



INTRODUCTION



Pope Francis, Christ Is Alive

Dear young people, please, do not be bystanders in life. Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved. Don't stand aloof, but immerse yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did".[92] Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism".

"Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, "attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us."



Pope Francis, On the Care for our Common Home, 13

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

Pope Francis, Letter to young people, 2017

"A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity."

LEADERS' NOTES

i

This 90-minute youth work session is designed to open up the six guiding principles from Catholic social teaching which are explored within Love in action. Any of the six guidelines could be covered in far greater depth. This resource is a taster to give young people an experiential overview. Each principle is opened up in a 10-minute activity. As such, it is fast-paced.

At the end of the session, all are invited to reflect on what they see are issues for their own community, and begin to process what they want to do to take positive action.

This resource can be used by those who wish to form a Love in Action youth group. The group could also reflect further using the other resources available online. They could join with the parish-wide group, working at least in parallel, if not fully together.

If it's a group you work with regularly, you'll know what works best for them and how to bring them together. Feel free to adapt what's below. You may wish to include more icebreakers for a group which knows each other less well.

SET UP

You may wish to have posters of the six logos around the room. You could also have a symbol for each one, either with the posters or as part of a prayer focus. See the weekly Leaders' Notes for examples.



INTRODUCTION



Explain that today you're going to be looking at something which is often called the best kept secret of the Catholic Church. When we look at what's going on in the world: how unfair things can be, wars, conflicts, people going to bed hungry, we can feel helpless. Our Church is doing huge amounts to fight inequality and improve the lives of people; it's just not all over the news. However, the Church also challenges each of us to play our part and make a positive difference. There's a set of guidelines about how we should treat one another and the world, which help us to live our lives to the full, and ensure others do, too. We're going to look at the six guidelines below in turn.

1. The dignity and equality of each human person
2. The call to community and participation
3. The preferential option for the poor
4. The dignity and rights of workers
5. Solidarity among peoples and the promotion of peace
6. Care of creation

