, and a 25th anniversary was celebrated at the 2019 summer assembly held at La Salle University in Philadelphia.
Midwest

Initially the summer gatherings in the Midwest rotated around the dozen or so high schools in the Midwest District in order to more fully engage the students of that school and to bring the gatherings to different geographic areas of the Midwest. Themes, programming and activities were jointly decided by a committee of Lasallian Youth Moderators. After 2007, the District made the transition to a three-year rotation at the universities in the District: Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, Christian Brothers University and Lewis University. The themes rotated between faith, service, community, and social justice and were run by the universities with assistance from the local high schools. While this approach allowed for better facilities and more professional programming, it lacked cohesiveness. The planning and operation of the Summer Assembly was then changed to the Midwest District Office and moved from the universities to Chicago for proximity to service and programming with the Br. David Darst Center.

SFNO District

In the legacy New Orleans-Santa Fe District (NO-SF), Lasallian Youth did not officially begin to form until the early 1990s. Prior to that schools had different youth or peer ministry groups with little to no collaboration across the District. With the gradual formation of Lasallian Youth in schools across the District, at the urging of Brothers and school leaders at the time, Lasallian Youth gradually began to take hold in the legacy New Orleans-Santa Fe District.

A great catalyst for the continued spread and growth of Lasallian Youth in legacy NO-SF was the yearly involvement in the annual Lasallian Youth Assembly gatherings hosted by the Midwest District. Participation in these gatherings continued through much of the 1990s.

In the legacy San Francisco District, annual Student Leadership workshops, beginning in the early 1990s, brought students together from schools around the District. These workshops would eventually evolve into the first Lasallian Youth Assembly gathering, which took place in 1999 at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga. Since then, there have been 16 Lasallian Youth Assembly gatherings, which have occurred almost annually in different parts of the legacy San Francisco and the now San Francisco New Orleans District. These assemblies have brought together students involved in service and Lasallian Youth in their local school communities to further activate their call to serve while focusing on specific themes and reflecting through the lenses of faith, service, community and social justice. Responding to the calls to go beyond borders that came from the 45th General Chapter, the Lasallian Youth Assembly model was adapted to emphasize education, justice and service while continuing to explore and reflect through the faith, service, community, social justice and vocation lenses.

A few years following the first Lasallian Youth Assembly, the first Lasallian Student Leaders Conference took place in early 2004. Since then, 14 Lasallian Student Leaders gatherings have taken place in the legacy San Francisco and the now San Francisco New Orleans District. This gathering focuses on the Five Lasallian Core Principles and continues to be a great catalyst in forming student leaders and positively shaping school culture. Since the early years of Lasallian Student Leaders, collaboration and participation from schools in the legacy New Orleans-Santa Fe and San Francisco Districts was the norm. This made for a natural continuation when the two Districts came together to create the San Francisco New Orleans District in 2014.

Though formalized Lasallian Youth groups are not as widespread across the District, there is increasing understanding of the term Young Lasallians (inclusive of Lasallian Youth and other groups) and the calls that are a part of being a Young Lasallian who chooses to remain actively connected with the Lasallian educational mission today and in the future.
Today’s Lasallian Youth Assemblies

Lasallian Youth Assemblies are presented by each District.

DENA

For over 25 years, DENA (and its legacy Districts) have celebrated faith, service, community and social justice with an inspiring Lasallian Youth Summer Assembly. Over this time, the District has seen Lasallian Youth take root and flourish in our secondary schools through the development of retreat and prayer opportunities, community service programs, the implementation of mission immersion trips and the availability of Lasallian formation for our students. Each gathering takes time intentionally to pause and reflect on the current spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our students and to promote vocations to the De La Salle Christian Brothers. These gatherings have also used interactive presentations to intentionally develop personal and communal leadership skills, taught ways to advocate for justice, developed Lasallian formation with best practices for youth catechesis, and participated in community service opportunities.

For more information, please contact Justin Martineau at jmartineau@fscdena.org.

Midwest

The Lasallian Youth Assembly is an annual, weeklong gathering where Lasallian Youth from the District’s 13 Lasallian high schools come together to immerse themselves in the social justice issues of our society today. Students come from all over the Midwest District to celebrate faith, service, community and social justice with their Lasallian peers. This unique opportunity brings together students from all different backgrounds and faiths and gives them an opportunity to build lifelong relationships through a shared desire to build a better world.

For more information, please contact Abby Michels at amichels@cbmidwest.org.
The Office of Education, in cooperation with local schools and works, regularly sponsors an assembly for students involved in the Lasallian Youth movement. For a week during the summer, students are engaged in prayer, reflection, service opportunities and education sessions around themes of social justice and Catholic social teaching. After participating in the Assembly, Lasallian Youth are challenged to promote a culture of faith, service, community and social justice in their home communities. The location of the Assembly usually takes place on the campus of a Catholic college or university within the geographical reach of the SFNO District. The location of the conference varies each year.

For more information, please contact Kenenna Amuzie at kamuzie@dlsi.org.

Starting or Revitalizing a Lasallian Youth Group

Now that you have a basic understanding of Lasallian Youth, we hope the following content can help you start to build one. We acknowledge that no two Lasallian Youth groups are the same, so we hope that you can apply the following information as you see fit to your students and ministry context.

As all things do, your Lasallian Youth has probably grown and adapted over the years, in hopes of meeting the needs of the students with whom you work. Maybe your ministry does not have a Lasallian Youth group. This resource offers you a chance to revisit, or visit for the very first time, specific aspects of Lasallian Youth that may contribute to its success within your ministry. Moderating Lasallian Youth is a valiant task, so we thank you for taking the time and energy to consider how your students are being formed into Young Lasallians!

Before You Begin

Essential Questions

♦ How would you currently describe your ministry’s Lasallian Youth? What is/will be its purpose? Goals?
♦ In what ways can/will your Lasallian Youth be welcoming and inclusive of all students?
♦ How does/could Lasallian Youth help your ministry intentionally form lifelong Lasallians?

Organizational Questions

♦ Time: Is there time before, during or after the school day for Lasallian Youth to meet? How can Lasallian Youth be strategically placed throughout the school day/year so that a greater number of students can commit to it?
♦ Space: Is there adequate space available in the school for Lasallian Youth to gather?
♦ Faculty and Staff Support: How will administrators support the moderator with additional personnel?
Things to Consider

Student body demographics

- Population (#)
- Gender(s)
- Ages
- Socio-economic statuses
- Races
- Ethnicities
- Religions

Name

However you decide to structure your Lasallian ministry, to emphasize to your students they are part of a global community, it is strongly encouraged that this group be called Lasallian Youth. Lasallian Youth is a global movement, found in other ministries around the world. We find it important, as any branding initiative, to keep the messaging consistent and easily recognizable in any context—especially after students graduate.

Charism

Is there another charism with which your ministry identifies? How can that charism be represented in Lasallian Youth? Which of the charism’s values go hand-in-hand with the Lasallian values of faith, service, community and social justice?

Available Avenues for Lasallian Youth

How can you promote and encourage Lasallian Youth practices utilizing each avenue (if applicable)? Are there others in your ministry that are not listed?

- Lasallian Youth Integrated into the School Environment (SE): The entire student body is identified as Lasallian Youth.
- Lasallian Youth as Inclusive of All Student Activities (SA): Combines campus ministry, student activities, student government and volunteer service into one program.
- Lasallian Youth as Campus Ministry (CM): Lasallian Youth activities are supported by the campus ministry team.
- Lasallian Youth as Informal Association (IA): Students can attend Lasallian Youth activities as they please, with no formal commitment.
- Lasallian Youth as a Class (CS): Students are academically accountable and given a grade based on certain Lasallian objectives.
- Lasallian Youth Leaders (LYL): A team of dedicated students meets regularly to plan activities in the areas of faith, service, community and social justice.

How can the avenues above offer your students the ability to cross the Lasallian Formation Thresholds of Induction, Belonging and Commitment?

Based on your brainstorming above, what new structures can be put into place so that every student has the opportunity to cross each Lasallian Formation Threshold? Remember, it is rare that a student will be able to reach Wisdom in their high school career, but what post-graduation opportunities can you promote so that they can get there?

**Commitment**
Students grasp the charism and mission, and are exemplars to their peers of Lasallian values.

**Induction**
Students have knowledge of what it means to attend a Lasallian school and they have the choice to live by those values.

**Belonging**
Students understand that they are welcome to participate in Lasallian Youth as they are.

Intentional opportunities for growth

Intentional student formation

Intentional invitation
Adapted from *Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim’s Handbook*

Refer to acronyms above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We want all students to be able to do this...</th>
<th>Some students will be able to do this...</th>
<th>Only a few students will be able to do this...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Induction</strong></td>
<td><strong>2. Belonging</strong></td>
<td><strong>3. Commitment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From outside to inside</td>
<td>From “me” to “us”</td>
<td>From extra-curricular to calling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From having no contact with to be a partici-</td>
<td>From being a participant to identifying oneself as Lasallian</td>
<td>From a commitment to discovering one’s life purpose in the mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>pant in a Lasallian ministry</td>
<td>Explore Lasallian spirituality during Kairos (CM)</td>
<td>Invite promising seniors to help lead LY activities (LYL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a strong Lasallian mission orientation for freshmen (SE)</td>
<td>Establish a Lasallian Youth class or include Lasallian history in religion courses (CS)</td>
<td>Offer Lasallian formation to leaders of student activities (SE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address student body at Lasallian Youth (SE)</td>
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<td><strong>4. Co-responsibility</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From followers to leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. Wisdom</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>From being carried by the community to carrying the community</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage and assist student led faith, service, community and social justice initiatives (LYL)</td>
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<td><strong>5. Wisdom</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>From power to witness</td>
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<td>From local authority to authority of wisdom</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Promote the vocation of Brother or Lasallian educator (SE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adapted from Lasallian Formation for Mission: The Pilgrim’s Handbook*
Avenues

Below each “avenue” you will find guiding questions for you to consider on how Lasallian Youth can be welcoming and accessible to all students–from the entire student body to a small group of passionate leaders.

Lasallian Youth Integrated into the School Environment

♦ Do students know what it means to attend a Lasallian school?
  • Is Lasallian formation programming offered to students each year of their high school career so that they can learn more about Saint La Salle and the Lasallian charism?

♦ Do students identify as Lasallians?
  • Are students able to articulate Lasallian values and live them out?
  • Are students addressed as Lasallians or Lasallian Youth, whether as a group or in ministry publications?

♦ How is Lasallian spirituality shared and expressed?

♦ Does the ministry advocate a culture of service and action on behalf of social justice?

Lasallian Youth as Inclusive of All Student Programming and Activities

♦ How do student programs and activities objectives align with Lasallian Core Principles?
  • Faith in the Presence of God
  • Concern for those in Poverty and Commitment to Social Justice
  • Respect for All Persons
  • Quality Education
  • Inclusive Community

“How long has Jesus been knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to enter?”
JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

Meditation 85.1 - Vigil of the Nativity
How do student programs and activities communicate and work together?
- What is the greater purpose of these groups working together?
- Why do we do the activity that we do?

How do the moderators of these groups communicate Lasallian values through their leadership?
- How can student activities be a form of Lasallian formation?

Lasallian Youth as a Part of Campus Ministry
- What campus ministry responsibilities are Lasallian Youth engaged with? Are there opportunities for student leadership in these areas?
- How do you respect the diversity within the Lasallian family, ensuring that all are invited and welcomed?
- How are we incorporating Lasallian prayer, spirituality, liturgies, retreats, etc.?

Lasallian Youth Leaders
- What do leadership responsibilities entail?
- How are these leaders formed?
- How do these students promote the charism?
- How do they form their peers?
- How do they welcome others to experience the Lasallian mission?
- Are these students who attend L YA/LSL?

Lasallian Youth as a Class
- What is essential for students to learn about our founding story and our global Lasallian mission?
- How can Lasallian pedagogy be best implemented with this course, and what is the best way to assess student understanding?
- What field trips (local, domestic or international) are possible to broaden students' perspective and appreciation of our global network?

Informal Association
- How will students be assured that their belonging to this group does not depend on consistent attendance? Conversely, what will Lasallian Youth provide that will make them want to come back on a regular basis?
- Are Lasallian Youth activities offered at various days/times so that students of different responsibilities and interests can participate?
- How are students engaged when there is a large turnout? When there is low turnout?
Lasallian Youth Support

Lasallian Youth Moderator

Moderators should possess a desire to bring the face of God to their students, especially through prayer, and model an outward expression of the Lasallian charism and mission. **This requires an ability to share the tenets of the Lasallian educational mission with young people and to link the mission with Catholic Social Teaching.** Ideally, a moderator should have participated in a major Lasallian formation program, such as the Buttmer Institute of Lasallian Studies or the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, or have served as a Lasallian Volunteer.

Furthermore, an effective Lasallian Youth moderator understands and responds to the needs of students and accompanies them on the journey, encouraging, accepting and affirming students and challenging them to grow. A moderator empowers students to discern and “live out their call,” showing wisdom to guide and humility to let students lead.

A Lasallian Youth moderator, like a Lasallian Youth program, is available, approachable and adaptable. The invitation is extended to all students, and the moderator perseveres in personally inviting students to participate.

**Things to Consider**

- What is the Lasallian Youth Moderator’s role in the school?
- To whom does the Lasallian Youth Moderator report? Who are the Moderator’s primary sources of program support?
  - President
  - Principal
  - Vice Principal
  - Campus Minister (Team)
  - Animator/Formator
  - Student Life Director
  - School Vocation Coordinator

**Administration**

For Lasallian Youth to be successful, administrative support is vital. Administrators can be supportive by means of time, space, faculty/staff personnel and budget. A budget for Lasallian Youth reflects an institutional commitment to the initiative. How will the budget be used? What is the goal of having a budget?

**Brainstorming Other Important Questions**

- If you are considering establishing or reformatting your Lasallian Youth, consider the following:
  - Anticipated strengths
  - Anticipated challenges
  - Anticipated support needed
  - Anticipated rollout plan
- Who does Lasallian Youth collaborate with?
  - Campus Ministry
  - Student Life
  - Student Council
  - Service Immersion Department
  - Other clubs where appropriate

- What activities will be hosted/run by Lasallian Youth?

- How do you want Lasallian Youth to be viewed by students? By faculty and staff?

- How could you use the Lasallian Youth mission statement (p. 4) to inspire a mission statement for your ministry's Lasallian Youth?

**Lasallian Networking**
- What ministries are nearby that Lasallian Youth can collaborate with?
- What opportunities are already available?
- What events of ours can we invite the surrounding ministries to? Or invite them to collaborate with us?

**Lasallian Youth Assembly**
- How many students should attend?
- Who will be invited to go? (All grades, just juniors and seniors, student leaders, etc.)
- How can LYA participants ensure the longevity of Lasallian Youth within the school and attendance to future LYAs?
- Will other moderators be needed?
“God has chosen you to make him known to others.”

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE
(Meditation 146.2 - on St. Anne, mother of the Most Blessed Virgin)

Lasallian Youth and School Culture

Although the Lasallian Youth Movement is a global one—engendered through young people throughout the Institute—no two ministries do Lasallian Youth the same. While all Lasallian Youth initiatives encompass the values of faith, service, community and social justice, depending on student demographics and campus culture, all ministries have different means of making Lasallian Youth come alive in a way that works for them. There is no right or wrong way to “do” Lasallian Youth as long as it:

♦ encompasses the Lasallian values of faith, service, community and social justice,
♦ provides students with leadership opportunities, and
♦ is welcoming to all students.

Lasallian Youth in Solidarity: Graces and Challenges

Lasallian Youth is the catalyst for student participation in the Lasallian mission. When student demographics and the school dynamic are considered, you will find that there are many graces that come along with running a well-functioning Lasallian Youth group. However, every Lasallian Youth has its own challenges and imperfections. The following list, offered by Lasallian Youth moderators, offers graces and challenges of running Lasallian Youth.
Ministry-level Graces of Lasallian Youth

♦ Ministering with dedicated students
♦ Engaging in service-oriented activities
♦ Consistent participation
♦ Developing student leaders
♦ Cultivating students who are passionate about the Lasallian mission
♦ Including and welcoming a variety of students
♦ Growing a strong, student-led retreat team
♦ Having a longtime Lasallian Youth moderator
♦ Experiencing administrative support
♦ Infusing the school with the spirit of Lasallian zeal
♦ Living “together and by association”

Ministry-level Challenges of Lasallian Youth

♦ Difficulties in revamping or trying a new model of Lasallian Youth
♦ Lacking student leadership
♦ Funding/Fundraising
♦ Getting the whole school involved
♦ In co-educational schools, male student involvement
♦ Finding a time where everyone can meet
♦ Competing with other activities, working in conjunction with other school programs/groups
♦ Turnover of Lasallian Youth moderators
♦ Students lacking Lasallian vocabulary/formation

Reflection Questions

♦ Which LY graces do you experience? What graces do you anticipate?
♦ Which LY challenges do you experience? What challenges do you anticipate?
♦ How can you get students involved to help you solve the challenges? How can you get administration involved?
♦ How can you rely on or collaborate with other LY in your area or District to help strengthen your program?
♦ How can this Lasallian Youth manual assist your program?
Lasallian Youth and District/Regional Networking

There is great potential for continued networking and collaboration where Lasallian Youth and Lasallian Youth Assemblies are concerned. Circular 470, titled *Towards the Year 2021: Living Together Our Joyful Mission*, prioritizes networking as one of the ways to further the Young Lasallian Movement, an umbrella under which Lasallian Youth falls. This Circular speaks of communication and networking as a means “to provide mechanisms and channels that will ensure that Young Lasallians within and across Regions are encouraged toward greater collaboration and resource sharing” (p. 47).

Today, much of the networking and collaboration around Lasallian Youth takes place within Districts or with other Regions in the Institute as delegates from the Lasallian Regions of Europe/Mediterranean and Latin America have participated in recent Lasallian Youth Assembly gatherings in DENA and SFNO. In addition to the collaboration that takes place in person during the Lasallian Youth Assembly, some of the ongoing collaboration that occurs after the Lasallian Youth Assembly gatherings takes the form of ongoing idea and resource sharing.

As you continue to engage with this manual, we invite you to consider how you can begin or continue to network with others involved with Lasallian Youth in your geographical area, in other parts of your District and across the Region.

♦ Lasallian Student Leader Gatherings (SFNO)
♦ Joint immersion trips or service experience (El Otro Lado, Santa Fe, NM and Tucson, AZ; De La Salle Blackfeet School, Blackfeet, MT; La Salle Educational Center, Homestead, FL; Spring Into Action)
♦ Joint celebrations for International Lasallian Days for Peace
♦ Sleep-outs (for Homeless, Hunger, Abuse... etc.)
♦ Pizza parties before/after sporting events
♦ Issue invitations to Lasallian Youth Groups from around the Region and Institute to your Assembly

“It was through the service component of Lasallian Youth that I was able to truly share myself. No giving or hearing sermons was necessary; I just had to find someone I could call brother or sister and walk beside them.”

*Reflection of a campus minister on the Lasallian Youth experience*
Lasallian Youth Retreats
Accompaniment and Mentoring of Lasallian Youth Moderators
Virtual meetings with Lasallian Youth groups for networking and/or to discuss specific topics such as Rights of the Child, racial justice, care for creation, immigration and migration issues.

Life Beyond Lasallian Youth

From Belonging to Discerning a Commitment

As your students begin to look toward high school graduation, they will realize they have several choices they can make when it comes to taking the next step in their vocational journey. If you notice that particular students of yours have a certain faith and zeal for the Lasallian mission, below are opportunities you can encourage them to explore so that their Lasallian experience doesn’t have to end once they cross the graduation stage.

Attend a Lasallian University or College

There are six Lasallian universities and colleges throughout the United States. All of them offer scholarships that could apply to your students. From simply attending a Catholic school, to specifically attending a Lasallian school, to doing community service, there are these scholarships and more so that your students are able to access a higher Lasallian education.

These are the scholarships Lasallian students are eligible to receive:

- Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
- Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, Winona
- Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois
- Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York
- Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga
- La Salle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Discern the Brothers Vocation

The Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers) are passionate about their mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young—especially the poor. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Patron Saint of Teachers and their founder, inspires them to be innovators in the field of education centered on the Gospel.

The Brothers are looking for young, faith-filled Catholic men to join them in their vocation as religious educators dedicated to the evangelization and salvation of students through teaching and pastoral care.

The Brothers focus on faith, service and community in their everyday lives.

♦ **Faith**: Their faith and prayer life are very important to them—both their personal prayer and spirituality and their shared experiences of communal prayer.

♦ **Service**: Brothers are called as teachers, coaches, counselors, professors, administrators, campus ministers and more to meet young people where they are and walk with them in their life’s journey.

♦ **Community**: Brothers live in community with one another. Their community and life together supports, renews and unites all that they do.

To learn more about the De La Salle Christian Brothers, please visit their website at [brothersvocation.org](http://brothersvocation.org).

Become a Lasallian Partner

The world will always need educators. Our ministries delight when former students return to their alma mater as a faculty or staff member. What's even more uplifting is when alumni find themselves working within the Lasallian family at another Lasallian ministry!

There are more than 90,000 Lasallian Partners in 80 countries educating over one million students. These Lasallian students will one day have the opportunity to contribute to Lasallian charism as a Lasallian Partner.
Continue to Identify as a Lasallian

There are many ways in which students can continue to practice their learned Lasallian values of faith, service, community and social justice. We can consider our work successful when graduates consider themselves able to maintain a healthy spiritual, communal and service-oriented life.

Faith

First and foremost, we hope that students will be able to carry with them the Lasallian spirituality. Recalling the holy presence of God, believing in the value of prayer and trusting in God’s providence are just three ways students can sustain what they have learned as Lasallian Youth.

Graduates can:

- Download the De La Daily prayer app (Available in the App Store and Google Play Store)
- Join the Global Lasallian Prayer Community Facebook page
- Gain access to prayers using the online Lasallian Resource Center
- Participate in available Lasallian liturgies, prayer services, retreats or service immersion experiences

The role of Lasallian Partner takes many forms:

- Teacher
- Coach
- Campus Minister
- Administrator
- School staff
- Animator
- Formator
- Counselor
- Social Worker
- District Staff
- Board of Trustees
- And more...

“I would rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I would rather you walk beside me than merely point the way. The eye is a better pupil than ever was the ear. Good advice is often confusing, but example is always clear.”

Reflection of a campus minister on the Lasallian Youth experience
“Lasallian Youth allowed me to develop my spiritual person. I was challenged to question who I was, what brought me to where I was, and where my faith was going.”

Reflection of a collegian on the Lasallian Youth experience

Service
Secondly, we hope that our students enter our institutions ready to learn and leave them ready to serve. We hope they feel called to live a Gospel-centered lifestyle in which they are able to touch the lives of others just as we intend for their lives to be touched by participating in Lasallian Youth. Circular 475, From Hope to Commitment: Understanding Lasallian Vocations, reads, “The Lasallian mission of human and and Christian education is completed when each young person discovers the meaning of his/her life, deepens his/her particular way of serving God in humanity, and develops the means and actions that make it a reality” (p. 28).

Graduates can:
♦ View their career as a service and a vocation rather than just a job
♦ Incorporate the Five Lasallian Core Values to inform their work and citizen ethic
  • Faith in the Presence of God
  • Concern for those in Poverty and Commitment to Social Justice
  • Respect for All Persons
  • Quality Education
  • Inclusive Community
♦ Pledge to donate money or time to their alma mater or another Lasallian ministry in need

Community
Saint La Salle once said, “Union in a community is a precious gem, which is why the Lord so often recommended it to His apostles before He died. If we lose this, we lose everything. Preserve it with care, therefore, if you want your community to survive” (Meditations of St. John Baptist De La Salle 91.2). The value of community is what holds our worldwide network together. How can our students continue to keep fraternal relationships at the forefront so that they and those around them are able to live interpersonal lives of love and hope?
Graduates can:

♦ Stay in contact with the Brothers, impactful Lasallian educators, mentors and/or spiritual directors

♦ Subscribe to Lasallian newsletters or magazines, follow Lasallian social media accounts, speak at the school on behalf of being a Lasallian Youth

♦ Stay in contact with Lasallian Youth peers

♦ Recommend Lasallian education

♦ Become “Lasallian Parents”
  
  • Raise a Lasallian family (prioritizing the values of faith, service, community and social justice with their children)
  
  • Send children to a Lasallian school
  
  • Attend family-oriented Lasallian events

Social Justice

As Lasallians, “the formation of citizens capable of exercising their rights, fulfilling their duties, defending the public, strengthening the social fabric, participating in democratic processes, inserting themselves in politics and policy-making, growing in ethics and the aesthetic dimension. These citizens must possess a civic ethics that manifests itself consistently in their daily actions, by honesty, solidarity, transparency, accountability and compassionate understanding.” (Declaration 2020, p. 95)

Receiving a Lasallian education is one that instills the desire for a more just world. With various opportunities for students to encounter the last, the lost and the least, it is our hope that graduates will continue to be the keepers of our shared humanity and world.

“Do your part to help build up the kingdom of God in the hearts of your students.”

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

Meditation 67.1
Graduates are called to:

♦ Defend the Rights of Children, especially through the work of BICE and promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of Children
♦ Have a continued awareness of the major social justice issues of our time focusing upon the dignity of all God’s children and creation
♦ Promote equity in education by supporting the mission of Lasallian Women of Hope
♦ Advocate for those who are marginalized, poor or oppressed in society, particularly in the workplace and in education
♦ Through prayer, education and personal conversion become an anti-racist
♦ Supporting businesses of color or nonprofits
♦ Choose a social justice issue about which they are passionate and intentionally take action on its behalf
♦ Join the Lasallian Colleges and Universities in Association for Justice if they attend a Lasallian university or college
♦ Support, visit or request programming from our social justice retreat center, the Br. David Darst Center

Quick Tips, Resources and Contact information

Quick Tips

Good things to keep in mind.

Communication is Essential

♦ Clear communication with administration, campus ministry, religion department and the entire school community is important to the success of your program.
♦ Invite faculty/staff and administration to become involved in Lasallian Youth activities.

“[Lasallian Youth] was a safe place to process questions we had about ourselves, family, about God, and about the way life was. It was and is a lifestyle, centered around faith, service, community. It is the act of reflecting God’s light outward, emanating goodness, sharing love and positivity.”

DR. ANTOINETTE LULLO
Mission Doctors Association
Driscoll High School, Addison, IL ’95
Forming Lasallian Youth Leaders

- A key dimension of Lasallian Youth is the formation of student leaders in the areas of faith, service, community and social justice. Create opportunities to ensure that students can experience leadership roles while you as a moderator accompany them.

Encouraging Participation

- Establish a meeting time and place that provides an opportunity for students to attend and fully engage in the Lasallian Youth meetings.
- Have a clear agenda and purpose for your meeting.
- Provide refreshments!

Lasallian Youth Budget

- How the budget for Lasallian Youth is established will vary from school to school. However, what is important is the Lasallian Youth does have a budget on par with similar co-curricular activities in the school.

Local Health and Safety Realities

- To ensure the safety and health of the students it is important to be aware of state and local health regulations regarding any medical alerts.
- Have conversation with administration regarding necessary notarized documentation in case of emergency.

Networking

- Contact other Lasallian Youth Moderators in your District and/or the Region to discuss their programming for faith, service, community and social justice. (see list below)
- Consider contacting other local secondary schools in your community to work on joint service projects such as a homeless sleepout or an environmental clean-up project.
Event/Program/Resources

Brothers Vocation
- Website
- RELAN Website
- YouTube
- SFNO Brothers YouTube
- Brothers Banter Podcast

Celebrate Lasallian Saints Feast Days
- Calendar
- General Description

Global Connections
- Secretariat for Solidarity and Development
- Lasallian Women of Hope
- Lasallian Reflection Series

Lasallian Resources
- Lasallian Resource Center
- Institute Website
- RELAN Website
- DENA Website
- Midwest Website
- SFNO Website

Lasallian Student Leaders
- SFNO

Lasallian Youth Assembly
- SFNO
- Midwest
- DENA

Lasallian YouTube Channels
- La Salle Global
- RELAN
- Midwest
- SFNO
- DENA

Life of the Founder Resources
- Beyond Statues and Doors
- Frère: De La Salle- Patron Saint of Teachers
- In the Footsteps of De La Salle: Following the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Online Retreats
- Advent
- Lent
### Racial Justice Resources
- Annotated resources on a variety of racial justice topics

### Service Opportunities
- VENAVER and more

### Schoolwide Liturgies
- Engage Lasallian Youth in the planning and participation of schools liturgies

### Social Justice and Advocacy Calendar
- Important dates and resources

### Twinning
- RELAN-Lwanga Twinning Program

### Young Lasallian Social Media
- Twitter
  - SFNO
  - Midwest
- Facebook
  - SFNO
  - Midwest
  - DENA
  - RELAN
  - Institute
- Instagram
  - SFNO Young Lasallians
  - Midwest
  - DENA
  - RELAN
  - Institute

### Contact Information
For more information or to connect with a Lasallian Youth moderator in your District, contact:

- **Midwest District:** Abby Michels, amichels@cbmidwest.org
- **District of Eastern North America:** Justin Martineau, jmartineau@fscdena.org
- **San Francisco New Orleans District:** Kenenna Amuzie, kamuzie@dlsi.org

### Lasallian Youth Leads to Lasallian Commitment
Students actively engaged in Lasallian Youth are profoundly impacted by their experience. Many Lasallian alums attribute their faith and character formation, as well as their career choices, to the foundation they received while in Lasallian Youth. There is no doubt that the investment of time, energy and funding for Lasallian Youth will ensure that the Lasallian mission will continue to thrive and change the world.