



Fondazione Azione Cattolica Scuola di Santità
Fundación Acción Católica Escuela de Santidad
Fondation Catholic Action School of Sanctity
PIO XI

IN PREPARATION FOR THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS' DAY
REFLECTION | TESTIMONIES | PRAYER

Do not be afraid of holiness ... Do not be afraid to set your sights higher

Gradate et Crescete 32,34

Friday, 30 October 2020 - online for 1h



The WYD experience in Panama 2019

HOLINESS AND CATHOLIC ACTION

Jorge ARRIETA

CA Argentina

Dear Catholic Action friends, my name is Jorge Arrieta, the National Youth responsible of Youth Catholic Action in Argentina. I would like to tell you that after 28 years of service and membership in the association at parish, diocesan and national level, through the International Forum CA, I was able to participate in my first WYD which undoubtedly marked and reaffirmed once again my dedication and service to the Church in this lay association.

I would like to share with you my testimony of what I lived and shared with Fran from Spain and Emanuela from Italy; two wonderful people who today are part of my life and with whom we have made a wonderful friendship in the Lord.

We were the representatives of the International Forum of Catholic Action at the "Follow me" Vocational Fair during WYD Panama 2019, we were able to spread the lifestyle that Catholic Action proposes to young people in the Church around the world and above all to witness and make known the saints, the blessed and the martyrs of Catholic Action as an example of young and Christian commitment in the midst of the temporal realities of the world.

I was very impressed and it was also an occasion of joy to see the number of young people who came by the stand; reflecting in their faces the amazement at the possibility of assuming a vocation and service within the Church that did not correspond to a priestly or religious vocation. This was a reason for them to stop and ask for information on how to realize this vocation of service.

But without doubt, seeing those gigantic portraits that illustrated, gave color to our stand and showed the existence and example of witnesses, saints, blessed and servants of God of Catholic Action, was a source of admiration and surprise for every young person who approached, because through the history of their lives they could see that the way to reach HOLINESS was not a utopia but that they could really walk it witnessing with their lives the JOY and STRENGTH that comes from God, in each environment they live in; making extraordinary the ordinary of every day.

Even though Pier Giorgio (Frassati) and Gianna Beretta were among the favorites, I cannot but remember that the figure of Cardinal Pironio attracted the attention of many young Latin Americans, not only because he was a precursor of WYD, but also because of his closeness to young people around the world in the simplicity and humility that characterized him.

The Servant of God Cardinal Pironio was a figure who stressed on many occasions the path and attitude of the Church towards young people, the path and attitude that made concrete the desire to achieve holiness in the reality where they lived: "Young friends, be strong and have courage, be deep and love prayer, be brothers and walk together. Only in this way you will be able to give reason for the hope that is in you". (National meeting of young people, Cordoba -Argentina- 1985).

The young people who stopped at the stand and who knew its history, welcomed with gratitude what Pironio could teach, reflect and witness with his life and his words: Joy and Hope are the key for a happy youth.

Today, Catholic Action continues to state this is possible and that it continues to be the key to the path of life, but above all it is essential to be protagonists, to transform reality in the light of the Gospel and to begin the path that leads to holiness.

I close my testimony with the WYD motto that will help us on the path to holiness and that is the greatest sign of dedication and acceptance of God's will: "Here I am the Servant of the Lord, let it happen to me as you have said" Lk 1:38

Praised be Jesus Christ.