



# UP TO THE SOURCE

*Adoratio* with St. John Paul II

FOR YOUTH

*My Vocation: a Dialogue With God*

**From the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II to the Youth of the World on the Occasion of International Youth Year (*Dilecti amici* 9–10), March 31, 1985.**

During youth a person puts the question, “What must I do?” not only to himself and to other people from whom he can expect an answer, especially his parents and teachers, but he puts it also to God, as his Creator and Father... He therefore asks God: “What must I do?”, what is your plan for my life? Your creative, fatherly plan? What is your will? I wish to do it.

I wish to say this to all of you young people... if a call to the priesthood and religious life comes into your heart, do not silence it! Let it develop into the maturity of a vocation! Respond

to it through prayer and fidelity to the commandments! For “the harvest is plentiful” and there is an enormous need for many to be reached by Christ’s call “Follow me.” There is an enormous need for priests according to the heart of God. The Church and the world of today have an enormous need of the witness of a life given without reserve to God...

To set out on the path of the married vocation means to learn married love day by day, year by year: love according to soul and body, love that “is patient, is kind, that does not insist on its own way... and does not rejoice

at wrong": love that "rejoices in the right", love that "endures all things"...

And so I do not cease to pray to Christ and to the Mother of Fair Love for the love that is born in young hearts. Many times in my life it has been my task to accompany in a sense more closely this love of young people. Thanks to this experience I have come to understand just how essential the matter that we are dealing with here is, how important and how great it is. I think that to a large extent the future of humanity is decided along the paths of this love, which you discover along the paths of your youth. This can be called a great adventure, but it is also a great task.

Today, the principles of Christian morality concerning marriage are being presented in a distorted way. Attempts are being made to impose on entire societies a model that calls itself "progressive" and "modern." It then goes unnoticed that this model transforms a human being and perhaps especially a woman from a subject into an object (an object of specific manipulation), and the whole great content of love is reduced to "pleasure," which, even though it involved

both parties, would still be selfish in its essence. Finally the child... becomes ever more "an annoying addition." The materialistic and consumeristic civilization is penetrating this whole wonderful complex of conjugal and paternal and maternal love, and stripping it of that profoundly human content which from the beginning was permeated by a divine mark.

Dear young friends! Do not allow this treasure to be taken away from you! Do not inscribe in the plan of your life a deformed, impoverished and falsified content: love "rejoices in the truth." Seek out this truth where it is really to be found! If necessary, be resolved to go against the current of popular opinion and propaganda slogans! Do not be afraid of the love that places clear demands on people. These demands... are precisely capable of making your love a true love.

Be "always prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you!" The Church and humanity entrust to you the great reality of that love which is the basis of marriage, the family and the future... You will bring about its rebirth... you will make it beautiful: beautiful in a human and Christian way.

## 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