



FOREWORD

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In a few weeks, the International Year of the Youth will officially come to an end. This event was particularly celebrated with numerous local, national, and international celebrations. They have certainly left pleasant and lasting memories for a good number of people who have participated in them. I am convinced that, among the various regions of the Institute, the Brothers have not failed to undertake diversified activities, some rather original, always solicitous of promoting the aspirations of youth and having them meet together. In one of the Leaflets of N° 5, a year ago, the *Lasalliana* encouraged you to observe this year with many activities. Now we shall be happy to receive written accounts of your observances. They can eventually be reflected in future issues of this publication, since, for us Lasallian educators, each and every year is really a «Year of Youth» which inspire us to think up, and adapt new initiatives for improving our service to Youth. So whatever has been undertaken in 1985 should not come to an end with the new year but should constitute an encouragement to pursue these efforts further.

At about the time that Edition N° 8 of the *Lasalliana* makes its appearance, The General Congress on the OIEC will be meeting on the theme: «Educating the interior man, the source of personal dynamism and of social involvement». Without doubt, the vast majority of the Lasallian readers will not be able to participate directly in the Congress, but will find the opportunity to read its thoughts and conclusions in various newspapers and magazines in their own countries. It seems to me that the topic chosen has a «Lasallian» ring to it and the title should hold an interest for us. It is a modern consideration of the same essential concerns which Saint John Baptist de La Salle had in his educational plans for the children of the seventeenth century. Certainly, the words, «value», «dynamism», «involvement», were hardly in vogue in the vocabulary of that period, but the same realities were expressed in what De La Salle referred to as virtues, evangelical maxims, introducing children to the Christian life in order to make of them «true disciples of Jesus Christ». Is this not the very same thing that we are trying to do today in educating our youth toward values and helping them to make these values a part of themselves?

Also, the 41st General Chapter will soon be opening. Often the word «celebration» is used when referring to it. Is this not, in fact, the celebration of all that has been lived, undertaken, and accomplished in the course of the past ten years in the Institute, thanks to our Lasallian vitality? In this issue, we should like to single out the importance of this event and to devote two leaflets to it. The first deals with the first Chapter ever attempted in the history of the Institute. The other deals with certain important aspects of the one about to take place. This is another example of the *Lasalliana* trying to re-unite the two opposite ends of our tricentenary history. This celebration concerns all of us because we will be associated and represented there by our delegates.

The choice of these three events, the Year of Youth, the OIEC Congress, and the General Chapter, is very limited with regard to the great number our thoughts and activities as educators.

Brother Léon LAURAIRE

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