

CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite members of the BEC to say the concluding prayer

CLOSING HYMN:

Hail, Queen of Heaven



1. Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.
Guide the wand'rer here below!
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.
2. O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers thro' thee.
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.
3. Sojourners in this vale of tears,
To thee, blest advocate, we cry.
Oh, pity our sorrows, calm our fears.
And soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, Star of the sea,
Pray for the mourner, pray for me.

BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE OCT 2018

BEC Reflection

HOPE:

I AM CROSSING FRONTIERS AND JOURNEYING IN CHRIST

FOCUS: SELF EVENT: SYNOD OF YOUTH

INTRODUCTION:

Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment." It will be held in Rome in October 2018. The Preparatory Document describes the purpose of the General

Assembly as an opportunity for the Church "to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective way to announce the Good News today."



OPENING PRAYER:

Invite a member of the BEC to say the opening prayer.

OPENING HYMN:

BE NOT AFRAID

1. You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words to foreign men
And they will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Chorus:

***Be not afraid, I go before you always,
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.***

2. If you pass thru' raging waters in the sea
You shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
You shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell
And death is at your side,
Know that I am with you – through it all.
3. Blessed are your poor
for the Kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
For one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked men insult and
hate you all because of Me,
Blessed – blessed – are you.

DIALOGUE:

In Part 3 of the preparatory document for the Synod of Bishops, a number of key points on how the Christian community can journey with young people today has been described. We will examine three points for today's reflection.

1. Walking with young people

Accompanying young people requires going beyond any preconceived structures and mindset. Young people must be encountered where they are and we have to adapt to their times and pace of life and take them seriously. This is to be done as young people seek to make sense of the reality in which they live and seek in their daily lives to create a personal history and in the search for meaning in their lives. The document states that, "every community needs to give importance to creative ways of addressing young people in a personal way and supporting personal development." This is about "going out, seeing, and calling. It's about going to where they are, spending time with them, learning about them and calling them as Jesus did."

2. Accepting young people as agents

In any pastoral activity, young people are not objects but agents. Often, society tends to see them as "non-essential or inconvenient". The Church cannot reflect such an attitude, because "all young people, without exception, have the right to be guided in life's journey." The document states that, "communities must be attentive to young people, especially those who are in certain difficulties. The entire Church is responsible for educating and guiding young people".

3. The entire community must feel responsible for the young

The entire Christian community must feel the responsibility of educating the young. In fact, those who are involved in this work deserve to be given recognition, starting with those who have assumed this responsibility within Church. The efforts of those who witness to the Gospel and share the joy that flows from it should be admired as well. In addition, the Church has to give importance to young people's involvement in the diocesan and parish communities, starting with pastoral councils. Young people should be invited to make their creative contribution and accepting their ideas, even when they appear challenging.

Questions for discussion

- **What does it mean that the Christian community should "go out, seeking and calling" young people?**
- **How do you think young people in the parish or BEC are viewed by the elders or senior members?**
- **Are the young people in the parish or BEC invited to contribute their ideas? If they do, are their views and ideas accepted?**

(To read the full document, go to: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20170113_documento-preparatorio-xv_en.html)

DISCERNMENT:

Luke 24, 30-33

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.

Reflection:

- We shall reread the text and then remain in silence listening to God speaking to us in our hearts.
- We share on any word or phrase in the text that touched us.

Deeds:

- In general, do young people participate in our BEC gatherings? If yes, why? If no, why not?

In what way(s) can we, as adult members of the BEC, show our care and support to young people in our BEC/parish/community even if they may not be actively participating in our BEC gatherings?