



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

May 2022

-For faith-filled young people-

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Fr Joe SJ video, 1min [here](#)

Pope video, 1min thepopevideo.org

Reflection by Fr. Edward Looney

Fr. Edward Looney is a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, a Marian theologian, host of the podcast How They Love Mary, and author of several books. He currently serves as vice-president of the Mariological Society of America.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @FrEdwardLooney

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Our Church has been blessed with many young saints. And even more so today, young people have contemporary men and women from whom they can take inspiration like the tennis playing Bl. Chiara Luce Badano or the internet savvy Bl. Carlo Acutis. Young saints of old also inspire like St. Dominic Savio or St. Maria Goretti. In this month's intention, our Holy Father invites us to consider the youthful witness of Mary, who as a teenage girl, accepted God's plan and mission for her life as Mother of God. When she received the visit from the Archangel Gabriel, she did not hesitate to say "fiat" or let it be done to me.

Mary lived her life to the fullest because she lived her life in conformity to the will of God. She only wanted what God wanted for her life. The fullness of Mary's life resulted from making her home with God himself who became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ.

Mary's life is one worthy of imitation for all Christian believers and especially for young people. There is a lot of noise in the world today which demands the attention of young people often distracting them from listening to God. Mary listened to the angel, and she listened to the words and teachings of Jesus. She listened deep within her heart which compelled her to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary teaches us to listen for the quiet whisper of God in our hearts. Attentive listening to God will enable a deeper discernment as young people hear the call to priesthood, consecrated life, or to marriage.

The courageous Mary of Nazareth asked her son at Cana to aid a couple as they celebrated their marriage. Mary's courage ushered in the Lord's hour and His ministry but also generated faith among the disciples as St. John tells us "his disciples began to believe in him": (John 2: 11). As the mother of God and the mother of all believers, Mary dedicates her life in service of humanity by her prayers of intercession and mediation of grace.

By Mary's prayers, may all young people live their life to the fullest in conformity to God's will, listening and discerning, believing and serving.

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[Leader] Daily offering prayer: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:

the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.

I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,
and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

MAY: For faith-filled young people. We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Grace: We pray for young people, that they may be filled with God's grace and be granted the courage to live a faithful life of discernment.

[Reader 1] Scripture: "And coming to Mary, the Angel said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'" (Luke 1:28-30).

[Reader 2] Quote: "Mary was a young woman whose heart overflowed with joy, whose eyes, reflecting the light of the Holy Spirit, looked at life with faith and treasured all things in her youthful heart. She was energetic, ready to set out immediately once she knew that her cousin needed her. She did not think about her own plans, but went "with haste" to the hill country. When her young son needed protection, Mary set out with Joseph to a distant land. She also joined the disciples in awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In her presence, a young Church was born, as the apostles went forth to give birth to a new world. Today, Mary is the Mother who watches over us, her children, on our journey through life, often weary and in need, anxious that the light of hope not fail. For that is our desire: that the light of hope never fail. Mary our Mother looks to this pilgrim people: a youthful people whom she loves, and who seek her in the silence of their hearts amid all the noise, the chatter and the distractions of the journey. Under the gaze of our Mother, there is room only for the silence of hope. Thus Mary illumines anew our youth" (Pope Francis, *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation: Christus Vivit #46-48*)

[Leader] Reflection questions:

A world full of possibilities and opportunities, can be both freeing and overwhelming. How does God move your heart in response to these possibilities? How is God calling you to "say yes," to a life dedicated to Him? *[All: take 1 min in quiet reflection; 2 min to journal; and then share a with the group]*

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