

*The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is His Name!*

[Lk 1:49]



# **FORMATION PROGRAM**

**for the local celebration  
December 16**

# We Are Blessed, Jovenes!

NYD2017 theme song

Music by Mark Anthony Tolentino | Lyrics by Chester Hans Tolentino

*The Lord calls us in many ways.  
He touches our hearts with warm embrace.  
Yet many times, we doubt and fear.  
We lose hope; His voice we could not hear.*

Mary has taught us a great example:  
Obey God and believe in miracles,  
For the Lord is kind and merciful.  
He forgives us when we fall.

Let our spirit rejoice in our Savior  
And glorify Him now and forever!  
We are blessed, jovenes!  
To God's challenge, we say YES!

**Rejoice for God is almighty!  
Preach the Good News of love and mercy!  
Let us joyfully sing and proclaim:  
We exalt; holy is His Name!  
Great things the Lord has done  
With the Spirit and Christ the Son  
(We are blessed, jovenes)!  
With hearts strong, gathered as one,  
All praises to the Mighty One!**

*Amidst trials and difficulty,  
We pray as one community.  
Inspired by Mary's humility,  
We strive to be holy,  
Bearers of peace and unity.*

Music video with lyrics available here--<https://www.facebook.com/sharethebestzambo2017/videos/1395000850569747/>

Episcopal Commission on Youth  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines  
**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

**Dear Young People,**

What great things God has done for you?

Surely, being part of the National Youth Day 2017 is one of them!

As we praise the Lord for this grace, may I invite you to join us, the Episcopal Commission on Youth of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, in expressing our deep gratitude to the Archdiocese of Zamboanga for being home to the national celebration of the NYD2017! We thank from our hearts Most Rev. ROMULO DELA CRUZ, DD, his youth ministers in the archdiocesan youth ministry, and the rest of the people of God of Zamboanga for opening the western door of Mindanao for us and welcoming us all to the first diocese created in Mindanao! I also thank my brother bishops for their prayers, presence and support in this grand celebration of faith for our Filipino Catholic youth!

Your coming together to celebrate the NYD2017 in our local communities, i.e. dioceses, parishes, BEC's and other settings, becomes a revelation of God's greatness, as expressed in the NYD2017 theme, "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name" [Lk 1:49], the biblical text proposed by Pope Francis for the local celebration of the World Youth Day 2017.

Let us allow the words of our Blessed Mother to accompany us in our NYD celebration this year. Like Mary, let us see how we can make such a proclamation. Let us look back in our lives and see how our Father is at work. If we look at the life of our Blessed Mother, we gaze with wonder at the moment in Luke's Gospel where she was first mentioned, the Annunciation: young as she is, in deep faith and trust she accepted God's invitation and accepted the role of allowing the Word in her heart to become enfleshed in her womb, and gave birth to Him, giving us the wonder of our salvation.

This coming together for the NYD2017 is a very fitting occasion for all of us to be in awe at and to give witness to God's greatness. We are surrounded by various challenges and difficulties, but Jesus' love for us and our love for Him give us the strength and confidence to witness as young people in mission, together with our communities, especially our parishes—communion of communities.

Joining Mary's Magnificat, let our experience of the NYD2017—encountering new people and gaining new friends, receiving inputs and insights, learning and having fun together, coming to prayer and the Sacraments, among others—solidify our bond with one another and with our Lord Jesus.

May this NYD2017 find us becoming like the Name of our Mighty God: HOLY. And that is the greatest thing we can allow God to do to each of us.

With you in the NYD2017,

**+ LEOPOLDO C. JAUCIAN, SVD, DD**

Bishop of Bangued

Chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*This formation program was prepared by the **Archdiocese of Zamboanga** and its archdiocesan youth ministry office, the **Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate**, through the **NYD2017 Formation Team** headed by Rev. Fr. Wilfredo Samson, SJ, in close coordination with the **ECY Secretariat**.*

# NYD2017 Prayer

## **Almighty God**

The Foundation of our communion and life,  
We gather in Your great love as Your children  
As we face the challenges of division and the threats to life.

## **Blessed with Your grace**

With all the great things that You have done for us,  
We begin this journey of faith, hope and love  
As we open our entire being to Your Voice that calls us to serve

## **Amidst all our fears and brokenness**

Make us firm with the strength of the pillar of our Blessed Mother Mary  
And with her inspiration of perfect discipleship  
Grant us the courage to commit with Fiat to a life-long service

## **Send us to the mission**

As we become agents of peace and reconciliation  
And help build Your kingdom of love and justice  
Where all the yearnings of our hearts find fullness  
Through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Savior and Friend.

**Amen.**

Mary, Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar, pray for us.  
St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, pray for us.  
St. Francisco and Jacinta Marto of Fatima, pray for us.  
St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta, pray for us.  
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.  
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.  
St. Pope John Paul II, Patron of World Youth Days, pray for us.

*The lines in bold letters is the SHORT FORM of the prayer.  
Hence, the short form shall be read like this:*

**Almighty God,  
Blessed with Your grace  
Amidst all our fears and brokenness,  
Send us to the mission.  
Amen.**

*Note: We highly encourage that the National Youth Day 2017 Prayer be read in all Sunday Masses, specifically at Post-Communion proper, starting on July 16, 2017 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time and all succeeding Sundays thereafter until December 16, 2017 – on the occasion of the local celebration of the National Youth Day in all parishes. The same may also be used by youth ministries during meetings and other gatherings.*



**NYD 2017**  
NATIONAL YOUTH DAY  
**ZAMBOANGA**  
6 - 10 | November

# CONCEPTUAL PLAN

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## Theme

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name...” [Lk 1:49]

The Scripture theme of the NYD2017 highlights the theme and message of His Holiness Pope Francis to the youth on the occasion of the 32nd World Youth Day (WYD) 2017, which directs us to reflect on the words of our Blessed Mother in her Magnificat, in the Gospel of St. Luke.

## Objectives

Through this gathering of young disciples of Jesus, it is our hope that the pilgrims will deepen their faith-experience, fellowship with co-pilgrims, and compel them to:

1. **REDISCOVER** their giftedness and potential to make a difference in our society and in the Church.
2. **BE MORE AWARE** of their own parochial issues and challenges, but at the same time, as part of the universal church, to “think universal” as Pope Francis would suggest.
3. Like our Blessed Mother, **BE MORE DISCERNING AND SOCIALLY ENGAGED** by acquiring deeper skill on how to read the signs of times, pray and reflect, discern well according to gospel values, and make decisive life-changing actions.
4. **SPEAK OUT** and produce significant and well-discerned data on “issues and challenges of the world” as requested by Pope Francis, in preparation for the coming Synod of Bishops in 2018.

## Time Element

The full program is designed for 3 days. Its different sessions and/ or elements may be implemented via a series of meetings, with the last session as the culminating activity, or main celebration of the NYD2017.

## Mode of Celebration

Target date of implementing this program is 2017 December 16, or on dates near it.

This 2017 celebration was first implemented at the national level, hosted by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga; the succeeding implementation will be in local levels, i.e. dioceses, vicariates, parishes, schools, youth organizations, etc.

The program may also be adapted in the celebration of other youth events, such as Diocesan Youth Day. In this case, it may be necessary to orient the participants about the NYD.

## Sessions

The program unfolds via the following sessions:

### OPENING DAY\*

Arrival  
Opening Eucharistic Celebration  
Welcome Program

### DAY 1, with the theme: "I Am Flawed"

Morning Prayer  
Preliminaries: Welcome, Introduction  
Getting-to-Know Activity  
Plenary Session  
Reflection and Sharing  
NYD Run - 1  
Marian Procession  
Holy Eucharist  
(Evening Prayer with Foster Families)

### DAY 2, with the theme: "I Am Good and Gifted"

Morning Prayer  
Preliminaries: Animation, Recap, Orientation  
Plenary Session  
Reflection and Sharing  
NYD Run - 2  
Holy Rosary  
Holy Eucharist in the Parishes  
Parish Night: Barrio Fiesta

### DAY, with the theme: "We are Called to Make a Difference"

Morning Prayer  
Preliminaries: Animation, Recap, Orientation  
Plenary Session  
Reflection and Sharing  
Synthesis  
Reconciliation Rite  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Holy Eucharist: Commitment to Mother Mary  
Grand Festival Night

## CLOSING DAY\*

Send-off Eucharistic Celebration  
De-Registration  
Submission of Evaluation Forms and Departure

\*The content for the Opening and Closing Days is entrusted to the organizing youth ministry office. It is possible to hold the welcome for participants before the first activity of Day 1, and to integrate the closing of the celebration into the last activity of Day 3.

### Pre-NYD2017 Program

The pre-NYD2017 program aims to supply participants a helpful and interactive experience to prepare for the (local) celebration of the NYD2017. Organizers of these celebrations, i.e. youth ministry offices, are highly encouraged to propose this preparatory session to their invited participants.

### Youth Ministry Week (YM Week)

The week preceding the NYD (i.e. December 09-15) is celebrated as YOUTH MINISTRY WEEK, cf. Resolution of the National Youth Coordinating Council (NYCC) 2003, title revised in the NYCC2017. The animation of this weeklong celebration is entrusted to the REGIONAL YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCILS.

## On the ORGANIZERS, LOGISTICS and PARTICIPANTS

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1. Organizers: This Formation Program is ideally run by a team of youth ministers, with the following roles and responsibilities:
  - + Main Facilitator: A youth minister who spearheads the implementation of the entire program. He/She steers the entire Organizing Team towards providing the participants a meaningful experience of the NYD2017; for example, at the level of the diocese, this role is suitable for the Diocesan Youth Director.
  - + Organizing Team: Composed of youth ministers and leaders who, together with the Main Facilitator, takes on the mission of implementing the NYD2017 Formation Program. Each of them works on specific areas connected to the program, such as training of facilitators, animation, preparation of materials, etc.



- + Emcees: Youth ministers or leaders who guide the participants during plenary sessions, including those parts of the program which are outside the modules, e.g. assembling, welcoming, break times, etc. They should be equipped with facilitating skills.
- + Group Facilitators: Youth ministers or leaders who, as needed, take charge of sessions in small groups.

### Note in Selecting Facilitators

When choosing facilitators, it is helpful to consider some important skills. Facilitators should have good communication skills to be able to give clear instructions to the participants, and should be able to have a clear grasp of the program, to contextualize it to the participants and to make it flow in a logical way. They should also be capable of engaging and leading the participants to full and active participation in the activities.

### 2. Logistics: Overall, this formation program requires the following:

- + A suitable venue, spacious for moving around and for small group sharing, with smaller venues where the stations for the Station Walk can happen
- + Audio-visual equipment (sound system, microphones, LCD projector, computer, etc.) to address and communicate to a large assembly
- + Other materials needed per session are indicated in the modules.

If writing materials (i.e. pen, journal and some pieces of paper) will not be provided for the participants, it is important, when they are invited to this gathering, that they be informed to bring their own.

### 3. Number of Participants: Young people are welcome to participate; this is for them! However, to facilitate the flow of the program, and perhaps, also to consider the size of the venue, the number of participants needs to be limited to a maximum of 500 persons; more than this number may require a simultaneous program to be held at another venue, or on a separate day.

### Other Notes for the Organizing Team

Though the roles in the Organizing Team are varied and distinct, it is important that each one in the Team has a full grasp of the program. Following are concrete proposals as guide in assuming these critical roles in this program:

a. Know the WYD2017 Message by heart, and make it your own.

It is beneficial for you to read and reflect on the Holy Father's Message. Consider it personally addressed to you. Keep it present in your mind and heart everywhere and at all times. This will surely lead you to effectively carry out your role/s in this program.

b. Go through the whole process of each session over and over again.

Have a good grasp of the session objectives and the flow by which the session aims to achieve them. Practice what you are going to say. Write down your thoughts if necessary.

c. Be constantly present.

As you would notice, there are sessions or moments in a session where you may not have a direct task. However, it is helpful to be constantly present, actively participating in the activities, listening to the inputs and sharings. Be open to assist your teammates as needed, e.g. distributing handouts, animating, etc.

d. Pray.

It is God's work that you partake in this NYD2017 celebration, so remain always connected to Him. Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide you, the rest of the Organizing Team, and the participants, along a meaningful NYD2017 journey.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI tells us, in his WYD2015 message, "Find in the Eucharist the wellspring of your life of faith and Christian witness, regularly attending Mass each Sunday and whenever you can during the week. Approach the sacrament of Reconciliation frequently."

Make available the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the NYD celebration, or encourage the participants to go to confession before coming to the NYD as part of their preparations.

It is furthermore suggested that the NYD2017 Formation Program conclude with a Closing Eucharist to celebrate as a community of faith, as well as to make it as a send-off for the participants to commit to live the Holy Father's invitation to become "Christian revolutionaries".

# DELEGATION PREPARATORY SESSION

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The local celebration of the NYD is made richer if it becomes a gathering of youth in the local church coming from various settings--for example, if the local celebration is in a diocese, it will be meaningful to have delegations of young people from the parishes, schools, youth movements and other settings within the diocese.

Each delegation is highly encouraged to gather at least once before the NYD2017. For groups going on a trip, there is a marked difference between a group where camaraderie and a shared purpose for the trip are already established as compared with a group where either or both are absent, or perhaps weak. This encounter of the delegation is of course upon the responsibility of the Delegation Head and Assistant Head; the following guide is offered for their use and guidance.

Additional tips:

- + Announce the schedule as early as possible; make sure all delegates (youth and adults; lay and clergy and religious) are enabled to attend.
- + Hold the session in a venue which is best for everyone; for example, if the Bishop's house is located in a central venue in the diocese, have it there, where the Bishop can even meet his delegation.
- + Work together as Head and Assistant Head in preparing for this session; as needed, involve other youth ministers and even selected delegates.

## 1. OPENING PRAYER

A liturgical text is prepared (see page 69)

## 2. WELCOMING AND ORIENTATION

Coming from the prayer, begin the session in a welcoming spirit and in an effort to come to a shared conviction regarding the importance of the gathering. If you will use the liturgical text provided here, then you will see it includes this segment.

## 3. GROUP DYNAMICS

According to your assessment of the group, engage them in an activity which will break the ice, further their acquaintance with one another, and celebrate the person and presence of everyone. A proposed activity is offered (see page 72).

## Session I: POPE FRANCIS WRITES TO US

This session hopes to help the participants to read and understand the Scripture theme of the NYD2017, the same theme of the World Youth Day 2017 which Pope Francis deepened in his message.

Materials:

Copies of the message of the Pope Francis to the WYD2017 (see page 63)

Strips of paper

Writing materials (which each delegate can be asked to bring)

Sound system, music conducive for reflection

### 1. INTRODUCTION

*As we prepare ourselves for the upcoming National Youth Day celebration, it is very good and fitting that we begin reflecting and taking to heart the theme of this celebration.*

*The Scripture theme, “The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name”, is taken from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verse 49. This is the Scripture theme chosen by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for this year’s World Youth Day. From his yearly messages to us, youth of the whole world, from 2014-2016 which were all lifted from the Beatitudes, from 2017-2019, he offers us messages inspired by words of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our mother too, she who is our perfect example of Christian discipleship.*

*Thus, let us allow our Holy Father to guide us spiritually in our journey towards the NYD2017 as we read and reflect on his message for the WYD2017.*

### 2. READING OF THE MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WYD2017

Each participant receives a copy of the of the WYD2017 message (text available in the Appendices). Ask the assembly who among them have read the message; affirm those who have. Whether one has read or not, invite everyone now to participate in the activity.

The following will be observed as flow of the activity, which may run for 20-30 minutes:

- + The participants divide themselves into small groups, with around 4-5 in a small group so that the sound to be generated from the reading will not be too loud. They are invited to do brief self-introduction as necessary.
- + In their respective groups, they take turns in reading aloud, in a reflective way, each paragraph of the WYD2017 message, until the end.
- + As they listen to their groupmates read the message, they are invited to highlight or underline the striking words/ phrases/ sentences in the reading. It will be better to highlight intelligently, i.e. omitting the spaces or non-essential words; otherwise, we might fall into the unhelpful fate of highlighting a whole lengthy paragraph or even page!

### 3. REFLECTION AND SHARING

After the group reading, the facilitator invites everyone to a period of reflection, using the following questions:

- + *How did you feel while reading the WYD2017 message?*
- + *What part/s of the message struck you most? Focus on 1-2 points.*
- + *As you prepare for the NYD2017, is there a phrase/ statement from this message which you consider as saying something significant in your preparation? Why did you choose this phrase/ statement?*

After some time of quiet, ask everyone to turn to their small groups and invite them to share their answers there. Provide around 10-15 minutes for this.

Once all groups are finished, invite them to reflect further as a group:

- + *Inspired by your sharing in your group, create a short group prayer (1-2 sentences) which expresses what you commit to do as part of your spiritual preparation for the NYD2017.*

Strips of paper will be given them where they will write their group prayer.

### 4. SYNTHESIS

If possible and appropriate, ask for a few delegates to share in the big group about what was significant in their small group sharing (not necessarily the group prayers, but their feelings, or what was striking from Pope Francis' message).

*Thank you very much for your active participation!*

*From Pope Francis' message to us, young people, we can pick out four (4) specific invitations from him:*

- 1) *To stop for a few minutes at the end of each day to remember the good times and challenges, the things that went well and those that went wrong*
- 2) *To connect with the historical tradition and the prayer of those who have gone before us (to be familiar with the Bible)*
- 3) *To live "eucharistically"—to learn how to give thanks and praise, and not to fixate on our problems and difficulties alone*
- 4) *To rediscover our roots and take up the torch from those who have gone before—to know and appreciate the past (to look to the elderly)*

*Which one among the four do you feel strongly invited to respond to?*

Allow for a few seconds for personal reflection.

*After reading this beautiful letter of Pope Francis to us, let us also be eager to respond to him. If you were to write to Pope Francis, what would you tell him?*

## 5. PERSONAL ACTIVITY

*This coming 2018 will be the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment”.*

*What is a Synod? “The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution of the Catholic Church. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1965, shortly after the close of the Second Vatican Council, to continue the spirit of collegiality and communion that was present at the Council. The Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church's teaching and strengthens her internal discipline.”*

Read more here—

<http://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018/>

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/index.htm)

*“The Holy Father, after the customary consultation with the episcopal conferences, the sui iuris Oriental Catholic Churches and the Union of Superior Generals, as well as hearing the suggestions of the Fathers of the last Synod assembly and the opinion of the 14th Ordinary Council, has established that in October 2018 the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held, on the theme: ‘Youth, faith and vocational discernment’.*

*The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realise it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society.”*

From—

<http://www.news.va/en/news/synod-2018-youth-faith-and-vocational-discernment>

*The Pope is encouraging us to look at our present social realities. What do you see? What do we need to do as future leaders of the world? If you are allowed to talk to Pope Francis, give three important challenges that you may want to consider to be discussed in the forthcoming Synod of Bishops in 2018. What are your suggested solutions?*

*Pope Francis has written to you through his WYD2017 message. This time, write a letter to Pope Francis and bring it to the NYD2017. There, an opportunity to share your letter will be available.*

Give ample time for each one to write his/her personal letter to Pope Francis.

As regards the Synod 2018, you may explore this— <http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>

## 6. CLOSING

When all groups are ready, the facilitator invites everyone to form circles by small groups. At his/her leading, each group will proclaim their group prayer. After every 1 or 2 group prayers, everyone responds with the chant (Taizé):



Sit nomen Domini

Now and for - e - ver more, God's Na - me be e - xal - ted. Praised be God's  
Sit no - men Do - mi - ni sit be - ne - dic - tum. Nunc et in



ho - ly Name, al - le - lu - ia!  
sae - cu - la be - ne - dic - tum!

Music: Taizé

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You may listen (for rehearsal/ getting familiar with the chant) here-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOM8PfwK3q0>

## Session 2: THE NYD2017

This session hopes to provide the participants significant information and knowledge about the NYD and the NYD2017, so that this awareness can support them in making more meaningful their participation.

Materials:

Copy of question and answer key

Placards

Simple tokens as prizes (as needed)

Sound system with available set of appropriate music

Other materials which may be needed according to your planning, e.g. slides for the presentation, visual aids, etc.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Play the NYD2017 Theme Song in the background before opening the session. Then the facilitator welcomes the participants to the next session.

*2. After reflecting on the message of Pope Francis for the WYD2017, which helped us set the right disposition in preparing for the NYD2017, we continue making further preparations for the event as we learn more about the NYD and the theme of our celebration for this year's celebration.*

### **2. GAME**

The facilitator then engages the participants to a game where the participants will get to know some details about the NYD.

2.1. The participants are divided into small groups (the groups from Session 1 may be used). They form a circle, then a set of placards of possible answers (both wrong and correct ones) are placed in front of them.

2.2. The facilitator announces the question (see page 75). At the facilitator's signal, the group picks the corresponding placard of the correct answer and raises it up.

2.3. The group with the correct answer receives a corresponding point. The facilitator takes care to develop on the correct answers, and to process answers which miss the mark.

2.4. At the end of the game, the group with the most number of correct answers wins.

### **3. DEEPENING: THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

After the game, the facilitator acknowledges everyone for their active participation. Then, he/she provides further information that will help the participants know more about the NYD.



## **NATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

*The National Youth Day (NYD) is an event where the Philippine Church expresses, in very concrete ways, her great love for the young. It is an occasion offered for young people to celebrate and deepen their faith, and a special moment of coming together as one body, united in a journey towards intimacy with Christ.*

*In 1986, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), as a way of concretizing its preferential apostolate for the youth, approved the annual celebration of the NYD every December 16, the first day of the Misa de Gallo or Simbang Gabi. It is a day assigned by the Church as a special day for her great treasure, the youth. This becomes an occasion for activities and events which highlight the Church's preferential love for the youth, for young people to celebrate and deepen their faith, and for the whole Christian community to come together for the welfare of the youth, united in a journey towards intimacy with Christ.*

### **Celebrating the NYD**

*Yearly, the Episcopal Commission on Youth of the CBCP prepares the NYD conceptual plan and proposes activities for its celebration in various levels (regional, diocesan, parish) and settings (schools, youth groups, and others). Adaptation of the plan, to suit local contexts, depends largely on the creativity and possibilities of the organizing youth ministry office.*

*The youth ministries in the dioceses and organizations spearhead the programs and undertakings in the local celebration of the NYD, including the setting aside of the Mass collections during this day for youth ministry.*

*In some years, the NYD is also celebrated through a national gathering. It is usually on a date near December 16. When celebrated this way, the local host of the celebration assists the ECY in the planning and execution of the NYD events, like what happened for the national celebration last November 11-15, hosted and co-organized by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga.*

*NYD activities are centered on the theme offered by the Holy Father for the yearly celebration of the World Youth Day (WYD).*

### **Youth Ministry Week**

*The week preceding the NYD (i.e. December 09-15) is celebrated as Youth Ministry Week\*. This celebration is spearheaded by the respective Regional Youth Coordinating Councils.*

*The NYCC 2003 Resolutions, which was unanimously approved by the ECY, provides for the celebration of the Youth Ministry Awareness Week. From the NYCC2017 Resolutions, its title was changed to Youth Ministry Week.*

## **National Youth Day 2017**

*Taking place within the transition between our Year of the Parish as Communion of Communities and the Year of the Clergy and Religious in the Philippines, as well as anticipating the Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment in 2018, this year's celebration will be at the national and local levels, i.e. November 06-10 in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, and then in the dioceses and national youth organizations and in their networks of parishes, schools, local units, etc.*

*It follows the WYD2017 theme: "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name." [Lk 1:49]*

*We have learned about the story of the National Youth Day. Now, let us ask ourselves: What about us —what is our story? Let us ponder first on our personal stories, and then our story as part of our faith community.*

### **4. MY PERSONAL STORY**

#### **4.1. PERSONAL ACTIVITY**

*Guided by the following statements and the corresponding questions, reflect and pray over your story. Then, creatively express it on a short size bond paper (writing it, drawing it, etc.).*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>The Lord has done great things<br/>for me in the past!</i> | <i>What have I done for Jesus?</i>        |
| <i>The Lord is doing great things<br/>for me now.</i>         | <i>What am I doing for Jesus<br/>now?</i> |
| <i>The Lord will do great things<br/>for me tomorrow.</i>     | <i>What will I do for Jesus?</i>          |

Give the assembly ample time for personal reflection and activity. Provide needed materials.

#### **4.2. SMALL GROUP SHARING**

When everyone is done, ask them to go to their small groups and share their stories there. Allow ample time for this sharing.

#### **4.3. ASSIGNMENT**

Remember to bring your story of faith (the short size bond paper) to the NYD2017. On it, or at the back, write your favorite Bible verse.

## **5. OUR STORY WITH MARY**

### **5.1. DYAD SHARING**

*We are in the Year of the Parish. Can you think of what is your most memorable or significant experience so far of this Year of the Parish?*

Ask everyone to share with their neighbors their answer.

### **5.2. SHORT INPUT**

*Our being disciples of Jesus call us to become persons of communion. In this vocation, we have a model we can look up to: Mary, the Mother of our Lord and our Mother too. Let us ask her to accompany us in our journey to the NYD2017 as we also strive to proclaim, like her and with her, “The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name!”*

*In our diocese/ youth organization, we venerate our Blessed Mother in her particular title.*

In this portion, give a brief catechesis on the Marian devotion that is primary or prominent in the diocese of your delegation (in the case of FNYO delegations, the Marian title that your organization is closest to).

*We will bring a banner of our Lady to the NYD2017, not only because we Filipinos have a great love for her wherever we may be, but also because we invite her to be part of our journey: to be our guide and our inspiration in responding the God.*

## **6. SYNTHESIS**

Using points which will arise from this session, as well as from the earlier segments, one of the facilitators, preferably the Delegation Head, delivers the synthesis, with the exhortatory tone of making the most of our preparations.

*Our journey today is one of the big helps provided for us to truly prepare well for the NYD2017.*

*As we count the days towards this grand celebration of faith among young people, let us make the most of our preparation. Let us keep in mind the things that we need to prepare practically and spiritually in this event. It will also be helpful to keep in mind: “What grace do I wish to receive from my participation in the NYD2017?” which will serve to guide us to be focused on taking seriously our preparation for and participation in this event.*

*After all, the success and fruitfulness of the NYD2017 does not just depend on the program, on the host-parishes, even on the number of friends that we will meet. The success of this gathering lies in each one us—on how much we have made ourselves open to God’s grace which He will pour abundantly in our hearts.*

*Even as early as now, we can already take to heart the theme and message of the NYD2017 – to see with lens of faith all the great things God is doing for us and in us. In striving to do this, it will certainly become easier for us to welcome the surprises and the blessings that await us in this celebration of faith.*

Review the “Putting on the NYD Lens” (see page 21). Remind everyone about the value of doing this individual exercise faithfully every day. You may also want to use the points offered on “Maximizing the NYD2017” (see page 79), and give this as a handout to each delegate.

*Let us help one another, from now on until the event itself, to truly experience Christ’s transforming love in the NYD2017, so that all of us may joyfully exclaim: WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED JESUS IN THE NYD2017! HOLY IS HIS NAME!*

## **7. CLOSING**

To culminate the entire preparatory session, the group may use the liturgy provided (see page 76). Or, if possible, the group may opt to celebrate the Holy Eucharist together, thanking the Lord not only for the opportunity to participate in the NYD2017, but also to offer to Him the participation of the delegation in the NYD2017. Remember to include in your prayers the preparations being made by the NYD2017 Organizers and everyone involved.

# PUTTING ON THE LENS OF FAITH

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## What is it?

To make the NYD2017 meaningful, prayerful and reflective, the pilgrims are expected to bring the “lens of faith” that they are supposed to wear from Day 1 to Day 5. The NYD is an inner journey to our hearts, to know more about Jesus (our Lord, God, and Friend), ourselves (our Christian identity and call), others, the environment and social realities.

## THE FIVE (5) NYD LENS OF FAITH **SEE – PRAY – REFLECT – JUDGE – ACT**

**SEE** Using your internal senses, what do you See? Hear? Smell? Feel? Taste? What struck you most? Why?

Keyword **INNER SENSING**

**PRAY** Pause for silence. Bring to prayer your experience. Will Jesus or Mary be happy with what you have experienced? Why? What do you think they will say?

Keyword **SILENCE**

**REFLECT** What is your personal reflection, learning and/or insights? Any AHA experience?

Keyword **DISCERNMENT OF SPIRIT**

**JUDGE** What do you think is the right and noble thing to do? What are your fears and hesitations?

Keyword **KNOWING GOD’S WILL**

**ACT** Any doable personal or communal action you may want to do?

Keyword **COURAGE TO SAY YES AND DO IT**

As part of the preparations for the NYD2017, we encourage each delegate to learn the art of critical thinking, the NYD way, through the NYD Lens.

## **Why? What for?**

It is our hope that through our daily prayer, reflection and discernment, and using the NYD Lens, we may be able to see things clearly, in our desire to wisely respond to the different social realities and issues our country and church are facing.

Remember to come to the NYD2017 imbibing the NYD Lens! The pilgrims are expected to wear the lens upon arrival in the NYD2017, and hopefully, to wear the lens for the rest of our lives. After all, we need a good process to think critically for sound judgment and action. The youth today are called to respond to the challenges of our society. We are the future of our country. MAGDASAL, MANGILATIS, MAGSALITA, MAKIALAM. This is our country. This our Church. Like our Mother Mary, we are called to look for our ELIZABETH and RUN IN HASTE.

## **How do we practice?**

To practice the use of the NYD Lens, each day, use the Gospel reading at daily Mass. Below is the (proposed) process how to use the reading for each day:

1. Begin with SILENCE (possibly 2 minutes), to quiet down, to focus. Beg for the Holy Spirit: pray for guidance, enlightenment and wisdom.
2. Read prayerfully the suggested Gospel reading. Then, pause for a minute and relish the Word of God: What struck you most in the reading? Why? Any favorite lines from the reading?
3. Put on your NYD Lens:
  - + SEE: What have you seen in the Gospel reading? Does it relate to any experience that you currently have, or to any social reality?
  - + PRAY: Bring what you see to prayer--recite a short prayer from your heart.
  - + REFLECT: Read and think over: What is the Lord telling me--through the Gospel text, through the teaching of the Church, through the advice from our Church leaders--about what I see?
  - + JUDGE: Coming from your prayer and reflection, make a personal stand.
  - + ACT: How will you live your personal stand? Consider making a concrete step, one that you can do within the day. Plan how to do it meaningfully, and then do so.
4. Afterwards, share your reflection and action coming from the NYD Lens to your co-pilgrims, via social media, to your loved ones, or to your group in your parish.
5. If you are sharing with co-NYD2017 delegates, after the 1st round of sharing, do a 2nd round, sharing your synthesis: What did you learn from the sharing of others?

What are your common ideas? Any action you may want to do as an individual and as a group?

After the sharing, end with a thanksgiving prayer. Thank the Mighty One for giving you the NYD Lens, enabling you to see with faith!

## NYD2017 General Schedule

### **OPENING DAY**

Arrival of Participants  
Opening Mass and Welcome Program

### **DAY 1: I Am Flawed**

08.00 Morning Prayer  
08.30 Welcome and Introduction  
09.00 Getting-To-Know Activity  
10.00 Snacks  
10.30 1st Session  
"I Am Flawed"  
11.15 Sharing  
12.15 Lunch  
13.00 NYD Run – Part 1  
Reflection / Sharing  
Processing  
16.00 Snacks  
16.45 Marian Procession  
17.30 Holy Mass  
Evening Prayer with Foster Families

### **DAY 2: I Am Good and Gifted**

08.00 Morning Prayer  
08.30 Animation  
Recap and Orientation  
09.15 2nd Session  
"I Am Good and Gifted"  
10.00 Snacks  
10.30 Sharing  
12.00 Lunch  
13.00 NYD Run – 2  
Reflection / Sharing  
Processing  
16.00 Snacks  
Travel to Foster Parishes  
16.45 Holy Rosary  
17.15 Parish Mass  
18.15 Parish Night: Barrio Fiesta

### **DAY 3: We are Called to Make a Difference**

08.00 Morning Prayer  
08.30 Animation  
Recap and Orientation  
09.15 3rd Session  
"We are called to make a difference"  
10.00 Snacks  
10.30 Sharing  
12.00 Lunch  
13.00 Preparation for the Reconciliation Rite  
13.30 Reconciliation Rite  
14.30 Eucharistic Adoration  
15.30 Snacks  
Preparation for the Mass  
16.15 Holy Mass  
Commitment to Mary  
17.30 Preparation for the Grand Festival Night  
18.30 Dinner  
Grand Festival Night

### **CLOSING DAY**

Holy Mass  
Acknowledgments  
De-Registration  
Submission of Evaluation Forms  
Departure



# PROGRAM SESSIONS

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## Introductory Session

Before going through the main sessions, it will be helpful to provide an introductory session where the participants get to know one another, to receive orientation about the National Youth Day (to reinforce what was received in the Delegation Preparatory Session), and to motivate them towards active participation.

Materials:

Handout: What is the National Youth Day?

PowerPoint: Input/Presentation

### **1. Animation (15 minutes)**

The whole day formation program starts with an animating activity, e.g. animation of the NYD2017 Theme Song, or of another song everybody already knows, which primarily aims to enable participants to know one another and make them comfortable with one another. This activity should also set the proper mood, i.e. a relaxed atmosphere conducive to learning for the participants.

### **2. Welcome (5 minutes)**

A leader of the community (depending on the setting of the celebration, e.g. the Bishop, if the celebration is at the diocesan level) welcomes the participants to this formation program via a short message.

### **3. Orientation (20 minutes)**

The Main Facilitator provides an orientation on why the Church celebrates the National Youth Day (refer to page 17).

Then, agreements are also set with the participants, to enable everyone to make the most of the celebration:

Be on time: Be mindful of the time. Be at the assembly area before the session begins. Let the emcees assist you in managing the time, etc.

Please Listen: Be attentive to the emcees when they are giving instructions. Listen well to the speakers who provide input. Listen well to your groupmates during sharing moments. Allow yourself to be enriched by the things that you will hear.

Gadgets Later: Put your mobile phones on silent mode during sessions; use them only during break time. We are here to participate, and not to document; do not be too preoccupied with taking pictures/ selfies/ groupies during the activities; let the Documentation Team capture the meaningful moments for you.

Furthermore, should you wish to post your pictures/ insights/ realizations on FB, Twitter, etc. do this only during break time.

Be an OMG (Online Missionaries of God): Let us share the experience, particularly on social media through the following hashtags:

#NYD2017

#WeareBlessedJovenes

#HolyIsHisName

100%: Give your best in everything, and surely you will gain 100% as well

#### **4. Closing**

This session can culminate with the Morning Prayer of Day 1, or with an Opening Mass.

In conclusion, everyone is enjoined to sing and dance "We are Blessed, Jovenes" (NYD2017 Theme Song).

# I AM FLAWED

## Day 1

### **Materials Needed**

Stage decoration

LCD projector and laptop

PPT, e.g. Morning Prayer, floor plan for the small groups, Plenary Talk, reflection guides, etc.

Sound system

Music, e.g. "We are Blessed, Jovenes" (NYD2017 Theme Song), soft instrumental music, other animation songs, etc.

Video: We Are Yours (Bukas Palad)

Per delegation: Tarpaulin of their Marian devotion

### **Before 08.00 ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS**

Volunteers joyfully welcome the participants as they arrive at the program venue. They are then ushered to the assembly area.

In the assembly area, group facilitators holding signage of group numbers are positioned on their assigned spot within the assembly area. The emcees build a festive mood as they welcome the participants, and then instruct them to go to their assigned group number as indicated on their ID.

### **08.00-08.30 MORNING PRAYER**

The Liturgy Team leads the assembly for the Morning Prayer. A prayer guide is available on page 85.

### **08.30-09.00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The emcees joyfully open the day's program as they invite everyone to sing and dance the NYD2017 Theme Song. Animators lead the assembly in the song animation.

After the animation, the recap of the previous day (if there is) is delivered.

Afterwards, the group facilitators distribute evaluation forms of the previous day's program to the participants. The emcees give them ample time (5 minutes) to answer

the evaluation form. After which, they submit these to the group facilitators. The facilitators will then submit these evaluation forms to the Organizing Team.

Following the recap, the emcees introduce the theme of the day and give the participants an orientation on the program of the day.

## **09.00-10.00 GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU ACTIVITY**

The emcees guide the participants in an acquaintance activity. The organizers may follow the proposed activity below, which was done during the NYD2017 in Zamboanga. They may also come up with their own creative way to get the participants acquainted with one another.

For this activity, it is important to have an overall timekeeper who will keep watch and manage the time allotted for the getting-to-know-you activity. In case of delay at the start of the program, the emcees may opt to shorten the activity; in particular, the second part, which is the self-introduction in plenary.

*The National Youth Day 2017 theme follows the World Youth Day 2017 theme as proposed by Pope Francis, that is, "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name" [Lk 1:49]. Taken from Mary's Magnificat, the Pope, in his message for the World Youth Day 2017, mentioned these words: "...in the Magnificat, she echoes the praises of her people and their history. This shows us that being young does not mean being disconnected from the past. Our personal history is part of a long trail, a communal journey that has preceded us over the ages."*

*The youth are called to go beyond looking at the "past" as a mere memory, and rather appreciate it as an integral part of their being. This is the springboard of the NYD2017 getting-to-know-you activity, which we offer to come in two parts, because as Pope Francis also puts it, "Being mindful of the past also helps us to be open to the unexpected ways that God acts in us and through us. It also helps us to be open to being chosen as a means by which God brings about his saving plan."*

### **PART 1: MY COMMUNITY - Self-Introduction in Small Groups**

The emcees, with the important participation of the animators and facilitators, teach the tune and animation steps to the song entitled "Alegre Kita", a Chavacano version of the animation song "Dito ay Masaya".

**Alegre kita aqui! Alegre kita alya! Maskin donde donde alegre kita!** (Repeat)

**Mobe mobe el mano! Meña meña el cadera! Baila baila un poco, despues bira!  
Mobe mobe el mano! Meña meña el cadera! Baila baila un poco, despues 'tu ya!**

**Dito ay masaya! Doon ay masaya! Tayong lahat ay masaya!** (Repeat)

**Itaas ang kamay, ikembot ang baywang, tayo ay sumayaw at umikot!**  
**Itaas ang kamay, ikembot ang baywang, tayo ay sumayaw... ikaw naman!**

1. Once everyone is familiar with the song and its actions, the facilitator in each small group asks his/her group to form a small circle. The facilitator then takes the lead by volunteering to be the first to be inside the circle, while everyone else is around him/her.

The facilitator then introduces him/herself following the format below:

- a. *MI NOMBRE ES* (My name is)...  
The youth pilgrim mentions his/her complete name.
- b. *PUEDE TU LLAMA CONMIGO* (You can call me)... \_\_\_\_\_  
The youth pilgrim mentions his/her nickname.
- c. *'YO DESDE PARROQUIA/ORGANIZACION DE* (I'm from the Parish/Organization of)...  
The youth pilgrim mentions the parish/organization he/she is from.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ *AÑO/MEZES YA NA MINISTERIO DE JOVENES*  
The youth pilgrim mentions the number of years/months he/she has been in the youth ministry.
- e. (This part may be said in their own language.) *Continue the Statement:*  
"I courageously said YES to God's challenge when..."

The facilitator reminds the group that each member is given forty (40) seconds to introduce him/herself. After the facilitator introduced him/herself to the group, the song will be sung while the facilitator stays at the center and the members move/dance around him/her. At the end of the song, particularly when this line is mentioned, "despues 'tu ya", the facilitator points to another person in the group to take his/her place at the center.

2. The next member who was chosen (pointed at) by the facilitator will replace him/her at the center and follow the same format above in introducing him/herself in forty (40) seconds. After which, the group sings and dances around their fellow member until he/she chooses another person to take his/her place at the center.
3. The process continues until everyone in the group has taken his/her turn. To be more conscious of the time allotted for this part of the GTKY activity and for synchronization purpose, a recorded audio of the song will be played ten to twelve (10-12) times (should there be a maximum of ten members per group and two facilitators) after every forty (40) seconds.

4. Everyone is encouraged to dance and sing the song out loud. Once this part of the GTKY is complete, all the groups in assembly shall be advised to listen to the Emcee/Main Facilitator for the instructions of the second part of the GTKY activity.

## PART 2: IN COMMUNION – Self-Introduction in the Plenary

*Our witnessing communities in the Catholic Church do not exist on their own. As one body that is constantly in communion with other communities, it is important that we deepen our knowledge of each other through this next part of the GTKY that will involve the entire assembly present.*

*Let's know each other more in this Festival Site by using the GTKY Compass!*

Before proceeding with the activity, the Emcee/Main Facilitator gives the following instructions:

1. The game will be played in eight (8) categories. Each category is given a specific title, and then a corresponding set of choices that would be revealed afterwards.
2. The youth pilgrims must then choose from the four choices presented through the four directions (NORTH, EAST, WEST, SOUTH) which one best describes them or is more specific to who they are.
3. Four (4) volunteers, with each one holding up a placard of a specific direction, are stationed in the venue.
4. The main facilitator, after revealing the choices, then gives the signal to go to the direction of their choice.
5. Once they have chosen their respective directions, the youth pilgrims are advised to choose someone in the same direction (group) that he/she is to partner with.
6. Once with a partner, a question is flashed on the screen for each pair to answer in thirty (30) seconds. At the signal of the main facilitator, the game proceeds to the next category.
7. The same process is followed until the 7th category of the game. Pilgrims are encouraged to choose a partner in each category, preferably someone who is not from the same origin or the same small group.
8. For the 8th category, the category is not revealed. Instead, the pilgrims are asked to choose the direction of their choice using their own instinct. Once they have already proceeded in the direction of their choice, the main facilitator reveals the content of their choice, and the specific question that they have to share with their partner.
9. Once the game is done, the pilgrims shall be led by the animators to dance the song "Kumusta Ka Na".

Below are the categories and their respective choices:

1st Category: Calendar Baby (your birth month)

- Choices: N - January to March  
E - April to June  
W - July to September  
S - October to December

Question for sharing by pair: *What characteristics of people born under this particular month do you share? Do you believe in this? Why?*

2nd Category: Pang-ilan Ka? (your order in the family)

- Choices: N - Eldest child  
E - Middle child  
W - Youngest child  
S - Only child

Question for sharing by pair: *What are the challenges you face as the \_\_\_\_\_?*

3rd Category: Titulado (your role in the ministry)

- Choices: N - Youth Coordinator  
E - Youth Leader  
W - Youth Director  
S - Youth Ministers/Members

Question for sharing by pair: *What is the true measure of commitment?*

4th Category: Kickin' and Counting (years in the ministry)

- Choices: N - 0 to 3 years  
E - 4 to 6 years  
W - 7 to 9 years  
S - 10 years and above

Question for sharing by pair: *What is the most significant change you've seen in the world in the last 10 years?*

5th Category: Labels...Usong pa ba ito? (relationship status)

- Choices: N - Single  
E - In a relationship  
W - It's complicated  
S - Heartbroken

Question for sharing by pair: *Are you happy with the present status of your relationship? Why or why not?*

6th Category: Dear Heart, Kumusta? (relationship preference)

Choices: N - Mahal ko  
E - Mahal ako  
W - Pinaasa ako (kaya nag-assume ako)  
S - Iniwang ko

Question for sharing by pair: *What is "love" in one word?*

7th Category: YM Radar (how I see my growth in the ministry)

Choices: N - Taken  
E - Blessed  
W - Broken  
S - Shared

Question for sharing by pair: *Why do you say so?*

8th Category: Follow Your Instinct

For this category, have the pilgrims proceed first to the directions of their choice before revealing the content of each direction.

Choices: N - Happiness

Question for sharing by pair: *What/Who is your happiness in life?*

E - Truth

Question for sharing by pair: *If there is anything that people do not know about you, what is that and why?*

W - Hurts

Question for sharing by pair: *What is your most hurtful experience?*

S - Inspiration

Question for sharing by pair: *Who/What inspired you?*

After the getting-to-know-you activity, the emcees acknowledge the participants for their active and participation. They encourage them to continue making new friendships in their assigned small groups, as well as building camaraderie with the rest of the participants as they celebrate the NYD2017 together.

The emcees remind everyone to be on time for the next part of the program after the break, the plenary session.



## **10.30-11.15      PLENARY SESSION: "I AM FLAWED"**

After the break, the emcees gather everyone for the next session, possibly using the NYD2017 theme song for singing and dancing by the assembly.

After the animation, the emcees introduce the speaker who will provide input and deepening on the day's sub-theme.



### **Guide for the Input**

Anchor Verse:

"His mercy is from age to age to those who fear Him. He has shown might with His arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly." [Lk 1:50-52]

#### **I. Introduction**

All of creation's existence speaks of God's glory. But when God created man, it was for a very special purpose. "The first man was not only created good, but was also established in friendship with his Creator and in harmony with himself and with the creation around him, in a state that would be surpassed only by the glory of the new creation in Christ." (CCC, 374) Man occupies a special place in creation. He is the summit of Creation for he is created in the image and likeness of God.

The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lived in Paradise and enjoyed a life free of suffering and death. However, the temptation given by the serpent led our first parents to disobey God's commandment. And with this, they were driven out of Eden and made to experience pain, suffering, ignorance and death. These things and the original sin, we have all inherited.

#### **II. Man's Flawed Nature**

For over 2,000 years we too fall into the same mistake. We disobey God. We are trapped on the same downfall of Adam and Eve, we then too experienced the same consequences. Though we are God's people, we are still prone to stumble and commit sins because this is the effect of the original sin called "concupiscence – the tendency to commit sin" (cf. CCC, 405). These realities are the everyday experiences that we deal with. When we choose the road that was not set by God for us, we are lead into worldly things that the society is dictating.

#### a. Freedom in Our Own Definition

In a world offering us a lot of things to discover and stuff to try on, oftentimes we find ways to explore it on our own. We think we can handle things on our own. We try smoking, drinking, finding love from one person to another—we then define these as our freedom to learn, but actually we can still learn by not exploring those. For freedom is actually defined as responsible choice of learning.

#### b. Emotions are More Powerful than Reason

Oftentimes we think we decide logically, but it comes from our daily “hugot” and sometimes that defines our day. Emotions are an important element of a person, for they influence our thought and behavior, so these play a vital role of relating to each other. When our emotions rule over our rationality, we then behave irrationally and the common outlet of expressing all our sentiments, happiness, excitement is through social media. We burst out everything through posting and engaging commentaries instead of talking to someone who will surely be of help.

#### c. Fear that Ties Us

In the world today where there is a lot of possibilities, opportunities, and even uncertainties, fear holds us from growing and becoming who we are. We limit ourselves to what is just common and comfortable to us; we are afraid to take challenges because we are afraid to fail, to be rejected, to face the unknown. Fear ties us from what we can be and from what we can become. It is in fear that we settle for less; it limits us from exploring.

### III. God’s Original Design: His Dream for the Best Future

By God’s mercy and compassion to us, He sent us His son Jesus Christ to save and redeem us. He sent the Holy Spirit to empower and embolden us that we might rise above our faults, frailties and flaws, and find union with our Lord once again, for God planned a better future for us.

This is God’s plan for us: “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope” [Jer 29:11]

Plans for your welfare, not for disaster: God is always after our wellbeing, our happiness and safety. God as the Ultimate Good, everything that comes from Him is good. When He created us, He created us to last forever.

Plans to give you a future full of hope: As certain as the future is, God guarantees us that not even a part of it will be in despair, and that the whole of and everything in it is positive and desirable.

#### IV. God's Redeeming Love – Call to Holiness

Just like our Mother Mary who is so composed throughout the journey she had with our Lord Jesus, where we never saw her complaining. But we all know, human as she was, deep inside she was also in pain; deep in her heart, she also felt troubled.

Just like Mary, we need to accept the reality that we are flawed, but more than our flaws, we have God and His grace. We have the capacity to be like Mary. The humility and obedience that she showed are the attitudes that we need to have for us to overcome our flaws.

Christ also shared to us the Sacraments, which will constantly remind us that despite our flaws, our God will continue to be merciful to us and will continue to heal us.

God knows our tendencies to fall. But He will always assure us that He will give us strength to be in His grace. We just need to respond to it.



#### **11.15-11.50 REFLECTION AND SHARING**

After the Plenary Input, the emcees thank the speaker (possibly awarding the certificate and token, if any, and taking care to maintain the reflective atmosphere), and then lead the participants to a moment of personal reflection (5-10 minutes), with the help of the following questions:

- *What struck you most from the input?*
- *What affirmation did you receive from God through the input?*
- *How are you called to embrace and live your identity as God's beloved, despite your flaws?*

After the personal reflection, the emcees instruct the participants to turn to their small groups for the sharing. The group facilitators guide them at this moment. They are given 15-20 minutes at most for this activity.

#### **11.50-12.15 SYNTHESIS, ORIENTATION FOR THE NYD RUN**

The emcees gather all the groups for the culminating part of the plenary session.

They call for some pilgrims to share to the assembly what they shared in their groups.

Then, they acknowledge and thank everyone for their active participation, and provide a synthesis of all that transpired in the morning session.

Before the participants go for lunch, the emcees already give orientation and instructions for the next activity in the afternoon, which is the NYD Run.

### **What is the NYD RUN?**

*Inspired by Mary's desire to accompany her cousin Elizabeth upon learning from the Angel Gabriel that she was pregnant at her old age: "Mary set out and went in haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth" [Lk 1:39-40].*

*The NYD Run is a time for us to "set out and go in haste" to learn and be engaged in different issues and realities affecting us young people and calling us to a concrete action in the light of our Christian faith, just like our Blessed Mother who also ran and went in haste to help Elizabeth during her cousin's moment of need.*

As an important instruction to the participants, the emcees remind them of the attitude and disposition that they need to bring with them as they participate in the NYD Run:

- Openness and Prayerfulness: Be aware of your inner movements.
- A listening heart while other pilgrims are sharing.
- Always wear the NYD Lens: SEE – PRAY – REFLECT – JUDGE – ACT

Participants will already get their food for the afternoon snacks during lunch break. After lunch, they directly proceed to their assigned NYD Run.

The list of the NYD Run tracks will be posted in a prominent area in the venue. Group facilitators, who will also accompany the participants during this activity, are ready to guide the participants to their designated venues.

### **13.00-15.10 NYD RUN (SIMULTANEOUS)**

The NYD run aims to expose the participants to different kinds of experience that may lead them to awareness, prayer, reflection and discernment – and compel them to make life-changing actions.

Objectives of the NYD Run:

1. IMMERSION: To immerse the participants to the different realities in life, such as social, cultural, religious, moral and environmental concerns. In the process, to

become deeply aware of the different challenges the world is facing, and prompt them to make necessary life-changing actions.

2. **DISCERNMENT:** Using the NYD lens, to equip the youth to be more objective, reflective and discerning in their thoughts and actions.
3. **ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP:** To compel them to respond responsibly to different challenges of life. In the process, like our Mother Mary, to run in haste to make a difference to the life of others, especially the least, lost and the last.

The topics chosen for the NYD Run are determined by the needs of the youth, prevalent social issues in the locality of the celebration and of the participants, and the topics and themes relevant to the journey of the Church, whether in the local level (diocese), national (e.g. results of the National Filipino Catholic Youth Study 2014; Year of the Parish, etc.), and universal (e.g. in view of the Synod 2018, etc.). Depending on the demand and availability of resources (human and material), certain topics may be given twice or thrice simultaneously.

Resource persons, invited beforehand because of their competence and integrity and prepared accordingly, will serve as facilitators of these NYD Run topics.

The flow of the NYD Run may be done by way of a workshop, forum, TED talk, music jam/concert, immersion, and other dynamic and interactive means.

For immersion and exposure activities, the processing in small groups takes place on Day 2 of the NYD celebration. For other NYD Run tracks, these will be offered for both Day 1 and 2.

Participants may be assigned either to one immersion activity, followed by processing on Day 2, or to two (2) different NYD Run tracks, to be attended on Day 1 and then on Day 2, respectively.

The following were some of tracks of the NYD Run that were offered during the national celebration of the NYD2017 in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga-

Offered in the afternoon of both Days 1 and 2:

- Live Pure
- KRISTOGRAM (Christ in Social Media)
- Si Bes at ang BEC (Youth and BEC)
- #HEARTSTRONG (Kabataang Bayani)
- Youth Evangelization Through Games
- "Mi Rezo, Mi Canto" (Prayer in the Way of Taizé)
- YOUCAT Workshop

- 0% Fear, 100% Love (On HIV-AIDS Education)
- Count Me In (On volunteerism)
- Indigenous People: Inside the Peripheries
- #MAYFOREVER (An Acoustic Jam on Love)
- Click to Clique (On the Millennials)
- “Talitha Koum” (Anti Human Trafficking)
- “Agila, Lipad Na!” (Discussion on Laudato Si)

One day exposure offered in the afternoon of Day 1, followed by processing the next afternoon:

- Estero Trekking
- Visit to a Housing Project
- River Trekking
- Visit to a Muslim Mosque
- Bamboo Propagation
- Bird Watching
- Mangrove Planting
- Visit to a Religious Convent
- Meet the City Mayor

Resource persons may follow the proposed flow of the NYD Run on page 102.

### **Note for Group Facilitators**

The role of group facilitators is crucial for the success of the NYD Run. They should be fully aware of their role in accompanying the pilgrims in their inner journey.

The following are the tasks that the group facilitators should keep in mind in order to fulfill their role effectively:

- Be familiar with the NYD Run site/s assigned to you.
- Know by heart the NYD general objectives, NYD Run objectives, and the NYD Lens.
- Orient the participants of the objectives of the NYD Run. It is not just for the sake of exposure or activity; it is for their religious and value formation.
- Remind the participants on the importance of wearing the NYD lens all throughout the activity.

### **15.10-16.00 PROCESSING IN SMALL GROUPS**

As culmination of the NYD Run, the participants gather with their group facilitator for the processing of their experience and learning. The facilitators are guided by the following flow of the processing:

1. Begin with a short prayer.
2. Read prayerfully Mary's Run, cf. Lk 1:39-40
3. Pause for a minute of reflective silence.
4. Invite the participants to recall their experience of the NYD Run, guided by the following questions:
  - a. What did you see? Feel? Hear? Smell? Taste?
  - b. What struck you most from the activity? Why?
  - c. What are you called to do as a fruit of your experience of the NYD Run?
5. Encourage each member to share his/her experience. Make sure that equal time is given to all. Remind everybody of the NYD lens in their sharing. Focus only on the guide questions.
6. After everyone has shared, the facilitator acknowledges everyone, and then gives a synthesis of their shared responses. Remind them to keep in confidence what was shared in the small group.
7. End with a short prayer, possibly led by one of the pilgrims, or using the output from the NYD Run attended.
8. Orient the pilgrims of the next activity, i.e. the Marian Procession, after the snacks.

### **16.45-17.30      MARIAN PROCESSION**

The participants assemble for the Marian procession going to the venue for the Holy Eucharist.

Different Marian images are brought to the procession. Delegations also bring with them the poster of the Marian image which is the patroness of their origin (parish/ school/ organization/ etc.).

Participants are led in praying the rosary and singing Marian hymns while the Marian procession is on-going.

### **17.30-18.30      HOLY MASS IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

A guide for the liturgy is available on page 96.

Before the end of the Mass, at an appropriate time, the commentator/ emcees remind the participants about the following:

1. To be on time for the program the next day, which starts at 08.00.
2. To bring their rosary, tokens for their fellow NYD participants, as well as their NYD Kit and other personal needs (medicines, etc.).
3. To be mindful of their assigned NYD Run for the next day.
4. To spend their evening meaningfully with their foster families, using the prayer guide provided for them.

**EVENING                      FAMILY NIGHT: WE ARE BLESSED AS ONE FAMILY**

Participants spend the rest of the evening in their foster families to eat, pray and share their experiences together after dinner. A guide for this activity is provided on page 80.



# I AM GOOD AND GIFTED

## Day 2

### **Materials Needed**

Stage decoration

LCD projector and laptop

PPT, e.g. Morning Prayer, floor plan for the small groups, Plenary Talk, reflection guides, etc.

Sound system

Music, e.g. "We are Blessed, Jovenes" (NYD2017 Theme Song), soft instrumental music, other animation songs, etc.

Video: We Are Yours (Bukas-Palad)

Per participant: Token for newfound friends

As delegation: Token for their host-parish

### **08.00-08.30 MORNING PRAYER**

The Liturgy Team leads the assembly for the Morning Prayer. A prayer guide is available on page 88.

### **08.30-09.15 ANIMATION, RECAP, ORIENTATION**

The emcees call on the animators to lead everyone to an animating song or game.

Following the animation, a recap of the previous day is delivered.

Afterwards, the group facilitators distribute evaluation forms of the previous day's program to the participants. The emcees give them ample time (5 minutes) to answer the evaluation form. After which, they submit these to the group facilitators. The facilitators will then submit these evaluation forms to the organizing team.

Following the recap, the emcees introduce the theme of the day and give the participants an orientation on the program for the day. They encourage everyone to continue participating actively, reminding them as well to wear their NYD lens all throughout the day.

## **09.15-10.00 PLENARY SESSION: "I AM GOOD AND GIFTED"**

The emcees introduce the speaker who will provide input and deepening on the day's sub-theme.



### **Guide for the Input**

Anchor Verse:

"And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed." [Lk 1:47-48]

#### **I. Introduction**

As we continue to ponder on the theme of this year's National Youth Day, we see how God takes the initiative of communicating to man (cf. CCC, 51), as He has taken the initiative to communicate to Mary.

He came to her through the angel Gabriel with the greeting, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." [Lk 1:28]

This is what makes us blessed, what makes us special despite our flaws and imperfections – God and His love and favors that can never be outdone. Man is blessed with the goodness and giftedness that come from His very presence in our lives.

The Lord is inviting us to recognize and embrace this goodness and giftedness in the midst of a society that tries to convince us to lose hope in our goodness, in the goodness of humanity.

#### **II. Rekindle God's Goodness in our Lives**

In a TED talk episode last April 2017 featuring Pope Francis, the pontiff stresses an essential truth: all hope is not lost.

"When one realizes that life, even in the middle of so many contradictions, is a gift, that love is the source and the meaning of life, how can they withhold their urge to do good to another fellow being?" he says.

A parallel image can be seen in the homily of St. John Paul II at the Mexico Cathedral (1979 January 26), where he talked about Mary's fiat as a framework to living in goodness and faithfulness:

## 1. Search

- a. St. John Paul II identifies this as the first dimension of faithfulness.
- b. Like Mary, it begins with a loving search for a deeper sense of God's plan in our lives.
- c. Mary asked: "How can this be?" Let us have the same posture of seeking God.

## 2. Reception

- a. The second dimension
- b. An encounter with the favor of the Lord bears the fruit of humble and joyful acceptance of God's plans for us.
- c. Mary's searching question changed to a statement of reception: "Let it be done." We are challenged to imbibe the same spirit of reception, as well as humble and joyful acceptance of the Lord's will.

## 3. Consistency

- a. The third dimension, which challenges us to live in accordance with what we believe in.
- b. In view of what Pope Francis stressed in the TED talk, we are being invited to be consistent in our goodness.
- c. The Lord is with us; we have encountered His favor as Mary had. As such, a life of goodness is inherent to us.

## 4. Constancy

- a. The fourth dimension, which St. John Paul II singles out as the most challenging dimension. "It is easy to be consistent for a day or two, but it is difficult to be consistent for one's whole life," he said.
- b. Constancy is to remain consistent until the end of days, as Mary had. Her consistency to her fiat, according to St. John Paul II, culminated at the foot of the Cross.
- c. The same challenge holds true to us young people today: to be constantly good and be of service to God and humanity using the gifts He has blessed us with.

## III. Sharing Hope by Sharing our Gifts

In the same TED talk, Pope Francis further says, "In order to do good, we need memory, we need courage and we need creativity."

This was what probably prompted Mary to proclaim her fiat. "May it be done to me" was her response to the knowledge and realization that she is specially favored and blessed. This is the call to us young people in this generation: to recognize and share our giftedness.

And our giftedness comes more often than not in the form of our capacity to be and do good, of our memories, of courage and creativity.

### 1. Gift of Goodness

- a. We are innately capable of goodness. That is the presence of the Divine in us, being created in His image and likeness.
- b. Young people are called to tap on this goodness and harness them, especially in light of the evils in society today. Even more challenging is to enjoin others to believe in this natural goodness, and to believe that it is inherent to us only in light of the faith that God has planted in each human person.

### 2. Gift of Memory

- a. The memory of our encounters with the Light of Christ constantly guides us as we strive to do and be good.
- b. "Do this in memory of me" is not only a part of the long Eucharistic prayers. It is an invitation, a reminder and a challenge that our memories are able to empower us to do it always in constant remembering of God's extravagant love and faithfulness, in solidarity with the Holy Spirit and the Catholic Church.

### 3. Gift of Courage and Creativity

- a. Today's generation of young people are especially courageous and creative. Social media and the internet have given the youth an almost limitless opportunity to explore their creativity.
- b. But this needs to be utilized in the context of spreading God's light and hope. Instead of contributing to the discord and chaos, young people are strongly reminded to maximize the potentials of their courage, energy, enthusiasm and creativity to further God's mission of evangelization.

## IV. Conclusion

We are young people. We are good and we are gifted. Our flaws may be real, but so are our goodness and giftedness because of the presence of the Lord in us by virtue of our Baptism.

In a world where hope for a better and more genuine Christian life and faith is constantly being challenged, we are called to stand out and take part in rekindling it by living in God's goodness, sharing our gifts that may serve as Christ's light for others.

In choosing to be hopeful, we open our hearts to goodness, which is the doorway that opens to the future. "Hope starts with one individual, and when hopeful individuals come together, it can spark a revolution."



After the Plenary Input, the emcees thank the speaker (possibly awarding the certificate and token, if any). Then, as they call for a short break, they instruct the participants to be back on time for the next part of the program.

### **10.30-11.15 REFLECTION AND SHARING**

The emcees set the reflective mood as they lead the participants to a moment of personal reflection (5-10 minutes).

- *What struck you most from the input?*
- *What are the great things (i.e. qualities, gifts, experiences) that God has bestowed in you?*
- *What do you feel is God inviting you to do with the great things that you have received from Him?*

After the personal reflection, the emcees instruct the participants to turn to their small groups for the sharing. The group facilitators guide them at this moment. They are given 15-20 minutes at most for this activity.

### **11.20-12.00 SYNTHESIS, ORIENTATION FOR THE NYD RUN**

The emcees call the attention of all the groups for the culminating part of the plenary session.

The emcees call on some volunteers to share in the assembly the fruits of their sharing in the small group.

Then, the emcees acknowledge and thank everyone for their active participation, and provide a synthesis of all that transpired in the morning session.

Before the participants go for lunch, the emcees give instructions for another experience of the NYD Run in the afternoon.

To close the plenary session, the emcees call on the animators to engage everyone in singing and dancing the NYD2017 Theme Song.

Participants will already get their food for the afternoon snacks during lunch break. After lunch, they directly proceed to their assigned NYD Run.

The list of the NYD Runs will be posted in a prominent area in the venue. Group facilitators, who will also accompany the participants during this activity, are ready to guide the participants to their designated venues.

### **13.00-15.10 NYD RUN (SIMULTANEOUS)**

The group facilitators keep in mind their important role of assisting and guiding the participants towards as meaningful and enriching NYD Run experience.

### **15.10-16.00 PROCESSING IN SMALL GROUPS**

As culmination of the NYD Run, the participants gather with their group facilitator for the processing of their experience and learning, guided by the same flow from the previous day.

### **16.00-16.45 SNACKS, TRAVEL TO HOST-PARISHES**

Right after the NYD Run, the participants take their snacks quickly, then they travel to their assigned host-parishes for the Parish Night and Barrio Fiesta.

The host-parishes joyfully welcome the participants as they arrive and usher them to the church where they will celebrate the Holy Mass together.

### **16.45-17.15 HOLY ROSARY**

The participants, together with their foster families and the entire parish community, invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother for unity and peace as they pray together the Holy Rosary before the start of the Mass.

The parish community prepares a creative and meaningful flow in praying the holy rosary.

### **17.15-18.15 HOLY MASS**

A guide for the liturgy is available on page 97.

### **18.15-20.30 PARISH NIGHT AND BARRIO FIESTA**

Participants spend the rest of the evening in fellowship as they experience Barrio Fiesta in their assigned host-parishes.

A proposed program guide, which can be a helpful material to be used by the host-parishes for this activity, is available on page 82.

Towards the end of the Barrio Fiesta, at an appropriate time, the emcees remind the participants about the following:

1. To be on time for the program the next day, which starts at 08.00
2. To wear their ID at all times
3. To bring their NYD Kit and other personal needs (medicines, etc.)

# WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Day 3

### **Materials Needed**

Stage decoration  
LCD projector and laptop  
PPT, e.g. Morning Prayer, floor plan for the small groups, Plenary Talk, reflection guides, etc.  
Sound system  
Music, e.g. "We are Blessed, Jovenes" (NYD2017 Theme Song), soft instrumental music, other animation songs, etc.

### **08.00-08.30 MORNING PRAYER**

The Liturgy Team leads the assembly for the Morning Prayer. A guide for the prayer is available on page 91.

### **08.30-09.15 ANIMATION, RECAP, ORIENTATION**

The emcees call on the animators to lead everyone to an animating song or game.

Following the animation, a 3-minute video recap of the previous day is shown to the participants for them to recall the fruits of Day 2 of the NYD celebration.

Afterwards, the group facilitators distribute evaluation forms of the previous day's program to the participants. The emcees give them ample time (5 minutes) to answer the evaluation form. After which, they submit these to the group facilitators. The facilitators will then submit these evaluation forms to the organizing team.

Then, the emcees provide an overview of the program of the day. They encourage everyone to continue participating actively, reminding them as well to wear their NYD lens all throughout the day.

### **09.15-10.00 PLENARY SESSION: "WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

The emcees introduce the speaker who will provide input and deepening on the day's sub-theme.

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## **Guide for the Input**

Anchor Verse:

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.” [Lk 1:49]

### **I. Introduction**

In a world that is challenged by the culture of death, war, fear and indifference, Pope Francis reminds us that our age does not need young people who are “couch potatoes”. We are invited to be inspired by the life of a young woman who has found favor with God.

The account of the visitation to Elizabeth by the Blessed Virgin Mary is a well-known story that could easily be described as one of the best-loved stories in the Bible. The meeting of two women, one young and the other elderly, is filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit and charged with joy and wonder [cf. Lk 1:40-45]. The two mothers, like the children they bear, practically dance for joy. Elizabeth, impressed by Mary’s faith, cries out: “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” [v. 5], one of the great gifts that the Virgin received. Elizabeth blesses Mary for this, and she in turn responds with the song of the Magnificat [cf. Lk 1:46-55], in which we find the words: “The Mighty One has done great things for me” [v. 49]. God is always revealing affirmations of His love and faithfulness to us. Mary’s yes (fiat) starts the new era of time: the Christ is coming, and He makes all things new. Like Mary and her Son, our Lord Jesus, we are called to make a difference.

### **II. Learning from the Very Heart of Mary**

A heart that is touched by God becomes capable of doing tremendous things. What is it that God placed in the heart of Mary that we should imitate?

**A heart full of faith:** Usually, before we say yes to someone’s favor, the first thing we do is we measure our capacity if we are fit to do the job. Mary’s is a revolutionary prayer, the song of a faith-filled young woman conscious of her limits, yet confident in God’s mercy. Faith is at the heart of Mary’s entire story.

**A heart full of hope:** It was a long way to the house of Elizabeth, about 150 kilometers. But the young woman from Nazareth, led by the Holy Spirit, knows no obstacles. The great things that the Almighty accomplished in the life of Mary speak also to our own journey in life which is not meaningless and meandering, but a pilgrimage that, for all its uncertainties and sufferings, can find its fulfillment in God (cf. Angelus, 2015 August 15).

A heart that is overflowing with love: In our doctrine, the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin. Through her immaculate heart, she accepted the call to be the Mother of God and of all humankind. Her fiat was a consent to the Incarnation which is God's ultimate expression of love, to be in communion with us through His Son Jesus. "The heart of Mary, more than any other, is a humble heart, capable of accepting God's gifts." These virtues are not only placed at the very heart of Mary, but they are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as His children and of meriting eternal life (cf. CCC 1813).

### III. Called to Make a Difference

Christ has confidence in young people and entrusts them with the very future of his mission, "Go and make disciples". Go beyond the confines of what is humanly possible and create a world of brothers and sisters! This is the message of the Holy Father to us; like Mary, let us "make haste" in responding to God's call!

(The speaker may cite a personal experience/example for each calling; there may also be invited people who will share their testimonies and convictions.)

#### 1. Called to Purity and Chastity

"For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love." [Gal 5:13]

- a. As Catholic youth, we are called to be good examples to our fellow youth. In our apostolate, we do not only bring our names and our own identities, but the face of the Church. Therefore, we should walk our talk as ambassadors of Christ to the young [cf. Phil 2:1-18].
- b. "You are God's temple... God's temple is holy, and that temple you are" [1 Cor 3:16-17]. Therefore, we should not deconsecrate/ desecrate our bodies from its original design.
  - No to Substance Abuse: We must honor our God through our bodies by not engaging to the use of illegal drugs, excessive smoking, drunkenness, and other abusive substances that may harm our health.
  - 100% Man / Woman: We recognize that there is a great number of young people who experience same-sex attraction. We must remember that God created specific roles for us as men and women. We are therefore called to act according to God's design.
  - Real Love Waits: There is a call for serious discernment in entering romantic relationships. Today, many relationships among the young are unguided.

As Catholic youth leaders, it is our responsibility to check ourselves and our members to be discerning. Empower our families to be accountable for their young members in their relationships: journey with them, find time to discuss important matters like sexuality, crushes, etc. This will help the young to be guided in making choices especially on things that may not yet be for them, e.g. sexual activity, pregnancy, etc.

- c. In response to those people who struggle in any of these, Pope Francis is reminding us in his homily to the new Cardinals last 2014 February:  
“Whenever the least of our brothers and sisters finds a place in our hearts, it is God himself who finds a place there. When that brother or sister is shut out, it is God himself who is not being welcomed. A heart without love is like a deconsecrated church, a building withdrawn from God’s service and given over to another use.”

## 2. Called to be the Source of Unity in the Family

- a. The first setting in which faith enlightens humanity is the family.
- b. The “home” represents the most precious of human treasures, that of encounter, that of relations among people, different in age, culture and history, but who live together and together help one another to grow. For this reason, the “home” is a crucial place in life, where life grows and can be fulfilled, because it is a place in which every person learns to receive love and to give love.
- c. The society accepts every advance in technology without concern for its potentially negative impact on human beings. We are called to be vigilant and respond to defend the family on these subtle attacks.
  - Too much use of gadgets instead of spending quality time with one another.
  - The use of contraception as a tool for family planning
  - Being silent on events/ discussions that set aside the functions of a family (e.g. RH Law, sex education outside of the home, distribution of condoms in schools without the knowledge of the parents, etc.)
- d. We must always remember the importance of a family in the making of society. Like Mary, they are asked to face challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things God has done [cf. Lk 2:19, 51]. The treasury of Mary’s heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families.

### 3. Called to be Champions of the Poor

- a. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about.
- b. Poverty that is learned with the humble, the poor, the sick and all those who are on the existential peripheries of life. Theoretical poverty is of no use to us. Poverty is learned by touching the flesh of the poor Christ, in the humble, the poor, the sick, the vulnerable children.
- c. The Corporal Works of Mercy: Jesus' teachings give us a model for how we should treat all others—they are Christ in disguise. They are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs.
  - Feed the hungry
  - Give drink to the thirsty
  - Clothe the naked
  - Shelter the homeless
  - Visit the sick
  - Visit the prisoners or ransom the captive
  - Bury the dead
- d. The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth are closely intertwined. The poor, being the most vulnerable, suffer most in environmental degradation and climate change. "A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings" (Laudato Si, 91). The issue of justice is of paramount importance in the way we care for the poor and the earth. The demand of justice is not only applicable between those who have more and those who have less access to natural resources. It also retains its application between the present and future generations.

### 4. Called to be a Missionary

- a. "Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life. Those who listen to us and observe us must be able to see in our actions what they hear from our lips, and so give glory to God! I am thinking now of some advice that Saint Francis of Assisi gave his brothers: preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words. Preaching with your life, with your witness." (Pope Francis, homily, 2013 April 14)

- b. The Church must step outside herself. To go where? To the outskirts of existence, whatever they may be, but she must step out. Jesus tells us: "Go into all the world! Go! Preach! Bear witness to the Gospel!" [cf. Mk 16:15]
- c. Missionary work also calls us to be the vanguard of the Church. We must open ourselves in learning the doctrines and basic teachings so we can be effective mouthpieces of the Church wherever we are, having in mind that everything must be done in love [cf. 1 Cor 16:13-14].

#### IV. Conclusion

"Mary inherits the faith of her people and shapes it in a song that is entirely her own, yet at the same time the song of the entire Church, which sings it with her." (Pope Francis, WYD2017 Message) We are also called to recognize the works of the Spirit within us and sing our own Magnificat and make our lives a gift for humanity as a whole. May we also recognize those people sent by God who become instruments who bring us where we are today, like St. Joseph of Nazareth who stood up for Mary and embraced his role in the history of salvation. This is very important! We have to be deeply engaged with the world, but with the power of prayer. Each of us, in fact, has a special role in preparing for the coming of God's kingdom in our world. Be the difference!

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After the Plenary Input, the emcees thank the speaker and the other sharers, if any (possibly awarding the certificate and token, if any). Then, as they call for a short break, they instruct the participants to be back on time for the next part of the program.

#### **10.30-11.20 REFLECTION AND SHARING**

The emcees set the reflective mood as they lead the participants to a moment of personal reflection (5-10 minutes).

- *What struck you most from the input?*
- *Where do you feel is God calling you to go and make a difference at this point in your life?*
- *What is/are your comfort zone/s that you need to let go in order to fully respond to this invitation of making a difference in our world?*

After the personal reflection, the emcees instruct the participants to turn to their small groups for the sharing. The group facilitators guide them at this moment. They are given 15-20 minutes at most for this activity.

## **11.20-12.00      SYNTHESIS**

The emcees call the attention of all the groups for the culminating part of the plenary session. Then, they call for some volunteers to share in the assembly the fruits of their sharing in the small group.

Then, the emcees acknowledge and thank everyone for their active participation, and provide a synthesis of all that transpired in the morning session.

To close the plenary session, the emcees call on the animators to engage everyone in singing and dancing the NYD2017 Theme Song.

During lunch break, participants will already get their food for the afternoon snacks.

## **13.00-13.30      PREPARATION FOR THE RECONCILIATION RITE**

The emcees call on the participants to start gathering again at the assembly area. They lead them in setting the reflective and prayerful mood for the next activity, which is the Reconciliation Rite. Reflective instrumental music is also played to help dispose a quiet atmosphere.

To introduce the activity, the emcees guide the participants in recalling the significant insights and learnings they have received from all the Plenary Sessions that they have heard.

*The plenary sessions since Day 1 until today helped us reflect on the theme of the NYD2017. We were led to look at our Blessed Mother as a perfect example of total faith in and obedience to God. She allowed God to do many great things for her at her young age. Mary showed us that God can make us strong in our weakness and we are capable of making a difference in our world when we open our hearts to receive the grace of His love and mercy.*

*At this point, we are invited to allow the grace of our Lord to fill us and renew us, so that we may obtain a heart that is like that of our Blessed Mother: pure, humble and faithful.*

*Our dear Holy Father, Francis, also tells us in his message for the WYD2017:*

*Mary also teaches us to live "eucharistically", that is to learn how to give thanks and praise, and not to fixate on our problems and difficulties alone. In the process of living, today's prayers become tomorrow's reasons for thanksgiving. In this way, your participation in Holy Mass and the occasions when you celebrate the Sacrament*

*of Reconciliation will be both a high point and new beginning. Your lives will be renewed each day in forgiveness and they will become an act of perennial praise to the Almighty. "Trust the memory of God ... his memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that rejoices in erasing in us every trace of evil" (cf. Homily at Mass, World Youth Day, Kraków, 2016 July 31).*

*Let us prepare ourselves to receive God's mercy and compassion in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us be assured that the Lord will never cease pouring out His kindness and love to us; we, who are His beloved children.*

The emcees then give specific instructions to prepare the participants for this prayerful moment.

1. *Later, each one will receive a handout "Guide for Confession" which you can use for the Sacrament of Confession. A sample is available in the appendices.*
2. *Priests are available to hear our confession; they will be located in (state the location of the confessionals).*

*At this point and if this has not yet been done, give instructions to the priests who will serve as confessors, first of which is to tell them where to go and/or who to look for.*

3. *After confession, we encourage everyone to spend time for personal prayer and thanksgiving. In a little while, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. Let us come before Jesus with our prayer of thanks for giving us His mercy which heals and renews us.*
4. *We, your emcees, your group facilitators and other NYD2017 volunteers will be ready to assist you at this time for any concerns or needs that you may have. Please approach us quietly, careful to keep the prayerful atmosphere.*
5. *In relation, we encourage all participants to enter into the spirit of this moment of prayerful renewal. Avoid becoming a source of disturbance for your fellow participants. Let us spend this time well in prayerful silence. Remember, it is in silence where we hear the Lord.*

*Let us now set our hearts to receive the grace of God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

### **13.30-14.30 RECONCILIATION RITE**

The reconciliation rite may begin with a song about God's love and mercy (e.g. "Pag-Ibig Ko", "Pagbabalik", "Maging Akin Muli", etc.) which the participants will sing together.

After the song, reflective music is played in the plenary hall to help maintain the prayerful atmosphere and motivate the participants to prepare for confession. Group facilitators continue accompanying their assigned group, motivating them to help maintain the prayerful mood, as well as assist their members, as necessary.

*Let us now feel free to approach any of our confessors for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

*After we have received God's healing forgiveness in the sacrament, let us remain in the spirit of prayer. After confession, we encourage you to make a prayer-response to Him by journaling your prayer of thanksgiving, by writing a letter to Jesus, creating a poem, making a sketch, etc.—all expressing what is in your heart after confession.*

### **14.30-15.30 EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

A few minutes before the start of the Eucharistic Adoration, the emcees begin to call the attention of the participants to gather at the venue and settle down in preparation for this meaningful encounter with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



### **INTRODUCTION**

Having received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our hearts have been touched by the loving hands of God. As Pope Francis said in his message for the WYD2017, "When God touches the heart of a young man or woman, they become capable of doing tremendous things." Like Mary, our Mother, our Lord is enabling us to do great things in His name. Despite our sinfulness, He is calling us, for our Lord knows that we can do good and we are capable of giving the love that we have received from Him.

As we spend this moment with our Lord Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration, let us allow Him to affirm us, through the words of Pope Francis in his message for the WYD2017: "Like the young Mary, you can allow your life to become a means for making the world a better place. Jesus is calling you to leave your mark in life, your mark on history, both your own and that of so many others."



*Let the grace of forgiveness we have received from Him move us to praise and bless His name.*

After the introduction, a priest wearing cope and humeral veil brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles.

Chants from Taize may be used as songs for the Eucharistic Adoration.

### **OPENING CHANT**

Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome Your love.

### **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.

### **PENITENTIAL PSALM**

Response: Alleluia (Taize)

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to Your steadfast love.  
According to Your abundant mercy,  
blot out my transgressions. (Response)

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me. (Response)

Against You, You alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in Your sight.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. (Response)

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners will return to You. (Response)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (Response)

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Presider: Let us take the water of life.

All: From the wells of salvation

Presider: Let us pray.

O merciful God, in the heart of Your Son, that has been wounded by our sins, You give us Your most loving heart. May you accept our devotion to Him and look on our repentance in our daily life. Through Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

### **GOSPEL READING**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me... See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." [18:1-5, 10]

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **CHANT**

○ Kristo, aming ligaya. ○ Kristo, aming pag-asa

### **SILENCE (5-10 minutes)**

### **SONG OF PRAISE**

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy Name!  
Bless the Lord, my soul, Who leads me into life

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: O merciful Father, in the Name of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in this Blessed Sacrament, We humbly ask for Your grace to look upon us and on our prayers to you, O Lord.

Response: Panginoon, maawa Ka. Panginoon, maawa Ka. (Taize)

1. We have sinned with envy, anger, pride to be the most highly regarded. Lord, have mercy on us. (Response)
2. You are always with us in our emptiness and sorrow. Bless our soul and mind so we have a willingness to repent. Lord, have mercy on us. (Response)
3. You give Your love to us, to redeem us by giving Jesus Christ on the Cross. Lord, have mercy on us. (Response)
4. You stop and send away violence, injustice and tyranny. Lead us to keep our faith in You. Lord, have mercy on us. (Response)
5. O merciful Father, Your presence takes away our sorrow. We give You thanks for Your love to redeem us from our sins. Lord, have mercy on us. (Response)

## **PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Blessed Sacrament, glory of Christians, joy of the Church, hope of the world, pray for us. Ignite in the heart of the faithful the spirit of living devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, so we are worthy to receive Holy Communion everyday.

Presider: Pray for us, O Blessed Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the Holy Sacrament,  
All: So that the Kingdom of the Eucharistic Lord live among us.

## **BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tantum ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui:  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui:  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, genitoque  
Laus et iubilatio,  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio:  
Procedenti ab utroque

Compar sit laudatio.

Presider: Panem de caelo praestitisti eis,  
All: Omni delectamentum in se habentem.

Oremus.

Deus, qui nobis sub sacramento mirabilis, passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti; quaesumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis iugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

All: Amen.

### **CHANT**

Ooh... Adoramus Te O Christe

### **THE DIVINE PRAISES**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be His Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.  
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.  
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.  
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

### **CLOSING CHANT**

Sit nomen Domini, sit benedictum  
Nunc et in saecula, benedictum

### **15.30-16.15 SNACKS, PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY MASS**

After the reconciliation rites, the participants take their snacks. Then, everyone is invited to prepare for the Holy Mass.

## **16.15-17.30      HOLY MASS, WITH COMMITMENT TO MOTHER MARY**

A guide for the liturgy is available on page 98.

Before the end of the Mass, the commentator gives instructions to the participants for the parade going to the venue for the Grand Festival Night.

## **18.30-21.30      GRAND FESTIVAL NIGHT**

Coming from the parade, all the NYD2017 participants assemble at the designated venue for the Grand Festival Night, celebrating together the joy and dynamism of being young and the grace of having encountered Christ in the NYD2017. This hopes to be a thanksgiving night for all the great experiences and meaningful learnings they have received in this event. This can also serve as the culminating activity of the event.

Proposed program is as follows:

1. Arrival of Participants, followed by dinner
2. Welcome, Animation, Acknowledgment (Roll Call) of Participating Delegations
3. Pambansang Awit
4. Cultural Presentation/s
5. Opening Message
6. Recap of the NYD2017
7. Message/s from Selected NYD2017 participant/s
8. Performance/s
9. Recognition of Host Parish/es and Awarding of Plaque/s
10. Announcements and Reminders (if any)
11. Prayer Concert (which also serves as Night Prayer)
12. Culmination: NYD2017 Theme Song

## POST-NYD2017

After their NYD2017 experience, the participants are expected to continue living in the spirit of this event, allowing God to do more great things for them, like our Mother Mary, as we journey forward to the year 2018 as “Year of Clergy and Religious”, as well as the Synod 2018 on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, This, of course, with the important and valuable accompaniment of their youth ministers: bishops and clergy, consecrated women and men, and lay people both young and adults, especially their families.

In particular and concrete ways, the participants are expected to put into action their personal and community commitment, i.e. those discussed and planned in the NYD Run, ever ready to run in haste to serve and transform this world that we live in.

The organizers of this program, through the youth ministry councils and offices, are encouraged to make a follow-up on the plans within six (6) months after their implementation of this NYD2017 Formation Program: not only to assess how the program is bearing fruit, but also to explore how they can sustain the commitment of their young people to live the spirit of Mary’s Magnificat.

Also, the organizers are kindly requested to accomplish a report about their implementation of the program. The ECY Secretariat will send you the report form through email.

For further inquiries and/or feedback on the NYD2017 Formation Program, please contact the ECY through its Secretariat through any of the following:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Email        | <a href="mailto:secretariat@cbcp-ecy.ph">secretariat@cbcp-ecy.ph</a>   |
| Website      | <a href="http://www.cbcp-ecy.ph">www.cbcp-ecy.ph</a>                   |
| Facebook     | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/CBCPECY">www.facebook.com/CBCPECY</a> |
| Mobile Phone | +639178536792  |
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## Appendix 1

# Message of Pope Francis for the 32nd World Youth Day

“The Mighty One has done great things for me”

[Lk 1:49]

**Dear Young Friends,**

Here we are, on the road again, following our great meeting in Kraków, where we celebrated the Thirty-first World Youth Day and the Jubilee for Young People as part of the Holy Year of Mercy. We took as our guides Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina Kowalska, the apostles of divine mercy, in order to offer a concrete response to the challenges of our time. We had a powerful experience of fraternity and joy, and we gave the world a sign of hope. Our different flags and languages were not a reason for rivalry and division, but an opportunity to open the doors of our hearts and to build bridges.

At the conclusion of the Kraków World Youth Day, I announced the next stop in our pilgrimage, which with God’s help will bring us to Panama in 2019. On this journey we will be accompanied by the Virgin Mary, whom all generations call blessed [cf. Lk 1:48]. This new leg of our journey picks up from the one that preceded it, centred on the Beatitudes, and invites us to press forward. I fervently hope that you young people will continue to press forward, not only cherishing the memory of the past, but also with courage in the present and hope for the future. These attitudes were certainly present in the young Mary of Nazareth and are clearly expressed in the themes chosen for the three coming World Youth Days. This year (2017) we will reflect on the faith of Mary, who says in the Magnificat: “The Mighty One has done great things for me” [Lk 1:49]. The theme for next year (2018) – “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God” [Lk 1:30] – will lead us to meditate on the courageous charity with which the Virgin welcomed the message of the angel. The 2019 World Youth Day will be inspired by the words “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” [Lk 1:38], Mary’s hope-filled reply to the angel.

In October 2018, the Church will celebrate the Synod of Bishops on the theme: Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. We will talk about how you, as young people, are experiencing the life of faith amid the challenges of our time. We will also discuss the question of how you can develop a life project by discerning your personal vocation, whether it be to marriage in the secular and professional world, or to the consecrated life and priesthood. It is my hope that the journey towards the World Youth Day in Panama and the process of preparation for the Synod will move forward in tandem.

***Our age does not need young people who are “couch-potatoes”***

According to Luke’s Gospel, once Mary has received the message of the angel and said “yes” to the call to become the Mother of the Saviour, she sets out in haste to visit her

cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy [cf. 1:36, 39]. Mary is very young; what she was old is a great gift, but it also entails great challenges. The Lord assured her of his presence and support, yet many things remain obscure in her mind and heart. Yet Mary does not shut herself up at home or let herself be paralyzed by fear or pride. Mary is not the type that, to be comfortable, needs a good sofa where she can feel safe and sound. She is no couch potato! (cf. Address at the Vigil, Kraków, 30 July 2016). If her elderly cousin needs a hand, she does not hesitate, but immediately sets off.

It was a long way to the house of Elizabeth, about 150 kilometres. But the young woman from Nazareth, led by the Holy Spirit, knows no obstacles. Surely, those days of journeying helped her to meditate on the marvellous event of which she was a part. So it is with us, whenever we set out on pilgrimage. Along the way, the events of our own lives come to mind, we learn to appreciate their meaning and we discern our vocation, which then becomes clear in the encounter with God and in service to others.

### ***The Mighty One has done great things for me***

The meeting of the two women, one young and the other elderly, is filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit and charged with joy and wonder [cf. Lk 1:40-45]. The two mothers, like the children they bear, practically dance for joy. Elizabeth, impressed by Mary's faith, cries out: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord" [v. 45]. One of the great gifts that the Virgin received was certainly that of faith. Belief in God is a priceless gift, but one that has to be received. Elizabeth blesses Mary for this, and she in turn responds with the song of the Magnificat [cf. Lk 1:46-55], in which we find the words: "The Mighty One has done great things for me" [v. 49].

Mary's is a revolutionary prayer, the song of a faith-filled young woman conscious of her limits, yet confident in God's mercy. She gives thanks to God for looking upon her lowliness and for the work of salvation that he has brought about for the people, the poor and the humble. Faith is at the heart of Mary's entire story. Her song helps us to understand the mercy of the Lord as the driving force of history, the history of each of us and of all humanity.

When God touches the heart of a young man or woman, they become capable of doing tremendous things. The "great things" that the Almighty accomplished in the life of Mary speak also to our own journey in life, which is not a meaningless meandering, but a pilgrimage that, for all its uncertainties and sufferings, can find its fulfilment in God (cf. Angelus, 15 August 2015). You may say to me: "But Father, I have my limits, I am a sinner, what can I do?" When the Lord calls us, he doesn't stop at what we are or what we have done. On the contrary, at the very moment that he calls us, he is looking ahead to everything we can do, all the love we are capable of giving. Like the young Mary, you can allow your life to become a means for making the world a better place. Jesus is calling you to leave your mark in life, your mark on history, both your own and that of so many others (cf. Address at the Vigil, Kraków, 30 July 2016).



## ***Being young does not mean being disconnected from the past***

Mary was little more than an adolescent, like many of you. Yet in the Magnificat, she echoes the praises of her people and their history. This shows us that being young does not mean being disconnected from the past. Our personal history is part of a long trail, a communal journey that has preceded us over the ages. Like Mary, we belong to a people. History teaches us that, even when the Church has to sail on stormy seas, the hand of God guides her and helps her to overcome moments of difficulty. The genuine experience of the Church is not like a flash mob, where people agree to meet, do their thing and then go their separate ways. The Church is heir to a long tradition which, passed down from generation to generation, is further enriched by the experience of each individual. Your personal history has a place within the greater history of the Church.

Being mindful of the past also helps us to be open to the unexpected ways that God acts in us and through us. It also helps us to be open to being chosen as a means by which God brings about his saving plan. As young people, you too can do great things and take on fuller responsibilities, if only you recognize God's mercy and power at work in your lives.

I would like to ask you some questions. How do you "save" in your memory the events and experiences of your life? What do you do with the facts and the images present in your memory? Some of you, particularly those hurt by certain situations in life, might want to "reset" your own past, to claim the right to forget it all. But I would like to remind you that there is no saint without a past, or a sinner without a future. The pearl is born of a wound in the oyster! Jesus, by his love, can heal our hearts and turn our lives into genuine pearls. As Saint Paul said, the Lord can show his power through our weakness [cf. 2 Cor 12:9].

Yet our memories should not remain crammed together, as in the memory of a hard drive. Nor can we archive everything in some sort of virtual "cloud". We need to learn how to make past events a dynamic reality on which to reflect and to draw lessons and meaning for the present and the future. This is no easy task, but one necessary for discovering the thread of God's love running through the whole of our life.

Many people say that young people are distracted and superficial. They are wrong! Still, we should acknowledge our need to reflect on our lives and direct them towards the future. To have a past is not the same as to have a history. In our life we can have plenty of memories, but how many of them are really a part of our memory? How many are significant for our hearts and help to give meaning to our lives? In the social media, we see faces of young people appearing in any number of pictures recounting more or less real events, but we don't know how much of all this is really "history", an experience that can be communicated and endowed with purpose and meaning. Television is full of "reality shows" which are not real stories, but only moments passed before a television camera by characters living from day to day, without a greater plan. Don't let yourselves

be led astray by this false image of reality! Be the protagonists of your history; decide your own future.

### ***How to remain connected, following the example of Mary***

It is said of Mary that she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart [cf. Lk 2:19, 51]. This unassuming young woman of Nazareth teaches us by her example to preserve the memory of the events of our lives but also to put them together and reconstruct the unity of all the fragments that, put together, can make up a mosaic. How can we learn to do this in practice? Let me offer you some suggestions.

At the end of each day, we can stop for a few minutes to remember the good times and the challenges, the things that went well and those that went wrong. In this way, before God and before ourselves, we can express our gratitude, our regrets and our trust. If you wish, you can also write them down in a notebook as a kind of spiritual journal. This means praying in life, with life and about life, and it will surely help you to recognize the great things that the Lord is doing for each of you. As Saint Augustine said, we can find God in the vast fields of our memory (cf. Confessions, X, 8, 12).

Reading the Magnificat, we realize how well Mary knew the word of God. Every verse of her song has a parallel in the Old Testament. The young mother of Jesus knew the prayers of her people by heart. Surely her parents and her grandparents had taught them to her. How important it is for the faith to be passed down from one generation to another! There is a hidden treasure in the prayers that past generations have taught us, in the lived spirituality of ordinary people that we call popular piety. Mary inherits the faith of her people and shapes it in a song that is entirely her own, yet at the same time the song of the entire Church, which sings it with her. If you, as young people, want to sing a Magnificat all your own, and make your lives a gift for humanity as a whole, it is essential to connect with the historical tradition and the prayer of those who have gone before you. To do so, it is important to be familiar with the Bible, God's word, reading it daily and letting it speak to your lives, and interpreting everyday events in the light of what the Lord says to you in the sacred Scriptures. In prayer and in the prayerful reading of the Bible (lectio divina), Jesus will warm your hearts and illumine your steps, even in the dark moments of life [cf. Lk 24:13-35].

Mary also teaches us to live "eucharistically", that is to learn how to give thanks and praise, and not to fixate on our problems and difficulties alone. In the process of living, today's prayers become tomorrow's reasons for thanksgiving. In this way, your participation in Holy Mass and the occasions when you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be both a high point and new beginning. Your lives will be renewed each day in forgiveness and they will become an act of perennial praise to the Almighty. "Trust the memory of God ... his memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that rejoices in erasing in us every trace of evil" (cf. Homily at Mass, World Youth Day, Kraków, 31 July 2016).

We have seen that the Magnificat wells up in Mary's heart at the moment when she meets her elderly cousin Elizabeth. With her faith, her keen gaze and her words, Elizabeth helps the Virgin to understand more fully the greatness of what God is accomplishing in her and the mission that he has entrusted to her. But what about you? Do you realize how extraordinarily enriching the encounter between the young and the elderly can be? How much attention do you pay to the elderly, to your grandparents? With good reason you want to "soar", your heart is full of great dreams, but you need the wisdom and the vision of the elderly. Spread your wings and fly, but also realize that you need to rediscover your roots and to take up the torch from those who have gone before. To build a meaningful future, you need to know and appreciate the past (cf. *Amoris Laetitia*, 190, 193). Young people have strength, while the elderly have memory and wisdom. As Mary did with Elizabeth, look to the elderly, to your grandparents. They will speak to you of things that can thrill your minds and fill your hearts.

### ***Creative fidelity for building the future***

It is true that you are still young and so it can be hard for you to appreciate the importance of tradition. But know that this is not the same as being traditionalists. No! When Mary in the Gospel says: "The Mighty One has done great things for me", she means to say that those "great things" are not over, but are still happening in the present. It is not about the distant past. Being mindful of the past does not mean being nostalgic or remaining attached to a certain period of history, but rather being able to acknowledge where we have come from, so that we can keep going back to essentials and throwing ourselves with creative fidelity into building the future. It would be problematic and ultimately useless to cultivate a paralyzing memory that makes us keep doing the same things in the same way. It is a gift of God to see how many of you, with your questions, dreams and uncertainties, refuse to listen to those who say that things cannot change.

A society that values only the present tends to dismiss everything inherited from the past, as for example the institutions of marriage, consecrated life and priestly mission. These end up being seen as meaningless and outdated forms. People think it is better to live in "open" situations, going through life as if it were a reality show, without aim or purpose. Don't let yourselves be deceived! God came to enlarge the horizons of our life in every direction. He helps us to give due value to the past so as better to build a future of happiness. Yet this is possible only if we have authentic experiences of love, which help us concretely to discern the Lord's call and to respond to it. For only that can bring us true happiness.

Dear young people I entrust our journey towards Panama, together with the process of preparation for the next Synod of Bishops, to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I ask you to keep in mind two important anniversaries in 2017: the three-hundredth anniversary of the finding of the image of Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil and the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, where, God willing, I plan to make a pilgrimage this coming May. Saint Martin of Porres, one of the patron saints of Latin America and of the 2019 World Youth Day, in going about his humble daily duties, used

to offer the best flowers to Mary, as a sign of his filial love. May you too cultivate a relationship of familiarity and friendship with Our Lady, entrusting to her your joys, your worries and your concerns. I assure you that you will not regret it!

May the maiden of Nazareth, who in the whole world has assumed a thousand names and faces in order to be close to her children, intercede for all of us and help us to sing of the great works that the Lord is accomplishing in us and through us.

## **FRANCIS**

From the Vatican, 27 February 2017, Memory of Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Lifted from--

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco\\_20170227\\_messaggio-giovani\\_2017.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20170227_messaggio-giovani_2017.html)

## Appendix 2

# Activities

## Delegation Preparatory Session

### PRELIMINARIES

The prayer venue must be spacious, allowing for movement. In front or at the center is an altar, suitably decorated, with the Crucifix or an image of the Lord; beside, a picture or image of the Blessed Mother.

Give each one a colored boat-shaped blank card (similar to what is found on the NYD2017 logo) for her/his nametag. Each color should be adequate to be able to form small groups.

Instruct the participants to make their nametag using the boat-shaped blank card provided with the following format: ***I am called by God: (nickname)***. Enough markers should be available.

When everyone has written her/his name on the name tag, ask all to be seated. At this point, there is no need yet to follow the nametag colors.

As necessary, give a brief overview of the opening liturgy.

### FLOW

#### 1. Invitation to Prayer

*We pause for a moment, aware that God is here.*

*Think of how everything around us, the air we breathe, our whole body, is tingling with the presence of God.*

Leader: (+) *In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

A brief moment of silence is observed. Instrumental music may be played to set the atmosphere of prayer.

#### 2. Introduction

Lead the participants to their purpose of coming. Instill in them the purpose of the NYD2017, especially in relation to their role not only as participants but as delegates of their respective origins: Called to the NYD, you were called by God to find Him, to seek your life in Him.

### **3. Personal Reflection and Sharing**

Ask the participants to take a look at their name, the very name by which God called them to the NYD. Let them recall the story behind their names... That each of us is called by God through our precious name.

After a moment of silence, ask those whose nametags have the same color to group and sit together. Let them share the story behind their FIRST NAME.

### **4. Song for Meditation: “Still”**

When all groups are done, invite everyone to a brief moment of silence.

Leader: *The names we shared, names written on boat-shaped cards, will sail to the south. It is a journey which is not without its experience of waves, of storms. Perhaps we doubted if we could make it—and maybe until now, some of us still do. Let us now be still and listen to the one who first called us by our name, and allow Him to speak to us now.*

***Hide me now under Your wings.  
Cover me within Your mighty hand.***

***When the oceans rise and thunders roar,  
I will soar with You above the storm.  
Father, You are King over the flood;  
I will be still, know You are God.***

***Find rest my soul in Christ alone  
Know His power in quietness and trust.***

Another suitable song may be used, with a similar theme and leading to the proclamation of the Word.

### **5. Proclamation of the Word**

After the song, invite everyone to listen attentively to the reading.

“Jesus walks on the water and with Him, Peter” [Mt 14:22-33]

Other related passages may be used, with proper preparation made, especially in view of the reflection.

### **6. Reflection on the Word**

After the reading, a brief period of silence is observed, followed by a time for reflection possibly guided by the following points:

*“Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.” We too are like the disciples: we are getting into a boat—figuratively or maybe even literally—to set sail for the NYD2017. We are going there sent off by Jesus.*

*“After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.” As we journey towards the NYD2017, we encounter challenges and difficulties. Let us take a moment to recall these.*

*“During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost,’ they said, and they cried out in fear.” Were there instances in our preparations when the Lord came to meet us, and yet we failed to recognize or acknowledge Him?*

*“At once [Jesus] spoke to them, ‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Peter said to him in reply, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’” Hear the Lord assuring you now: It is I; do not be afraid. Take courage. Learning from Peter’s experience, confidently approach the Lord who you hear commanding you, “Come!”, focused on Him and not on the winds and waves.*

*“After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’” Are there still storms of doubt in your heart as regards coming to the NYD2017? Or perhaps in some other area of your life? Bring them to Jesus. Walk over them with Jesus. Let Jesus into your boat, and witness how peace comes with Him. Then, like the disciples, you can say, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”*

*The Mighty One has done great things for me!*

*Likened to Peter and the other disciples, we are called by the Lord today to a special mission. And the Lord is calling us to come to Him, to fix our eyes on Him alone, to place all our trust in Him, so that we may experience peace—the kind of peace which the world cannot give, that He alone can give.*

## **7. Closing Ritual**

*Leader: We are called by God, we bring ourselves in response.*

*Let this be our boat of encounter, where we meet our God and respond to His call.*

Everyone is invited to approach individually and bring his/her name tag to the foot of the altar where the Cross is enthroned. In silence, one makes a personal prayer as a response to this call. After one's turn, each goes back to his/her chair and continues in meditation, while the next ones follow. While this happens, a suitable hymn may be sung, e.g. "Here I Am, Lord", "Narito Ako", etc.

## **8. The Lord's Prayer**

When everyone is done, invite everyone to join their hands and pray the Lord's Prayer (possibly in the local language).

*Leader: As one community, animated by the Spirit, trusting in God, we join our hands as we lift our intentions to God our Father, in the prayer Jesus himself has taught us.*

## **9. Conclusion**

If a priest is present, he is invited to bless the assembly. Otherwise, the prayer may conclude as follows, with the sign of the cross.

*Leader: May the Lord bless us (+), protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

As closing song, the NYD2017 Theme Song may be sung and even animated.

## **SESSION 1: OPENING GROUP DYNAMICS, "iCHOOSE"**

These preliminary activities hope to give a joyful welcome to all the delegates and establish camaraderie with one another.

### **WELCOME**

If a formal word of welcome has not yet been made, then this moment will be an opportune time. The Delegation Head addresses the assembly.

### **ACTIVITY**

The facilitator kicks-off the session by engaging everyone to a Getting-to-Know Activity called "iChoose"

*We all know that everyone is happy and excited to participate in the National Youth Day 2017. By now, we are making our simple preparations like saving money, accomplishing requirements at school or work early or endorsing it to others. Some of us, too, may be sharing this good news about our participation to the NYD2017 to our friends, classmates and relatives.*



*For this NYD celebration, we will be missing a lot at home, from school, in the office, in our community. But despite this situation, our heart is full of joy because the NYD2017 becomes another opportunity for us to see friends both old and new. More importantly, this event becomes another chance for us to renew our love for God and the Church and for one another as we remember how good the Lord is and how we are called to be like Him.*

*It is necessary therefore that we should prepare ourselves for the event—not only in the practical aspects but also in our personal capacity and together as a delegation. Thus, we come together for this preparatory formation prior to our NYD2017 participation.*

*Let us take time to get to know our fellow delegates who will journey with us as a delegation.*

The facilitator gives options for the participants to choose from. There is an assigned area in the session hall for every option (i.e. left side, middle, and right side). Depending on one's choice/ preference, he/she goes to the designated area of the session hall.

| Round | Left Side | Middle    | Right Side |
|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1     | Morning   | Afternoon | Evening    |
| 2     | Small     | Medium    | Large      |
| 3     | Sweet     | Sour      | Salty      |
| 4     | Red       | Yellow    | Blue       |
| 5     | Banana    | Mango     | Melon      |
| 6     | Kapamilya | Kapuso    | Kapatid    |
| 7     | Malling   | Hiking    | Swimming   |

Other sets of options may be used, provided these are neutral (not immoral) and not divisive (pro-government, pro-opposition and the like).

After the facilitator announces the options, he/she signals to the participants to go to the area of their choice. This movement is expected to help them also to mingle with other delegates.

Once they are in their respective areas, the facilitator instructs them to form small groups of 3-4 (not more than 4, in the interest of time) and to answer the question he/she will give in the small group after a brief introduction to each other (i.e. name and origin).

Questions:

*1 – How are you feeling towards this gathering/ encounter? Is it like the color of your shirt?*

2 – *When were you baptized? If you don't recall, think around how long after your birth (PLUS, you have homework: Discover your baptismal date!)*

3 – *When did you start serving the Lord and His Church (OR, How long have you been actively involved in the Church/ How long have you graduated from being a mere Sunday Catholic)?*

4 – *What one good thing (quality, attitude) do people say about you?*

5 – *In a word or short sentence, describe your personal preparation for the NYD2017.*

6 – *What is your favorite Marian title (an apparition, from the Litany of Loreto, or a Marian shrine)? Why do you like it?*

7 – *Looking forward to the NYD2017, in one word, what do you expect the NYD2017 experience to be?*

8 – *What is one thing you will make sure to do in the NYD2017 (e.g. make at least 1 new friend from outside my origin/ visit a church I have never visited/ etc.)?*

9 – *What are you willing to give/ share to make your NYD2017 participation fruitful and memorable? What do you think are your 3 special gifts (quality, attitude, talent) that you want to share towards a grace-filled NYD2017?*

After the activity, the facilitator acknowledges everyone's active participation, then instructs them to be seated.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

At this point, the facilitator officially acknowledges the delegates by their respective origins (for example, in a parish delegation, this is the moment to recognize the BECs represented). As their representative origin is called out, the delegates will yell, "Holy is God's Name!"

## **ORIENTATION**

The facilitator gives an overview of the Delegation Preparatory Session, which serves as their final and immediate preparation before their participation to the NYD2017. This moment could also be taken to give instructions and reminders about the venue, about the meals, etc.

## **SESSION 2: QUESTION AND ANSWER KEY**

1. What is an occasion in the Philippine Catholic youth ministry which is a special day for the Church's great treasure, the young people?

### **NATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

The NYD becomes an occasion for activities and events which highlights the church's preferential love for the youth.

2. When is the NYD traditionally celebrated in the Church of the Philippines?

### **DECEMBER 16**

The youth ministries in the dioceses and organizations spearhead the programs and undertakings in the light of the NYD celebration. Every two or three years, the ECY, in partnership with a diocesan youth ministry or with the FNYO, organizes a large gathering of young people for a national celebration of the NYD.

3. When was the year that the NYD was approved to be observed and celebrated by the Philippine Church?

1986

The CBCP General Assembly approved the proposal to celebrate the NYD, beginning on December 16 of the said year.

4. When was the last national celebration of the NYD held?

### **THIS YEAR, 2017, LAST NOVEMBER 6-10**

The host of this national celebration was the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. It was attended by 2,200+ young pilgrims from all over the country.

5. What is the theme of this year's NYD2017?

"The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name." [Lk 1:49]

Since the year 2000, the NYD activities are centered on the theme offered by the Holy Father for the yearly celebration of the World Youth Day (WYD).

## CLOSING LITURGY

Preliminaries: Exhort everyone towards a prayerful disposition. If necessary, do a song practice and give an overview of the closing liturgy before the mood setting.

Leader: (+) In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Chant: Magnificat (Taizé)

### Magnificat (choral)

The image shows a musical score for the Magnificat (choral) by J. Berthier. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of ♩ = 152. The music is written for voice and piano. The lyrics are: "Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num. Hm Ma -". The second system continues the lyrics: "gni - fi - cat. Hm Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma -". There are markings for "(Fine) Solo" above the vocal line in both systems.

♪ **Sing out my soul**, my heart re-joices in the Lord! O Sing out my soul! O Sing out my soul! / **Can-ta a mi-nh'al-ma** as ma-ra-vi-lhas do Se-nhor. O Ma-gni-fi-cat. O Ma-gni-fi-cat. / **Te gar-bi-na** ma-no-ji sie-la Vieš-pa-tj. Te gar-bi-na. Te gar-bi-na.

Music: J. Berthier

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For reference, you may listen to the song through the following links--

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxb3DXMuuKc> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=109&v=hhLYCLS09h8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=109&v=hhLYCLS09h8)

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Solo: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

All (response): Magnificat!

Solo: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: For He has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness;  
All (response): Magnificat!

Solo: Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: The Mighty One has done great things for me.  
All (response): Magnificat!  
Solo: And holy is His Name.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: His mercy is from age to age to those who fear Him.  
All (response): Magnificat!

Solo: He has shown might with His arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones.  
All (response): Magnificat!  
Solo: But lifted up the lowly.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: The hungry He has filled with good things.  
All (response): Magnificat!  
Solo: The rich He has sent away empty.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Solo: He has helped Israel His servant, remembering His mercy.  
All (response): Magnificat!  
Solo: According to His promise to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.  
All (response): Magnificat!

All (chorus): Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Everyone recites this prayer.

*O God, we praise You  
for the multitudes of women and men, young people and children,  
who are seeking to be witnesses to Your power, goodness and grace.  
In the footsteps of the holy witnesses of all ages,  
since Mary and the Apostles to the believers of today,  
grant us to prepare ourselves inwardly, day after day,  
to place our trust in You: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

Everyone is invited to take their nametag and place it on their heart as a gesture of offering themselves to the Lord. They sing a Marian hymn as they entrust their NYD2017 journey to God through the maternal intercession of our Blessed Mother.

“Stella Maris” (Silvino Borres Jr., SJ and Manoling Francisco, SJ)

Kung itong aming paglalayag, inabot ng  
pagkabagabag, Nawa’y mabanaagan ka, hinirang  
na tala ng umaga.

Kahit alon man ng pangamba, ‘di alintana sapagkat  
naro’n ka, Ni unos ng pighati at kadiliman ng gabi.

Maria, sa puso ninuman, ika’y tala ng kalangitan.  
Ningning mo ay walang pagmamaliw, Inang sinta, Inang ginigiliw.

Tanglawan kami, aming Ina, sa kalangitan naming pita.  
Nawa’y maging hantungan pinakamimithing kaharian.

*(+) In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

To close the Delegation Preparatory Session, the NYD2017 Theme Song may be sung and even animated.

## Appendix 3

# Maximizing the National Youth Day 2017

1. **DISPOSE YOUR SPIRIT.** The National Youth Day is a youth formation gathering. It is neither an excursion nor your opportunity to see places and meet new friends. This is an inner spiritual journey to know our identity, calling and challenges. Dispose your heart and spirit and be formed.
2. **ALWAYS WEAR THE NYD LENS.** The success of the gathering lies on our willingness to learn, reflect and decide. Let's learn to read the signs of times, decide and act together.
3. **LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART.** Listen attentively to the inputs, reflections and sharings of the day, challenge your moral values and beliefs, and transform your heart.
4. **BE OPEN.** Humbly consider new ideas, experiences, and opinions of others. Humility is the beginning of learning and maturity. Respect the opinions and views of others, and learn in the process.
5. **PRAY TOGETHER.** Be more prayerful and participative in the Eucharist, morning and evening prayers. Worshiping God through the Holy Mass and community prayers is our expression of faith, thanksgiving and devotion.
6. **BE FRIENDLY.** Make friends to everybody. Be attentive and sensitive to the needs of others. Actively participate in all activities and sharing.
7. **FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.** Always listen to the organizer's daily announcements and instructions. Obey general rules and regulations. Be conscious of the time. Be at the next activity site, five minutes before the session.
8. **BE THANKFUL.** Be grateful to anything that may come along the way. Let's help the organizers in maintaining the order and flow of the event. Refrain from criticizing the activities and the organizers. Be proactive. Do something when issues and concerns come. The NYD is our event; let's help in making the event a big success.
9. **GO FOR CLAYGO.** Be mindful of cleanliness of all NYD venues. Apply CLAYGO: CLean As You GO. A clean venue is conducive for reflection, sharing and learning.
10. **LOVE YOUR HOST FAMILY.** Be extra kind and grateful to your host family. Be thankful for anything your family would offer to you. Never compare your host family to others.

## Appendix 4

# Evening with the Host-Family

### PROPOSED FLOW

1. Welcome Remarks: The host parents begin by welcoming their guest pilgrim to their home. This will also be a good time to introduce each member of the family, if this has not yet been done.
2. Opening Prayer / Grace before Meals: One family member will say a short prayer, inviting God's presence, and followed by the prayer before a meal.
3. Dinner: A lively conversation during meal is highly encouraged. Avoid using electronic gadgets while on eating. Enjoy each other's presence and stories.
4. Call to Silence: After dinner, the family sharing begins. When everyone is seated, one of the parents will call for a minute of silence. Say a short prayer of thanksgiving for the good dinner, then ask the Holy Spirit to bless and inspire everyone in their sharing of God's love.
5. Proclaim the Word of God: Read prayerfully the story of the Birth of Jesus [Lk 2:1-7].
6. Read Pope Francis' Message: Read the message of Pope Francis, preached to Filipino families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015 January 16.

*"Our world needs good and strong families to overcome threats (selfish dreams and temptations)! The Philippines needs holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God's plan and to be a support and example for other families. Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself. The future of humanity, as Saint John Paul II often said, passes through the family (cf. Familiaris Consortio, 85). The future passes through the family. So protect your families! Protect your families! See in them your country's greatest treasure and nourish them always by prayer and the grace of the sacraments. Families will always have their trials, but may you never add to them! Instead, be living examples of love, forgiveness and care. Be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death. What a gift this would be to society, if every Christian family lived fully its noble vocation! So rise with Jesus and Mary, and set out on the path the Lord traces for each of you."*

7. Sharing: Everyone is encouraged to share his/her reflections by completing the statement: *"I am blessed because..."* Share how God has blessed your life.
8. Closing Prayer: After the sharing, the parents will lead everyone to pray as one family. Below is a prepared liturgy:



## Family Night: A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Host Parent: *Our lives are filled with your constant blessings, Lord. Help us to rejoice in these gifts and always to give you thanks for them. For each prayer, we response: "We thank you Lord for blessing our lives."*

1. We thank you, Lord, for this wonderful earth you have given us. It is rich with life and filled with beauty. It is a home that satisfies our needs and blesses our lives with joy. (Response)
2. Thank you, Lord, for the richness of this present moment: for the opportunities that this moment and this day give us, for your love that surrounds us right now, for the challenges that presently face us in our lives, for the work that you give us to do, work that fills our lives with meaning and satisfaction. (Response)
3. We thank you, Lord, for the many hidden spiritual blessings that you have sent into our lives:  
for your constant forgiving of our sins.  
for being with us in our moments of prayer.  
for the personal call that you have given us. (Response)
4. We thank you, Lord, for the painful things in our lives:  
for the difficulties that have arisen in our lives, difficulties that have made us strong  
for the times when you seemed to be absent, when we learned to walk in pure faith.  
for the mistakes that we made, mistakes which helped us to learn and grow.  
(Response)
5. Thank you for these wonderful bodies that enable us to feel and see and hear.  
Thank you for these hands that do so many skillful things. Thank you for these legs that walk and run. (Response)
6. Thank you for our minds that are sensitive to the world and other people. Thank you for the dreams that inspire our lives. Thank you for those moments of understanding that bring light to our lives. (Response)
7. Thank you for our families and their love and support. Thank you for our friends who have understood us and brought joy to our lives. Thank you for all the people who have come into our lives, enriching them with surprises and challenges. (Response)
8. Thank you, Lord, for yesterday: for all the rich experiences that filled our lives in the past, for all the opportunities that were given us to learn and to go forward with our lives, for the freedom that we had to choose our lives, for all the people that were with us in the past, for your presence in our lives. (Response)

Let us pray. Our lives are filled with your constant blessings, Lord. Help us to rejoice in these gifts and always to give you thanks for them. Amen.

("Prayer of Thanksgiving" by Fr. Mike Moga, SJ, Ateneo de Zamboanga University)

## Appendix 5 Parish Night and Barrio Fiesta

### Celebrating the Gift of Communion of Communities in the Year of the Parish

#### Objectives

On the evening of Day 3 of the National Youth Day 2017, the youth pilgrims will be back in their respective host-parishes as early as 16.30 for the Parish Night and Barrio Fiesta. Since Filipino Catholics are also celebrating this year as the Year of the Parish, the said activity is an integral part of the NYD2017 General Program with the following objectives:

- To celebrate the spiritual encounter with Christ through, with and in the Parish Community
- To provide the youth pilgrims an experience of the community life in the Parish
- To engage the youth pilgrims with the Basic Ecclesial Communities
- To value the gift of each other (youth pilgrims and parishioners alike) in the coming together as a community of Filipino Catholics
- To make the gathering an opportune time for youth pilgrims to express their gratefulness for the generosity of the community of the host-parish
- To share the giftedness of each other in the communion of communities

#### Proposed Program Flow

To help see to it that the above-mentioned objectives are met, the following program flow is proposed. However, should the parish decide to enhance the program in their respective setting, or make it more fitting with their community resources, the parish leadership may do so.

#### Part I           Arrival at the Parish

16.00-16.30 Travel to the Parish

16.30-16.45 Assembly at the Parish; Preparation for the Holy Rosary

#### Part II.           Holy Rosary and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

16.45-17.00 Holy Rosary

17.00-17.15 Preparation for the Holy Mass

17.15-18.15 Eucharistic Celebration

#### Part III.          Fellowship and Solidarity

18.15-19.15 Barrio Fiesta

## Important Notes

1. It is suggested that each BEC shall be assigned one table each for their food preparation as one community. The food that will be prepared is for the community--for sharing. BECs are encouraged to be creative with their table presentation.
2. The area where the Barrio Fiesta will be held should preferably be in an open area within the parish complex, where all the tables when positioned together shall form a "U"-like or semi-circle formation with spaces in between tables to facilitate mobility, and an open space at the center. Putting a temporary stage is also encouraged, but if there is none, an improvised one may be put in place, e.g. using the steps of the entrance of the church.
3. Once the Parish Priest has blessed the food and declared the Barrio Fiesta open, the youth pilgrims shall be directed to go around the tables of the different BECs. The BEC members are also advised to be as welcoming and inviting as possible. To make the experience more meaningful, BECs may innovate ways in the food presentation and invitation, e.g. dress in Filipiniana, play barrio music at the side of the table, etc. Once the pilgrims have already made their rounds, the community may also already dine with them.

19.15-19.30 Preparation for the Parish Night. Settling down/ Animation

19.30-20.30 Parish Night

- a. Opening Number by the Parish Youth Ministry (3 minutes)
- b. The History of the Parish (brief) by a PPC Officer (3 minutes)
- c. Welcome Message by the Parish Priest (4 minutes)
- d. Presentation of Delegations Assigned to the Parish (20 minutes)
- e. Presentation of BECs or Selected Lay Organizations (10 minutes)
- f. Words of Gratitude by a Selected Delegation Head (4 minutes)
- g. Community Singing: "Tell the Word of His Love" (4 minutes)
- h. Closing Number: "We Are Blessed, Jovenes!" (4 minutes)

\*\*Items d. and e. may be done alternately. Parishes may enhance the program, but not necessarily to deviate from the proposed flow. The 1-hour limit must also be strictly observed in order to provide pilgrims enough time to rest.

20.30-21.00 Travel to Host Families

*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all." [Acts 4:32-33]*

## Appendix 6

# Guide for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

### Greetings

The Priest (P) greets the penitent (Pn.)

### Sign of the Cross

P. + Pn.: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Opening

Pn.: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (give days, months or years) since my last confession.

### Confession of Sins

Pn.: I confess to Almighty God,  
And to you Father, and to the Holy Church,  
That I have sinned through my own fault,  
In my thoughts and in my words,  
In what I have done, and in what I have failed to do,  
And I confess that (confess your sins)  
  
For these and all the sins of my past life,  
I ask pardon of God, penance, and absolution from you, Father.

### Advice and Penance

The priest gives some advice and penance to the penitent.

### Act of Contrition

Pn.: O God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you  
and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven  
and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend you, my God,  
who are all good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to confess my sins,  
to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

### Absolution

P: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you  
pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Praise

P: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.  
Pn.: His mercy endures forever

### Dismissal

P: May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and all of the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins,  
help you grow in holiness, and reward you eternal life. Go in peace.  
Pn.: Amen.

(From the AYD7 Indonesia, Mass and Prayer Book, AYD2017 Liturgy Team and Kanisius Team)

**Appendix 7**  
**Morning Prayers**  
**National Youth Day 2017**

**Day 1: WE ARE FLAWED**

**INTRODUCTION**

Leader: *As we commence the day and come before the presence of the Lord, let us dispose ourselves and acknowledge our sinfulness. Reflecting on our imperfections, let us humbly declare before the Lord that “we are flawed”.*

*Let us all stand.*

**INVOCATION**

Opening Song: Come, Holy Spirit (Taize)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Silence. Instrumental music is played.)

Leader: *In the Name of God the Father who created us and called us to share in the work of creation. (Gong is banged.)*

*In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son, who redeemed and called us to share in His mission. (Gong is banged)*

*In the Name of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, who strengthens and constantly guides us in our lives and in our ministry. (Gong is banged.)*

*In the Name of the God who gathers and keeps us in His loving embrace: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen.*

Leader: *As we continue our journey this National Youth Day 2017, let us praise God and lift our voices to Him that everything we hear, think, say and do be guided by His Divine Inspiration. Let us open ourselves, all our endeavors and all our activities with complete trust and confidence to God’s abiding presence. (Silence.)*

Leader: *Today, we fix our eyes on Mary, our exemplar of perfect discipleship. The woman who gave her most courageous yes to the will of God the Father, who devoted her whole life to Jesus Christ, her Son, who accompanied the beginnings of our Church with the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore entrust to her motherly intercession our being called to pursue Christ's mission despite our limitations.*

The procession of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary follows.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

All: *God our Father, inspire us by the power which has created us, and by the love which always sustains us.*

*Jesus Christ, the Son, inspire us by the love which died for us, and by the risen presence which is with us now and always.*

*Holy Spirit, our Helper, You assure us today that You will teach us what we ought to do and how we ought to do it, if we ask Your help in faith and accept it in obedience.*

*And to You God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give all the honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

(Moment of silence.)

## **GOSPEL READING**

Alleluia (to be sung)

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke*

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup>He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me,

Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. [Lk 5:1-11]

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: *In silence, let us reflect on the Good News, let us listen to Him speaking to our hearts.*

(Short silence)

## **COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD**

Leader: *We believe that the Creator of the world spoke the word to the people of ancient Israel for the salvation of all the nations. We believe that the Word of God was made flesh and continues to live among us as the Good News for all.*

*We believe that God sent the Holy Spirit among us to lead us to truth and to guide our understanding of God's word as we all pray:*

All: *Loving God, help us to open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts to your WORD. May we always welcome your word of life, as you come to us with your wisdom, your truth, and your love. As we gather for our National Youth Day 2017, we ask You to make Your words be ours, your thoughts be ours, your wisdom be ours and Your love be ours. We ask this with the intercession of our Lady of the Pillar our patroness through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.*

Leader: *May I now invite everyone to find another person whom they can approach and hug them, while mentioning their name and say the words, "YOU ARE UNWORTHY YET YOU ARE CALLED".*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

All: *Lord God, we rejoice in Your greatness and power, Your gentleness and love, Your mercy and justice. Despite our unfaithfulness, You constantly journey with us, love us and embrace us with Your immeasurable kindness. Inspired by the perfect example of Mother Mary of true discipleship, bestow upon us the grace we ask for our body and soul. Sustain us with Your love in times of adversaries. Enable us by Your Spirit to honor You in our thoughts, our words and our actions, and to serve You in every aspect of our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord with the prayers of our Blessed Mother Mary, our model and inspiration. Amen.*

*Almighty God, Blessed with Your grace,  
Amidst all our fears and brokenness, Send us to the mission. Amen.*

*Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar, pray for us.  
St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, pray for us.  
Sts. Francisco and Jacinto Marto of Fatima, pray for us.  
St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.  
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.  
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.  
St. John Paul II, pray for us.*

*Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.*

*Closing Song: "We are Yours" (Bukas Palad)  
Video with lyrics available here--<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KxkmprArjU>*

## **Day 2: WE ARE GOOD AND GIFTED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Leader: We begin this incomparable summit of faith, with an atmosphere of solidarity among young people of God. Let us prepare ourselves to accept worthily the grace of God as we joyfully acclaim "we are gifted".*

### **GROUNDING**

*(Instrumental Music)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*The assembly is divided into right and left choir as they read the prayer projected on screen.*

*Leader: We are here to celebrate our being a community...*

*We are here to reflect...  
We are here together to share...  
We are here to be enlightened...*



Right: *We are here to give thanks!*

*We are here to praise!  
We are here to pray!  
We are here to contemplate!*

Left: *We are here to celebrate our gifts*

*We are here to find meaning  
We are here to listen to the message of His presence within and among us.*

All: *God of power and God of love*

*God of mercy and God of hope  
God of wisdom  
God of the THEN,  
God of the NOW and  
God who WILL BE – be with us. Amen.*

Leader: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen.*

## **MORNING OFFERING**

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.*

*Our Father...  
Hail Mary...  
Glory...*

## **GOSPEL READING**

Alleluia (to be sung)

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” [13:31-32]

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: *In silence, let us reflect on the word of God, let us listen to Him speaking to our hearts.* (short silence)

## **SYMBOLIC ACTIVITY: WHAT TO GIVE**

(Instrumental music is played)

1. Every pilgrim is encouraged to think of a gift he/she wishes to give to a co-pilgrim today.
2. Choose one (1) from your groupmates, and tell him/her the gift you want to give to him/her with these words: *“I am sharing with you this gift as sign of... (my appreciation, our friendship, etc.). I hope that... (e.g. you will treasure this as you continue your journey in serving the Church).”*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*For Your goodness and generosity  
in giving us all we need,  
help us to praise You, O God.*

*In every circumstance of life,  
in good times and bad,  
help us to trust You, O God.*

*In love and faithfulness,  
with all that we have and all that we are,  
help us to serve You, O God.*

*As we speak or write or listen  
to those nearby or far away,  
help us to share Your love, O God.*

*In every thought and word and deed,  
by the power of Your Holy Spirit,  
Help us to use all our gifts to glorify You, O God.*

*All these we pray through Christ our Lord, with the prayers of our Blessed Mother Mary, our model and inspiration. Amen.*

*Almighty God, Blessed with Your grace,  
Amidst all our fears and brokenness, Send us to the mission. Amen.*

*Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar, pray for us.  
St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, pray for us.  
Sts. Francisco and Jacinto Marto of Fatima, pray for us.  
St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.  
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.  
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.  
St. John Paul II, pray for us.*

*Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.*

*Closing Song: "We Are Yours" (Bukas Palad)  
Video with lyrics available here--<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KxkmprArjU>*

## **Day 3: WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Leader: Young people of God, we shall begin by praising God, rich in mercy, as He bestows on us every spiritual blessing. Let us encounter Christ with profound spiritual sustenance as a treasure that He wants to offer for all of us. We deeply listen to the call of God to each one of us "to make a difference".*

### **GROUNDING**

(Instrumental Music)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Enflame Our Hearts (by Monica Brown)

*Enflame our hearts, O God of love,  
May we be Your light of love  
Enflame our hearts, O God of love,  
Let Your love burn deep in us.*

Leader: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*  
All: Amen.

## **MORNING OFFERING**

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.*

*Our Father...  
Hail Mary...  
Glory...*

## **GOSPEL READING**

Alleluia (to be sung)

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*  
All: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.*

Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),<sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.<sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"<sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,<sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves,

gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." [6:1-14]

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: *In silence let us reflect on the word of God, let us listen to Him speaking to our hearts.*

(Short silence)

Leader: *As people of faith throughout the world, we are called to prayer. Our theological union with the Jewish people calls all of us to a new relationship in faithful solidarity. Israel heard God's Word and responded in unwavering faith. We too respond in faith to God's Word in the New Covenant, which gives us salvation as a result of Jesus' Messianic fulfilment of the Old Covenant. Members of the Jewish faith will join together at sunset to remember the unleavened bread, hastily prepared in a divinely guided journey from Egypt.*

*We Catholics share the symbolism of the unleavened bread in our Eucharistic meal, through which Jesus delivers us from sin and slavery. Passover--regardless of the manner in which God speaks to us--and Easter are inextricably joined in salvation history. Both events exhibit God's power and glory. That is what it is ultimately about, praising God and taking the journey to eternal life with Him.*

*As we partake this unleavened bread, let us call to mind that we are called to be taken, to be blessed, to be broken, and to be shared. We are called to make a difference. May I invite you then, that as you eat the bread, remember those people who need our presence: our parents, and those people we need to embrace--the homeless, the street children who have nothing to eat, our friends and classmates who are depressed, and those who need our gaze of love.*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Female: *God of gifts, thank You for the blessings You have given us. Thank You for the fellowship shared in the partaking of the unleavened bread. May we also be willing to be broken and shared by using our gifts and talents in a way that demonstrates kindness,*

*humility, and compassion. Keep our hearts and minds open to the direction of the Spirit, who calls us to celebrate our gifts by sharing them with others.*

*Male: God, give us always the strength to reach out to others in need. May we always be willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of our fellow human beings and do this in loving service to one another as Jesus taught us.*

*All: Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us the grace and the courage to make a stand in all circumstances in life, selflessly serving others in the community and building up Your kingdom here on earth. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

*Almighty God, Blessed with Your grace,  
Amidst all ours fears and brokenness, Send us to the mission. Amen.*

*Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar, pray for us.*

*St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, pray for us.*

*Sts. Francisco and Jacinto Marto of Fatima, pray for us.*

*St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.*

*St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.*

*St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.*

*St. John Paul II, pray for us.*

*Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*All: Amen.*

*Closing Song: "The Mission" (Steve Green)*

*Video with lyrics available here--<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zksfXHCRMQU>*

**Appendix 8**  
**Celebrations of the Eucharist**  
**National Youth Day 2017**

## **Opening Mass**

### **PROPOSED READINGS**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| First Reading                              | 1 Sam 3:1-10            |
| Responsorial Psalm                         | 1 Sam 2: 1, 4-5, 6, 7-8 |
| R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior. |                         |
| Gospel Reading                             | Lk 1:46-56              |

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: *God, our Lord, is good and loving. He calls us to share with His everlasting life. As His children, let us pray to Him:*

R. *HEAVENLY FATHER, HEAR US.*

1. That the community of the baptized--God's holy Church, attentive and docile to the teaching of their pastors, proclaim with courage and conviction throughout the world, that Christ is the light of all nations, we pray to the Lord.
2. That the Holy Father Pope Francis, bishops, priests and those who made their vows remain faithful in their service to God and to their fellowmen, called by the Lord to confirm the brethren in the faith, be always sustained by prayer and fortified by grace in the mission of announcing and teaching the Gospel of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
3. That the leaders of our country learn to serve honestly, apply selflessly the power given to them by our people, and witness to the truth of their faith especially in the exercise of their powers and in the fulfilment of their responsibilities, we pray to the Lord.
4. That this National Youth Day be successful and meaningful in the lives of the young pilgrims here today. May we experience the necessity to be guided and grow in the knowledge and love of God. May these coming days be an opportunity for all of us to showcase our talent, explore and learn new ideas, enjoy friendship and companionship as we embrace the fact that we are in constant need for formation, we pray to the Lord.
5. That those who suffer, especially the poor, the sick, the physically challenged and those in prison, as well as those who are victims of calamities, may they not lose hope but experience the consoling love of God and receive the justice due them,

and enjoy the comfort that heaven has promised, so that their sufferings and burden may have meaning, we pray to the Lord.

6. That all our departed friends, relatives and those who have helped us in one way or the other, especially the young people, who generously shared their gifts and talents to reach out to their fellow youth, that the Lord may grant them His Divine Mercy and eternal life, we pray to the Lord.
7. That all of us invited to this banquet respond with generosity and compassion to the less fortunate and the needy, always remember that we are God's children and that we are blessed to be under His love and guidance, we pray to the Lord.

Presider: *Heavenly Father, You feed the hungry with Your love. May we learn to imitate You in Your goodness and love. This we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

## **Day 1: Holy Mass in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **PROPOSED READINGS**

First Reading                      Jon 1: 1-17

Responsorial Psalm              Ps 24: 1-2, 4-3, 5-6  
R. Let the Lord enter; He is the King of glory.

Gospel Reading                    Lk 1:26-38

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: *Lord, You called us all like Mary in her haste to do Your will; we offer our intentions through her intercession seeking the divine grace to be audacious in following You. In every petition we say:*

**R. LORD, THROUGH MOTHER MARY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

1. In gratitude that Mary answered Your call and said yes, loving Father, Giver of Your Son through Mary, we pray for church leaders: our Pope Francis, cardinals, bishops, priests and deacons. May they have the perseverance to proclaim You and lead the faithful to deepen their faith, we pray to the Lord.
2. Thank You for providing Mary as a model of how we should live our lives. Loving Father, Giver of Your Son through Mary, we pray for government officials, that they may imitate Mary as a humble servant of the Lord. We pray to the Lord.
3. May those trapped in the downward spiral of sin have hope through Mary, and may You bring them new life. Loving Father, Giver of Your Son through Mary, we pray for



victims of crimes and injustice. Renew their hope that reward and justice will come from You. We pray to the Lord.

4. For all those who are sick and for those who have died. Loving Father, Giver of Your Son through Mary, may they seek comfort from the loving maternal care of the Blessed Mother and be totally healed from all infirmities of body and soul. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all young women, that they will find in the Blessed Virgin Mary a model of holiness, and that the humility and sincerity of Mary be a driving force for them along the way of sanctity. We pray to the Lord.
6. That expectant parents will be free of anxiety, full of health and well-being, and blessed with joy and contentment in life. We pray to the Lord.
7. For all of us celebrating this Eucharistic feast, may we be guided to become vessels of hope for all whose lives have fallen into despair. We pray to the Lord.

Presider: *Father, as we have offered all the desires of our heart, may Mary be our guiding star as we all receive Your redeeming grace to make us worthy to be Your followers until Your Kingdom is accepted by all, together with Your Son Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.*

## **Day 2: Mass in the Host-Parish**

### **PROPOSED READINGS**

First Reading                      Jer 1:4-10

Responsorial Psalm              Ps 97: 1-6, 11-12

R. The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad.

Gospel Reading                  Lk 2:8-20

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: *Lord, You called us all to bring the good news just like in the gospel today when the shepherds received the news of salvation. Listen to our prayers, seeking strength and the grace to be stout-hearted and courageous in following You. In every petition we say:*

R. *LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.*

1. For the leaders of the Church: Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ; the bishops, priests and all religious men and women. May the poor, the hungry, those who cry and are belittled by society, feel in them the love of God as they shepherd the people of God, we pray to the Lord.

2. For government officials, especially our president and law enforcers. May they always serve according to the example of Christ who lived for the rights of the less-privileged, and see themselves as shepherding their subordinates with utmost love and generosity. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the victims of crimes and injustice, may our Lord renew their hope that reward and justice will come from Him and may they feel His blessings in their hearts. May they recover from the pains of all these adversities. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all the poor, sick and the dying. May the Lord truly permeate them with the hope of salvation for both body and spirit, and that they will respond efficaciously to God's call of healing and renewal. We pray to the Lord.
5. For our brothers and sisters who offer their lives in the service of our Lord as religious or civic servants, may they help in strengthening those whom they serve especially the people of this parish whose lives are dedicated to the service of God and humanity. We pray to the Lord.
6. That parents and mentors who have the obligation to lead the youth may not be blind guides but be teachers witnessing to the Good News. May they give good example of a life of grace and mercy, we pray to the Lord.
7. For all of us celebrating this Eucharistic feast, may we realize that all the blessings we receive, material and spiritual, are God's gifts to us so we may be better equipped to form a community that is alive, fulfilled and permeated with God's love, we pray to the Lord.

Presider: *Father, Your children, ready to respond to Your love, are here. May our prayers make us worthy to be Your followers until Your Kingdom is accepted by all, together with Your Son Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.*

## **Day 3: Send-Off and Commissioning Mass**

### **PROPOSED READINGS**

First Reading                      Ex 4:10-17

Responsorial Psalm              Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Reading                  Lk 1:39-45

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: *Let us pray to God our Father that the Good News of His Son may be preached to all nations and gather all before God as His holy people as we pray:*

R. GOD, LET ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU.

1. That all ministers of the people of God—priests, religious, and consecrated men and women—may generously serve the Lord and His people, and bear witness by their very lives to the Good News they proclaim. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. That God's pilgrim people may lovingly understand and accept all peoples and cultures, speak all tongues, and thus bring together the scattered children of God. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. That missionaries may discover whatever good there is in the hearts and minds of people and in their culture, to heal, ennoble and perfect them in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. That the missionary Church may bring the fullness of Christ's liberation to the whole person in his or her concrete existence. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. That each of the young Churches may be deeply rooted in its own people as a community of faith and love that enriches the whole Church. Let us pray to the Lord.
6. That all young people may continue to contribute, each according to one's gifts and talents, toward the growth and formation of strong local Christian communities in which Christ is alive. Let us pray to the Lord.
7. That all of us who are gathered here may encounter Christ as the meaning and inspiration of our lives; that we may be willing to become to others His heart that loves, His hands that heal, His feet that accompany people on the road to God and to one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

Presider: *Father of all nations, enlighten and strengthen Your Church in our task of evangelization. Make us share in the aspirations and hopes of our own people and of each one, suffer with them, seek peace and find joy with them, and bring to all the true peace and freedom of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **SOLEMN BLESSING**

Presider: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And with your spirit.*

Presider: *Bow down your heads and pray for God's blessing.*

*May Your heavenly favor, O Lord, we pray, increase in number the people subject to You and make them always obedient to Your commands.*

All: *Amen.*

*Bestow the grace of Your kindness upon Your suppliant people, O Lord, that, formed by You, their Creator, and restored by You, their Sustainer, through Your constant action they may be saved.*

All: *Amen.*

*Be propitious to Your people, O God, that, freed from every evil, they may serve You with all their heart and ever stand firm under Your protection.*

All: *Amen.*

*Turn Your people to You with all their heart, O Lord, we pray, for You protect even those who go astray, but when they serve You with undivided heart, You sustain them with still greater care.*

All: *Amen.*

*And may the Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen.*

*The Mass has ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

All: *Thanks be to God.*

## **Closing Mass**

### **PROPOSED READINGS**

First Reading                      Acts 9: 1-31

Responsorial Psalm              Ps 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 9

R. Praise the Lord, all his faithful ones.

Gospel Reading                    Jn 2:1-11

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Presider: *Lord, as we surrender ourselves to You, we ask that You would come by Your Holy Spirit and inspire our hearts today as we say in our every petition:*

R. GOD OF LIFE, HEAR US.

1. That the Church and her leaders may grow towards perfection, bearing the light of Christ in her mission of bringing the Good News to the lost, last and least in our community. We pray.
2. That men and women who are entrusted with authority may make justice and peace flourish in our time. May they use their power to be of service to others. We pray.
3. That God's love and compassion be felt by those who are suffering from different forms of calamities. That belonging to the family of God, we may become sources of life and inspiration to them through our concrete acts of charity. We pray.
4. That the poor and the downhearted may hear the Good News of salvation and experience the mercy of God. We pray.

5. That families all over may remain faithful and trusting in the love that binds the family together. That parents may always respect the uniqueness of their offspring, and that children may constantly reverence their parents as God's instruments of love. We pray.
6. That all those who have gone ahead of us, especially family members and loved ones, may experience a blissful encounter with God in heaven. We pray.
7. That all of us gathered here may have firm confidence in God's mercy and compassion. That His incarnation may also give a deeper inspiration to us young evangelizers to be bearers of His presence in the world. We pray.
8. In silence, we offer to God our personal and communal intentions... We pray.

*Presider: Father, in Your love, listen to our prayers and help us become witnesses of Your Son's incarnation throughout the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

## Appendix 9

# NYD Run - Guide for Resource Persons

## National Youth Day 2017

To contextualize your NYD RUN, resource persons are kindly reminded of the NYD2017 theme and its main objectives (see page 17).

### What is the NYD RUN?

Inspired by Mary's desire to accompany her cousin Elizabeth upon learning from the Angel Gabriel that she was pregnant at her old age: "Mary set out and went in haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth" [Lk 1:39-40].

### Objectives of the NYD RUN

After our awareness of the necessity to educate and evangelize the young, and the urgent need for them to exercise greater leadership, we recognize the importance of exposing them to different kinds of experiences that may lead them to awareness, prayer, reflection and discernment – and compel them to make life-changing actions.

- **IMMERSION:** To immerse the participants to the different realities in life, such as social, cultural, religious, moral and environmental concerns. In the process, to become deeply aware of the different challenges the world is facing and prompt them to make necessary life-changing actions.
- **DISCERNMENT:** Using the NYD lens, to equip the youth to be more objective, reflective and discerning in their thoughts and actions.
- **ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP:** To compel them to respond responsibly to different challenges of life. In the process, like our Mother Mary, to run in haste to make a difference to the life of others, especially the least, lost and the last.

### Notes for the Resource Person (Facilitator)

You shall be running your track twice, with a different set of participants on Days 1 and 2 of the NYD2017.

1. The NYD RUN will be from 13.00-16.00 (3 hours).

Suggested flow:

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 13.00 | Short Introduction  |
| 13.10 | Input/ Activity   |
| 14.10 | Question and Answer/ Discussion   |
| 15.10 | Group sharing, led by the Group Facilitators in their respective groups |
| 16.00 | End of Session  |

2. Considering the main objective of the NYD RUN and your track's main objective, we encourage you to make your track or session...

**INSPIRING.** We encourage you to share your own personal stories of bravery, selflessness and passion to serve. It is our aim that our pilgrims will recognize their hidden potentials and mission. If you can do it, they can do it! Or even better!

**DISTURBING AND CHALLENGING.** Your input and activities should lead the pilgrims to think, reflect and evaluate their own life, their lifestyles, values and dreams for other people.

**INFORMATIVE AND RELEVANT.** Considering the limited time given, your input/ activities should be able to convey basic knowledge and principles regarding your track. Be simple, straight-forward and easy to understand. It should be basic, easy to comprehend, and interesting. Our goal is to give the pilgrims easy understanding of the principle or message you wish to convey. Let them see the realities of life.

**INTERACTIVE AND YOUTHFUL.** Majority of our pilgrims are millennials. It is important that your session should be youth-ready and youthful. Engage them in your session with a lively discussion, interactive approach. Share interesting anecdotes or "hugots".

**REFLECTIVE AND MOVING.** At the end your session, throw one or two questions that will compel our pilgrims to think, reflect and evaluate life's situation. Compel them to make some doable actions in response to the challenges of life.

3. Give a short summary of your points at the end of your session.
4. **END THE SESSION WITH ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS.** At the end of your session, leave one or two questions for the pilgrims to reflect. Make sure that your question/s will bridge or connect to NYD2017 theme. Your question/s will be the main topic for the group sharing.
5. **REMEMBER:** Manage your time well. The NYD Run should end on time to avoid any delay in the program.