**MISSIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT**

**About**

Jesus asked the apostles and Christians to make the Gospel known “Go and preach to the whole world” (28:19-20). Every baptized Christian is part of the Church and therefore has the responsibility to be a missionary. To be missionary is simply to be a brother or a sister, a neighbor and a friend to those around us and especially those who do not know and love Christ or are far away from the Church, the body of Christ. The MYM are therefore called to learn the human values necessary to live in the 21st century and to help others to do the same. Since they are mostly in high school, they are encouraged to join YCS while in school and participate actively while they are on holiday in the activities organized for them.

Even though all youth are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday Mass with the Local Ordinary, the MYM annual Mass shall take place on every First Saturday of December.

**Objectives**

* To answer the call of Jesus and of the Church to be missionaries first at home and our locality and beyond
* To participate fully in the liturgical activities of the Church and especially at the parish level
* To learn about oneself, how to live with others and how to be a good Christian and an honest citizen
* To joyfully and with good cheer serve others by using one’s talent and gifts
* To understand the three different vocations in the Church: Marriage, Priesthood and Religious.
* To know, understand and appreciate the Catholic Faith
* To strengthen one’s Christian life and missionary formation
* To encourage one another in caring for missionary vocations
* To promote spiritual and material support for the evangelization of peoples around the world

**Membership**

* Anyone who is 12/13 – 17/18 years young
* Anyone who has finished primary school but has not completed high school
* The youth chaplain or the animators may accept someone who still belongs to PMC and/or in primary school but has the maturity to belong to MYM since he/she no longer fits in PMC
* One can be a member of MYM and also of another group such as the altar-servers group.
* All young people who have satisfied the above criteria and wish to follow and serve Christ and his body the Church by being missionaries through witness and service
* It is important to have an appropriate welcoming ceremony for new members and also those who are leaving to join YFC.

**Commitments**

* To give testimony of a true Christian life, through the frequent reception of the Sacraments especially the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion
* Actively participate in the activities of missionary formation and other MYM activities in the parish, deanery and the Archdiocese especially during school holidays.
* To be leaven and salt in the family, among friends and in school
* To pray for missionaries around the world
* To reach out to people who do not know the Catholic faith or are not Catholic and promoting a culture of friendship and encounter
* To aspire to be an intelligent Catholic who is well versed in the Catholic Faith
* To develop a special devotion to Mary Help of Christians

**Role Models for MYM**

It is important in our journey of faith to realize that we are never alone. We have brothers and sister who have journeyed on this path before and they know how to go about it. We can and should ask for their help and support. Each parish and youth group needs to do some research and find out about the saints given here and how each person can imitate them in their own way and circumstances.

Being holy and being saints is not an invitation that is reserved to Bishops, Nuns, Brothers and Priests but it is a universal vocation. Holiness actually consists of cheerfulness, doing one’s duty with excellence, initiative and innovation, Being friends with Jesus and being of service and friendly to everyone. We all can do that! So here are teenage saints that can support us in this journey. Kindly read about them! Feel free to research about other teenage saints and allow yourself to be challenged.

1. St. Kizito
2. Blessed Laura Vicuna
3. St. Maria Goretti
4. St. Dominic Savio
5. St. Rose of Viterbo
6. St. Agnes of Rome

**Jesus Christ: Brother, Master, Friend, Teacher and School of Love**

It is of paramount importance for all youth to realize that they are not part of a huge multinational NGO with the Pope as CEO and Bishops being mid-level managers or branch managers. We belong to a Church that spans through 2000 years of history with everyone having a role to play. The Church is the historical space within which Christ meets each of us, makes himself known to us, walks with us and teaches us while helping us mature in our love for him. He constantly invites us to ‘come and follow him.’ That means he is the model, way and guide. He also commands us to go and evangelize and to be aware that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses every day and follow him. It is very important to be cautious of the prosperity gospel that promises Christ without the Cross. That is fantasy.

Jesus understands each of us and cares for each of us according to our identity and circumstances. He is God and God is love. The relationship that God seeks with people is called Mercy. Our response to this relationship that God seeks, our response to God’s invitation to His kingdom is what we call our Catholic Faith. Religion therefore is God’s invitation and our response and thus the relationship that develops between and among us.

Jesus continues to forgive, console and help each of us and expects us to do the same. His first concern is to enter our hearts, become our friend and transform our lives to become the identity we were created to assume; sons and daughters of God. This is what we see among the Apostles. He called them to be with him and to go out on a mission to others. We are therefore called:

* To live with him by being united more and more and to live in a deeper friendship with him everyday
* To live like him by learning everything from Jesus and to assume his lifestyle
* To be untied with him in the Church and in a faith that is lived through sharing and spreading it
* To go with him, in his name and in with his power, as his collaborators and helpers, his hands, legs and mouth and to do what he wants, with whom he wants, wherever and whatever he wishes as guided by the Magisterium, Scriptures and Tradition of the Church
* To offer one’s life with him and like him through serving and not being served and finally to live with him forever in eternity.

**MYM Leadership**

The group leadership starts with the youth chaplain and then the matrons, patrons or animators of the youth group.

Kindly refer to the General Norms of leadership in the Archdiocese as given on this website

The MYM are supposed to elect the leadership according to the general norms indicated

The parish chairpersons of each parish automatically become the deanery youth council.

The deanery council elects from among them the office holders as indicated in the general norms. The deanery council chairpersons automatically become the Archdiocese MYM Council Members who proceed to choose from among themselves, the offices as indicated in the general norms.

The Organizing Secretaries of each deanery council shall be the members of the Zonal Council who proceed to elect the necessary offices for the coordination of the Zonal Activities. However, it is important to note that the Zonal governance is not part of the three main governing councils: parish, deanery and Archdiocesan. They exist to coordinate activities of the deaneries that constitute the zone.

**MYM General Activities**

1. Parish programs
2. Seminars and Workshops
3. Youth camps and trips
4. Retreats and Recollections
5. Visit to shrines and holy places
6. Exchange programs with other parishes
7. Charitable works
8. Archdiocesan activities such as participating in the Youth Mass on Palm Sunday, and joining YFC for sports and festivals
9. MYM annual Youth Mass
10. Others as may be planned

**MYM Group Meetings**

Meetings should avoid being repetitive and lacking in creativity and structure. Many youth tend to avoid youth groups in part due to lack of challenge or meetings that lack joy and substance. It would be advisable therefore that the animators assist such that there is a balance between workshops and youth meetings to plan their own events.

Each group, adhering to the norms here, can come up with their own constitution, specific rules and guidelines of each youth group. These could entail disciplinary matters, fund raising, welfare, financial accountability measures, and loss of office among others.

Let the animators come up with a theme for each month and especially holiday months. Meetings should constitute of prayers, scriptural readings and a study of the theme at hand either organized as a workshop or study groups or discussion. It can then conclude with a discussion regarding other plans and youth activities.

**The guiding books and manuals for the themes, workshops and seminars are:**

1. ***The Scaffoldings Manual - 20 Themes to be covered over 3 years***
2. ***The Catechism of the Catholic Church – Youth Version***
3. ***The African Bible***

Animators are supposed to get in touch with the Archdiocese Youth Office for training of trainers workshops in the use of the above.

**MYM Symbols**

As proper symbols are being discussed, the MYM T-shirts, which are red and white, are available at the Archdiocese Youth Office.

**Conclusion**

The Pope, Vicar of Christ and father of the Catholic Family invites the youth:

* To be salt of the earth and the light of the world
* To be bridge builders, promoting a culture of encounter and solidarity and protagonists of the future
* To fight against a throw-away culture that glorifies drug abuse, harmful and uncommitted sexual practices, social injustices, environment degradation among other vices
* To set for themselves the achievement of noble and high human and Christian ideals and a life of virtue
* To undertake the path of constant conversion in order to attain a new heart and a newness life
* To be saints! To live in union with God who is the only one who can quench their deepest desires
* To be committed Catholic Christians and active in the parish
* To be apostles to other youth
* To be builders of a more just and fraternal society
* To be builders of peace and a civilization of love
* Love Jesus Christ, His Mother and the Holy Mother Church

The young people are the hope of the Church. Being young in faith, we must be like the first Christians and radiate enthusiasm and courage in our generous devotion to God and our neighbours. We must set ourselves on the path of holiness and thus become a sign of God in the world and re-live in our own country, the missionary epic of the early Church. May we have the courage to reply like Isaiah did: “Here I am, Lord! Send me! (Is 6:8).

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!