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September 1, 2014

***Breaking the Cycles of Poverty to Build Peace***

Dear Young Lasallians and Members of Generation H- The Hope Generation:

I pen these few words on the same day that the Vatican-sponsored International Soccer Match for Peace is being played in Rome's Olympic stadium. The teams are composed of players and coaches from different countries and religions. The match will raise funds for various projects that benefit the poor; however, more importantly, it seeks to raise awareness that universal peace and harmony can be achieved by peoples of different nations, races, cultures and religious beliefs

One hundred years after the start of World War I, the *War to End All Wars*, peace still eludes our planet. That is why these International Lasallians Days for Peace are so important for our world-wide Lasallian Family. Some of you and your families live in the midst of great conflict and suffering. You have a special place in our prayers. You can speak so eloquently to all Lasallians about the desire for a universal peace.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium of Young Lasallians (Rome, February 9-14, 2014), your representatives committed both themselves and the members of the Young Lasallian Movement to collaborate in the building of a world that is more livable, more human, more fraternal and more peace-filled.

The young Lasallian Movement has matured to the point of being engaged in more effective world-wide networking and collaboration focused on specific goals and objectives. Now, through this month-long event, you invite the global

Lasallian Family to be more intentional about our concern and commitment to peace.

I am delighted to see your partnership with the Institute's Secretariat of Solidarity and Development (SECOLI) regarding five Lasallian nutrition-centered projects:

- C.L.I.M.A. – Burkina Faso: an agricultural training center.
- H.A.T.S. Nutritional Program – Eritrea: A program that combats malnutrition through the production of jams for clinics and kindergartens.
- Haiti Community Promotion Center – Port-au-Prince: A health and nutrition center for mothers and children.
- Hogar Esperanza – Chile: a child care facility run by Lasallian Volunteers.
- Eritrean Refugees – Eritrea: An educational and vocational training center for young refugees.

Young Lasallians, I encourage you to initiate, promote and support similar efforts that adapt our common focus on peace according to specific local needs and situations. Above all, I invite you to align yourselves with groups that advocate for peace and that challenge our political leaders to be instruments of peace and not of war.

Fraternally in Saint John Baptist de La Salle,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bro. Robert Schieler FSC". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC

Superior General