

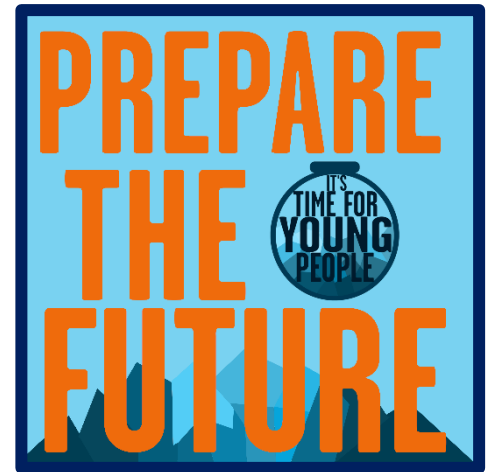
CALLED TO ACTION

— seeing ourselves as agents of God —



In Christus Vivit, Pope Francis calls us not to observe life from a balcony, not to be a parked car, but to dream freely and make good decisions. To take risks, even if it means making mistakes. The previous units have focused on personal transformation, based on a rediscovery of the Gospel, silence and prayer to the Holy Spirit. This unit moves that inner work into outward action.

What does 'faith in action' look like? Letting go of fear, especially of failure, and focusing on possibilities rather than problems. Getting creative and doing something to help bring about sustainable change. Witnessing to the Gospel, dispelling fears of the future, and inspiring others.



Reflection Points:

- How can we ensure we are making the most of time as young people?
- How can we create change in our communities?
- How can we help others to become agents of change?

Reflection:

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis appeals to each and every one of us to contribute to the task of rebuilding our world. Watch the following video and then spend a few moments reflecting on what you have heard. We have included some ideas for practical action below that you could discuss with others - challenge each other to do one of these!

Rise: From One Island to Another (6:31):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYf4yIYHVws>



I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concerns and affects us all.



-Pope Francis, Laudato Si 14

Ideas for practical action:

- Could you contact your local council and look at their climate change strategy/homelessness strategy/health inequality strategy? Do they have one? Can you send a group-letter or email?
- Could you fundraise for a specific cause?
- Might you join a climate strike or non-violent activist movement?
- Might you volunteer for a Refugee Action Group, or similar?
- One way to address the climate crisis may be to change our diets back to seasonal, locally produced food. Could you contribute to a community allotment once a week? How might you raise-awareness and encourage a "waste-free" culture?

Activity

Get several tennis balls (this exercise can also work with paper that is scrunched up) and write various social justice issues on them, one 'cause' for each ball. For example, one for homelessness, one for food poverty, etc. Get your group to take it in turns to juggle these balls, seeing how many they can keep in the air without dropping. The aim of the exercise is to see that one person cannot take on every challenge, but we can do at least one, **we can all do something.**

Discussion Questions:

How can we ensure we plan for a long-term future, that can meet our needs and the needs of future generations, as well as bring healing and nourishment to the earth?

How can you help encourage people to walk/cycle to work/school? Fly less? Stop/reduce unnecessary journeys in the car?

How can we become more 'grounded' and active within our parish community, or school?

Have a think: Is my desire to achieve something beyond myself? Is this the true centre of our desiring God?

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Though we may not be able to do it all, help us to put our faith into action in concrete ways.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we try to create the Kingdom you so desired us to have on this Earth.

May we continue to be inspired by your Word in the Gospels and by the example of Jesus.

May we find great companions on the journey and be beacons of hope for our community.

May we not become complacent, but be brave in acknowledging the reality of the situation our Earth, and humanity, is in.

May we help to change the world, one action at a time.

In your name, we pray.

Amen

