TRAINING SHEET 2024

"Courage and Forward in

CARD № 4

The Magisterium of Pope Francis in an Orione Lay Key

Young people

1 - Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember that you were in Nazareth as an adolescent, a young man, and then a young worker.
Your life then went on simple and peaceful among your fellow citizens.
Today, Lord, life is more complicated for the majority of young people (...) the future is uncertain. And above all, the environment is often heavy, impure, violent...
Lord, I pray to You for all the young people of the world. They carry within them so much riches, so many hopes, so many desires for a happy and useful life.
Help them develop all of their resources.
(...) I ask you not to leave these young people isolated and lost: send them numerous, competent, dedicated friends and educators.
(...) Send them evangelizers: may they meet you as their Lord and Saviour.
May they find in you the meaning of their lives, the strength to walk in truth, the sweetness of your love and that of your Mother.
Preserve them from all evil and guide them on the path that leads to

2 – Introduction to the topic starting from reality

We live in a change of epoch rather than in an era of change, and this challenges society and in particular young people to the new, to be protagonists of an era that respects the human person and promotes a universal fraternity that brings beauty to personal and social relationships and stimulates every day towards the civilization of love.
Today's challenges are many and complex, especially for young people: from family to work, from biology to ecology, from technology to artificial intelligence, from education to sociality, from emigration to integration, from catholicity to ecumenism.

3 - Reflections in four steps

A – Word of God

Texts of Sacred Scripture

"He gives strength to the weary, and increases strength to the one who is weary. Young people get tired and tired; the strongest totter and fall; but those who hope in the Lord gain new strength, they soar like eagles, they run and do not grow weary, they walk and do not weari." (Isaiah 40:29-31).
The word of God says that young people are to be treated "as brothers" (1 Tim 5:1) and advises parents: "Do not exasperate your children, lest they become discouraged" (Col 3:21).
"A young person cannot be discouraged, his characteristic is to dream of great things, to look for broad horizons, to dare more, to want to conquer the world, to be able to accept challenging proposals and to want to give the best of himself to build something better. For this reason, I urge young people not to allow themselves to be robbed of hope, and to each one I repeat: 'Let no one despise your youth' (1 Tim 4:12)". **Pope**

B – Voice of the Church

Documents of the

Education in the faith is a general and permanent necessity: that is, it concerns young people and adults no less than children and young people, and it begins precisely with *those who participate most intensely in the life and mission of the Church.* ***(cf CEI: Evangelization and Witness of Charity (7)***

The new generations, the human face of hope, are an invitation for the Church to turn our gaze to the Lord who makes "all things new" (Rev 2:1:5); They are for everyone a reminder of responsibility towards the future.

To all young Christians I write with affection this Apostolic Exhortation, that is, a letter that recalls some of the convictions of our faith and, at the same time, encourages them to grow in holiness and in commitment to their vocation. However, since this is a milestone in the context of a synodal journey, I address myself at the same time to the whole People of God, to the pastors and to the faithful, because reflection on young people and for young people challenges and stimulates all of us. **Pope Francis Christus Vivit, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation n.3**

Dear girls and boys, I invite you to think about this beautiful thing: that God loves us, God loves us as we are, not as we would like to be or as society would like us to be: as we are. He loves us with the flaws we have, with the limitations we have, and with the desire we have to move forward in life. God calls us that. Have confidence because God is Father, and he is a Father who loves us, a Father who loves us. This is not very easy, and for this reason we have great help in the Mother of the Lord, who is also our Mother. That's all I wanted to tell you. Do not be afraid, have courage, go forward, knowing that we are protected by God's love. **Address of Pope Francis at the WYD in Lisbon, welcoming ceremony, 3 August 2023**

C – Teachings of our Founder

Don Orione lyrics

"We must have a big heart and the heart must be formed by Jesus, Jesus. My son, I recommend you to live and breathe Jesus, only Jesus can form a good and great heart for us. Let us clothe Jesus inside and out, let us breathe Jesus, let us live Jesus Christ."

"Poor youth! Abandoned by those who should be the least, threatened by innocence, thrown into the abyss of vice, today corrupt and tomorrow an instrument of corruption, at the mercy of a society that is uncouth."

"To live the new life in Jesus in order to bring our upset society back to God, yes, it is the society of the future: the sun or the storm of the future, the Christian education of young people is a matter of life for our country."
"Have the courage to do good, only charity will save the world: do good always, good to all, evil never to anyone"
"But, in order to succeed, you must be highly persuaded and well understood that there is but one force to make the young good and to make them heralds of faith and goodness and of moral and civil progress for society: there is but one force: the blessing of God upon our humble work, and the truth given in all its extent, in its natural and imperfect form and in its supernatural and perfect form, which is the grace of Jesus Christ."

L. Orione to C. Secco, 21.02.1922, I., ADO, Writings, 51, 21, |2v|. Id,mi., ADO, Writings, 64,237

Fernando Fornerod, The Christian Education of Youth, Rome 2022

We found a beautiful synthesis of all three aspects of the Orione educational path: beauty, truth and virtue, in a letter that our Founder sent to Sr. Maria Stanislaa Costanza Bertolotti (1878–1957), a year before writing the letter to Fr. Camillo Secco: *"Education is made up of a great and delicate love in G. Cr. The education of youth is a sublime ministry. The Lord receives as done to himself that good which is done to children, and the benefit of their souls is considered by him as the proof of the love which we owe to him and have for him. To make a young person good, it is necessary to make him know the salutary truth comforted by grace; to make him contemplate the beauty of the good, of the goodness, of the virtue, of the truth that he knows. To make him inflamed with the beauty of virtue and truth which he contemplates and by which he must live, and, finally, to obtain that he works in conformity with the beauty of virtue and truth which he loves. To attain all this, the intelligence and heart of the child must be given a clear view of the moral truth and virtue in question: the all-powerful light of truth and virtue comes only from Divine grace. And in order that virtue and moral truth may be placed before the eyes of children, it is necessary that virtue should shine in us, and that it should prove to be lovable and worthy of being followed, and the truth must be expounded with simplicity, and not with shenanigans or artifices.*

to M. Costanza Bertolotti, 19.01.1921, ADO, Writings, 27,9-10; Cf. A. Rosmini to P. Orsi, 06.05.1836, "Lettera 459", 50.

Fernando Fornerod, The Christian Education of Youth, page 37

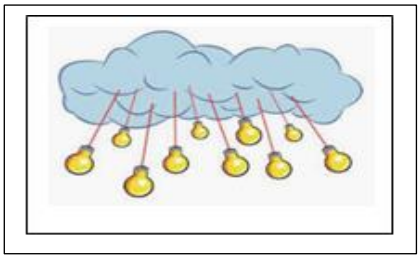
D – Voice of the Orionine Family

One of the most characteristic and even worrying phenomena of today's world is that of the decline in hope and planning looking to the future. The resulting challenge is the ability **to live our history with hope**. I would say that this is "the mother of all challenges"... which challenges in a particular way the young people of Orione who - also because of the charism proper to youth - are and are called to be, the advanced wing of hope.
We know that hope flourishes and grows within the horizon of a history that looks to the future. Post-modernity is a season that is anything but conducive to hope: weak thought declares itself incapable and uninterested in understanding who we are and where we are going, it retreats into presentism, into the "here and now" to be enjoyed, consumed, defended; It renounces to place today in an interesting, lovable, stimulating vision of the future. **(From Tortona to the world, protagonists of a dream. - Don Flavio Peloso FDP).**

To be missionaries is to "have at heart" the other, his life and his salvation. Joseph, who in his love for Mary and Jesus, chose the categories of protection and accompaniment, as well as those of gratuitousness and contemplation in prayer, could become an icon of reference.
To be missionaries is also to be witnesses, heralds.... But do we have the faith that we proclaim? Let us go back, like the disciples, to ask Jesus-Master where you live? Let us rediscover the salient features of that attractive Face because the encounter with Jesus is contagious and generates communication (need to say) and mission.
After the encounter with Christ... Everyone runs! Andrew runs to Peter, Mary Magdalene runs to the disciples... the message is always the same, even if expressed in different words: - I have seen the Lord and I proclaim it to you!
"He who loves runs," writes St. Augustine, and *"the race is all the faster the deeper the love*." We must *"be"* with the Lord in order to "learn" the mission! Only the Lord Jesus, in fact, can act as a glue between dimensions that seem to be opposed: *"he called them to be with him"* and *"he sent them"*. **ISO 2008, Vocational Aspects in Formation.**
Do you remember when Luigi Orione met Mario Ivaldi, the boy who had decided not to go to catechism anymore? In that circumstance, Louis decided to leave everything he was doing to listen to him and console him. **The meeting did not leave them as before: it profoundly changed the lives of both of them.** Of course, because when two young people dream together, everything becomes new: "Do you want to come back tomorrow at the same time?" said Luigi to Mario; and then added: "Find me some of your companions, bring them here! because I want to form a small circle or oratory; And then you'll see how many beautiful works we'll do." However, everything does not remain only in words. **From that meeting full of faith and joy, a mission was born: to** live every encounter with others always under the sign of charity. **(From Fernando H. Fornerod, FDP - The Christian Education of Youth).**

4 – Dialogue and debate

BRAIN STORMING



➔ **To express freely in a word or short sentence, ideas, intuitions, impressions about today's young people...**

➔ **The secretary of each group writes the ideas on a poster, to be presented in plenary so that all participants can look at the work of each group.**

5 – Charismatic hermeneutical updating

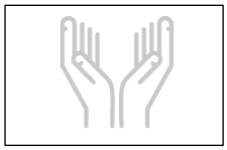
Orione actions and attitudes to be carried out in one's own reality

... Fundamental features of educational action:

The authoritativeness of the educator, the centrality of personal relationships, education as an act of love, a vision of faith that gives foundation and horizon to young people's search for meaning, the integral formation of the person, co-responsibility for the construction of the common good.

Together with these figures, we must remember the mark left by so many educators who, in every state of life, with their humble and daily witness, have had a profound impact on our maturation. While the extraordinary work of many teachers, animators and catechists must be recognized and appreciated, there is a need to arouse and support a new generation of Christians who dedicate themselves to the work of education, capable of taking on as a choice of life the passion for children and young people, willing to listen to them, welcome them and accompany them, to make them demanding proposals even in contrast with the current mentality. The Orione charism urges us to individual, community and political actions that encourage awareness and an adequate response, taking into account especially the poorest, in order to become the voice of those who have no voice. It is exciting to see the commitment of young people today if they are able, following in the footsteps of the Founder, to speak to the world of joy in building the Kingdom of God that

6 – Final Prayer



Virgin of the Visitation, who hastened up the mountain to meet Elizabeth, set us on our way to meet all those who are waiting for us to bring them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go quickly, without distractions or delays, but with promptness and joy.

We will go serenely, because he who brings Christ brings peace, and "doing good" is the best way to "feel good".

Our Lady of the Visitation, inspired by you, this World Youth Day will be a mutual celebration of Christ whom we will bear, as it was for you. May it become an opportunity for witness and sharing, fraternity and gratitude, each seeking out the other who lives in expectation.

With you we will continue this journey of encounter, so that our world too may find itself in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Virgin of the Visitation, to bring Christ to all, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

WYD Lisbon Prayer 2023