

## KSC 2018 FORMATION PROGRAMME TOPIC CHOSEN – YOUTH

**Session Eight:            Theme:            The Beginning**

“My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal “more”. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, the joy that is born of God’s love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the “craziness” of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists.” (Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil, 30 July 2016)

**Step 1:            Opening prayer:**    from the Order’s Prayers

**Step 2:            READING ON THE THEME**

The following are some excerpts from the document produced at the conclusion of the Pre-Synodal Meeting of young people 19 – 24 March 2018. PLEASE NOTE THAT I HAVE DEPENDED ON THE REPORT BY CATHOIC NEWS AGENCY OF 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.

“We need a Church that is welcoming and merciful, which appreciates its roots and patrimony and which loves everyone, even those who are not following the perceived standards.”

“(We) are deeply invested in and concerned about topics such as sexuality, addiction, failed marriages, broken families as well as larger-scale social issues such as organised crime, human trafficking, violence, corruption, exploitation, femicide, all forms of persecution and the degradation of our natural environment.”

“As we grapple with these challenges we need inclusion, welcome, mercy and tenderness from the Church – both as an institution and as a community of faith.”

“Sometimes, we end up discarding our dreams, we are too afraid, and some of us have stopped dreaming. At times, we have not even had the opportunities to keep dreaming.”

“(We) frequently feel excluded for being Christians in a social environment that is adverse to religion.”

“Thus, we have found that young people want authentic witnesses – men and women who vibrantly express their faith and relationship with Jesus while encouraging others to approach, meet, and fall in love with Jesus themselves.”

Going beyond practical, functional and institutional decision-making roles, youth said that ultimately, they want to be “a joyful, enthusiastic and missionary presence within the Church.”

**Step 3:**            *Allow a few moments reflective silence.*

**Step 4: SCRIPTURE READING**

From the Letter to the Hebrews - Chapter 12, verse 2

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne.

**Step 5: REFLECTION (5 Mins)**

**Step 6: SHARING (10 Mins)**

*I have taken the following question from the Year of Youth pamphlet produced by Office for Youth of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The groups might like to discuss it as one question or as three separate questions.*

How can we more effectively: foster the personal and spiritual growth of young people; draw them into responsible participation in the life of the Church; and empower them to live as Christ's disciples in the world today?

**Step 7: CONCLUSION** We pray together the official Prayer for the Year of Youth:

**Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland  
Inspire our entire faith community,  
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy  
in the lives and communities of the People of God.**

**Come Holy Spirit of Youth  
Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ.  
Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth.  
Guide us together, as we strive to offer God's mercy  
to those who feel abandoned or outcast.**

**Come Holy Spirit of Faith  
Empower our community to be courageous.  
Unite your people as witnesses of love.  
Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship,  
Accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.**

**Come Holy Spirit of Vocation  
Stir within young people an awareness of God's call.  
Reveal to us the graces of young people.  
Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices  
To build a civilization of love.**

**Amen**

**Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, friend of the young, pray for us.**

**Step 8: *The meeting proceeds***

**Step 9: CLOSING PRAYERS – FROM THE ORDER'S PRAYERS**