

“Mary arose and went with haste ” (Luke 1:39)

AN INVITATION TO INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LITURGY

If possible, each parish will involve the youth in the liturgy. Youth will participate in a variety of ways:

- By performing a service for the benefit of the praying congregation: Readers (the readings and the prayer of the faithful at that day's Mass), acolytes, welcoming participants
- Offering a testimony regarding their involvement in the parish or a cause that is important to them;
- Talking about their experience at WYD (why they attended and what fruit they got from it).

After Mass, young people can organize an activity, a time of relaxation and sharing around issues that interest them. They can invite their friends, Catholic or not.

BY WAY OF HOMILY

Taken from the Word of God that the liturgy proposes for our meditation on this feast day, three attitudes/images have caught our attention. They question our way of being Christian and can, therefore, help us to reflect a little on our following of Christ, the King of the universe. As you, dear young people, continue your preparatory walk towards the WYD that will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) in August 2023, we will stop here in order to nourish the spiritual preparation of your pilgrimage to Lisbon, and also to invite our assembly to be challenged by the Word of God.

The first attitude. It is subtly portrayed in the way Luke describes the people. Today's gospel accounts, "Jesus had just been crucified, and the people stood by and watched." The people are presented as mere spectators; they stood by and watched. A sad and macabre scene is unfolding before their eyes, but the people remain silent. They witness something terrible and abject, but they don't move a finger. In fact, the people are there, they are content to watch, to observe a phenomenon, an event without intervening, without getting involved. Do we feel, do we allow ourselves to be challenged, to be pro-voiced by what is happening, by what is lived around us?

Living in a world that fundamentally needs to be transformed for the good of all, dear young people, you have the heavy responsibility of being that conscience that must remind us never to live as a spectator in front of the challenges of our time, in front of everything that endangers both the human being and his future. Teach us not to stand still when human life is violated and its dignity is destroyed, when the innocent is unjustly condemned! Open your eyes and open ours to the conflicts and disasters that are tearing our world apart today and threatening our common future. You are our future.

Frightened and paralyzed by fear, the people were silent. Dear young people, it does not have to be like that for you. The world does not only need people who are content to see, to observe. It also needs people who set out resolutely, real actors of change.

The second attitude is that of Jesus. It originates in the cry of the now famous good thief. "Remember me", the evildoer said. To this call, to this prayer, the crucified Innocent One does not remain deaf. He hears our calls, listens and responds by reassuring us, by offering us peace. This is the King we need. He who reassures us while revealing to us the very purpose of our journey in his footsteps: "Today you will be with me in paradise". The purpose of our spiritual pilgrimage, of our walk in his footsteps is well expressed. We are called to be where our Master is, here and now.

The third attitude: To be ready, to accept God's plan. I take it from the first reading. Here, we are talking about an exceptional step. If David became King of Israel, as we know, the initiator of this project is none other than God. He chose David to be the shepherd of my people, the leader of Israel. But in today's text, it is the tribes of Israel who set out. They come to ask David to be their king. Strange attitude, isn't it!

Dear young people, God calls and his call to mission always resounds in us. But it is important to set out on our own, to be ready, to accept that Christ reigns in and over our lives. God proposes his project to our freedom, but he wants us to accept it freely. If you are in this place, in this parish today, it is because you have accepted that Christ reigns in you and over you, over your lives. This is not an answer to be given once and for all, but to be renewed at every moment because the Lord is always there, standing at the door, knocking. It is a time to give thanks for every moment in which we have been able to open our hearts to him. It is also the time to become aware of the resistance that is still within us and that makes us afraid to say to Christ: "Be our shepherd, be our king."

Lord, King of the universe. In your compassion, receive and consent to answer these prayers which your family has just presented to you. By your grace, may our lives be a fragrance of good odor that is eternally spread on your altar. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Introduction

With joy and hope, let us make our own the sentiment that dwells in the heart of the psalmist, and let us now turn to the Lord to present to him the prayer that the Spirit stirs up in our hearts for the coming of the kingdom.

R/ Give us the power to rise and go with joy to your house.

Intentions

Lord, you always want to draw all people to yourself. Here we are in your house where everything is one. Put in us, Lord, the grace to be in community. R/.

Lord, look upon your people on the move and greatly tried by the harsh realities of our time. Strengthen their faith and enable them to communicate the joy that comes from meeting Christ. R/.

Lord, look at the countries torn apart by wars and violence unjustly imposed upon them. Children, young people and entire families are wandering here and there, looking for a haven of peace. Inspire in the hearts of the decision-makers of our world the desire to seek concord, peace and unity. R/.

Lord, you were always concerned about the situation of those who came to you. May the pursuit of wealth and material well-being not make us indifferent to the cries of the marginalized and the vulnerable. R/.

Lord, model of courage and self-denial. Free us from the fear that grips us and the anxiety that immobilizes us in the face of an uncertain future. R/.

Lord, your children have come up to you to give you thanks. May these days be a time of witness and sharing, of brotherhood, of thanksgiving, may our eyes remain fixed on the true King. R/.

R. Amen.

Conclusion

Lord, King of the universe. In your compassion, receive and consent to answer these prayers which your family has just presented to you. By your grace, may our lives be a fragrance of good odor that is eternally spread on your altar. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Almighty God, you show your goodness to those who love you, and let yourself be found by those who seek you. Be favorable to our young people as they continue this stage of their spiritual pilgrimage. Direct their journey according to your will so that they may arrive happily in your care at the end of their pilgrimage. **R. Amen.**

May the King of the universe open your inner eyes so that you may know how to see him, recognize his voice and listen to him. **R. Amen.**

May he give you the courage to rise up, to truly discover yourself, to overcome the obstacles of life and to follow his Son. **R. Amen.**

May he help you understand that his Son is counting on you. Offer him your hearts, your intelligence and your talents for the transformation of the Church and the world. **R. Amen.**

And may God himself bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

AN ANNOUNCEMENT TEMPLATE

The World Youth Day 2023 is coming soon. From the first to the sixth of August 2023, young people from all over the world will gather around the Pope in Lisbon (Portugal) to live good moments of meeting, sharing and fraternity. In order to prepare our young people to live fruitfully this spiritual pilgrimage, the local WYD will take place in our Diocese on November 20, 2022, on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

In collaboration with parish and diocesan partners, Mission Jeunesse offers you a wide range of interesting activities: [MISSION JEUNESSE MONTREAL the Youth Ministry Office](#). You are all invited to take part. From now on, please also get involved in the preparation of the Mass of Christ the King in your community.

It is with the aim of welcoming the fruits of this new momentum that I have the joy of inviting all the young people of our diocese to gather on the occasion of the 37th Diocesan World Youth Day. All young people from your parish community are welcome: those whom you come across every day, teenagers, young adults, engaged couples, newlyweds, young families, young catechists and also confirmed ones from previous years! The theme of WYD 2022 is : **"Mary arose and went with haste " (Luke 1:39)**

Following Mary's example, let us set out on the road with eagerness, and let the Lord lead us together towards those who are waiting for us today in our communities and in our different living environments.

