



# UP TO THE SOURCE

*Adoratio* with St. John Paul II

## FOR YOUTH

### *Inheritance*

**From the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II to the Youth of the World on the Occasion of International Youth Year (*Dilecti amici 11*), March 31, 1985.**

**B**y “leaving father and mother,” each one of you at the same time, in a certain sense, bears them within you; you assume the manifold inheritance that has its direct beginning and source in them and in their family. In this way too, when you leave, each one of you remains: the inheritance that you receive links you permanently with those who passed it on to you and to whom you owe so much... The fourth commandment of the Decalogue is of such great importance: “Honor your father and your mother.”

It is a question here first of all of the heritage of being a human

person, and then of being one in a more precisely defined personal and social situation. Here even the physical similarity to one’s parents plays its part. Still more important is the whole heritage of culture, at the almost daily center of which is language. Your parents have taught each one of you to speak the language which constitutes the essential expression of the social bond with other people. This bond is established by limits which are wider than the family itself or a given environment. These are the limits of the community or of the nation into which you were born.

In this way the family inheritance grows wider. Through your

upbringing in your family, you share in a specific culture; you also share in the history of your people or nation. The family bond means at the same time membership of a community wider than the family and a still further basis of personal identity. If the family is the first teacher of each one of you, at the same time—through the family—you are also taught by the community, people or nation with which you are linked through the unity of culture, language and history.



attitude, still less a defeatist one, as did the last of the servants described in the parable of the talents. We must do everything we can to accept this spiritual inheritance, to confirm it, maintain it and increase it. You must defend it from the danger of destruction from outside or of decay from within the very existence and essential identity of the particular nation.

Writing to you young people, I try to have before my mind's eye the complex and separate situations of the families, peoples and nations of our world. Your youth, and the plan of life which during your young years each one of you works out, are from the very beginning part of the history of these different societies, and this happens not "from without" but pre-eminently "from within". It becomes for you a question of family awareness, a question of the heart. The concept of "homeland" develops immediately after the concept of "family", and in a certain sense one within the other. And as you gradually experience this social bond which is wider than that of the family, you also begin to share in responsibility for the common good of that larger family which is the earthly "homeland" of each one of you."

This inheritance likewise constitutes a call in the ethical sense. By receiving and inheriting faith and the culture of your society and the history of your nation, each one of you is spiritually endowed in your humanity. Here we come back to the parable of the talents, the talents which we receive from the Creator through our parents and families, and also through our nation. In regard to this inheritance we cannot maintain a passive

## 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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