

# Journeying with Youth

**To accompany young people in the creation of a hope filled future.**

During the Synod for Youth held in 2018, the people involved, learned many things but perhaps the most important thing that was learned was the importance of listening. So, the Synod listened to the young people present, and it learned....

It learned that...

‘..... coming together in this way creates the conditions for the Church to become a space for dialogue and a witness to a life-giving fraternity.’

Just as we need to make our churches and communities more open and welcoming to the marginalised and excluded that we thought about last week, we need to do the same thing with our young people. Too often as parents, we become used to the role of telling our young people how to behave and how to live their lives. It is a necessary part of what we do but as members of the church community, everything changes.

This UAP challenges us to see the young people in our midst in a different way. They are already present in the church and just as we listen to the marginalised, excluded and each other, we need to listen to what our young people have to say. We are on a journey, together, the same journey with the same mission. It is a journey into the future and the mission, as it has always been, is to bring the love of our God to everyone we meet – including the young.

When we think of the future, however, we may be forgiven for being rather fearful. We look at what is happening around us and we are tempted to believe that it will all end in disaster. The future seems anything but hopeful.

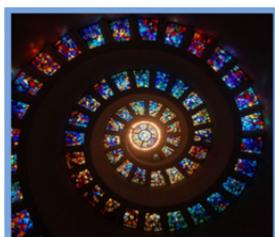
What matters to our young people?

What makes them angry?

Why do they do the things they do?

The answers to these questions are many and complex but if we look a little closer, we might be surprised to learn that what matters to them is the struggle against poverty and injustice as well as the ecological struggle and our care of the planet. It matters to them just as much as it compels us to take action, so, perhaps we are not that different after all.

What looks different is the way we deal with all of these issues and that is where, if we are truly listening to them, we will learn new ways of trying to resolve these important issues in a modern digital, online world where it is now possible to be aware, instantly, of what is happening on our planet, even if we live on the other side of it.



**Universal Apostolic Preferences: Our United Mission**

We, as church and as adults, have much to offer our young people as educators and guides. We must learn how to accompany our young people who may be vulnerable, in the hope that they will find grounds for hope in the connections they build with and through us to society. We, like the Synod, must learn to listen to our young people and encourage them to be hopeful and listen to the voice of Jesus, who tells us all, "Do not be afraid, I am with you."

Let us say this prayer with our young people. We can all ask God to enlighten us and help us create the space for dialogue and a witness to a life-giving fraternity in our parish and in our community.

**Shine your truth into our hearts.**

**May we hear you in music, see you in art and experience you through the love and care of family, friends, and teachers.**

**Build your hope into our lives.**

**May we sense this hope rise in our hearts as we encounter the power of nature, the majesty of the oceans and the beauty in creation.**

**Come sow your wisdom into our minds.**

**May we discover wisdom as we read our bibles, discuss deeper issues of life or encounter hardships or difficulties.**

**Come weave your love into our dreams. May we find vision in our interests, opportunities for our talents and aspirations for our abilities.**

**May we know you more and more.**

**Amen.**