

The Installation of the Junior  
Knights and Daughters of St. Peter Claver  
The Church of St. Cecelia  
May 15, 1983

"I do not pray for my disciples alone.  
I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
that all may be one  
as you, Father, are in me, and I in you;  
that the world may believe that you sent me." (John)

2 Introduction -- the Three R's: reading, writing, arithmetic  
1 Introduction the new Three R's: Reverence, Respect, Responsibility  
GSU/fraternities  
& sororities, the reason: that all may know Jesus as the Way,  
& why I preached the Truth, and the Life; that all may recognize  
against them Jesus Christ as the Lord of human history and  
the one in whom resides the hope of the world.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,  
the Beginning and the End." (Revelation)

1. Reverence for God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, because  
he made us and we belong to him: to know him, to love him, and  
to serve him, to praise him, to give thanks to him....
2. Respect for yourselves and each other: dignity as child of God
  - a. violence (physical) and gossip (psychological)
  - b. faithfulness in friendship
  - c. stealing (taking that which does not belong to you) -  
property or answers on exams
  - d. speaking falsely about someone else - lying, exaggerating,  
gossiping, keeping silent ~~when~~ when you should speak the  
truth
3. Responsibility for each other
  - a. to belong is to participate, to get involved
  - b. "Those who find meaning in life really do something creative,  
lend the stubborn ounces of their strength to pushing away the  
clouds of darkness, light candles along the way, and put  
their shoulder to someone's load, making someone's burden  
lighter because they consider him to be their brother...."  
Homer Elford.
  - b. St. Peter Claver - treated slaves as children of God  
When I was hungry....  
Stoning of St. Stephen

Conclusion

August 23, 1981 = historic nature of these events in Church n  
May 15, 1983 Black Catholic Community

The Installation of the CYO Urban Region Board  
May 29, 1984  
The Catholic Center Chapel

"Men, what must I do to be saved?" Their answer was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and all your household." (Acts 16:22-34)

#### Introduction

- A. Elementary school posters: "The nicest thing I ever did."
- B. "A chubby little boy came down the street riding his bike. There was a lot of traffic and he fell off his bike. I helped him up, while my friends were laughing. This is the nicest thing I ever did."

I. The real meaning of Christian play = a type of spiritual socialization. Competition, victory, the development of the human body, sticktuitiveness are all valid goals in any kind of athletics.

II. Our youth learn loyalty, self-control, friendship, honor as necessary personal qualities for a cohesive team effort toward the goal of victory.

III. But our youth must be taught to develop these transcendental impulses in the context of the Christian life:

self-control when tempted to sin;

friendship as regard for the dignity of every person regardless of race or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, or sex

honor as a certain deportment and pride as a member of the household of faith

loyalty to Christ and his Church and our teachings and values

IV. Remember the context of our developing youth:

A. Their experience of adolescence:

new emotions

decisions about the kind of person they want to be

their desire to explore deeper relationships

their psycho-sexual changes

B. Their experiences of the world about them: collapse of common meaning: life is so much harder for them, so less clear

V. Young people, too, desire to be saved. Like the jailer they are caught in a system of ocnformity to the false values of the world.

HOMILY: 31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR  
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA: HISPANIC YOUTH

4 NOVEMBER 1984

READINGS: MAL. 1: 14-2:2; I THESS. 2: 7-9,13; MT. 23: 1-12

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS! WHENEVER I SEE YOUNG PEOPLE, I AM GRATEFUL. YOU HAVE SO VERY MUCH TO OFFER: YOU ARE YOUNG, YOU HAVE SUCH LIFE, SUCH ENERGY. YOUR SONGS, YOUR DANCES, YOUR GATHERINGS WHEREVER YOU ARE--ALL CELEBRATE LIFE. NOTHING GETS YOU DOWN--AT LEAST, FOR LONG.

OH, TO BE YOUNG! WHEN I SEE HOW HAPPY YOU ARE-- I THINK, "OH IF I WERE YOUNG AGAIN...." WHEN I SEE YOU LAUGHING, FOOLING AROUND, SINGING AND DANCING, I AM LIKE ALL OTHER GROWN-UPS: I ENVY YOU!

OH, TO BE YOUNG! YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO TEACH MY GENERATION. SOMETIMES--YES--WE GRUMBLE A LITTLE: YOU ARE TOO LOUD, TOO DISORGANIZED, YOU MAKE TOO MUCH A MESS OF THINGS. YOU NEED TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL--SOMETIMES, YOU ACT BEFORE YOU THINK--MANY TIMES. YOU THINK, BUT DO NOT CONSIDER ALL THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS--OFTEN.

OH, BUT WHAT A GIFT YOU ARE, FOR ALL OF THAT. WE OLDER FOLK LOOK TO YOU WITH SUCH PRIDE AND ENVY, EVEN WHEN WE ARE FRUSTRATED WITH YOU. AND ALWAYS, WE LOOK TO YOU WITH LOVE.

WHY DO WE TAKE SUCH JOY IN YOU? BECAUSE IN YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE, WE ARE SO RICH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD! YOU TEACH US SO MUCH--AND MOST OF ALL--YOU TEACH US HOW RICH ARE THE TREASURES OF GOD--BEYOND OUR IMAGINING.

TO BE OLD--THIS IS OUR WISDOM: THIS IS TO KNOW OUR LIMITATIONS. LIFE ITSELF SEEMS TO TEACH US A KIND OF HUMBLE WISDOM THIS WAY. THERE IS A KIND OF HUMILITY THAT COMES WHEN YOUR HAIR FALLS OUT, OR TURNS GRAY, OR WHEN YOUR HIPS GET WIDE AND YOUR SHOULDERS SAG AND YOUR FACE GETS THOSE FUNNY LINES IN THEM. THEN YOU DON'T WALK SO FAST OR GET THERE AS SOON AS YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD, OR

MAYBE USED TO. AND MAYBE YOU DON'T EVER GET THERE WHERE YOU THOUGHT YOU SHOULD. THERE IS A KIND OF WISDOM THAT COMES FROM THIS--TO KNOW WE ARE MORTAL AND HAVE OUR LIMITS.

BUT YOUR WISDOM--LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS--IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT. YOUR WISDOM IS TO HAVE NO LIMITS AT ALL. "I HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN ALL MY ELDERS", THE YOUNG PSALMIST BRAGS, "BECAUSE I OBEY YOUR WORDS." [Ps. 119:100]. AND ST. JOHN IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE, PRAISES THE YOUNG, BECAUSE "YOU ARE STRONG AND THE WORD OF GOD ABIDES IN YOU, AND YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE EVIL ONE." [I JOHN 2: 14].

THERE IS A HOLY WISDOM TO SUCH BRASHNESS! TO BE YOUNG IS INDEED TO REJOICE IN THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD--BECAUSE GOD'S POWERFUL WORD HAS TO DO WITH BEGINNINGS--AND YOU ARE JUST BEGINNING: LIFE LIES BEFORE YOU WITH COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES. REAL STRENGTH COMES FROM BELIEVING IN BEGINNINGS, NOT BEING AFRAID TO TRY, TO GET STARTED ON THE JOURNEY. EAGERLY YOU LOOK TO YOUR FUTURE: GRADUATION FROM SCHOOL, CHOOSING A PROFESSION, FINDING YOUR PLACE IN LIFE, MAKING A FAMILY OF YOUR OWN! YOU GROW AND CHANGE--AND BECOME EACH DAY EVER MORE BEAUTIFUL AND MATURE. YOUR EXUBERANCE AND YOUR SWIFT GROWTH THRILL US: THE WORD OF GOD, AND THE POWER OF HIS PROMISE TO BE WITH US ALWAYS GROWS EVER ALIVE IN YOU.

IN THE CHURCH WE NEED YOU SO VERY BADLY. IT IS EASY TO FALTER ON THE WAY, TO GROW WEARY AND LOSE HEART. IT IS EASY TO GET DISCOURAGED. WE NEED YOUR DREAMS AND YOUR HOPE. IT IS YOUR GIFT TO BE FULL OF HOPE: AND HOPE IS THIS: THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY EVEN IN THE MIDST OF A LOT OF SUFFERING, A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES.

OUR READINGS THIS MORNING REMIND US THAT THE OLD ORDER OF THE WORLD OFTEN FAILS US. MALACHI CRITICIZES THE PRIESTLY LEADERS OF HIS DAY FOR MISUSING THEIR OFFICE

FOR THEIR PERSONAL ADVANTAGE. JESUS IN THE GOSPEL TELLS US THAT TEACHERS AND FATHERS OFTEN DO NOT LIVE LIVES AGREEING WITH THE WORDS THAT THEY LAY ON THEIR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN. BUT ST. PAUL IN THE EPISTLE REMINDS US WHAT ALL THE READINGS IMPLY: GOD'S WORD IS TRULY ALIVE AND WELL IN OUR HEARTS AND IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS --AND GOD'S WORD CANNOT FAIL TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT PROMISES--IF WE HEAR AND OBEY.

NO ONE OF MY GENERATION--CERTAINLY NO BLACK MAN-- WOULD EVER DISHONOR YOU TO TELL YOU THAT GROWING UP, AND BEING YOUNG--IS EASY. I KNOW IT ISN'T. IT'S TOUGH SOMETIMES TO BE A KID. EVERYTHING CHANGES SO FAST: YOU HAVE TO FACE A WORLD THAT IS OFTEN HOSTILE AND STRANGE. YOU GOT TO GO INTO NEW SCHOOLS THAT AREN'T TOO FRIENDLY. YOU GOT TO TRY FOR JOBS THAT YOU MIGHT NOT GET. SOMETIMES PEOPLE WON'T LIKE YOU OR HIRE YOU--BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK, OR THE ACCENT OF YOUR SPEECH. AND IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS--YOU CHANGE TOO--AND MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE, OR MAYBE YOUR PARENTS FIND IT HARD TO KNOW YOU OR UNDERSTAND YOU. NO, IT'S NOT EASY TO BE A KID GROWING UP.

BUT YOU MAKE IT. YOU LISTEN, YOU LEARN, YOU TAKE A LOT OF RISKS, YOU KEEP LAUGHING WHEN IT HURTS TOO MUCH TO CRY, AND YOU PICK YOURSELF UP AND GO AT IT AGAIN, WHEN YOU MAKE MISTAKES AND WHEN YOU FAIL EVEN WHEN YOU TRIED YOUR HARDEST. YOU NEVER GIVE UP--FOR LOVE NEVER FAILS. YOU TRY AGAIN AND AGAIN. AND YOU MAKE IT.

YOU MAKE IT, BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHO YOUR REAL TEACHER IS: IT'S CHRIST. HE WAS A KID AND GREW UP A KID "PUTTING UP WITH THE CROSS AND THINKING NOTHING OF THE SHAME" AS THE SCRIPTURE SAYS [HEB. 12: 1]. YOU KNOW WHO YOUR TRUE FATHER IS: YOUR GOD AND FATHER WHO MADE YOU LIKE YOU REALLY ARE, WHO LOVES YOU THE WAY YOU ARE, AND WHO GIVES YOU EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND PROVIDES FOR ALL YOUR WAYS, WHO NEVER WILL LEAVE YOU HOWEVER FAR YOU ROAM.

WE NEED YOU BECAUSE OF THIS PROMISE THAT YOUR VERY PRESENCE MAKES TO US: YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE IT. YOUR LOVE, YOUR JOY AND HOPE--IT TELLS US THAT BETTER THAN ANY WORDS. YOU WARM OUR HEARTS MORE THAN ANY FIRE. *We need you as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, ...*

WHEN PHILIP AND ANDREW WERE BRINGING SOME GREEKS TO MEET JESUS ONE DAY [JOHN 12: 20FF.]--HE TOLD THEM TO LOOK FOR HIM IN THE SEEDS OF WHEAT. I THINK THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE. ABOUT YOU.

LOOK TO THE SEEDS OF WHEAT. LOOK TO THE LITTLE GRAINS WHICH FALL TO THE GROUND AND DIE--TO BECOME A MIGHTY HARVEST OF THE FATHER'S LOVE. LOOK TO THE SEEDS.

LOOK TO THE NEW BEGINNINGS. LOOK TO THE YOUNG. LOOK TO THE THINGS THAT ARE YET TO BE BORN, YET TO BECOME. WHEN WE LOOK FOR JESUS WE HAVE TO LOOK TO THE SEEDS.

SO WE LOOK TO YOU: WE WATCH YOU DYING TO CHILDHOOD AND RISING ADULT. WE LOOK TO YOU GROWING UP, MAKING MISTAKES AND LEARNING. WE LOOK TO YOU, MAKING IT, ALL THE WAY. YOU TEACH US HOW TO LEARN, LEAD US HOW TO FOLLOW, PLAY US HOW TO DANCE AND SING. WE NEED YOU ALL THE WAY.

Finally, - and I say this not as an afterthought, but save something important for the last - prize your hispanic gifts. To be young, gifted, and hispanic -- that where it's at!!

Be strong in your hispanic identity, and proud of it - so strong and proud that you not only affirm yourselves but also the identity and giftedness of others. God speaks comes to you my friends in the beauty of your culture and through your hispanic gifts he touches all people with the light of His truth. If you follow this path, I assure you - "whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

Now let us come to the Table of the Lord with "God's tidings and all our efforts and toil" (Thessalonians). The Lord invites you as a special guest to his table, to strengthen his communion with you and to comfort you in your struggles and to confirm you in hope.



The Urban Youth Gathering  
Stouffer's Inn on the Square  
March 23, 1985  
4:00 p.m. Liturgy

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus" (John 12: 20-23)

I. The basis for the request:

A. "I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

We are made for  
God, and our hearts...

::: our very being cries out for God  
the lady in the cab: "Tell me, what am I to do with  
my life?"

B. The sense of our own imperfection:

::: feelings of personal failure  
lack of self-confidence  
loneliness  
peer relationships  
family relationships  
anxiety about relationships with the other sex  
academic problems  
worry about achievement

II. Jesus response: Come to me, all you who labor and find life burdensome:  
I will refresh you.

I am the way, the truth, and the life

Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat. But, if it dies,  
it shall bear much fruit.

Jesus died so that others might live; so must we...

I.C. The troublesome state of the world

::: fundamental moral choices that a new generation of  
women and men must make

III. Youth = called to make a difference

----A youngster was constantly asking to be driven places. At last,  
the tired mother said, "What do you think God gave us legs for?"  
The youngster's quick reply was, "One for the break, and one for the gas!"  
Our real desire: to get in the driver's seat of life by ourselves

URBAN REGION CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MASS: 22 MAY 1985: JER. 1: 4-10; JOHN 1: 35-42

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS: I WELCOME YOU TODAY WITH GREAT JOY--FOR YOUR PRESENCE IS A COMFORT TO ME AND TO ALL OF US WHO SERVE THE CHURCH. YOU SHOW THE FACE OF CHRIST--A FACE OF CONCERN FOR THE LITTLE ONES AMONG US, OF WHICH HE SPOKE: "OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." YOU ARE PRO-LIFE ACTIVISTS: FOR WHAT CAN MORE ELOQUENTLY AFFIRM OUR RESPECT FOR LIFE, THAN YOUR SACRIFICE OF COUNTLESS HOURS--INDEED THE COMMITMENT OF YOUR VERY LIVES--TO THE CARE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. PRO-LIFE INDEED: WHERE IS LIFE MORE FRAGILE, MORE VULNERABLE, MORE TEACHABLE AND FORMATIVE--MORE ALIVE! THAN IN THE YOUNG.

YOU INCARNATE HOPE HERE: FOR YOU STAND FOR THE YOUNG, YOU ADVOCATE THE YOUNG, YOU ARE ON THEIR SIDE. AS OUR HOLY FATHER POPE JOHN PAUL II RECENTLY WROTE IN HIS APOSTOLIC LETTER "TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD," OUR YOUNG PEOPLE EMBODY THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH--"FOR ALL OF US, THANKS TO YOU," HE TELLS THE YOUNG PEOPLE, "IN A CERTAIN SENSE BECOME YOUNG AGAIN."

IN YOU THERE IS HOPE, FOR YOU BELONG TO THE FUTURE, JUST AS THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU. FOR HOPE IS ALWAYS LINKED TO THE FUTURE; IT IS THE EXPECTATION OF FUTURE GOOD THINGS, . . . THE EXPECTATION OF THOSE ETERNAL GOOD THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PROMISED . . . AND THE EXPECTATION OF THE GOOD THINGS WHICH MAN WILL BUILD, USING



THE TALENTS GIVEN HIM BY PROVIDENCE...

[LETTER...PARA. 1, P. 4]

YOU MEN AND WOMEN OF THE URBAN REGION CATHOLIC YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD--YOU STAND FOR THE YOUNG WHOM YOU ADVOCATE, AND YOU ADVOCATE THE CHRISTIAN HOPE THAT THEIR YOUNG GROWING LIVES STAND FOR. WE WELCOME YOU TODAY.

TODAY'S LITURGY SPEAKS A WORD OF WELCOME. TO HIS OBVIOUS DISCOMFORT, THE PROPHET JEREMIAH HEARS A WORD NOT ONLY WELCOMING HIM, BUT URGING HIM TO THE DANGEROUS WORK OF GOD THAT WOULD COST HIM HIS FREEDOM AND HIS VERY LIFE: "YOU SHALL ROOT UP AND TEAR DOWN, DESTROY AND DEMOLISH, BUILD AND PLANT." NO WONDER THE PROPHET DISCLAIMS: "AH, LORD GOD! I KNOW NOT HOW TO SPEAK! I AM TOO YOUNG!"

JEREMIAH RECEIVES THE WORD OF GOD INTO HIS MOUTH, AND IS STRENGTHENED BY THE POWERFUL PRESENCE OF THE LORD WHOM HE WELCOMES. JESUS ON THE ROAD RECEIVES THOSE SENT TO HIM BY HIS HEAVENLY FATHER BY THE INVITATION OF JOHN: "MASTER, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?" "COME AND SEE!"

THE WORD OF GOD WELCOMES AND THE WELCOMING WORD RECEIVES THE LIVING PRESENCE OF THE LORD OF HOPE IN THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM, THE LITTLE ONES, THE YOUNG, THE GROWING UP, OUR FUTURE, OUR YOUTH.

JEREMIAH IS SENT TO WITNESS TO THE FUTURE, TO GIVE A WORD REJECTED IN HIS OWN DAY IN THE SPILLING OF HIS

BLOOD, TO A GENERATION YET TO BE BORN: "HAVE NO FEAR...BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU TO DELIVER YOU, SAYS THE LORD." JESUS IS SENT TO EMBRACE THOSE WHO ARE DRAWN TO HIM: "THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL CERTAINLY NOT CAST OUT. FOR I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME. AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME, THAT OF ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME I LOSE NOTHING BUT RAISE IT UP ON THE LAST DAY." [JOHN 6: 38-39]

JESUS' CONCERN FOR THE LITTLE ONE, THE LEAST, THE LOST, HAS A CERTAIN SPECIAL RELEVANCE FOR THE YOUNG. IT IS AN IRONY THAT OUR WORLD WHICH SEEMS SO TO GLORIFY YOUTH AND THE PASSIONS AND PURSUITS OF THE YOUNG AND IMMATURE, CAN BE AT THE SAME TIME STRANGELY INSENSITIVE AND UNCARING FOR THE YOUNG. THE MARKET PLACE EXPLOITS THE IMMATURE WITH SHALLOW PROMISES AND FALSE EXPECTATIONS. OUR CULTURE GLORIFIES STRENGTH AND PHYSICAL BEAUTY, PROMISES POWER AND POSSESSIONS TO THOSE WHO LEARN TO GRAB FIRST AND HOLD ON TO THE FASTEST. WE ARE TAUGHT TO IGNORE THE FUTURE FOR THE SAKE OF THE PRESENT, TO SACRIFICE THE VALUES OF EDUCATION AND ANYTHING THAT TAKES EFFORT, TO GLORIFY THE EFFORTLESS AND SELF-INDULGENT. SELF-DEVELOPMENT IS NOT A RESPONSIBILITY, BUT A EUPHEMISM FOR SELF-PREOCCUPATION. YOUTH IS NOT A CHALLENGE, BUT A MYTH TO BE EXPLOITED, PACKAGED AND SOLD TO THE GULLIBLE, AND TO THE YOUNG.

YES, WE SELL YOUTH TO THE YOUNG--A FALSE YOUTH, AN ETERNAL YOUTH OF PLEASURES WITHOUT PAIN , POSSESSIONS WITHOUT

WITHOUT STEWARDSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS WITHOUT EFFORT OR MUTUALITY, POWER WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY OR ACCOUNTABILITY. GRAB FOR ALL THE GUSTO YOU CAN GET. YOU ARE ONLY YOUNG ONCE. ENJOY YOURSELVES--YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO IT ALL--RIGHT NOW. THE WORLD IS YOURS.

MOST LIES ARE MOSTLY TRUE--THE PATENTLY FALSE IS EASILY DISMISSED. BUT THE LIE THAT IS MOSTLY TRUE SEDUCES THE MIND SO EASILY, AND ENTRAPS THE FOOLISH HEART. TO THIS FOOLISHNESS THOUGH, JESUS CALMLY ASKS: "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" "MASTER, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?" "COME AND SEE!"

JESUS CHALLENGES OUR ETERNAL QUEST FOR HAPPINESS, SO EASILY DELUDED BY THE HERE AND NOW, THE EASY ANSWER, THE QUICK BUCK, THE PAINLESS EFFORT, THE MORAL SHORT-CUT, THE HALF-TRUTHS AND THE PARTIAL COMMITMENTS: "WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHOM DO YOU SEEK? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

FOR YOUTH IS DESIRE AND LONGING; YOUTH IS A QUEST AND A QUESTION; YOUTH IS A SEARCH, AN ETERNAL SEARCH. INDEED, AS OUR HOLY FATHER POIGNANTLY SAYS, IN OUR YOUTH WE ARE ALL YOUNG AGAIN, ALWAYS YOUNG. "UNLESS YOU BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN," JESUS SAYS, "YOU SHALL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM."

WE ARE BORN TO BEGIN, AND WE MUST ALWAYS BEGIN TO BE BORN, BE READY TO BEGIN AGAIN, A PILGRIM PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY HARDLY YET BEGUN. WE ONLY BECOME OLD IN

THOUGHT AND IN HEART, WHEN WE GROW CYNICAL AND DISILLUSIONED IN OUR DREAMS--ON ACCOUNT OF THE LIES WE BELIEVED. WE ARE OLD AND COLD OF HEART WHEN WE ARE DEFEATED AND DRAINED OF WILL AND ENERGY FROM HAVING TRIED ONCE TOO OFTEN--AND FAILED. WE STAY YOUNG WITH THE YOUNG WHEN OUR HEART--HOWEVER OLD IN YEARS--IS NOT MADE OLD BY ITS TEARS, EMBITTERED BY ITS LOSSES, EMPTIED IN ITS DEFEATS--BUT ENLIVENED, ALIVE IN ANY TRIAL, FILLED WITH NEW HOPES AND NEW DREAMS YET FOR THE JOURNEY JUST BEGUN. WE CANNOT BELIEVE IN THE YOUNG, AND OUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WILL HAVE A HOLLOW SOUND, IF WE HAVE STOPPED BELIEVING IN OURSELVES AND IN THE JOY SET BEFORE US, WHATEVER THE COST.

IF WE NO LONGER BELIEVE IN HUMAN POTENTIAL, OUR OWN POTENTIAL, TO GROW AND TO LEARN--HOW CAN WE INSPIRE A YOUNG PERSON TO STUDY? IF WE CANNOT HOPE ANYMORE OURSELVES, CAN WE ENGENDER HOPE IN ANOTHER? IF WE TRY TO LEAD ANOTHER ON A JOURNEY WE OURSELVES HAVE LONG ABANDONED, WILL WE NOT ALL STUMBLE AND FALL?

WE CANNOT TALK DOWN TO THE YOUNG--NOR CAN WE CREDIBLY WITNESS TO THAT WHICH WE HAVE NEVER SEEN NOR HEARD. WE CANNOT GIVE WHAT WE DO NOT HAVE. BUT IF WE ARE HONEST, HUMBLE AND TRUE--WE CAN GIVE WHAT WE HAVE NO MATTER HOW HUMBLE IT SEEMS: ~~OUR~~ HOPE, OUR DREAMS HOWEVER TARNISHED, OUR HAND HOWEVER SOILED, OUR HEARTS HOWEVER HURT, OURSELVES--OUR IMPERFECT SELVES--GROWING SELVES, YOUNG SELVES, EVER YOUNG SELVES WITH CHRIST, WHO WITH US STRUGGLES STILL.

WE SHARE A COMMON BREAD AND CUP TODAY, NOT OF A JOURNEY ENDED, BUT OF ONE JUST BEGUN, HOWEVER MANY OUR YEARS. "WE WOULD SEE JESUS," THE GREEKS TOLD PHILIP AND ANDREW, "THE GRAIN OF WHEAT MUST FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE," JESUS ANSWERED THEM, "SO THAT IT MIGHT BEAR MUCH FRUIT." [JOHN 12] SO WE TOO, WITH CHRIST, WITNESS TO ONE ANOTHER IN OUR LIVES. WE BELIEVE IN OUR YOUNG--BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN LIFE ITSELF, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IN GOD'S EYES WE ARE ALL YOUNG AND MUST ALWAYS BE YOUNG. BEING ALIVE MEANS BEING YOUNG, LEARNING, MAKING MISTAKES, SEEKING PARDON, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, GROWING, ALWAYS GROWING UP INTO THE FULL STATURE WHICH IS CHRIST.

YOUTH DAY: NASHVILLE SESQUICENTENIAL  
5 MARCH 1987 - HOMILY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

THURSDAY AFTER ASH W.  
DEUT. 30: 15-20  
LUKE 9: 22-25

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS--I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO  
BISHOP NIEDERGESES FOR GIVING ME THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING  
WITH YOU TODAY AT THIS GRAND CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS OF  
CATHOLIC LIFE IN TENNESSEE. YOUR BISHOP CALLS YOU<sup>together</sup>~~^~~-THE  
YOUNG PEOPLE OF TENNESSEE ~~TOGETHER~~--BECAUSE, IN A VERY  
REAL WAY--YOU ARE THE CELEBRATION: ~~FOR YOU ARE THE YOUTH,~~  
~~THE YOUNG~~ YOU ARE THE PRODUCT OF THE LIFE THAT HAS BEEN,  
YOU ARE THE RESULT OF SO MUCH SACRIFICE AND LOVE; YOU ARE  
THE LIFE THAT IS TODAY, THAT IS NOW--READY AND WILLING AND  
ABLE--AND YOU ARE SURELY THE LIFE THAT IS YET TO BE.  
YOU REALLY ARE WHAT WE BISHOPS CALLED OUR PASTORAL LETTER  
ON PEACE: YOU ARE -- GOD'S PROMISE AND OUR RESPONSE!!

JESUS CHRIST: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND YES, FOREVER!  
(HEB. 13: 8--THE MOTTO OF YOUR DIOCESE!)--YES INDEED,  
JESUS CHRIST--BUT ALSO YOU! YOU ARE OUR YESTERDAY, OUR  
TODAY, YES, OUR FOREVER: FOR OUR GOD GIVES LIFE, AND SURELY  
YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE, ARE LIFE! WHAT A TREASURE YOU ARE--  
YOU EMBODY THE VERY BEST OF GOD HIMSELF: LIFE, ENDLESS  
LIFE, ALWAYS NEW, ALWAYS GIVING, ALWAYS YOUNG. HOW BLESSED  
WE ALL ARE IN YOU. THANK YOU FOR BEING ALIVE AND BEING  
HERE TODAY IN TESTIMONY OF YOUR LIFE AND FAITH: YOUNG,  
CATHOLIC AND ALIVE! ~~HOW YOU MAKE OUR OLD GRAY HEADS HAPPY~~  
~~TODAY: HAPPY TO SEE OUR FAITH ALIVE!~~



NASHVILLE YOUTH -- P 2

SAINT PAUL ONCE TOLD THE YOUNG TIMOTHY:  
"DON'T LET ANYONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH! [I TIM. 4: 12]"  
TO PUT YOU DOWN IS TO PUT DOWN LIFE ITSELF. SO, DON'T  
PUT YOURSELVES DOWN EITHER. DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE  
YOURSELVES, DON'T BE ASHAMED TO BE LOVING AND BRAVE  
AND TRUE.

YOU ARE PRICELESS--SO DON'T SELL YOURSELVES  
CHEAP. YOU HAVE BIG DREAMS AND HIGH IDEALS. YOU HAVE  
STRONG HEARTS FULL OF COURAGE AND HIGH STANDARDS. YOU  
WANT TO BE THE BEST YOU CAN, AND YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE  
EVERYTHING FOR YOUR GOALS: ALL YOUR EFFORTS, ALL YOUR  
PERSONAL SACRIFICES, EVEN TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIVES FOR  
WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT, TO STAND UP FOR YOUR IDEALS  
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH OF THIS OLD SAYING:  
"SOMEONE WHO STANDS FOR NOTHING WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING."  
YES, LOTS OF VOICES WILL TELL YOU LIES AND TEMPT YOU  
TO SETTLE FOR LESS, TO SELL OUT, AND TAKE AN EASIER PATH.

SOME VOICES WILL SAY: THE ONLY THING THAT IS  
IMPORTANT IS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY SO YOU CAN BUY WHATEVER  
YOU WANT. NO ONE WILL RESPECT ME OR PAY ATTENTION TO ME  
UNLESS I AM RICH: THEN THEY WILL LISTEN, EVEN IF I HAVE  
NOTHING TO SAY. NO ONE WILL LIKE ME OR WANT TO BE MY  
FRIEND UNLESS I AM <sup>wealthy</sup> RICH. THEN THEY WILL WANT TO BE WITH  
ME ALWAYS, EVEN IF I HAVE NOTHING OF MYSELF TO GIVE THEM,  
ONLY THINGS.

OTHER VOICES WILL SAY: GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER

NASHVILLE YOUTH -- P 3

EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO BELIEVE AND DO. THIS IS REAL FREEDOM: TO HAVE NO IDEAS OF MY OWN TO DEFEND, JUST TO AGREE WITH WHAT EVERYONE THINKS AND TO DO WHAT EVERYONE DOES. NEVER SAY NO AND TRY OUT ANYTHING THAT ANYONE SUGGESTS. YOU WON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU LIKE IT, OR WHAT YOU ARE MISSING, UNLESS YOU TRY IT: DRUGS, ALCOHOL, SEX, WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE. PEOPLE WILL ADMIRE YOU AND RESPECT YOU ONLY IF YOU CAN BRAG THAT YOU HAVE TRIED OUT EVERYTHING, ~~AND~~ THEREFORE YOU ARE REALLY GROWN UP AND EXPERIENCED AND KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS.

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY ADMIRE SOMEONE WHO SHOWS OFF, WHO THINKS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING? WHO NEVER LISTENS TO ANYONE, OR CONSIDERS THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS, BUT ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE <sup>or she</sup> WANTS AND HAS AN ANSWER TO EVERYTHING? THAT PERSON HAS SOLD OUT--AND REALLY IS PRETTY TIRED OUT AND OLD AND DEAD INSIDE--BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MORE QUESTIONS FOR HIM TO BE ASKED, NO MORE JOURNEYS TO MAKE, NO MORE TREASURES TO BE FOUND, <sup>That person</sup> ~~HE~~ ALREADY HAS IT ALL--AND HAS NOTHING AT ALL!

"THE ONE WHO SAVES HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT," JESUS CHALLENGES HIS YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE GOSPEL TODAY [LUKE 9: 24]. DENY SELF--DOES NOT MEAN TO PUT YOURSELF DOWN--NO INDEED: IT MEANS-- DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT! DENY THAT YOU GOT IT ALL TOGETHER AND HAVE IT ALL RIGHT NOW! BE READY FOR THE JOURNEY: LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN, AND YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN AND FIND OUT AND GROW. DENY THE PRISON

NASHVILLE YOUTH -- P 4

THAT SELF-CENTEREDNESS AND FEAR AND ANXIETY CAN SO EASILY BECOME: BE REAL, BE BRAVE, HAVE PRIDE ENOUGH IN YOURSELF TO ASK FOR HELP, TO SEEK DIRECTION, TO LISTEN AND LEARN AND GROW: YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO FIND OUT AND SO MUCH MORE TO GIVE--OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE WHICH IS YOU!

WHAT A CHALLENGE YOU HAVE--GROWING UP IN THE END OF THIS TIRED, OLD, OLD 20TH CENTURY--WHICH BEGAN WITH HORSE AND BUGGY, AND SO MANY LIMITS TO HUMAN LIFE-- NO RADIO, TV, MOVIES, NO TELEPHONES, NO CARS OR BUSES, NO AIRPLANES. A LIFE OF A LOT OF DISEASE AND EARLY DEATH, OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE, WHERE A FEW WERE RICH AND WORKMEN COULD NOT EVEN FIND JOBS, NOR BARGAIN FOR JUST WAGES. ONLY A FEW WENT TO SCHOOL, THEN ONLY THE WHITE AND MALES. A LIFE OF RACIAL INJUSTICE OF THE GROSSEST SORT, AND ALL MANNER OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST EVERY MINORITY: WOMEN, CHILDREN, THE POOR. TODAY WE ARE FAR FROM PERFECT, BUT THE VOICES OF FREEDOM HAVE RUNG ACCROSS OUR LAND.

HOW I ENVY YOU! "I HAVE A DREAM" MARTIN LUTHER KING ONCE CRIED OUT--BEFORE YOU WERE BORN--AND NOW YOU ARE MARTIN'S DREAM--HOW PROUD HE WOULD BE OF YOU! ~~HOW PROUD HE IS OF YOU!~~ YOU WILL SURELY SEE THAT PRECIOUS DAY OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL / COME TRUE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN. YOU WILL SEE AN END TO THE ARMS RACE, AN

END/TO THE TERRIBLE SCOURGE OF WARS THAT HAS PRACTICALLY DESTROYED US THIS PAST CENTURY. YOU WILL SEE THE END OF INJUSTICE ON A GRAND SCALE, AND THE CREATING OF A NEW AND MORE HUMAN ORDER OF ECONOMICS AND WORLD GOVERNMENT. YOU WILL SEE AN END/TO TERRIBLE POVERTY AND MOST DISEASE. IN YOUR HEARING AND BEFORE YOUR EYES THESE VERY MIRACLES OF GOD'S LOVE WILL TAKE PLACE. *People of all races, ethnic, and cultural background* ~~LITTLE BLACK BOYS AND GIRLS TOGETHER HAND IN HAND WITH LITTLE WHITE BOYS AND GIRLS WILL GROW UP~~ *shall* GROW TOGETHER HOLDING HEADS HIGH, JOINED IN PEACE AND LOVE, BUILDING TOGETHER A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN! ~~YOU WILL SEE IT, YOU WILL TAKE PART IN IT--FOR YOU ARE IN THE FLESH THAT GRAND OLD SONG: GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY! FREE AT LAST! THANK YOU FOR MARTIN'S DREAM--FOR BEING YOU!~~

YES INDEED--YOU SEE THE CHALLENGE OF DEUTERONOMY: SEE I SET BEFORE YOU TODAY LIFE AND DEATH, THE BLESSING AND THE CURSE. CHOOSE LIFE THAT YOU MAY LIVE! [CF. DEUT. 30: 15FF.] YOU ARE LIFE, AND I KNOW YOU WILL CHOOSE LIFE--NOT PLEASURE, NOT UNJUST AND UNEASY WEALTH, NOT PAINLESS, EASY, CHEAP EXISTENCE--BUT REAL LIFE, TRUE LIFE, LIFE THAT COSTS OUR ALL--BUT LIFE THAT YIELDS UP THE VERY TREASURE OF ETERNITY! ~~WE SHALL OVERCOME!~~

YES, WE--FOR, MY YOUNG FRIENDS, YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS JOURNEY OF LIFE AND ALL ITS FRIGHTENING AND COSTLY CHALLENGES. WE ARE WITH YOU--YOUR MOMS AND DADS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, YOUR TEACHERS, SISTERS AND BROTHERS,

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PRIESTS AND BISHOPS--YES EVEN OUR HOLY FATHER WHO CALLS YOU OUR HOPE--"FOR YOU BELONG TO THE FUTURE, JUST AS THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU." [CF. LETTER TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORD, JOHN PAUL II]. BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU BELONG TO CHRIST. WHEN YOU PRAY TO HIM IN THE WORDS YOUR BISHOP TAUGHT YOU:

JESUS, I WANT TO BE YOUR FAITHFUL FRIEND.

JESUS, PRESERVE ME TODAY FROM ALL THAT IS EVIL.

JESUS, STRENGTHEN ME TO DO ALL THAT IS GOOD.

JESUS, PLEASE SHOW ME MY VOCATION IN LIFE.

JESUS, I WANT TO LOVE YOU TODAY AND FOREVER. AMEN.

"FAITHFUL FRIEND"--HOW JESUS LONGS FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP! HOW JESUS DESIRES--AS WE ALL PRAY--THAT YOU BE SAFE FROM ALL THE WAYS THAT SO EASILY LEAD TO HARM, YES EVEN TO DEATH. HOW JESUS YEARNS TO BE YOUR TRUE STRENGTH IN DOING WHAT IS RIGHT--AND HOW HE WANTS YOU TO FOLLOW HIM AND BE HIS TRUSTY HANDS AND FEET, EYES AND EARS, HEART AND VOICE AND STRONG BRAVE ARMS--TO REACH OUT AND HUG AND LOVE THIS POOR OLD WORLD WITH HIS OWN LOVING ARMS. HOW HE LOVES YOU TODAY AND FOREVER. AND SO DO I. AND SO DO WE ALL.

Now let us turn to the <sup>Eucharistic</sup> table  
of God's love, where we celebrate our unity  
in Christ and find our spiritual nourishment  
for the journey.

And, as we come to the Sacred altar,  
let us receive from Christ his Body and

Mass of the Holy Spirit  
Saint Ignatius High School  
Friday, September 2, 1988  
The Cathedral of Saint John

I Corinthians 4:1-5  
I Corinthians 12:4-13  
Luke 5: 33-39

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The gospel figure about putting new wine into old wine skins reminds me of the story about the town drunkard who ran out of wine. . . .

Well, I suppose we could say all of us are simply **intoxicated** with the idea of beginning a new school year, and that we cannot wait to imbibe the inebriating juices of academic pursuits, extra-curricular activities, and, especially, spiritual formation.

Indeed, the scriptures of today's Liturgy lead us on a spiritual high, with basic thoughts and practical ideas as to how we might shape the Saint Ignatius High School into an authentic community of the disciples of Jesus Christ, missionaries unto ourselves so that we can be evangelizers for others and promoters of the kingdom of God, filled with the Jesuit charisms of reverent obedience to God, devout listeners to the Holy Spirit, and dedicated men of service - yielding to God's word so as to be free and available to minister to others. Yes, we are drunk with



pentecostal spirits and at the same time sobered unto reality by the Word just proclaimed to us.

To the ancient Corinthians Saint Paul affirmed, "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. Students of Ignatius, these words are for you also. Each of you, without exception, bears the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Each of you, without exception, is unique, special and irreplaceable because God created you that way. Take pride in the fact that you are marked with the image of God. Take pride in the fact that as person and student you are a singular bearer of insight into the mystery of an incomprehensible God.

Ignatians, when you "let go, and let God" work through you, wonderful things happen - "different gifts, different ministries, different works" - wonderful things happen. Wisdom dawns like a captivating sunrise; knowledge burst upon the earth like a stellar explosion. Faith enlightens a mind clouded with ambiguity; healing restores peace to an unreconciled world. Miraculous powers awaken the community in times of lethargy; prophecy compels the listener to be open to truth. The gift of tongues evokes the sounds of God, and interpreters of tongues bring fresh insight to human affairs. "But it is the one and same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing to each as he wills" - challenging you, daring

you, to be the best you are, the best you can become, and bring the best you can contribute. It is the one and same Spirit who forms you into the one Body of Christ, many and different though you may be.

Administration, faculty and staff, the Word of God beckons you to be collaborators in the mission of the Church as "servants of Christ" and "administrators of the mysteries of God." To do this conscientiously, you must not yield to the temptation of popularity. Saint Paul summons you to be compassionate and sensitive, but combine these with high ideals and strict regimen. Learn to accept the dislike of the students now, in the short term, so that you shall receive their love and praise later - when they are adults and are engaged in the building of the reign of God through work, the raising of a family as partners in marriage, or serving the Church as future Jesuits - or, better, as future Franciscans! In this way, difficult and tension-filled thought it may be, you will find yourselves, as Saint Paul says, **trustworthy, with a peaceful conscience** before God, and, indeed, **"servants of Christ" and "administrators of the mysteries of God."**

Dear Friends of Saint Ignatius, to his detractors Jesus asked, and answered, a gripping question: "Can you make guests of the groom fast while he is still with them?" Of course, not, Jesus responded. Fasting takes place when the groom is gone.

So, brothers and sisters, you and I must be inebriated with the idea of **fasting**. But, fasting refers not simply to moderation in food. Fasting in its comprehensive and radical sense means self-discipline in bringing the message of God into the affairs of people. Fasting means an ability to manage one's personal talent and resources for the common good. Fasting means a capacity to train one's mind and body to face the rigors of life. Fasting means a self-control to act on the basis of truth and not because "it feels good." Fasting means a power to confront the ugliness of the real world: racism, militarism, sexism, materialism, and forms of discrimination against the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and many others who do not look or think like us.

The temptation is to escape the realities of life and the demands of our culture - escape into drugs, sexual abuse, street gangs, cars, clothes, hair styles, ear rings, and money. But, the Gospel calls you to **fasting**, to discipline, to self-control - to be authentic men and Ignatians, fearlessly and confidently, in freedom and with availability for others. The Gospel calls you to make a **change**. As the song goes:

I'm gonna make a change for once in my life.  
It's gonna feel real good, gonna make a  
difference. Gonna make it right.... I'm  
starting with the man in the mirror. I'm  
asking him to change his ways.

Michael Jackson

My Brothers and Sisters of Saint Ignatius, each year you come to this Cathedral Church as a sign of your unity with the Bishop of Cleveland and the entire diocesan family. In the name of Bishop Pilla, I welcome you to this Holy Table and bid you eat a holy food and sip a holy drink, the body and blood of Jesus. May this Holy Eucharist nourish you in knowing and living your faith. At Saint Ignatius, at home, in your neighborhood, wherever you may be, like Jesus in the Eucharist, may you be signs of unity and instruments of peace, inebriated with the love of God for your sisters and brothers in Christ.

Saint Jerome

YES, ARE YOU BIG ENOUGH TO BE DIFFERENT, AS CHRIST WAS DIFFERENT. IN THE BEATITUDES OF TONIGHT'S GOSPEL, CHRIST CALLS US TO BE DIFFERENT AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MALCOM MUGGERIDGE TELLS US THAT HE "TURNED THE WORLD'S STANDARDS UPSIDE DOWN":

IT WAS THE POOR, NOT THE RICH, WHO WERE BLESSED:

THE WEAK, NOT THE STRONG, WHO WERE ESTEEMED:

THE PURE IN HEART, NOT THE SOPHISTICATED AND THE WORLDLY, WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT LIFE WAS ABOUT.

RIGHTEOUSNESS NOT POWER OR MONEY OR SENSUAL PLEASURE,

SHOULD BE MAN'S PURSUIT. WE SHOULD LOVE OUR ENEMIES,

BLESS THEM THAT CURSE US, AND PRAY FOR THEM THAT DESPITEFULLY USE US,

IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE WORTH MEMBERS OF A HUMAN FAMILY

WHOSE FATHER IS IN HEAVEN.

ILLUSTRATION ☐☐☐ YOUTH

Jonathan Edwards made five resolutions in his youth and lived by them faithfully:

1. To live with all might while I do live.
2. Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can.
3. Never to do anything that I should despise or think meanly of in another.
4. Never do anything out of revenge.
5. Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

•••

1. The rainbow - look to

This is a sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my (rain)bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

2. The cross -- look to

This is why Christ died for sins once for all, a just man for the sake of the unjust: so that he could lead you to God.



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We all want perfection: the perfect other  
the perfect self

Today: What can YOUTH do to become perfect, to grow, and  
to develop?