

Proposal for a common approach to the Eucharistic Youth Movement

A meeting of some EYM National Directors in Rome in 2006 looked for common traits of the Movement in different parts of the world. This is the resulting text.

The EYM is a Youth Movement

The EYM draws upon characteristics proper to children and to youth:

- spontaneity, curiosity, creativity, capacity to experience joy.
- instinct to play, celebrate, sing, dance, speak.

It allows the youth to live deep friendships.

It invites them to work toward an interior development of their faith: "If you wish to do more..."

Community life is vital to the EYM. Each person has his role to play in the group, each is accepted and loved as he is. In the light of the Word of God, the youth share their life and their faith through encounters and events. They develop the ability to listen to each other, to reflect on what is going on around them and within themselves. They are encouraged to express themselves in writing, song, mime, acting, etc.

The EYM organizes special occasions for meetings, encounters, camps, that help them grow in their faith. Thus is developed the sense of belonging to a wider community, of being part of the Church.

The EYM is an educational movement

The EYM helps to attain an understanding of the basic tenets of Christian faith through study of the Credo, the sacraments, social doctrine, etc. It relates this teaching to concrete living. The youth grow in awareness of their faith and learn how to share it.

The EYM teaches youth to pray and to grow in a personal relationship with the Lord.

The EYM strives to form youth of conviction in a secularized world. It suggests concrete ways to attain this goal: the personal diary as a help to identify and discern inner movements, the celebration of stages of life on the way to becoming an adult, individual accompaniment.

The EYM seeks to form Christians committed to the service of the Church and of the world, capable of taking initiatives. Each person is helped to discover and develop his talents. The members of the EYM engage in service and solidarity activities.

The EYM is a Eucharistic movement

Our movement has grown out of the Apostleship of Prayer with which it shares the Eucharistic spirituality.

The EYM invites the youth to center their lives on Jesus, to learn to know him better, love him more and serve him more generously. Learning about Jesus leads to living and serving like him, wholeheartedly and with a passionate love for humanity.

Make Jesus your friend and your confidant, develop the habit of visiting him, of staying with him, and you will be amazed at how much you learn. (Pedro Arrupe)

The EYM teaches the youth to look positively on the world, on the neighbor and on oneself. All through his life, Jesus offered himself generously. Today, he offers himself in the Eucharist.

Out of gratitude for what we have received, we try to live Jesus' life. We seek to imitate him in making a joyful, generous offering of ourselves in our daily life. Our way of life is molded by the Eucharist.

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Participants:

- F. Aloys Van Doren, S.J., Delegate of the General of the Society of Jesus for the AP and the EYM.
- F. Claudio Barriga, S.J., National director of the EYM and National secretary of the AP in Chile.
- Miss Ingrid Niedermeyer, Head of the national team of the EYM in France.
- F. Christian Motsch, S.J., National chaplain of the EYM in France.
- F. Francesco Pecori Giraldi, S.J, Assistant to the National Director of the EYM in Italy.
- F. Julien Rakotosoa, S.J., National secretary of the AP and the EYM in Madagascar.