

FMA (13) YOUTH WORLDWIDE about the HOPE in 2020

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Paolino - Mozambique

When I was young, I learned that I have to be with my family, I have to be at home, so that I can contain and heal myself from this disease.

I also want to say that I hope that this pandemic will end shortly. **We may not leave the way we came in, but I'm sure it'll end.**

Another point I want to tell you about is the war: here in the Province we are living a quite difficult situation with this terrorism for which there is no justification and we do not know either when or how it will end.

But I, being young, from what I have already suffered and lived in the past, can tell you that, with the grace of God and His strength, I am sure that everything will end, we must trust in God Who does not abandon us.

Elisabeth – Venezuela

This has been a difficult time for me, for everyone in my country because of the political, social, economic, cultural reality that we are living and for which I ask your prayers. It is a very difficult circumstance for youth to dream, to develop, to grow.

When I had the opportunity to read and write a letter to the Rector Major during his visit to Venezuela in February 2020, I told him on behalf of all the young people of Venezuela that it is our youthful spirituality that encourages us to continue walking, to keep fighting, to keep betting on great ideals even in the midst of all this madness that we are living. The Lord is our center, our Guide, our love and our hope.

Sofia – USA

Too often, positive things don't get the recognition that they deserve. As a student at La Salle, I was able to really get creative and inspired to start something that would potentially help people change their mindset and see things in a more positive, happy light. I started by simply just designing a sweatshirt with the words "see the good" on it and then I realized that I could take it a little bit further. I've been taking production classes since I was a freshman at La Salle and I've been able to learn how to edit and make videos. So I started making videos about people in my life who really inspired me with their positive outlook. I posted them on YouTube for my friends to see and it was really cool to see how much something so small and so easy in the grand scheme of life really made a big difference in my community. And then I also started organizing some community service projects with my friends and my family. We've been able to help a bunch of people. We were able to help the doctors working in the Covid-19 emergency unit at one of the hospitals here in Miami. We were also able to help a shelter for women who are victims of sexual abuse and we were able to give them clothes and toys for their children. And they were actually able to go out with the clothes that we gave them and get job interviews in the middle of the pandemic, which is really difficult. So that was so amazing and it's been so nice to be able to make a positive impact on the community when there has been so much struggle and so much heartbreak.

Richard - Ecuador

In my life I have three fundamental pillars: my family, my friends and prayer. My family because they are the people who are always with us, my dad, my mom, my brothers, their words give us strength to move forward and know that what we want and if what we intend is going to be fulfilled. My friends, because we always need those people who brighten our lives, with whom to share our secrets, with whom to have fun, they give us color, they give us life. And prayer because we must always have that special moment with God, because He knows everything about us and through various factors He makes Himself present and tells us that He is with us, that we can continue and that we should continue. So I invite you to live with your family, live with your friends and live in prayer so that you can always go forward, even in difficult times.

Michelle – Australia

The global pandemic hit every country and every person in a different way. I was really lucky to be living in such a beautiful country like Australia. And one of the many things that helped me through the pandemic was being able to enjoy nature, which I never had time for before Corona hit. Another thing that got me through was definitely my faith, being able to rely on online resources, we live in such a digital world, and just having that blessing of having our faith accessible to us 24/7. We may not have the chance to come to Church or have the chance to receive the Eucharist, but through the digital world, through the digital aide, we are able to access our faith through online Masses, online prayers, and that was something that really got me through the pandemic. Also living with my family, my big beautiful family, also helped me through the pandemic. Living with so many of them, not being alone; so many people were feeling that sense of loneliness. I was really lucky to have people living with me. So, yeah, it hit all of us differently but we've all got there, we've coped and created things along the way.

Olivia - Madagascar

Even if I have my faults, weaknesses and negative thoughts sometimes, I don't let them dominate me and to overcome them I look to all that is good:- the good people and the good things around me. I know that everything will never be perfect but I have a goal to achieve in life and I know that God keeps the best for me. He knows what is best for me. And if I am still alive today, it is by His love and grace and I have faith in Him. And finally, I continue to have hope because I know that tomorrow will be a new day and I will be given a new smile.

Justine - Philippines

It is really true that we are social beings who rely and learn from each other. Indeed, cooperation among everyone in the community is very important in order for us to inspire one another and to help each other get through this. I hope that you, yes you, I believe that you can do this. And I believe that God will always be with you to accompany and guide you as you move, adapt, and face the new reality of life. Stay home. Stay safe. Stay strong. Keep the faith and God bless.

Benedetta - Italy

I believe that the activities that we proposed to the girls have stimulated them in a positive way, have helped them to reflect both on themselves and also with the relationships they have between themselves as well as other people on the outside, including their own boyfriends and I think they equally helped them to break the monotony and boredom characteristic of the lockdown period. Appreciated at different levels by all participants, they went on to propose activities themselves which further stimulated us to think about specific proposals for them.

In speaking to us, a young girl expressed her desire for the future... to be part of the civil service because first of all she liked the proposals of the activity, and saw in us not only a working relationship, but also a relationship of friendship that went beyond the work itself, and they also recognized that we, ourselves, were there for them, at their service proposing activities even if it was on Saturday and Sunday.

Jenifa – India

During the pandemic when life is uncertain for everyone, I was able to structure my own life on the words “I am with you always to the end of the age”. Every day, “Peace prayer” has helped me shape myself spirituality. During the lockdown, along with my companions, I kept the burning lamp of hope bright by volunteering at the Auxilium Skills Academy in the distribution of rations for forty-five thousand hungry people. I was totally involved in it. In the morning I attend online classes, and in the evening I volunteer at the Centre. I am so much thankful to God for giving me this opportunity to think about others even during the Covid-19 pandemic. I became the teen provider of hope to thousands of youth in my locality. My message to young people is: Dear friends, I know we are caught up in a web of uncertainties, but Jesus assures us that “I am with you always”. Believe in Him and you will see miracles. Thank you.

Charbel - Lebanon

With this video, I would like to share with you my experience, how I spent the coronavirus period in a positive way.

At first, I was bored and couldn't stand being locked up at home. I wanted to go out with my friends, as usual, but then I took advantage of my free time to be with myself instead of always living outside of myself.

It was only then that I began to discover new talents and tried to make them grow as gifts, for example, I tried to compose "Puzzle", to read books, to do beautiful things that I did not do before.

I studied online following courses which would have been impossible to find time for, before.

On the other hand, being at home has made me closer to the family and strengthened relationships between us in the sense that I haven't spent time with them for a long time because of University and work. Even when I had free time I went out with friends. So in corona time we began to play together, watch and **tell each other (meet each other)**. I grew closer to my parents and it was the first time I saw them playing.

I want to conclude my speech by saying that while the virus invaded the whole world and spiked fear in many, this in addition to all the problems that occurred here in Lebanon, I felt safe.

I felt God beside me, with me and he would never leave me regardless of the difficulty in my life. I want you too to have great faith in God and to face every difficulty, positively.

Phimlaphat Phanyudod - Thailand

What gave me the strength to face the difficulties of covid-19, was the thought of my mother and my brother, we were always together.

My mother always took care of me, whether she had the means or not and always tried to get what my brother and I needed, so I feel the need to express my gratitude to her, trying to earn with my work, and spending very little on myself so I can better contribute.

I would like to say to all those who feel discouraged and desperate, to continue to fight, to think about people in situations worse than their own. We see that we are more fortunate than they are.

We must always find the strength to fight for the people we love. Thank you

Angelina – Croatia

We've all been through the lockdown. We were locked up in our homes with our thoughts. Our biggest enemies were loneliness and overthinking. So the best weapon so we can fight against them is hope. Hope is like our guardian angel that encourages us to be better, to believe in ourselves, our actions, and not regret anything. Just like Don Bosco said, "being good does not mean not making mistakes, but constantly improving yourself".

Mariana Aparecida - Brazil

This took place in a classroom. I remember everything that happened and I even seem to see the student who spoke to me, replay in my memory.

In our first class of the school year, I make plans and goals with the students and, in the last class, we evaluate what we have set ourselves to achieve, to share everything that happened together.

Since we are at home this year, we moved up the evaluation of 2020, where each student went to the blackboard to write a word to define the year. Among the various words, there was one that marked me a lot. The student who wrote it turned to me and said that the year was INCREDIBLE. I didn't expect to hear that word. So, I asked him to tell me why the year was amazing. He, smiling, in a cheerful voice, said to me: "We have a vaccine, we will be vaccinated!"

I was deeply touched, why? Because we always have the habit of criticizing everything, all the time: "It was bad because I was at home, it was bad because I could not see my friends, it was bad because I could not go out" ... And the student simply 'erased' everything we said negative and we left the year 2020, marked with the positive fact of the vaccine.

So that brought me the hope of better days, the hope that nothing is as bad as we sometimes see it, on the contrary: in the worst of times, in the greatest of adversities, We need to look and see situations with other eyes and discover the bright side of everything.