

Dear Lasallians,

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace is already behind us!

This year's theme, « Our Voices of Mercy are Calling for Peace », certainly inspired you since we had so many participating in the campaign. A total of 126 ministries participated from all Regions of the Institute. That was about triple the number of those participating in 2015!

Many of you also had a look at the interactive map that displayed all the initiatives that were organized. The map, which gave you access to articles, photos, videos, links and other materials from the initiatives, was seen almost 2000 times. It allows you to very easily learn more about the impact that you had in the world through these International Lasallian Days for Peace. You can check out the map here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1q6lH4a7pkjg2iF4sOrf5uLsSX90&usp=sharing>

You will find in the following pages some of the most striking and original initiatives and those which had a big impact on the Lasallian community and Educational Mission. The initiatives are from all parts

of the globe and their diversity demonstrates the great creativity that the Lasallian Family is capable of generating.





The country of Colombia has been organizing since the 80s a national campaign to promote peace that is called "Week for Peace". This campaign aims at highlighting all the efforts provided by civil society organizations, state-sponsored or not, in favor of peace, in a variety of different fields. It also served through the years as a space of convergence for all organizations who wished to cooperate to promote a



negotiated exit of the armed conflict that has been afflicting the country for more than 60 years. The District of Bogotá decided four years ago to join the organizing committee of this national initiative and to promote it even more in the Lasallian Educational Network, therefore contributing to build a sustainable peace and to present peace as an educational option for reconciliation and social justice.

The Week for Peace 2016 was held from September 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Its reach was even greater this year because of the current sociopolitical context. At the time, the government and the opposing guerilla group called Farc had reached an agreement and the possibility of a forthcoming peace was very real. A national referendum on the content of the agreement was also imminent. It is in this context that the District of Bogotá chose to put emphasis on reconciliation as a path towards peace and on everyone's participation to this effort. The chosen theme was *"Let us reconcile from the bottom of our heart"* and all ministries in the District were each able to participate in their own way, but always through actions deeply anchored in the social and political realities of their community. Dialogue was a very important tool to create social and cultural transformations and help the country to overcome violence and find peaceful solutions.

The efforts of the Lasallians from Colombia who participated to the building of a sustainable peace in their society should be highlighted and taken as an example. Let us pray that their efforts and those of millions of other Colombians will be fruitful and the hope for peace becomes a reality in this country that has suffered too much.





The District of Poland participated for the first time in the International Lasallian Days for Peace, which is in itself excellent news for the District and the Institute. The Lasallian Family in Poland did not take things lightly and they organized activities in many ministries across the country, notably, the city of Gdansk.

At the kindergarten in Gdansk teachers focused on the positive attitude in kids and parents. The parents were invited to ask their children what would be their wish for all the other children in the world, and the kids wrote those

wishes on kites that they made themselves and flew later on during a ceremony.

At the primary school, the concept of peace was explained to the students and they participated in workshops to find peaceful solutions to solve their conflicts with their family and classmates. Some 9-year-old students even organized a charity event to help other children in need.

At the high school, many students participated in an initiative that aimed at carrying out acts of random kindness. They also helped younger students with their homework and in the cafeteria and they brainstormed ideas on how to promote peace in the school.

Posters and art made by the students also decorated the classrooms, the hallways and the property and added to the ambiance. It's incredible what can be done when the whole educational community gets involved!







The Regional Council of Young Lasallians (RCYL) of the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) decided this year to organize an initiative that would reach the Region in its entirety. In response to the invitation of the International Council of Young Lasallians, the RCYL thought about different projects that would invite all ministries to get involved, and they finally settled for a Regional Observance of Peace.

On the very last day of the campaign, October 21st, the RCYL invited the whole Lasallian Family of the Region to pray for peace from dawn to dusk. Each person or ministry was invited to sign up through an online form and take responsibility of 15 minutes of prayer.

Around 20 ministries and many individuals took on the challenge and we had people praying for peace throughout the day. As the day went on, the participants posted photos of their prayer or the text on social media, using the Facebook and Twitter accounts of RELAN Young Lasallians.

*"Hopefully, we can continue to seek opportunities in RELAN and internationally to utilize the strength of our Lasallian network to promote causes of significance and*

*realize in a daily way, in our schools, in our communities, that we are part of something much larger than ourselves"* – Chris Swain, Regional Coordinator for Lasallian Vocation Ministry.

A great initiative carried out together and by association!







At the Mwangaza College, Nakuru, Kenya, many celebrations were organized this year within the International Lasallian Days for Peace. First, official t-shirts of the campaign were designed and distributed to all students, and they wore them on a few occasions throughout the month. On the first two days, large liturgies were organized with the whole school community in attendance. At the end of each of those Eucharistic celebrations, there was a special ceremony where members of the community symbolically planted trees

Then, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, a great march was organized with two main objectives. First, the organizers wanted to raise awareness of the importance of peace and living together harmoniously within the local community. While walking, the participants stopped a few times to discuss with passersby and spread their message of peace. The march also aimed at raising funds for the Child Discovery Center, a local Lasallian ministry which addresses the needs of street children. Students, staff members and friends of the Mwangaza College Lasallian Family donated generously. The Center was also the final destination of the march, which took about two and a half hours.

We must also highlight that it is a former student of the College, Pious Riitho, who designed the official poster of the International Lasallian Days for Peace this year! Thanks Pious!







The Lasallian presence in Pakistan, a country that is suffering from religious tension, is a sign of hope and worth the attention of the rest of the Institute. At the end of September, new tensions appeared between India and Pakistan, and it is in this context that two big celebrations were held in the cities of Multan and Faisalabad as part of the International Lasallian Days for Peace. Each of these two cities has a few Lasallians schools and the students

from all of those schools were invited to participate in the celebrations.

In Multan, the event was held in Alban's High School. All the students waved balloons bearing peace symbols and listened to some presentations on and how to promote peace in the community and in the world.

In Faisalabad, the girls' section of La Salle High School first organized a campaign for peace in which the students gave speeches, sang songs and passed out peace badges to everyone. A few days later, La Salle High School and College organized a march for peace with all their students. They gathered to be inspired by Brother Shahzad Gill, Auxiliary Visitor and Principal at La Salle High School, as he highlighted the importance of peace in Pakistan. Then, the students walked within the neighborhood to promote peace.

Those two celebrations are a great example of how ministries can join together and the importance of education and spreading peace in our communities!





Now what?

As the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Lasallian Days for Peace comes to an end, we must now look to the future.

The first thing to do is to have a look at the interactive map

(<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1q6lH4a7pkjg2iF4sOrf5uLsSX90&usp=sharing>) to see all the wonderful actions that were done, then talk about it with all your friends and colleagues and encourage them to follow the link to the entire Lasallian network of good news!

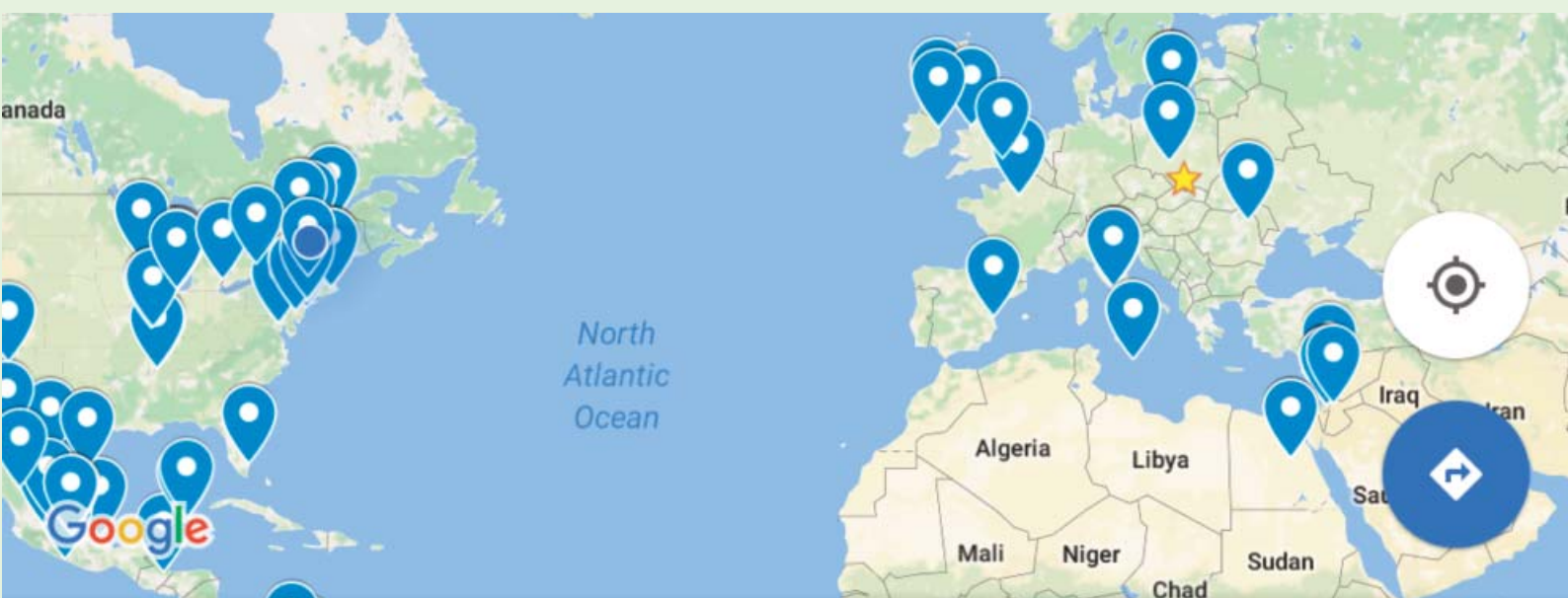


Most importantly, we also want you to continue your participation next year and to try to go one step further. Here are a few very simple things you can do next year so that your participation will be even more significant:

- Invite a ministry that hasn't yet participated to join us.
- Plan an event with another ministry in your Region.
- Invite the local community to participate.

- In collaboration with all the other ministries in your District, come up with a joint project related to the theme proposed and that bears a particular significance for your District
- To achieve this, all you have to do to is let yourself be inspired by what was done this year! Good ideas are not scarce in our Lasallian Family. Together and by association, we will continue to build a world in which peace prevails a little more day by day.

Live Jesus in our Hearts... Forever!



ILDP 2016

