



Strategic Plan for Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Diocesan Launch
St John's Pastoral Centre
Feast of St Joseph, 2023



Introduction and Opening Prayer

We spend a few moments praying in gratitude for those who have inspired and impacted our own faith journeys...

Song of Ascents (Psalm 121)

R:// Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; where does my help come from?
My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. R://

May he not suffer your foot to slip; may he slumber not who guards you:
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps, the guardian of Israel. R://

The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.

The sun shall not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. R://

The LORD will guard you from all evil; he will guard your life.

The LORD will guard your coming and your going,
both now and forever. R://

Reflecting on the Word of God: John 6:1-14 (NIV)

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Reflection: My Loaves and Fish

One little boy looked into the eyes of Love Incarnate and offered what little he had. One little boy was moved by compassion for those around Him, and an inexplicable faith in Jesus. One little boy, held nothing back for himself, but just gave what he had, inadequate as it seemed at the time. One little boy, whose name was never recorded, was to become a key part of one of the most famous miracles in the history of the world.

Then Love Incarnate acted, taking the little boy's whole-hearted offering, blessing it, giving thanks to the Father in Heaven. Love Incarnate magnified and multiplied that small offering until it became enough to feed the hungry multitude, and not merely enough. Twelve baskets of scraps left over.

Our young people are hungry today: hungry for truth, for purpose, for friendship, for faith, for hope and for love.

“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

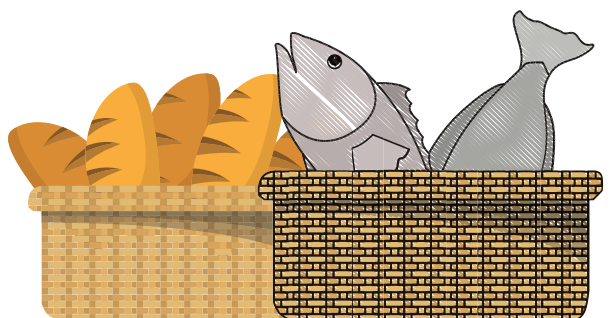
God sees our need, God provides, God is generous. God is still inviting us today to be part of His plan and His mission. The source of our inspiration and strength can be found in the Holy Eucharist.

God invites us to offer what little we have for the good of others, so their lives can be blessed, as well as our own.

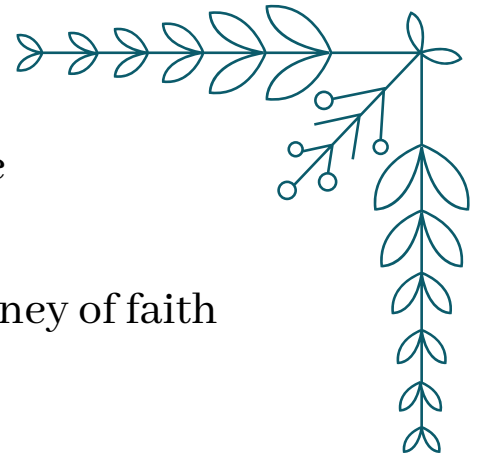
God invites us to reach out to others, trusting that He will provide everything that is needed, multiplying and magnifying our gifts.

What loaves and fish do I have to offer to Jesus? Do I trust Him with my offering?

Let us decide today, like this little boy, to look into the eyes of Love Incarnate and give our yes in whatever way we can, and trust in His providence.



Strategic Plan Prayer for Young People



Father of Kindness,
You have created the hearts of our young people
to know, love and serve You.

We thank You for blessing us with the privilege
of intentionally walking with them on their journey of faith
and offering meaningful opportunities
to encounter Jesus in their lives.

Jesus,
grant that we may reflect You and Your love to all we encounter.
You are the Way for those who need guidance.
You are the Light in the darkness for those who are lost.
You are the Truth that cuts through the confusion and doubt.

Holy Spirit,
guide our thoughts, words, actions, and intentions,
that all we do may be for the greater glory of God.

Mother Mary,
be a mother to our youth
and let them feel the warmth of your maternal embrace.
We ask this through the intercession of St John Paul II,
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Blessed Carlo Acutis,
Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, St Declan, St Carthage, St Otteran, St
Ita, Our Lady of Knock, St Joseph, and St John the Evangelist. Amen.

GOOD TO ME (AUDREY ASSAD)

I put all my hope on the truth of Your promise
And I steady my heart on the ground of Your goodness
When I'm bowed down with sorrow I will lift up Your name
And the foxes in the vineyard will not steal my joy

*Because You are good to me, good to me
You are good to me, good to me. You are good to me*

And I lift my eyes to the hills where my help is found
Your voice fills the night, raise my head up and hear the sound
Though fires burn all around me I will praise You, my God
And the foxes in the vineyard will not steal my joy

Your goodness and mercy shall follow me
All my life I'll trust in your promise (x2)

