

One of  
God's  
Greatest  
Masterpieces  
the Youth  
2013

1

Pray  
always

11

Love

11

Hope  
in  
God

Respect

Knights  
of  
Columbus

11

Gratitude

Jews  
for  
Jesus

Repent  
of  
sins

11

11

Kindness

forgiveness

11

11

Charity

faith  
in  
action

11

Love

Joy

Patience

11

Pro-  
Life

## INTRODUCTION

One afternoon a group of teen boys were talking with their friends about their upcoming trip to Brazil to help celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Francis. "Sure wish all of you could come along with us. We will remember you in our prayers," said the group who were going on the trip.

The teens that were unable to go wanted to do something special too. Stephen spoke out saying, "Why don't we send a bouquet of flowers to the church where Our Holy Father will be praying. It is called the Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. He will be asking the Blessed Mother for her intercession for peace in the world." "That is a great idea!" the group responded with delight. "We will then share in this wonderful celebration without leaving home!"

Anthony came up with a unique idea. He said, "Why not plant roses? We could make many bouquets to send to all the churches in Brazil and especially the one where our Holy Father will be. We could also attach special messages on each bouquet so all of Brazil will know that our thoughts and prayers are with them."

Everyone was so happy with this idea. Later that day the youth were informed that they could use an acre of land on Anthony's father's property for the special planting of the rose bushes.

## **PLANTING**

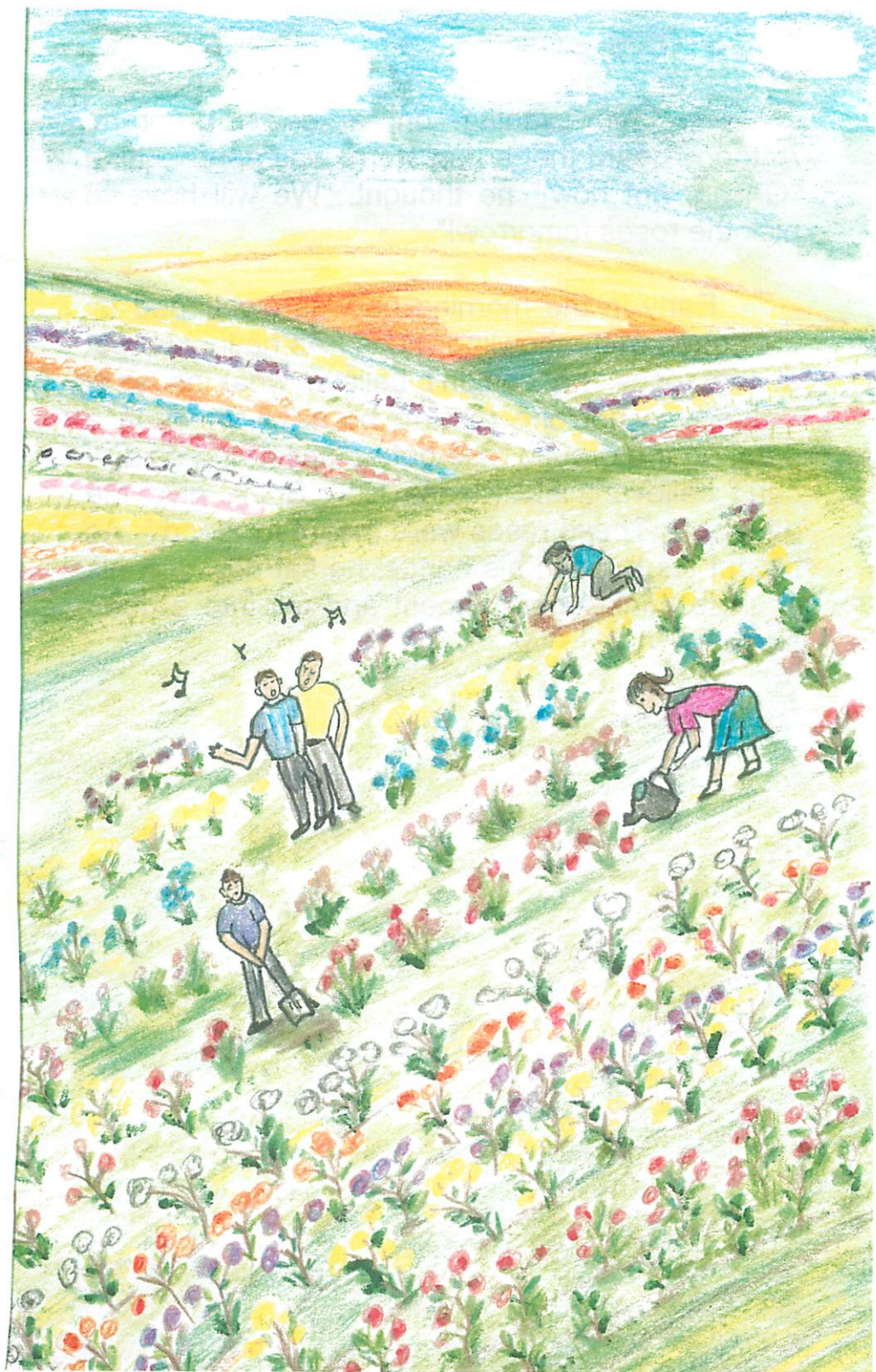
What a beautiful scene to behold as people would stop to look at the youth planting hundreds of rose bushes of many different colors while singing praises to God. The sound of their voices was so loud that it got the attention of some deacons and seminarians who came by and inquired what the youth were doing. They were so impressed with their generosity and thoughtfulness, they volunteered to help plant and joined in with the songful praise of the youth.

## **BLOOMING ROSES**

It didn't take long for these special roses to grow and bloom. It really was a sight to see. There were rows and rows of roses in every color imaginable. The youth would just look at the roses and admire them. They remarked, "How is it possible that one cannot see the reflections of God's love for mankind when looking at nature?"

Later that day, Anthony was so excited as he looked through the window at the roses once again. He knew that soon they would have to start picking the roses. He was thinking how good and great our God is. Just then he watched as his little sister, Therese, carried her water pail and lovingly watered the rose bushes because she too wanted to help. Anthony thought how we are so unaware of how our good actions affect members of our family regardless of age. He felt so happy and proud.





## **THE STORM**

In the evening on a news program, Anthony heard that a rain storm was approaching. "Oh no, not now!" he thought. "We will have to pick the roses tomorrow!"

Early in the morning he was awakened by the sound of the howling winds. As he looked out at the roses, he couldn't believe what he saw! There was not one rose to be seen, or even a petal on the ground. He got so upset and said, "I can't believe this! Please Holy Spirit, give me patience. These roses were meant for good." As he put his head in his hands, he sat down on his chair to think for a moment and fell into a deep sleep.

## **THE DREAM**

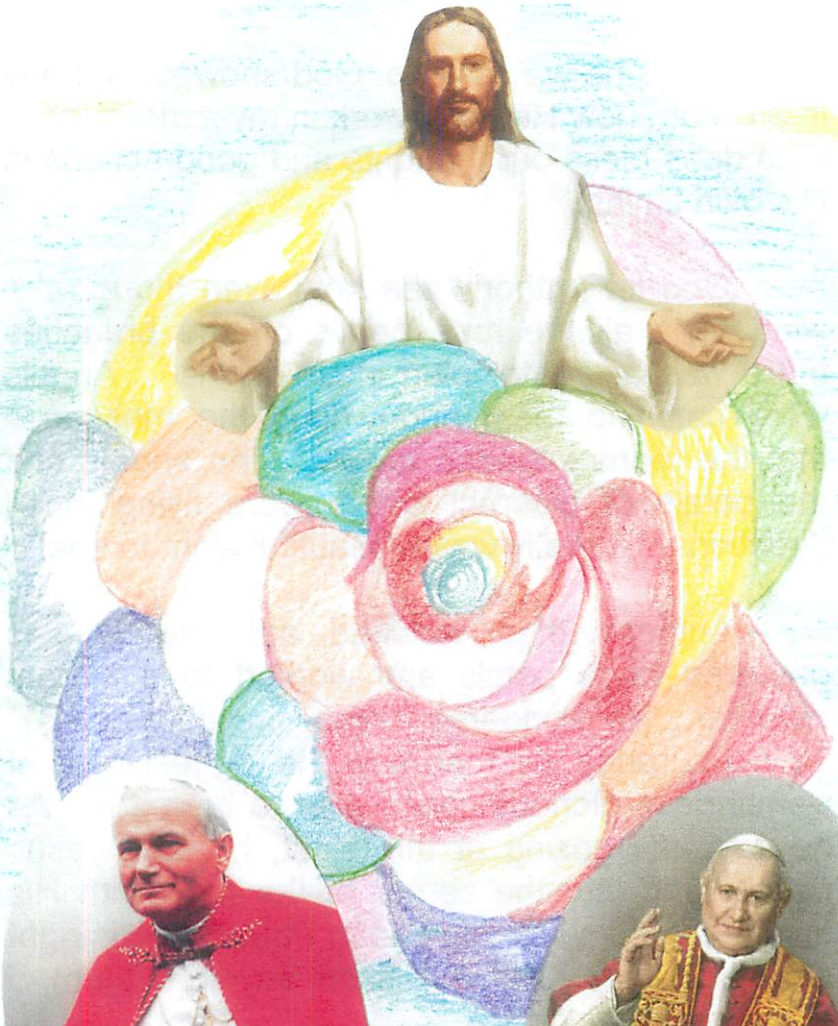
While he was asleep, God showed Anthony in a dream how He does work in mysterious ways. God does bless our thoughts and good actions in His own timing.

God let Anthony see how even though the wind blew all the rose petals off the branches there was a greater plan in all of this. Angels were catching them and writing the messages that the teens intended to say. The angels and the petals of different colors were flying in all directions. It really was a beautiful sight to see!

Anthony then watched as other angels gathered more petals and worked to put them together. He wondered, "What are they doing?" To his surprise, he then saw the biggest rose of tremendous glorious colors ever to be made! As he was still gazing at this sight, he saw Jesus descending into the center of the rose with His hands extending to Pope John Paul II on His right and Pope John XXIII on His left, saying to them,

***"TAKE MY HANDS. WELCOME INTO MY KINGDOM WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME AND REPENT OF THEIR SINS."***





JOANNES XXIII

Anthony watched and listened to the sound of heavenly music, as the petals and the angels continued to float in all different directions. God had inspired the angels to write these special messages from the youth on each petal:

Love God and Neighbors

Worship only God

Receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

Honor the Blessed Mother and saints

Faith and Hope

Respect priests, cardinals, archbishops and nuns

Patience and forgiveness

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and Pro-life organizations and other religious organizations

Attend Holy Mass each Sunday

Obey your parents

Repent of sins

Pray the rosary

The Holy Spirit blew the petals to all the nations of the world. In the Far East, an elderly man, while sitting on the sea shore, saw a rose petal float by. He caught it in his wrinkled hand and smiled as he read this message: "Don't forget to praise Your Savior, Jesus."

END OF THE DREAM



# A LETTER TO THE HOLY FATHER FROM THE YOUTH

Dear Holy Father,

As you close this Year of Faith with a Mass in honor of Christ the King, we would like to thank God and you for all your kindness shown to us. We will always remember you in our prayers.

Today, there are many people carrying weapons in order to destroy the world that only God created. But we will continue to carry the greatest weapon of all – P R A Y E R.

God bless you,  
The youth of the World

*We dedicate this story to all the young people of this world. We pray that you will cherish your holy Catholic Faith, love your country, embrace purity of soul and body and preserve the gift of unselfish love.*

*It was our joy to write this story and we give all the honor and glory to God.*

Writer: Helen Suire  
Illustrator: Mary Ann F. Pater  
Printer: Gary Pater