

Opening Prayer

Prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola

Dearest Lord,
teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.
Amen.

Main Input

Here are some suggestions for leading a JP II Award meeting in November. During this session you may want to: take a moment for prayer and reflection for those who have died; introduce participants to World Youth Day - the catholic youth festival begun by Pope John Paul II; look forward to Advent and the opportunities for Parish Involvement activities in December.

November Remembrance

If you are able, you may wish to use candles or tea lights to create a prayerful atmosphere - during a time of reflection young people might have the opportunity to light a candle to represent those they know who have died.

A suggested introduction and prayer for this time are:

As the leaves fall and the evenings become longer, nature seems to die, we take time to remember those we loved who have died. Next Spring nature will burst back into life – new leaves on trees, and new buds on flowers. Likewise for Christians – We believe that from death comes new life with God.

Time of Reflection **Possible time of silence/lighting of candles/appropriate music (Taizé - Remember Me)*

A Prayer of Remembrance

God, thank you for the special people in our lives whom we are remembering in a special way during the month of November.

We thank you for being a compassionate God who walks with us in our dark moments of grief and loneliness.

We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us through our grief.

Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us hope, direction and courage.

May we live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people we have known and loved and help us to bring light and hope to others.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

John Paul II & World Youth Day

According to many, the WYD is Pope John Paul II's most beautiful invention. He, on the contrary, said: "The young people are the ones who invented the WYD." But let's see how this wonderful adventure began. In 1983-1984, the Year of Redemption was celebrated: 1,950 years after the Passion of Jesus. Among the various activities of the Jubilee Year, John Paul II wanted to organise a gathering for youth on the Palm Sunday. The organising committee expected 60,000 participants. 250,000 came.

In 1985, the UN proclaimed an International Year of Youth. The Pope, wishing to manifest the Church's attention to the new generations, again invited youth to Rome for Palm Sunday. This time too, the answer was great: 300,000 young people went to the churches throughout the city for moments of prayer and catechesis, and then they gathered in St. Peter's Square to attend the celebration with the Holy Father.



Main Input cont.

After these two gatherings, many were wondering what caused such a great response, what young people were searching for and what they wanted? Yet, John Paul II had had this intuition: young people felt the desire to meet, to share their experience, listen to a word of faith, look to the future and renew and confirm their commitment. And so, at the end of 1985, he announced the institution of the World Youth Day, to be celebrated each year in the dioceses. The Pope also indicated a date for the celebration: Palm Sunday. This has recently been changed to the Feast of Christ the King - the last Sunday before Advent begins.

There were international gatherings as well as diocesan celebrations. At first, these gatherings took place every two years. The first WYD was held in the dioceses in 1986, and the first international gathering was held in 1987 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since then, international WYDs have been celebrated in cities across Europe, the Americas and even as far away as Australia and the Phillipines! Young people from our diocese have been travelling on pilgrimage to WYDs since 2005 when the event was held in Cologne in Germany.

Task: ask participants to use their phones to find out when and where the next international WYD will happen
Answer. July 31st - August 6th 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal

If you are able to show them, there are some videos about JP II and WYD that you can find on the Clogher don Óige website.

Advent is coming...

**and it's not shopping, wrapping presents, sending Christmas Cards...
it is expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and joyful preparation.**

Preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and every day!
**Again, some videos on CdO website*

In terms of the Pope John Paul II Award, the season of Advent provides many opportunities for both Parish Involvement and Social Awareness activities. In the Parish - Church cleaning, decorating the Church, preparing the Advent Wreath, lighting the Advent Wreath at Sunday Mass, lots of extra liturgies and events (like Carol Services and School Nativity plays) that will most likely require extra hands to make sure everything runs smoothly - even if it 'just' the ministry of welcome - young people greeting parishioners at the door of Church, or handing out leaflets, can have a huge impact and mean so much to those in our parish communities.

Checking in with Activities

- At this early stage of the Award you will most likely need to give the participants an overview or reminder about the requirements for undertaking their activities and signing off/recording them. *See page 3.*
- Having communicated with Parish Clergy, and any other ministry groups in the parish offer current opportunities for Parish Involvement activities - and any training that may be needed. Include activities that might be coming up in the coming months - **Advent & Christmas.**
- Give any information from outside charities or organisations who have been in touch regarding opportunities for Social Awareness activities.

Remind participants to take a regular photograph of their Record Card on their phone as they fill in and get activities signed off. Having this will make it easier if their Record Card gets lost.

Closing Prayer

Pope John Paul II Award Participant Prayer

God our Father,
Saint John Paul II tells us to trust Christ;
To listen attentively to his teachings,
To fix our eyes on his face,
To persevere in listening to his Word,
To allow him to focus our search and our aspirations
and all our ideas and the desires of our heart.

Help us God our Father, to do this so that all the actions
and decisions of our lives are done with Jesus
who is our Saviour and friend for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Lady of Knock pray for us, and for the young people of Ireland.

