

# — CALLED TO — ACCOMPANY

## PILLAR I: THE VISION OF YOUTH MINISTRY

*"Genuine spiritual accompaniment always begins and flourishes in the context of service to the mission of evangelization."  
Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 173*

### INTRODUCTION TO PILLAR I

To be a youth ministry volunteer is to answer God's call to accompany young people on a journey of faith. Knowing the Church's vision for youth ministry; understanding the spiritual, social, and emotional development of today's young people; and considering one's own gifts in ministry are key areas to explore when preparing to journey with youth.

### STEP 1: OPENING PRAYER

Lead all participants in the following prayer. At the end, spend a few moments in silent prayer.

*Lord Jesus, [...] your Church turns her attention to all the young people of the world. We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of the life and always keep their hearts unencumbered. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.*

*Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from you. May they be witness to your Resurrection and be aware that they are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord, Amen.<sup>1</sup>*

### STEP 2: WATCH THE VIDEO ENTITLED "WELCOME"

Encourage the participants to take simple notes during the video.

### STEP 3: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lead the participants in a group discussion:

- What are the gifts youth bring to the Church?
- What is Youth Ministry and how have you experienced the three aspects of Youth Ministry?
- What are some faith abilities that we want to help young people develop?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco\\_pregchiere\\_20170408\\_giovani.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco_pregchiere_20170408_giovani.html)



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### STEP 4: WATCH THE VIDEO ENTITLED “GENERATION Z”

Encourage the participants to take simple notes during the video.

### STEP 5: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lead the participants in a group discussion:

- What are the developmental characteristics of today’s youth?
- What are the spiritual characteristics of today’s youth?
- What are some ways in which you can facilitate encounters with God among youth?

### STEP 6: WATCH THE VIDEO ENTITLED “WORKING WITH TEENS”

Encourage the participants to take simple notes during the video.

### STEP 7: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lead the participants in a group discussion:

- What are some important characteristics of a youth ministry volunteer?
- What is not your role as a volunteer in youth ministry?
- Which tips for interacting with youth did you find most helpful? Why?

### STEP 8: CLOSING PRAYER

Lead all participants in the following prayer:

*Lord you left your Mother in our midst that she might accompany us. May she take care of us and protect us on our journey, in our hearts, in our faith. May she make us disciples like herself, missionaries like herself. May she teach us to go out onto the streets. May she teach us to step outside ourselves.... May she, by her meekness, by her peace, show us the way.<sup>2</sup>*

*Lord, we entrust to you our work in Youth Ministry. May the youth see and experience the Christ in each of us. May we decrease so that you may increase. May you be glorified.*

*Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.*

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<sup>2</sup> [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130725\\_gmg-argentini-rio.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130725_gmg-argentini-rio.html)