



LYG 2019

ONE HEART. ONE COMMITMENT. ONE LIFE.



DAY THREE: Lasallian Youth Gathering

“STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM NOW WE HERE”

Just when you thought the first two days started extraordinarily, the morning prayer performed by students from Papua New Guinea created a whole new level of unity. Singing in their native Pidgin language, they sang together the Tercentenary song; We are Lasallian.

Following morning prayer, Cameron, Lasallian Volunteer from Papua New Guinea, showed off his talent, naming all of the countries in the world in 2 minutes and 36 seconds. Living up to his nickname ‘Atlas’,

Cameron had the room in awe with his knowledge and intelligence.

Lana Turvey was a special guest like no other. A woman of many strengths, her role on the Plenary Council, inspired her talk to the young people about the strength they never realised they had. We sat down with Lana to get to know her and one of the main things we learned was that she is someone who believes in the power of young people who can do great things.

Lana believes every person who wants to, can participate in helping to shape the future of our Church.

Her passion is infectious; when asked about what the Plenary Council means to her, you can't help but sense her passion for the young people. Lana posed a question to the delegates at LYG – "if there were no Catholicism in Australian society, what hole would that leave?" She asked what impact do we want to have? And what answers do we need to find now? Lana expressed how much young people matter – its more than simply believing in young people but trusting them.

Lana grew up in the Josephites community of St Mary McKillop but has a strong connection to Lasallians through her connections with staff that also work on the Council. Her talk centred around trying to stop 'othering the other' as we all have 'One Heart, One Commitment, One Life'. She believes that sometimes in our social behaviours, we can forget that we all have one heart, and that's grounded in God – we are created to love. Lana iconically said 'being your authentic self is what is most important'. Interestingly, the themes that Lana expressed to the students at LYG are very similar to the themes that Bishop Mark Edwards revealed in his keynote at APLEC.

We asked Lana what her goal was for the Plenary Conference, to which she said, "I want all of us to be surprised by the Holy Spirit – for all of us to have an experience of being transformed by the story of another person and how a decision can be made by discernment".

Following Lana's incredible talk to the audience, the students were broken up into their workshops which included: Interfaith dialogue, resonant stories of the Wirramanu people in Balgo Hills, Lasallian by lifestyle, making a joyful noise, Sebastian Duhau's Hanging with Frank a Synod Experience, Living Faith Creatively, yourtown forum and Lasallian Volunteers forum. There were also workshops run by HoMie, Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, Marist Youth Ministry and St Johns Regional College in Dandenong.

Later in the afternoon, students at LYG were given questions to reflect on as they to experience their own Emmaus Walk around Faulkner Park.

After eating dinner together, students were given the Tercentenary logo to colour in and place on the Sacred Space. CEO Tracy Adams inspired the young people from the first slide she showed "You are the future". Tracy captured the hearts of every member of the audience, her inspiring way of speaking directly to the young people in the room, and placing power on them, was something that created a buzz in the room, impossible to ignore. Tracy compared the world in 1680, where there was poverty, segregation by class, limited access to education and hierarchy within the Church, to the world today and asked whether much had changed. The reality is that the world hasn't changed. She invited us to create a brighter future that we can all contribute to making a difference. Tracy spoke of skills to be shared, no matter what gender, race or postcode you belong to. We share the mission together – but we have to have real determination.

Tracy gave an insight into what makes it possible to answer the call:

- Faith and zeal
- Be a change agent not a mission servant
- Be optimistic, inclusive and consultative
- Be humble but with strength and determination
- Be resolute and disciplined
- Be locally engaged





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- Avoid the comfortable but be comfortable with disruption
- Be relentless in improving the wellbeing of others and honour tradition.

After a wholesome standing ovation, the students were given an opportunity to ask Tracy a few questions. When asked what advice Tracy would give her younger self, she responded: "fear of failure and fear of success are the same thing". She had the crowd hooked on hope and drive for the future that followed with them into the Mentimeter that asked: "what did you take from Tracy's chat?" Some responses were:

"We are the future."

"Men need to support all the women in their life."

"Be encouraged to speak out as youth, being inspired to live by de La Salle's mission."

"No matter who you are or where you come from, you can achieve greatness."

The night concluded with Br Rehman, a representative from Pakistan, leading prayer. He asked the following reflective questions:

- What does commitment mean to me?
- Am I ready to commit myself?
- How may my commitment make the difference after this LYG?

