

## OH !!! YOUNG PEOPLE CHURCH LOVES YOU AND CARES FOR YOU !!!



### This is the story of a young man in the Bible (Mt 19 :16-30)

Young man: Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?

Jesus: Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.

Young man: I have kept all these, what do I still lack?

Jesus: If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.

*When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.*

Disciples: Then who can be saved?

Jesus: For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.

# SEE

This is a sad story. But the Church in the leadership of Pope Francis is celebrating the life of the young through this synod saying, the Church loves you and cares for you.

### What does this mean to all of us who are young?

#### For the synod

**Young** means a person of an age group of 16-29 (as per the synod preparatory document) who is matured enough to think independently and take decisions for oneself and for others. For IYCS, it is a person attached to the local Movement as a member at student level, till one gets married or till the maximum age mentioned in the statutes.

**Faith** means an expression of one's belief or Confidence or trust in God, through the doctrines of the church. For us Christians the trust in God and in His promises, made through Christ and the Scriptures by which humans are justified or saved. For the Catholic Church it means baptized Christians professing it under the authority of the invisible head (Christ) and the visible head (the Pope and the Bishops in communion with him). Being Catholic means universal in extent having unity, visibility, indefectibility, apostolic succession and sanctity.

**Discernment of vocation** means a Call of life oriented towards specific purpose and way of life. It is to identify, recognize and distinguish (recognize, interpret and choose) one from the other, taking into consideration all elements of choice and utilizing those considerations in service of the greater good of God and His creation. **Vocation** is the act of living out the gifts and talents that allow us to live responding to the call of God in our own unique way (Marriage, Ordination or Consecrated life – states, profession, social and civil commitments etc).

## JUDGE

The synod has given the document which is **divided into three parts**.

- The first urges listening to the reality for contextualizing **the situation of the Young** people in today's world.
- The second highlights the importance of discernment in the light of faith in order to make **life choices** that truly correspond to the will of God and to the good of the person.
- The third focuses on the Pastoral Action of the ecclesial community which emphasizes the **importance for the Church of accompanying young people** in welcoming the joy of the Gospel, especially in the times of uncertainty, volatility and insecurity.

Attention is focused on people, places and the tools for this accompaniment. The subjects of pastoral action are the young themselves, both as protagonists and as receivers. The Church asks them to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today. The places of pastoral action for the young are daily life activities; especially, the World Youth Days, Diocesan events, Parishes, Oratories, Universities, Catholic schools, Voluntary work, Social activities, Centres of spirituality, Missionary experiences, Pilgrimages, and Popular piety. It also responds on the digital world, which opens up unprecedented opportunities, while cautioning new dangers. The tools are languages, education, prayer, silence and contemplation”.

The Church listens to the desires, plans and dreams that the young have for their life, as well as the difficulties they encounter in realizing their plan in the service of society, in which they ask to be active agents. In addition, as young people who experience everyday situations, the beauty and the freedom of being Christians, wants to speak to the hearts of our peers all over the world, urging them not to close themselves away like the rich young man in the Gospel, instead, welcome the opportunities that the Church offers.

The Church appeals to the media asking them to dedicate greater space to the world of the young, casting light on many of the positive aspects and not only the elements of weakness and turbulence. Thus helping the synod with the instruments they have at their disposal, to become agents not only of a future yet to come, but above all a present that already calls us today to build the civilization of love.

# ACT

Having gone through the above points, **IYCS proposes you to sit together** in your peer groups (cell meetings) and discuss the issues given below. **Choose any 4 (out of 12)** corresponding to your local reality, collate your answers, and **send them to us**, so that we reflect on them during the Synod. Email us: [mail@iycs-jeci.org](mailto:mail@iycs-jeci.org)



**A. Youth and Church issues :**

1. Youth participation in the Church and Response of Youth
2. Hierarchy, Social teachings of the Church and Youth
3. Evangelization – Utilization/ Formation of Youth as Evangelizers, Use of Social Media
4. Sexuality – Marriage, Mixed marriages, Live-in relationship, Gay issues, Single parenthood, Abortion
5. Christian Family and Family Values
6. Life, Euthanasia, Differently able people, Suicide
7. Sacraments in general, Reconciliation and Counseling

**B. Youth and personal issues :**

8. Youth and abuses – Drug abuse, Impact of Social Media and Social Communication
9. Education, Values, Life Skills, Money and Service
10. Poverty, Unemployment and Entrepreneurship
11. Migration and displacement
12. Generation gap between youth and old

# Questions to help discussion

## **1. It is a fact that the youth between the age group 16-30 are 60% and 16-25 are 40% among the whole of population in majority of the countries.**

- ▶ What is the percentage of Catholic youth belonging to any of the youth movements?
- ▶ What is the percentage of youth attending Church and Spiritual activities? Elaborate-why.
- ▶ Are the youth given due recognition and opportunities in the Church affairs? How and why?
- ▶ What is the response of the youth in Church affairs and impact of it on their lives?

## **2. Church Hierarchy is at the service of the people by their mission (youth included).**

- ▶ What is the action of the Hierarchy (Bishops and Priests) in granting opportunities to youth for social and spiritual actions in the Church?
- ▶ How do the Hierarchy accompany the youth in formation and ministry?
- ▶ What is the percentage of Church resources invested for the youth formation activities?
- ▶ What are the places, peoples and tools provided for youth formation?
- ▶ What do you know about the Social teachings of the Church? Are you made aware of it in the Church or youth movements? If so, what is the response of the youth to it?

## **3. Church is for Evangelization as per the call of Christ.**

- ▶ Do your programmes and activities prepare youth to be Evangelizers? How or Why? Have these programmes utilized youth power promptly in the mission of the Church?
- ▶ What is the role of Gospel in your life? How do you use the gospel values for Evangelization?

### ***In the context of different faiths and cultures in different Continents:***

- ▶ What is your relationship with the people of other faith? What are the common factors that unite us to live a life of harmony? How can we utilize these factors for Evangelization?
- ▶

## **4. Drug abuse and Social media have affected the youth most today.**

- ▶ What are the effects of Drug abuse, Social media and Social communication on the youth? What is your response to it?
- ▶ What is the response of the Catholic Church to challenge this menace?
- ▶ What is the role of Social media in Evangelization? How the youth, basically skilled in social media can positively contribute to New Evangelization?

## **5. Human sexuality is a God given gift.**

- ▶ What is your understanding about Sexuality?
- ▶ How do you value Christian marriage (in line with cohabitation and sacramentality)?
- ▶ What is your response to Mixed marriages and in propagating Catholic faith?
- ▶ What is your opinion about Live-in relationships and Gay issues?
- ▶ What is your understanding of single parenthood vs creation story of Bible?
- ▶ What is your opinion about abortion ?

## **6. Family is the essence of humanity.**

- ▶ What is your opinion about Christian Family (embedded with faith)? According to you what are the family values that bond you with your family to live them effectively?

## **7. Life is a gift of God.**

- ▶ What is your understanding of celebrating Life?
- ▶ What is your stand about Euthanasia and suicide?

- ▶ How do you value differently able people?
- ▶ What are your actions that glorify God in your life?

**8. Sacraments are the gift of Jesus Christ to his followers.**

- ▶ How do you value sacraments in general?
- ▶ As a young person how do you bear witness to all sacraments; especially to 1) Keep God's day (Sunday) Holy, and 2) Honour thy parents?
- ▶ What is the role of sacrament of Reconciliation in your life? How would you accept spiritual counseling as a tool of reconciliation with your SELF and others?
- ▶

**9. Education causes knowledge and employment. It brings Money. It is used in the Service of humanity.**

- ▶ What is the role of Education in your life? What are the values inculcated in your life through formal education?
- ▶ What are the life skills you acquired through informal education? How do they help you to excel in life?
- ▶ How do you value Money in your life? How can you help your fellow being with it? Is it difficult to share your belongings – Why?
- ▶ What is your contribution to the humanity through your life of service and sacrifice?

**10. Poverty is a reality. Unemployment is a challenge to Entrepreneurship.**

- ▶ What is the effect of poverty in youth? How does it affect one's capabilities and dreams? How would poverty challenge youth to excel in life?
- ▶ What is the rate of unemployment in your area? What are the causes and consequences?
- ▶ How do you value entrepreneurship and self-employment?
- ▶ What are the possibilities of employment and entrepreneurship in your locality or away? How can youth help each other for employment and entrepreneurship?
- ▶

**11. Migration is present, not future. It is internal and external.**

- ▶ What is your understanding of migration?
- ▶ (Internal – within the country – for education or job; External – outside the country – for education or job or displacements - refugees) – Based on this reality, what is your personal experience of migration and how do you cope with it?
- ▶ What should be the role of Church and Civil society to help migrated youth/ people?
- ▶ How can youth help migrants?

**12. Generation gap between young and old is an age old issue.**

- ▶ How do you see the generation gap between youth and old as a point of discussion?
- ▶ How do the old view and understand the youth?
- ▶ What is your expectation from the elders and what are your suggestions to bridge this gap?

**NB: Finally, how do you think this Synod on Youth would help YOUTH and bring about a change in the Church in utilizing youth as Evangelizers? Respond in 3 lines.**

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