

## Our Charism

Our charism of responding to the Lord's call in truth, freedom, and care is central to our community of Youth Apostles. When the Consecrated make the promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience there is a fourth promise where the Consecrated promises "to live in the truth which leads to faith, the freedom which leads to hope and the care which leads to charity; to be honest, to be discipline, and to show deep concern for youth" (General Statutes Appendix 6). In Youth Apostles, "we dedicate ourselves to live out the Lord's commandment of love which transcends the cross and brings new life into the world. Christ's teaching is clear: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, live on in my love' (Jn. 15:9). We also intend to live a life of absolute truth which will in turn enable us to experience the freedom promised by the Lord when he said to his followers: 'If you live according to my teaching, you are truly my disciples; then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free' (Jn. 8:31b-32). **Inspired and strengthened by the Lord's example of love, truth and freedom, we have responded to His call to discipleship by accepting to become brothers in the Truth, free to love as he loved"** (GS 1.8).

### A Response in Love

**"The Youth Apostles Institute has been founded with the ultimate purpose of inspiring youth to a Christ-like life based on the Lord's sacrificial love.** The love which Christ shares with his followers contains an element of sacrifice: 'Love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' (Jn 15:12-13). We wish to model for youth this intimate connection between love and sacrifice. As adult Christians we are willing to die to ourselves that youth may live in imitation of Christ who died for all that they may have new life. Young people will come to recognize this new life of grace which comes from God through the love and sacrifice of committed Youth Apostles" (GS 1.9).

### A Response in Truth

"Our community has not only been founded on the Lord's commandment of love, but also upon his commitment to truth" (GS 1.17). "As Youth Apostles we strive to be consecrated to the truth and to inspire youth to live a life of truth. The Lord himself prayed: "Consecrate them by means of truth-Your word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). God the Father is the source of all truth and He shared this truth with the world through His Son...It is only through closeness to God that mankind can remain faithful to the truth, and this closeness occurs through an enriched interior life, cultivated through prayer and the Sacraments" (GS 1.18). "The ultimate value of truth is further nurtured in young people in an atmosphere of openness and truth... Youth must be taught the value of honesty and self-disclosure in a world that believes in lies and deceit. We are convinced that this is achieved by fostering the development of personal friendships between adults and young people...The Youth Apostles Institute is committed to be 'salt of the earth' (Mt. 5:13) to bring new flavor to God's Word by applying the Gospel to the numerous and varied situations in which youth find themselves in the world. **This means we are committed to preach, to instruct, to advise, to challenge, to console, to forgive, to bring youth back to Christ within the Catholic Church in the most creative and effective ways possible"** (GS 1.22-1.24).

## A Response in Freedom

“Our community finds its own personal liberation in a life based on the Lord’s commandment of love and his commitment to the truth. Love God and others, live in the truth, ‘...and the truth will set you free’ (Jn. 8:32b). **Love and truth lead us to freedom, and it is ‘only in freedom that man can turn himself toward what is good’** (*Gaudium et Spes #17*)...Our work, as apostles to the youth, is to empower them to choose correctly by teaching them that difficult choices made in freedom require personal discipline, a willingness to make sacrifices, and obedience to God and His Church” (GS 1.26).