



# UP TO THE SOURCE

## *Adoration* with St. John Paul II

### FOR YOUTH

#### *Is There Really Hope in the Young?*

**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.**

Today's youth are different from those who came before. In the past, the younger generations were shaped by the painful experience of war, of concentration camps, of constant danger. This experience allowed young people - I imagine all over the world, although I have Polish youth in mind - to develop traits of great heroism.

Today's young people certainly grow up in a different context. They do not carry within them the experiences of the Second World War. Furthermore, many

of them have not known - or do not remember - the struggle against Communism, against the totalitarian state. They live in freedom, which others have won for them, and have yielded in large part to the consumer culture.

My most memorable experience when my pastoral activities concentrated above all on the young, was the discovery of the fundamental importance of youth. What is youth? It is not only a period of life that corresponds to a certain number of years, it is also a time given by Providence to

every person and given to him as a responsibility. During that time he searches, like the young man in the Gospel, for answers to basic questions; he searches not only for the meaning of life but also for a concrete way to go about living his life. This is the most fundamental characteristic of youth.

In life, youth is when we come to know ourselves. It is also a time of communion. Young people, whether boys or girls, know they must live for and with others, they know that their life has meaning to the extent that it becomes a free gift for others. Here is the origin of all vocations, whether to

priesthood or religious life, or to marriage and family.

Young people are always searching for the beauty in love. They want their love to be beautiful. If they give in to weakness, following models of behavior that can rightly be considered a scandal in the contemporary world, in the depths of their hearts they still desire a beautiful and pure love. This is as true of boys as it is of girls. Ultimately, they know that only God can give them this love. As a result, they are willing to follow Christ, without caring about the sacrifices this may entail.



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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