**Archdiocese of Nairobi Youth**

**Website Details**

URL: [www.catholicyouth.co.ke](http://www.catholicyouth.co.ke)

**Theme Colours**

Red, White and Green

**Details (these 4 can be sliding with an image of each person)**

1. A Preface by His Holiness, Pope Francis
2. An intro by His Eminence, John Cardinal Njue – Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi
3. A preface by the Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Edwin Hunja – Archdiocese of Nairobi Youth Chaplain
4. A preface by the Youth Coordinator – Dominic Kamau George

**Hope page links**

1. Home – A brief about youth in the Archdiocese and the general vision
2. Missionary Youth Movement (MYM)
3. Youth for Christ (YFC)
4. Young Adults Catholic Association (YACA)
5. Organogram with pictures starting from the Chaplain, Coordinator, 14 leaders of the Archdiocese Council. We should be capable of updating their pictures
6. Resources – Which will be updated often. This could also be pdf attachments
7. News and Announcements
8. Leadership corner
9. Contacts

**On each of the above first 3, there should be:**

1. What each group entails; up to 3 pages of information
2. Calendar of events
3. Resource button for each group

**General Vision Statement**

**To be witnesses and missionaries of Christ to the world inspired and guided by the values of the Gospel and teachings of the Church**

**About**

The Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi Youth are spread out over more than 110 Parishes within the Archdiocese which covers both Nairobi and Kiambu Counties. There are well over 500,000 youth in all these parishes. A majority of these are engaged in various ways and in the different pastoral structures that the youth are grouped in. The MYM are the youth who are aged between 12/13 – 17/18 or those specifically in high school. The YFC are those aged between 18 – 26 while YACA are youth aged between 27 – 35 years of age. These divisions are intended to better assist in the growth of the youth and to ensure that each group does not have a huge disparity of age and experience among them.

1. Missionary Youth Movement (MYM)
   1. Mission Statement: **To Learn, Love, Live Jesus**
2. Youth For Christ (YFC)
   1. Mission Statement: **To draw close to Jesus and His Church while using our energies and talents to inspire and witness**
3. Young Adults Catholic Association (YACA)
   1. Mission Statement: **To impact the society through advocacy and promotion of the Catholic Social Teachings and evangelical principles and actively contribute to a positive change**

**His Holiness, Pope Francis**

**Servant of the Servants of God**

My Dear Young People,

God spoke to Abraham and said: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” (Gen 12.1). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to "go”, to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfillment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, "Go!”, He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this "new land” for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher [...] where are you staying?” He replied, "Come and see” (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: "Can we change things?” And you shouted: "yes!”. That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture” nor give in to the globalization of indifference. God encourages you to go where He sends you: "Do not be afraid, [...], because I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God’s call with the words: "Here I am” (cf. Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,

FRANCIS

**His Eminence John Cardinal Njue**

**Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi**

Dear young people of the Archdiocese of Nairobi

Be witnesses to the Lord in word and in spreading the knowledge of His Name to your brothers and sisters.

Jesus appointed his apostles to send them to a mission for his father. The mission of Christ is the salvation of the world. I appeal to you all young people, to be active missionaries. Do not just stay and watch things happening or simply do what others tell you but with prudence and wisdom, do good and avoid bad advice and those who would seek to misuse you. In the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis, “A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master.”

Through our baptism, we died with Christ, let us be witnesses of the Risen Lord in truth and in love. I therefore encourage you to take your place in the Church and contribute actively and generously to the mission of the Church with your energy and idealism, fully knowing that the Church knows that its future lies with you.

And I gladly impart on all of you and your families my apostolic blessing

***Your Shepherd,***

***John Cardinal Njue***

**Rev. Fr. Edwin Hunja**

**Youth Chaplain of the Archdiocese of Nairobi**

Dearest youth of Nairobi!

The desire to follow Christ and His Church is at once compelling and overwhelming. It is compelling because it is an adventure and one who follows it to the end becomes a blessing among many. It is compelling because it is about your life in this world and in the world to come. At the same time, it is overwhelming because it means going against the majority culture. It means following the Lord even in moments of darkness and solitude. And we know quite well that sometimes following the Lord can make you a misfit and unpopular.

But the Lord consoles us and assures us of His closeness and love. The service of God leads one to deep joy, a joy that the world cannot give. Whereas the joy of the world passes and it is mostly based on pleasure, the joy that Christ gives to those who open themselves up to him is a joy that cannot be taken away by sickness and tribulations. It is a joy that remains even when you are alone. With time, this joy passes to your friends and this is what we call witnessing!

Moreover, when we fail, the Mercy of God is abundant! As Catholics, we have the opportunity to go for the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharist. Let us not hesitate to make good use of these. Moreover, we Catholics know and believe that we do not make this journey alone; we are surrounded by Our Mother and the Saints! Ask them for help and support and they will surely walk with you.

Be assured of my prayers and constant support!

**Dominic K. George**

**Archdiocese of Nairobi Youth Coordinator**

Hello!

I am so glad to spend most of my life at the service of the youth and to join hands with all of you to help in building the City of God’s People.

The words of our universal Shepherd, Pope Francis moves me deeply, “Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.” These are the words he used when he sent that beautiful letter to all the youth in the Church in preparation for the upcoming Synod.

The reason the words above move me and I believe, moves most of us is the fact that many times we feel that we have not lived up to the requirements of the faith, the values of the gospel and the teachings of the Church. Sometimes when we look at our country and the general economy and politics, we might feel overwhelmed and at times without knowing what the future holds but His Holiness reminds each of us about the Mercy of God that triumphs over every fear, doubt and sin. Let us go forward hearts ashamed of our sin but above all, confident in His Mercy.

Pope Francis also adds, “Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this "new land” for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?”

We young people need to step up our level of commitment and involvement in designing and reshaping the destiny and character of our nation. Let us be part of history, knowing by faith that Jesus is with us until the end of times!

I pray for all of you that we might find true happiness in serving God and each other and I invite you to courageously give your energies and talents to make the world a better place and to respond to God’s plan for our lives!

In Christ.