

SALESIAN YOUTH MINISTRY DEPARTMENT
With
SECRETARIAT FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY

Jan 15-03: YOUTH VOICES - SYM SDB (Jan 15)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE YOUNG

- Young people are the ‘NOW’ of God
- Young people are the ‘PRESENT’ of our world (CV 64)
- Listening to Young People enriches the Church (CV 65)
- Young person’s heart is the ‘HOLY GROUND’. (CV 67)

- **LIVING IN A WORLD IN CRISIS**

- Violence (72)
- Crimes (72)
- Used and exploited (73)
- Marginalization (74)
- Social exclusion (74)
- Addiction (74)
- Deprived Children (74)
- Ideological colonization (78)
- Discarded (78)
- Dissatisfied (78)
- No points of reference (80)
- Mutual estrangement (80)
- No freedom of speech (80)

- **THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT**

- **MIGRATION**

- What are today’s young people really like? (CV 64)
- What is going on in their lives? (CV 64)

FR MIGUEL’S INTRO

Let us listen to the voice of the young. In them we listen to the voice of the Lord. Let us always keep the door open so that when the young people wish and need it, they can enter and find themselves at home (without office hours).

By talking and listening, people meet... Let's give them the opportunity to share stories, to dive into their lives, to communicate from joy and pain, from words and looks.

Only in this way, when we are with them, will we be the good news.

ANXIETIES & WORRIES

JUANI SALGUEIRO

Coordinadora Nacional del Movimiento.

Movimiento Juvenil Salesiano, PARAGUAY

A problem that I have in my adult life is having to deal with the expectations that I put on myself and for my life. Sometimes I feel like I'm on a race with the clock, in which I'm running out of time to find what's my "mission in life" even though I'm not really sure of what that means and it scares me that I can't find that mission.

Janine Nicole S. Quinto

sophomore student in Makati.

the Provincial Junior Youth Leader of the Salesian Youth Movement - Phillipines North

I, as a young person of today, who currently lives in the time wherein I feel like everything is in a rush. As if I need to accomplish everything as soon as possible. I expect so much from myself. I look at success as if it is a requirement that I need to accomplish all the time. I hate disappointing anyone. And because of that, I now deal with greater number of anxieties and fears along the way. And you know what, the pressure, and all these negative emotions, are what kills me inside. It drives the unending war that I battle with every single night. The thought of wanting to pull the trigger every time, would seem to be unbearable and heavy is always there.

Noëlla Mabombi

2ème Aviation civile, animatrice salésienne des jeunes,

Lectorat, groupe missionnaire à Kinshasa RDC

Deep down inside, I have a problem that bothers me.

In the environment where I live, there are too many injustices, there are too many differences, there are too many social inequalities and that revolts me.

When I walk around my neighbourhood, I sometimes compare my life with that of others. I become aware of embarrassing situations.

There are people who lack the minimum to live on, who sleep rough, who eat poorly and who don't go to school. But there are plenty of others who live in abundance and who throw money out the window and that revolts me.

Hello, I am Santiago Virgen Vélez, I am 22 years old,
a university student and an animator of the Medellín, Colombia SYM.

I am a very happy person, surrounded by a lot of love. But I also sometimes tend to push myself a lot which can make me feel disappointed in my own efforts.

I am also afraid of losing the people I love, and that is why I try hard every day to be a light and a sign of love in their lives. I also want to be this for young people in need, so they may find in me what I found with the Salesians: a second family.

Greetings from Austria. Hello
I am Livio, a first-year university student.

Because of the anti-contage measures
We are forced to take online video lessons at home.
But we spend many hours in front of the computer.
We often have health problems and even take our exams online.
And I fear technical problems
I also miss the movement, the mood in the classrooms, the runners
The dialogues, the debates with my professors, friends.
I can't wait to go, to listen to the lectures at the university again.

Elena Marcandella
Doctor from Venice
National coordinator for Salesian Youth Movement

I've been working in a Covid ward for about a month and a half now, and when they asked me to make this video with my anxieties and worries, I immediately thought, well, I've got a lot. But when I thought about it I realised that they are not related to taking the disease, because I have already acquired it working in a ward where the patients are positive. They are more related to the fact that I am called to be the joy and the hope in a place where people are suffering.

I think this is a very important grace: to be close to those who are in pain and probably always are. There is a lot of concern, a lot of worry because I see that these people are alone. This disease is bad because it makes you suffer alone. No one can be close to you and as a doctor I'm trying to be a touch, a hug, a hand on the shoulder of those who are suffering alone. Just yesterday we brought together a husband and wife who hadn't seen each other for a month after their illness, and this moved me and I realised that Covid is a daily routine. It is not an extraordinary time, it is not extra ordinary, it has really become our normality. We don't have to wait until later to begin doing something to start loving again. Love in a different form, probably, because we are far away, and it is true, but a hand on the shoulder should never be missing, a phone call to someone who is known to be ill or isolated should never be missing.

I realised that really what frightens me most and what makes me most anxious is the idea that there is

someone who is afraid of the other, that some of us who take care of young people, but not only that, but also of those close to us are really afraid of the other and therefore do not become neighbours.

HOPES & DREAMS

But what I am sure of is that my convictions and the values I hold are non-negotiable. One thing the Movement has helped me with all this time is to remain firm in my ideals and to be sure that my life in the Church and my life in society do not have to be different.

To have a group of young people that follows the same path of coherence on life that I follow makes me feel like I'm not alone and that this path of life can be a form of living for me, a form of living attainable to the youth of today. Thanks so much.

But at the end of the day, in that never-ending fight, is a light that will cast and conquer the darkness. As if there's a sudden embrace who will bring love, comfort, and assurance in this world full of uncertainty. "I got your back, and I am always, always going to be there for you... *one day more my child, one day more...*"

And those words are what keeps playing inside my head every time I would fall. What an amazing God we have; never gets tired, never gives on me... on us. And because of that, I continue to wake up with the eagerness to see the sunshine again. Reminding me that my dreams, are my mission in this world and I am up to fulfilling those, through God, with God, and because of God, always and forever.

Alors je fais un rêve d'un monde où nous pouvons nous sentir frères et sœurs, sans rancune, sans tribalisme, sans distinction, sans nous indexer les uns les autres.

Un monde où coule le lait et le miel. Un monde plus et un monde meilleur.

Et je m'engage à toujours servir les autres et à être attentifs autres.

Mi esperanza es que todos los jóvenes del mundo tengan a alguien que en ellos deje huella, que en ellos sea signo de amor.

También, sueño con tener una familia e inculcar en ellos el amor y los valores salesianos, este es mi sueño.

I find it important to stay responsible to avoid a new lockdown AND to save the state's economy.

But let's not forget to remain human, social, supportive like Don Bosco in the aspect of fiducia.

So we celebrate this Christmas with our families.

We hope that next Christmas we will celebrate with our families and friends but without restrictions and for me as administrator it will be a great joy to see the church crowded again with the faithful, especially the young faithful in this community.

But I also see a great deal of hope. I have realised in my experience that the Lord really does make us experience extraordinary things. I grew up with the Salesians, I feel that I am for the young, I was sent to a ward where the patients are elderly and I realise that I am learning to love someone again who is not the age group that I feel the Lord is entrusting to me, but at this moment he is entrusting me with another. I therefore believe that we can truly be the hope, we can be angels for these people, for all the people entrusted to us,

whatever they may be, during a period that we may be experiencing great fatigue and loneliness ourselves, because those who are lonely become increasingly lonely.

I've been thinking a lot about what Don Bosco says about the Exercises for a Good Death. It may sound a bit strange, maybe even put in the part about hopes and dreams, but that's exactly what it is: the Lord is giving us the opportunity to think a lot about those who die, about our loved ones, but also about ourselves, because we live in fear anyway, and I realise that this cannot be detached and separated from the thought of paradise. We must not stop being where the Lord puts us today. Covid 19 is the experience where the Lord is making us work now and it must be a piece of paradise for those around us.

Mortha Leo Frick
University Student, B.SC
Salesian Youth Movement, Province of Hyderabad

As a Young girl I went through hard time. Even to the point of losing hope in God.
God is present in my every day life. I feel supported in the struggle of every day living and heal my negative emotions.

Now I feel bold confident and strong in taking decisions in my life.

God is present and guiding me through the way.

Never lose hope and trust in God.

Faith makes life prayerful with all its blessings

My dream is to become an apostle of Christ to give hope to the hopeless.

May God's love and forgiveness help me to move forward in peace and serenity to a more helpful and glorious future.

FINAL VOICE OF CONCLUSION

- As members of Salesian Family, what is our response to the voice of these young people who represent millions of others!
- Guide us! Do not forget us!.. . they continue to cry...shout and insist...
- Let us give them time and not just space;
- Let us build relationships and not just provide services;
- Let us offer brotherliness and not just structures
- Let us be friends and not be organizers of activities. (p 26 AGC 433)
- God continues to speak to us through the YOUNG