

## What is Consecrated Life in Youth Apostles?

Consecrated life in Youth Apostles is a radical way of life dedicated to God. Through this life the Consecrated grow in love and service to God, the community, and the youth. There are two different forms of Consecrated life. A man can be a Consecrated priest or a Consecrated layman in Youth Apostles. Both take promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

The promise of poverty is “to be poor that others may be enriched, and to live a life of simplicity, generosity and concern for others” (General Statutes Appendix 6). As Consecrated, our simplicity and our generosity with our time and talents are ways that we no longer live for ourselves but rather for God and for others.

The promise of chastity is “to be celibate as the ultimate expression of an undivided heart working for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, and to love others for their own sake rather than my own pleasure” (GS App 6). Consecrated celibacy is a total gift of self made out of love for Christ and His Church. This free sacrifice of marriage and family life allows the consecrated member to devote all his energies to the Kingdom, especially to the youth. “Sacrificing family life does not mean that the consecrated member lives without human love. On the contrary, the heart of the consecrated member is open to love and to be loved by everyone. This love, experienced and fostered primarily within community, is to be shared with all the Christian faithful, most especially the youth to whom the member ministers” (Internal Guidelines for Consecrated Full Members 2.3).

The promise of obedience is “to be obedient to the Will of the Father, to the Magisterium of the Church and to the established authority of the Youth Apostles Institute, and to free my will from personal likes or selfish concerns, in order to be prompt to follow Christ and be close to Him” (GS App 6). Obedience involves being aware that God is working through the community. Respecting those in authority in all matters gives the most solid foundation for the will of God to reign and for the community to grow. This promise of obedience preserves the unity of the community and encourages the growth of the individual and the community.