

E-BULLETIN #123

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 232

Francis in the Upper Room

It is a great gift that the Lord has given us by bringing us together here in the Upper Room for the celebration of the Eucharist. Here, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with the apostles; where, after his resurrection, he appeared in their midst; where the Holy Spirit descended with power upon Mary and the disciples. Here the Church was born, and was born *to go forth*. From here she *set out*, with the broken bread in her hands, the wounds of Christ before her eyes, and the Spirit of love in her heart.



In the Upper Room, the risen Jesus, sent by the Father, bestowed upon the apostles his own Spirit and with this power he sent them forth to renew the face of the earth (cf. Ps 104:30).

To go forth, to set out, does not mean to forget. The Church, in her going forth, preserves the *memory* of what took place

here; *the Spirit, the Paraclete, reminds her of every word and every action, and reveals their true meaning.*

The Upper Room speaks to us of *service*, of Jesus giving the disciples an example by washing their feet. Washing one another's feet signifies welcoming, accepting, loving and serving one another. It means serving the poor, the sick and the outcast.

The Upper Room reminds us, through the Eucharist, of *sacrifice*. In every Eucharistic celebration Jesus offers himself for us to the Father, so that we too can be united with him, offering to God our lives, our work, our joys and our sorrows... offering everything as a spiritual sacrifice.

The Upper Room reminds us of *friendship*. "No longer do I call you servants – Jesus said to the Twelve – but I have called you friends" (Jn 15:15). The Lord makes us his friends, he reveals God's will to us and he gives us his very self. This is the most beautiful part of being a Christian and, especially, of being a priest: becoming a friend of the Lord Jesus.

The Upper Room reminds us of the Teacher's *farewell* and his *promise* to return to his friends: "When I go... I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (Jn 14:3). Jesus does not leave us, nor does he ever abandon us; he precedes us to the house of the Father, where he desires to bring us as well.

The Upper Room, however, also reminds us of *pettiness*, of *curiosity* – “Who is the traitor?” – and of *betrayal*. We ourselves, and not just others, can reawaken those attitudes whenever we look at our brother or sister with contempt, whenever we judge them, whenever by our sins we betray Jesus.

The Upper Room reminds us of *sharing*, *fraternity*, *harmony* and *peace* among ourselves. How much love and goodness has flowed from the Upper Room! How much charity has gone forth from here, like a river from its source, beginning as a stream and then expanding and becoming a great torrent. All the saints drew from this source; and hence the great river of the Church’s holiness continues to flow: from the Heart of Christ, from the Eucharist and from the Holy Spirit.



Lastly, the Upper Room reminds us of the birth of the *new family*, the Church, established by the risen Jesus; a family that has a Mother, the Virgin Mary. Christian families belong to this great family, and in it they find the light and strength to press on and be renewed, amid the challenges and difficulties of life. All God’s children, of every people and language, are invited and called to be part of this great family, as brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of the one Father in heaven.

These horizons are opened up by the Upper Room, the horizons of the Risen Lord and his Church. From here the Church goes forth, impelled by the life-giving breath of the Spirit. Gathered in prayer with the Mother of Jesus, the Church lives in constant expectation of a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Send forth your Spirit, Lord, and renew the face of the earth (cf. *Ps 104:30*)!

**Pope Francis – Jerusalem – ISRAEL
26.05.14**

item 233

the Jesus Youth movement



Jesus Youth is an international Catholic youth movement with a charismatic spirituality. It is an initiative of young people themselves who, ‘filled with the Holy Spirit try to reach out to other young people’. The strength of the movement is its special focus on a life centered on the Lord Jesus Christ: beginning with an experience of God nourished by prayer, the Word of God, the sacraments and fellowship, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

beginnings

The Jesus Youth Movement has its origin in the state of Kerala, in southern India.

In 1985, the International Youth Year, many young people from different parts of the state came together for a three-day Youth Conference titled 'Jesus Youth Conference'. Afterwards, any youth who participated in this conference began to be identified as a 'Jesus Youth'.

Five years after the movement started, in the 1990s, Jesus Youth began to spread to other parts of India. Gradually, many Jesus Youth who traveled abroad for employment spread the movement in many other Asian countries including South East Asia and in the Middle East. As of 2014 it was also active in Australia,

New Zealand, various parts of Europe such as United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Ireland, etc., and in the North American continent, namely United States and Canada.

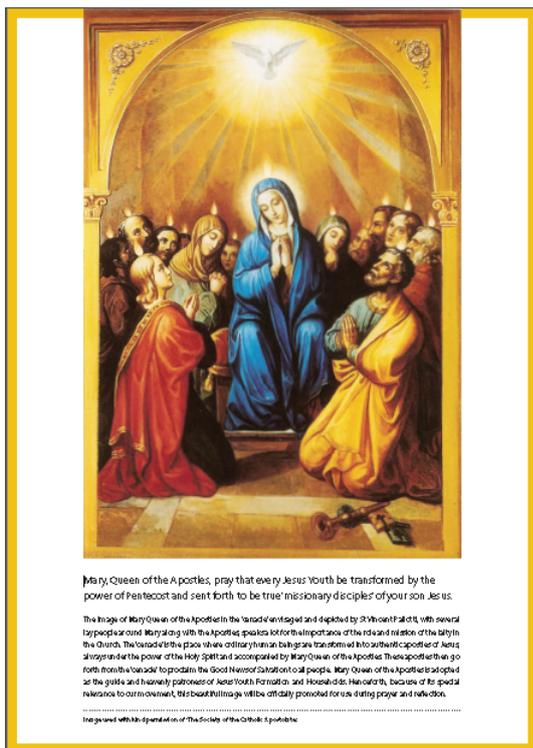
On 29 October 2008, Jesus Youth received approval from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. The process of being recognised as an 'International Private Association of Christian Faithful of Pontifical Right' officially began on 24 August 2009 with the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

ministry

Though not an actual community Jesus Youth is a network of small but vibrant groups of young people. In their own life situations they strive to give time to the Lord, responding to the problems of today's world in the power of the Holy Spirit. They commit to an option in their lives for the poor, helping those burdened with poverty and deprivation.

For full time volunteers there is a year long formation program, with 40 days training and one year full time missionary commitment to work in different parts of the world. Every Pentecost Sunday is considered as their recommitment day.

Jesus Youth prays the novena to the Holy Spirit. In most countries, during the 100 days between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost, Eucharistic adoration is organised either round the clock or from morning till evening. Here in Rome we are having 9 days of adoration between 0830 and 2030.



Mary, Queen of Apostles, patroness

The image of Mary, Queen of Apostles in the cenacle envisaged and depicted by St Vincent Pallotti, with several lay people around Mary together with the apostles, speaks a lot about the importance and role and mission of the laity in the church.

Mary, Queen of Apostles has recently been adopted as the guide and heavenly patroness of Jesus Youth. They have been granted special permission from the Society of the Catholic Apostolate to use the image as depicted.

Mary, Queen of the Apostles, pray that every Jesus Youth be transformed by the power of Pentecost and sent forth to be true 'missionary disciples' of your son Jesus

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you commented...

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