



# Is he really the one to come?

*For as long as we've been preparing for and celebrating the arrival of the "Prince of Peace" each year, we could be getting a little weary. After all, the magic of childhood fades with age, and we no*

*longer believe in Santa Claus... The peace and innocence we celebrate should have long ago delivered us from the violence that has been increasing in recent times, culminating - in a fateful paradox - at this very moment. A Cartesian mind would almost find more logic in a Ukrainian, a Gazan, a Maori (alas, a non-exhaustive list) who would place their hopes for Peace in Santa Claus' promises.*

*It's the eternal inner trial we have with this God who is too present when he seems to constrain our freedom, and too absent to solve our problems.*

*He never stops coming, and we are often left with the question of John the Baptist's disciples: "Is He the One who is to come, or must we wait for another?"*

*Let's understand that He is not coming to impose a Peace from elsewhere, but to awaken in humanity the will and strength to make Peace.*

*The real question for each of us today becomes: "Is he really the One my heart has been waiting for? Have I really felt this expectation and hope rise up in me, as we've lit yet another candle over the last four weeks? Am I really waiting for him*

*with the conviction that his coming can change something in me, and that it commits me to changing the world?"*

*Let's rekindle this flame of expectation, let's dig deep into this desire for Him to come and inspire us with the strength to build a world of peace.*

*Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year 2025!*



Région lasallienne  
Europe Méditerranée

relem@lasalle.org

br. Joel, Joe, Tomeu and br. Enrico

# A PILGRIMAGE JUST BEGINNING



The StAR Commission has recently completed a significant journey across the seven Districts, one Delegation, and one Sector of RELEM. This initiative brought together Brothers and Lasallians entrusted with the responsibility of the Lasallian Educational Mission in our Region.

The meetings followed a structured process that included:

1. Listening sessions highlighting the strengths, needs and opportunities for collaboration.
2. A short Presentation by the Commission outlining the main areas.
3. A World Café activity to refine key sections of the Consultation Document: Section H - The suggested Timeline and Section J- Key Events; Section I - the Guiding Principles; and Appendix 2 - Possible Initiatives of Collaboration that could be implemented straight away from March 2025.
4. Open Discussion
5. Evaluation & Summary

These encounters were not merely opportunities to discuss governance but, more profoundly, moments to discern together the decisions necessary for the vitality and sustainability of the Lasallian Mission in RELEM.

This synodal process emphasised listening, mutual respect, and a shared focus on the Mission, rising above diverse perspectives. Together, participants explored new horizons—unexpected and unprecedented—guided by a collective vision for a stronger, more unified Mission.

Each District contributed by sharing its strengths and vulnerabilities, reflecting on critical areas such as:

- Formation opportunities and needs.
- Developing the role of lay Lasallians in Mission leadership and governance.
- Conditions that allow Association to grow and flourish
- Community Life and New Communities
- Innovations in pastoral and vocational efforts to serve those most in need.
- Strategies for stewarding patrimonial resources to best serve the Mission.



The journey concluded during the Advent season, a time of hope and renewal. It was a fitting period to remain open to God's "eternal newness" while committing to the belief that something transformative is being born.

By late January or early February 2025, a second consolidated text will be shared with the

Districts and Delegation. This document will harmonise insights from the recent visits and propose a roadmap leading up to 2026. It will be open for review and further enrichment before discussion at the March 2025 Visitors' Conference, where Visitors and the RELEM MEL Council will determine the next steps.

This work takes place against the backdrop of the Jubilee Year, marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. As Pope Francis reminds us: "Nicaea represents a summons to all Churches and Ecclesial Communities to persevere on the path to visible unity... "That they may all be one... so that the world may believe" (John 17:21)" (n 17, *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis). It invites us to find hope both in God's grace and in the "signs of the times" that guide us forward.



May the journey of our Region be "marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church"... **in our Lasallians vocations and in our Mission ...**" and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation" (n 25, *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis), and as our Founder recalls we have always regard the work of our salvation and the "founding" and governing of our Community as the work of God... we will often repeat these words of the Prophet Habakkuk: **Domine opus tuum!** (Saint J. B. de La Salle, *Rules I Have Imposed on Myself* n. 8).



## RELEM IS:

- 21 Countries
- 7 Districts and a Delegation
- 1017 Brothers
- 179 Brothers' Communities
- 460 Ministries
- 327097 students
- 39907 Lay Partners



# Where there are young people, **JUBILEE OF YOUTH** Lasallians must be there!



A few days ago, a **LETTER** was sent on behalf of the Youth Commission and the Vocations and Volunteering Office announcing the intention to invite Young Lasallians to live the Jubilee.

The Standing Committee of Young Brothers, the International Vocations Team and RELEM, the Vocations Culture Commission and the Young Lasallians Commission have been involved in this preparation.

Some provinces have already set off, and others are being strongly encouraged to do so, so that we can "set off to discover life, in the footsteps of love, in search of the face of God... like pilgrims... Pilgrims immerse themselves fully in the places they encounter, making them speak for themselves and integrating them into their search for happiness. The Jubilee pilgrimage is therefore intended to become a sign of the interior journey that we are all called to make, in order to reach the final destination". (Pope Francis)

Our Region is the one that will host the Jubilee and has a welcoming role: some Lasallian schools in Rome are available to welcome Lasallian pilgrims from all over the world and some Districts are available to facilitate everyone's participation. (relem@lasalle.org)

An **INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF YOUNG LASALLIANS** will be held on the morning of 31 July 2025 at Casa Generalizia, our mother house. We will organise a programme to deepen our spirituality and our Lasallian identity, accompanied by Brother Superior General and the members of the General Council.

**We invite each District, Delegation or Sector to be present even with a small representation so that the meeting of the Young Lasallians of the Region can bring a new dynamic in listening to young people (Mel RELEM, RSO n°2) and a renewed commitment to young people to build a society full of hope.**

# LU CE



is a symbol of hope and inclusion. The choice of such a young and dynamic mascot is not accidental. Luce represents all the people who set out in search of a deeper meaning in life, regardless of age or origin. Her message is clear: hope is a universal feeling that can unite people of different cultures and generations.

Luce is

- A bridge between generations: Luce speaks to young people in their own language, bringing them closer to the themes of spirituality and faith.
- A symbol of unity: The mascot becomes a point of reference for all those who want to participate in the Jubilee, creating a sense of community and belonging.
- An invitation to dialogue: Luce promotes an intergenerational dialogue, inviting everyone to share their values and experiences.

# CULTURE OF VOCATIONS COMMISSION

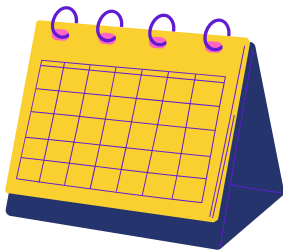
From 5th -7th of December, the Culture of Vocations Commission met in Rome with representatives from across the Region. The meeting focused on vital aspects of Vocation Ministry, including strategies to support and cultivate a Culture of Vocations within the Lasallian Family.

Time was spent discussing a key focus of the Commission which is leveraging the potential of "Vocation Hotspots." The identification and support of Vocation Hotspots- areas, programmes, and initiatives that hold potential opportunity to support and promote the Brothers' Vocation, was called for by the 2024 Regional Mission Assembly.

Discussions also addressed upcoming Regional activities for the Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope—and strategic planning to advance the calls from the 2024 Regional Mission Assembly, the Third International Mission Assembly, the International Young Brother Assembly, and the 46th General Chapter.

Commission members shared insights into realities within their respective Districts, highlighting current initiatives and identifying emerging needs. Time was spent with Mr. Mourad Barsoum, who provided insights into the projects of the Institute Office of Vocation and Volunteers.

While we recognise the challenges in Lasallian Vocation of Brothers and Partners, the commission remains committed to our call to help all in the Lasallian Family discover their purpose and to live into God's Dream in their lives. Plans to support Districts with resources, Formation and collaboration across the Region are planned as we continue this important work.



## CALENDAR

**ASSOCIATION COMMISSION 2/13-15**  
**YOUNG LASALLIANI 2/28-3/2**







# Our hearts are in the Peripheries

- What?** Lasallian volunteer project  
**When?** 8th-12th of April: Formation  
July or August: Volunteer work  
**Where?** **Formation:** Egypt  
**Volunteer work:**
- Melilla (Spain)
  - Jerez de la Frontera (Spain)
  - Scampia (Italy)
  - Bayadeya (Upper Egypt)
  - Częstochowa (Poland)

Apply now



@ relemyl@lasalle.org



Our heart is in the peripheries

For the second year, the RELEM Lasallian Youth Council is offering every young person in the Region (18-35 years old) the opportunity to experience Service, Community and Faith in the peripheries!

**Fraternity in Action** proposes a training session for young people in Alexandria - Egypt, from April 8 to 12, 2025, to get to know each other, deepening the Lasallian charism and spirituality and together take the first steps in the Region.

The international teams that will be formed, will live next summer the Lasallian Mission in one of this 5 communities: in Częstochowa (Poland) caring for children with mental disabilities; in Jerez and Melilla (Spain) ministering to migrant youth; in Scampia (Italy) for suburban and gypsy children and youth; in Upper Egypt serving youth and children from various rural villages. **Spread this Good News to the young people entrusted to your care!**

## 2 new faces for the YL



**Mathilde**  
from  
North  
Belgium



**Marlene**  
from  
Central  
Europe