



UP TO THE SOURCE

Adoratio with St. John Paul II

FOR YOUTH

Encountering Christ and Asking the Great Questions

What must I do? "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" What must I do so that my life may have full value and full meaning?

The youth of each one of you, dear friends, is a treasure that is manifested precisely in these questions. Man asks himself these questions throughout his life. But in the time of youth they are particularly urgent, indeed insistent. And it is good that this is so. These questions precisely show the dynamism of the development of the human personality, the dynamism which is proper to your age. You ask yourselves these questions sometimes with impatience, and at the same time you yourselves understand that the reply to them cannot be hurried or superficial the reply must have a specific and definitive weight. It is a question here of a reply that concerns the whole of life, that embraces the whole of human existence (...)

To whom should we put this question? To whom should you put this essential question? It seems that here Christ alone is the competent one to ask, the one whom no one can fully replace.

Christ replies to the young man in the Gospel. He says: "No one is good but God alone". We have already heard what the young man had asked: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?". How must I act so that my life will have meaning and value? In this context Christ's answer means this: only God is the ultimate basis of all values; only he gives the definitive meaning to our human existence.

Only God is good, which means this: in him and him alone all values have their first source and final completion; he is "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end". Without him-without the reference to God-the whole world of created values remains as it were suspended in an absolute vacuum. It also loses its transparency, its expressiveness. Evil is put forward as a good and good itself is rejected. Are we not shown this by the very experience of our own time, wherever God has been removed beyond the limits of evaluations, estimations and actions?

Why is God alone good? Because he is love. Christ gives this answer in the words of the Gospel, and above all by the witness of his own life and death: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son".(12) God is good precisely because he "is love".

Such is Christ in the conversation with the young man. Such is Christ in the conversation with each of you. When you say:"Good Teacher", he asks: "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone". Thus speaks Christ, the teacher and friend, Christ crucified and risen: always the same yesterday and today and for ever.

...Man without God cannot understand himself, and cannot even fulfil himself without God. Jesus Christ came into the world first of all in order to make each one of us aware of this. Without him this fundamental dimension of the truth about man would easily sink into obscurity. However, "the light has come into the world", "and the darkness has not overcome it."

From the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II to the Youth of the World on the Occasion of International Youth Year (Dilecti amici), March 31, 1985.



Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Litany of Young Saints

St. Kizito, teenager, martyr of Uganda	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. John Berchmans, student of Theology	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Bernadette of Lourdes, friend of Mary	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Agnes of Rome, virgin and martyr	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Aquilina of Lebanon, martyr and convert	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Tarsicius, altarboy, martyr of the Eucharist	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Sts. Jacinta and Francisco of Fatima, shepherds	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, college student	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Aloisius Gonzaga, religious	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Stanislaw Kostka, novice	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Maria Goretti, martyr and virgin	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Pelagius of Cordoba, martyr	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Bl. Andrew Phu Yen, protomartyr of Vietnam	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Kateri Tekawitha, Lily of the Mohawks	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. Dominic Savio, seminarian	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and writer	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Bl. Chiara Badano, student and saint	<i>Pray for Us</i>
St. José Sánchez del Río, martyr	<i>Pray for Us</i>
Bl. Carlo Acutis, teenager	<i>Pray for Us</i>



A Prayer for the Youth by St. John Paul II

O Lord Jesus Christ,
keep us, your young people,
in your love.

Let us hear your voice and believe what you say,
for you alone have the words of life.

Teach us how to profess our faith, bestow our love,
and impart our hope to others.

Make us convincing witnesses to your Gospel
in a world so much in need of your saving grace.

Make us the new people of the Beatitudes,
that we may be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world

at the beginning of the Third Christian Millennium!

Mary, Mother of the Church, protect and guide us,
the young men and women of the Twenty-first Century.

Keep us all close to your maternal heart. Amen.



Christ and the Rich Young Ruler, Heinrich Hoffmann, 1889

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