



Karl Rahner, states that in the 21st Century the Christian must be a mystic or not be a Christian. Therefore the 2007 International Youth Encounter of the Company of Mary: Humanism, Spirituality and Art is impregnated with fertile seeds of mysticism: **the youth**

of our world. To be invited to be part of such an event fills me with gratefulness and meaning. The heart in my following of Christ is the gift to accompany the youth. This International Encounter is a prophetic way in our time "to extend the hand," hands which consciously open to the testimony and the missionary life of our youth, which is conveyed in new expressions and with a vision of the Universal Mission: Encounter- Community. To listen and to share life from Argentina, Colombia, Spain, France... renew the echo of the Universal Company of Mary here in the United States. The dialogue between Paula, Liliana, Maryluz, Veronique, and I is an experience of closeness; our sharing make us anticipate the happiness, the enthusiasm and the evangelizing passion for this Encounter. I do not have any doubts that St Jeanne de Lestonnac continues to inspire with the breathe of God these encounters ... 400 years and more!

Leticia Salazar (USA)

Youth Corner

In the distinct contexts where the Company moves, the Art, Humanism & Spirituality Project is being known among the youth and young adults. And more than explaining what it is, it has been said to them why Art, why Humanism and why Spirituality. **Humanism?** Because we believe in the person, in their capability of co-existing and the commitment with the most disfavored... **Spirituality?** Because we know that each youth / young adult is loved by God and is called to find Him personally in their life and as a group to construct a more just world for all... **Art?** Because in a youth / young adult's life it is very connected to many artistic demonstrations, to the expression of feelings, to the communication of projects, of ideals...

At the same time as they have been learning about the project, they have been responding to the proposal, conscience that an opportunity to participate will be offered to them. In general, the responses have been very positive: *it is attractive; I like it; although I am clumsy, I would still sign up in any workshop; the theme on languages scares me, but I believe I will wise up; it is an opportunity to get to know people from other countries...it is original that we go in pilgrimage through France, Italy...*

Little by little we will be seeing in the accompaniment—they have itinerary information, reflection, of this previous phase— how to put the youth/young adults in contact with others, that they begin having a relationship through the Internet... that they have an open portal where they let us know their suggestions, and how they are living these months of preparation...

TOGETHER WE ORGANIZED

Around the month of March we, Liliana, Paula, Leticia, Veronique-Marie y M. Luz, contacted each other, though, we did not know one another, so we simply exchanged some words of what each did currently, personal abilities. Quickly, we began with the task of reading the Project that the General Team passed on to us and the responses of such from some of the provinces, what we did was to re-work or reformulate the project and make it know again. We created groups to work between us. Through a monthly letter, we are in contact with the pastoral delegates of the world. We have been designing a formation plan-reflection as a preparation to the encounter, for which we have asked different sisters and friends to help. Javier Llorente sdb. has been the designer for the promotion poster. An arduous and unfinished task has been, searching for people who could present the workshops at Orvieto, the experience, until now, has been very enriching for many people who are willing to share part of their vacations and, in an unselfish manner, their artistic abilities...from here I would like to thank many professors from our centers. Another completely open search, is that of the funding of the encounter, we know that for many youth it is very expensive, therefore with the coordination of FISC we are looking for ways to help. The budgets inform us that some youth will have to pay \$577 and others will have to pay \$705 (for more trips). And what do we still need to do? Well, almost everything, in other words, promote the project so that it be feasible in each context we want the youth/young adults to come from all countries where the Company of Mary is located, spread the formation plan among the distinct youth/young adult groups of each province, pinpoint the days of the pre-encounter in Barcelona, for the youth/young adults of America and Spain, plan with more details the Bordeaux trips and modulate some details of the Orvieto part and...



A CALLING -AN INVITATION:

We encourage all of you to write a couple of words on what the following expression has signified or signifies in your life: "Do not let the flame burn out that I your Lord has ignited in your heart...". With your contributions we will make a synthesis prayer that we will use in the encounter. It could be the encounter prayer.

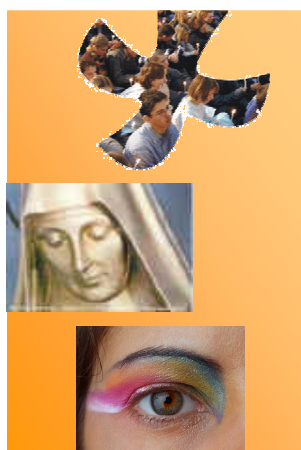
The first 10 letters we receive will have as a prize a t-shirt of the encounter, therefore—take courage and participate!!!

4

youngcentenary@compayofmary.odn

CONTENTS:

From where	page 1
Editorial	page 2
Coordinating Team: Who We Are	page 3
Youth Corner What is A. H. & S.?	page 4
We Organized Ourselves	page 4
A Calling-An Invitation	page 4



From Where... One of the **objectives** of how, we, Company of Mary have planned to celebrate our 400 years is by **extending the hand to the youth and young adults, offering them opportunities to know our life and mission and to involve them in our celebration.** This takes us to the **challenge** of going into the world of the youth and young adults, welcoming their values and deficiencies, expressing with new languages, understanding and suggesting, the message of Jesus.

Art, Humanism, and Spirituality forms part of this dialogue with the youth and young adults of today and gives them the possibility of expressing who they are and how they live, in an international group, celebrate this 400 years of life and project together with the most immediate future...

1

EDITORIAL

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER 400 YEARS:

HUMANISM, SPIRITUALITY & ART

Dear Sister:

This letter is very significant, for within a year the encounter of young adults *Art, Humanism, and Spirituality* will begin, and to celebrate it, nothing better than the presentation, before all, of the poster-invitation to the encounter.

Here are some reflections that have inspired the design. Since I think it is rich in ideas, surely it evokes different things; take courage and write to the coordinating team your notions...(Write in your native language).

The story begins: *In her darkest night, when she abandons herself in the hands of the Lord with total confidence, Jeanne de Lestonnac, always attentive to embody the dreams of God for humanity and self, not only sees the youth without horizons, she sees herself present with the youth and sees that the night is not as dark because she begins to understand that her questions: What can I continue to do for you? Her answers intuitions...*

In her heart she experiences clarity, she perceives faces of youth, needs to attend, lack of new life styles such as an apostolic religious life... and the coming of the time to express faith, hope, and to believe that grace is at work.

400 years inspiring life, questioning new answers... going always beyond, with fears but also with confidence that Jesus is our companion; always bringing to heart: "Do Not Allow The Flame I Have Lit In Your Heart To Be Extinguished..." Today the meaning of these words could be: that everyday, God's presence becomes greater in each one of us, that we walk humbly holding His hand and that we give ourselves to others more and more...identifying the most needed life threatening situations to be able to share our light and warmth and the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit.

All this we know from the cross, from the crucifixion; as Mary we know ourselves as being loved and forgiven born from our Father's heart, called to give ourselves, which leads us to be grateful with the youth of our present time, the existence of this gift for the Church, Company of Mary. All this through Humanism, Spirituality, and Art, a project born from the need to accompany the youth and young adults throughout the world, and experience which invites them to express in distinct languages (Orvieto), in an ecumenical environment (Tazé), the meaning of Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac in their lives (Bordeaux) and the Project of the Company.

We will embark together into the future singing:

"I see you on the cross, only through love,

I see you on the cross dying for me.

What can I do for you, Lord?"

In 2007, the 400 year celebration will launch us into the future with a distinct experience destined to be a seed for the kingdom in four continents of the world, the youth and young adults continue St. Jeanne's legacy...

In summary,

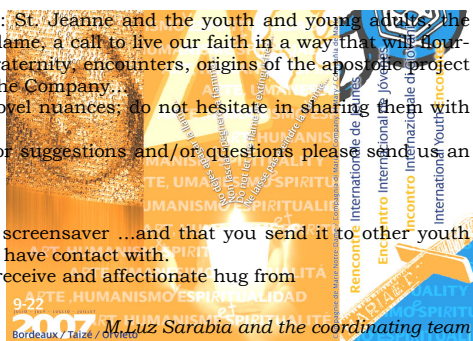
Essential elements that we see on the poster: *St. Jeanne and the youth and young adults, the night at the Cister, to extend the hand, the burning flame, a call to live our faith in a way that will flourish in works of justice, art, workshops, ecumenism, fraternity, encounters, origins of the apostolic project of Company of Mary, ecclesial gift, prayer, Mary and the Company...*

Surely you see other essential elements with novel nuances; do not hesitate in sharing them with the coordinating team.

Encourage the participants of the encounter, for suggestions and/or questions please send us an email.

P.S. I suggest you place the poster on your desktop screensaver ...and that you send it to other youth and young adults, friends, and others with whom you have contact with.

Thank you for everything and receive and affectionate hug from



2

Who We Are

Encounter Coordinating Team:



Bonjour, je m'appelle Veronique-Marie Hervé et je suis française. Plus particulièrement, je suis de la région de Bordeaux... Cela pouvait me prédestiner à entrer dans la Compagnie ! Pourtant je ne suis « fille de Notre Dame » que depuis 2 ½, suite à la fusion de la Société de Jésus Christ avec la Compagnie. Je découvre donc avec joie Jeanne comme une compatriote, et je partage avec elle ses racines, sa vocation, des centaines de sœurs de part le monde et des milliers de relations avec des femmes, des hommes, des jeunes de tous pays !

D'autre part, après avoir fait ma formation universitaire dans le Sport, j'ai continué en Arts du Spectacle et plus particulièrement avec la Danse Contemporaine. Cette dimension corporelle artistique croise au plus profond mon chemin spirituel, et depuis plusieurs années maintenant, je fais partie d'une équipe qui propose des retraites selon les Exercices Spirituels développant la dimension corporelle et artistique.

Pour toutes ces raisons et bien d'autres, je suis donc très heureuse de participer à cette équipe de coordination de la Rencontre Internationale de Jeunes : Art, Humanisme et Spiritualité. D'abord ce travail en équipe internationale et ensuite cette Rencontre qui s'annonce si riche en partage. Si tant de choses nous différencient et feront la richesse de la Rencontre, nous avons des points communs profonds : Êtres humains en recherche de Vie, Art comme langage et communication, Jésus Christ qui nous rassemble, nous rejoint et nous envoie...

Veronique-Marie Hervé (France)



Cuando Beatriz Acosta me hizo la propuesta de seguir con la organización del encuentro Arte, Humanismo y Espiritualidad, en coordinación con un grupo de hermanas jóvenes, me vinieron al corazón escenas vividas por tierras alemanas un año antes con motivo del encuentro "magis". Es lo que llevo dentro, es una pasión, hacer camino con los jóvenes y, Arte, Humanismo y Espiritualidad me pone en bandeja la posibilidad de dar forma a un proyecto que llame la atención de los jóvenes, de que ellos se sientan plenamente convocados a celebrar estos 400 años de vida. En estos meses tengo la sensación de que nunca había estado más cerca de tanta gente, desde Colombia hasta Japón o el Líbano... me anima saber que son muchas las personas empujadas en que este proyecto salga adelante y de respuesta a lo que los jóvenes van buscando... Trabajar en equipo, también es otro reto, sobre todo cuando cada una vivimos en un punto del planeta, Liliana, Leticia, Paula y Veronique Marie son las hermanas que en este camino de preparación del encuentro están poniendo lo mejor de si para dar forma y fondo a lo que deseamos todas: que Arte, Humanismo y Espiritualidad sea un punto de encuentro donde los jóvenes de todo el mundo estén dispuestos a compartir y enriquecerse del otro, del compañero/a que Dios ponga en su camino por unos días y para siempre... en Compañía de María. Besos.

M.Luz Sarabia (Spain)

Liliana Franco Echeverri (Colombia)

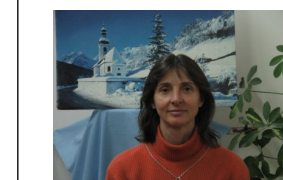


"Ser parte de un equipo de hermanas de diferentes contextos, enriquece mi sentido de pertenencia universal a La Compañía de María. Poco a poco nos vamos conociendo y aprendiendo a trabajar juntas "en unión de corazones", desde nuestros dones y el entusiasmo por la tarea compartida.

El deseo de "preparar un lugar" para los jóvenes, en los festejos de los 400 años de la Compañía, actualiza en nuestro equipo, la mirada cordial y comprometida de Santa Juana hacia ellos.

Es una alegría reconocer en cada comunicación, nuevos brotes de vida, que acortan distancias y acrecientan nuestra cercanía.

A mis compañeras, y especialmente a María Luz, les agradezco el ejemplo de entrega, compromiso y creatividad. Creo que es necesario, estar con el corazón dispuesto a soñar y trabajar para que sea posible una Compañía nueva, cada vez más sensible y solidaria con los jóvenes y los pobres, a quienes Jesús quiere llegar "dando vida en abundancia".



María Paula Lascala (Argentina)

3