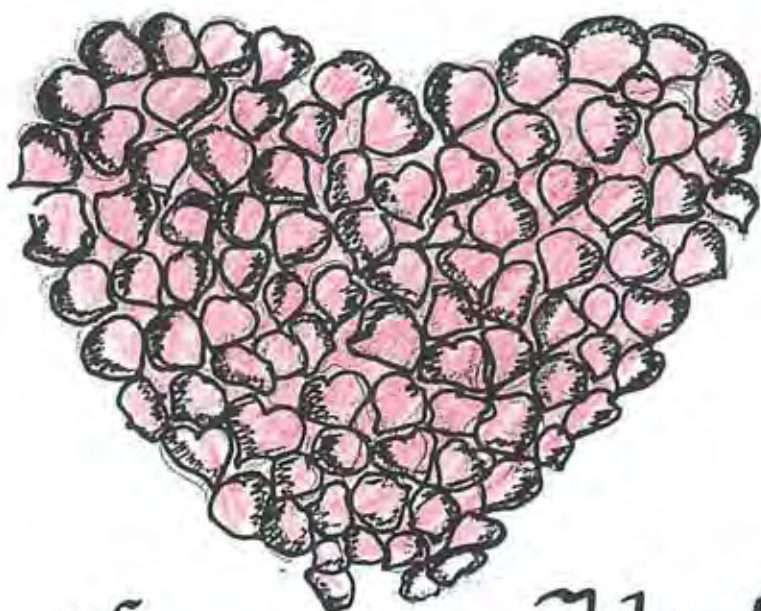


Our  
Mother's  
Message



to the

Youth

2002

## INTRODUCTION

Last night our Pastor, Father Mark, called a special meeting for the youth at St. Francis of Rome Parish. Sometimes you hear about students not caring to attend meetings, but not so at our church. In fact, some of the students invite their non-Catholic friends to join them. The room is always filled with the sound of laughter.

Father Mark, as usual, extends his blessings before the youth song is sung. John plays his guitar and everybody joins and sings in different languages.

### Let's Communicate

When we don't understand our parents (Clap) 

Let's Communicate!

Teachers,

Pastors,

CCD Teachers,

Friends. 

If we still can't communicate (Clap) 

Let's pray and call on the Holy Spirit. (Clap)

Wait and watch us become 

The greatest youth communicators for the Lord.

Alleluia!

While the boys and girls were singing some others started to dance. Around and around they twirled until Sara stopped and started to laugh. In a corner nearby was her dog, Spotty. Picking him up, she said, "For some reason Spotty follows me everywhere I go." Then Sara related how her dad, being a Veterinarian, always finds time to evangelize with the people whose animals are in his care at the kennel. Dad always talks about St. Francis of Assisi. He says St. Francis was an instrument of peace. He cared for animals and the environment, but above all he had respect for human life.

Dad would often smile and say if St. Francis were alive today, he and our Holy Father would probably be walking side by side. They would proclaim the good news of God's creation just as our Holy Father still does today.

## YOUTH GROUP MEETING

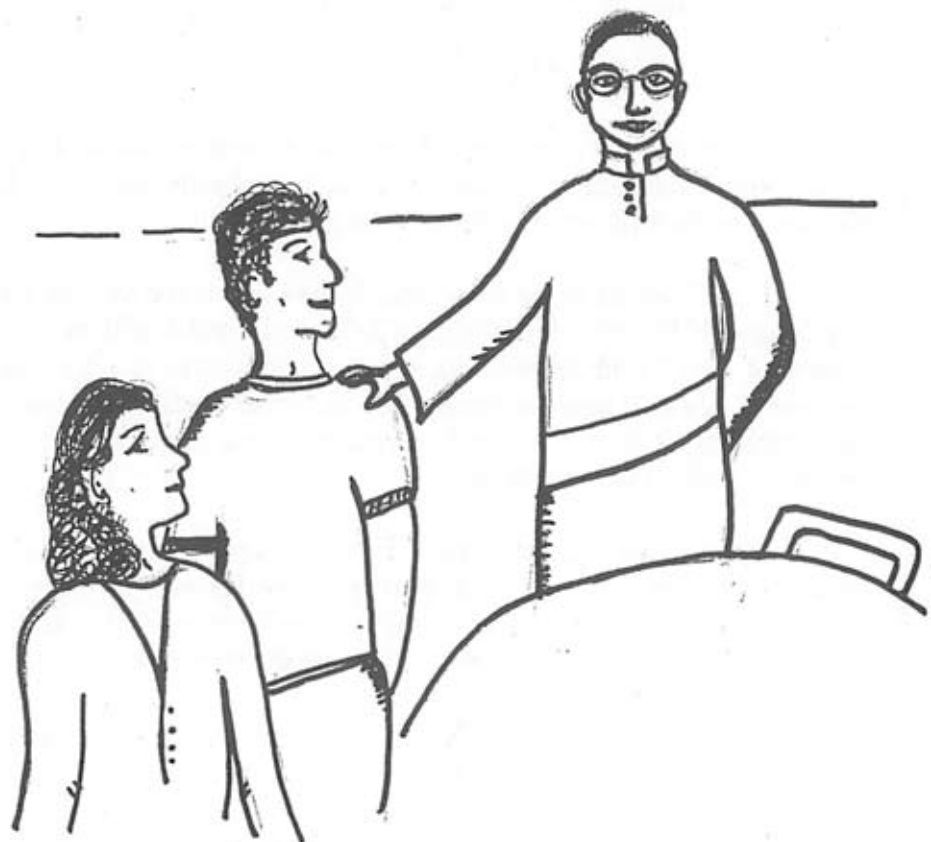
During the meeting the youth group spoke about the tragedies in New York City and Pennsylvania. "We really need the virtue of hope in our lives," said Eddie and Henry and they shared their feelings about the recent mine tragedy in Pennsylvania. They recalled, even as children, how the coal miners always had great faith in God and prayer in difficult times. Sara shared how we need to pray for children and the elderly who are being mistreated. The youth group continued to reflect on the lives of some youth saints, St. John Bosco, St. Gabriel Possenti, and St. Maria Goretti. Father Mark said that it took great faith and courage for St. Maria to forgive her attacker. Father remarked that we need to forgive and we must confess our sins, in order to receive God's mercy. Father also reminded the youth to always pray to the Holy Spirit.

Father Eduardo was just listening to the youth, when with a twinkle in his eye said, "Thank God for young Christians, such as you, who will make this a better generation to come."

Just then a faint voice was heard saying in the back of the room, "Oh yes, but we still need to communicate!" Everyone laughed as Father Mark turned to the group and said, "See you next week."

## HOLY SPIRIT

Later that evening, after returning from the youth group, Ivan was praying to the Holy Spirit for guidance. While reciting the rosary for peace his thoughts turned to Mary, a young Jewish girl, who said to the angel Gabriel, "Be it done unto me," and she became the mother of God. She loved and comforted her son Jesus just as she



does for her earthly children. It wasn't long till Ivan fell asleep and had this beautiful dream.

### THE DREAM

"I saw our Blessed Mother," said Ivan, "sitting on a huge cloud. There were many smaller clouds at her feet. I reached to touch one when she smiled not only at me, but also down on earth to a large gathering of the youth. I listened in awe as our Blessed Mother spoke this message to the youth in her loving way."

### MARY'S MESSAGE

"When my son Jesus was born, some humble shepherds came to see him. I watched as the infant Jesus looked into their eyes. But, He was also looking into the future eyes of the youth.

Later looking at the wise men, Jesus knew some day the youth would search for him, too. "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men," said Jesus to his apostles. Jesus was also looking at the youth. He also saw the great potential of the youth, spreading and defending the faith in the world. Remember you are only victorious when you call on God for help.

At the last supper, when my son, Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me," he looked at his apostles and instituted the Holy Eucharist. Jesus was also looking into your eyes. He saw you as his future priests and religious defending the unborn babies.

Dying on the cross, Jesus looked at his apostles and the women nearby. He saw you, the youth of the world. Remember, He died for all mankind. Carry your cross my dear children, with love for Jesus and your reward will be great in heaven.

When Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, he looked at his disciples and the people nearby. He was also looking into your eyes saying, "I will be with you until the end of time."

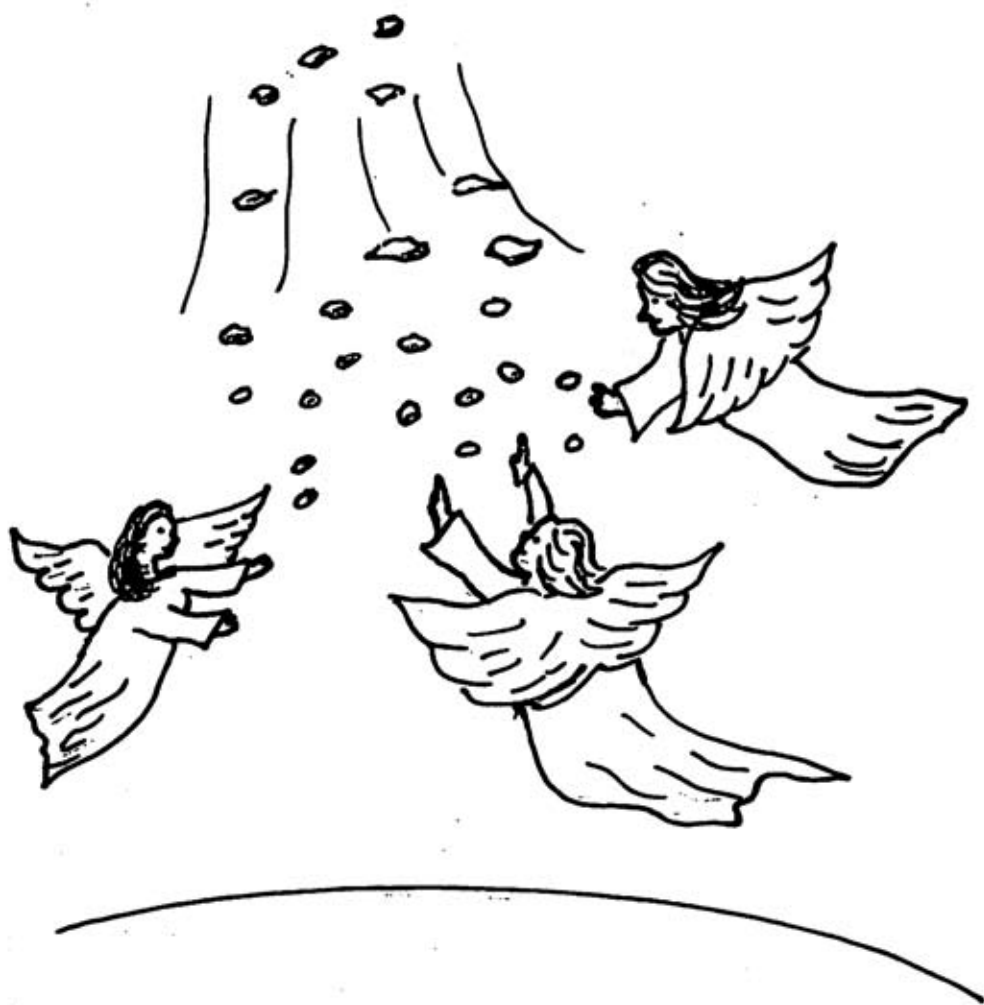


Jesus saw you, the youth, as a spiritual rock for all nations. "Go into the world and evangelize the good news of God," said the Blessed Mother. "Remember you are like the angels, messengers of God." Looking and smiling at the youth group, she continued to say, "Am I not your Mother? Come bring all your wants and problems to me and I will intercede for you to my son." At that moment Ivan watched as the youth along with people from all walks of life, started to write petitions and place them into a huge basket. Our Lady reached down and picked up one petition at a time and when she did, the petitions turned into roses. A soft gentle breeze appeared and the rose petals were blown into different directions.

Ivan watched the youth trying to catch the petals when he saw the school door open and out came the teachers with the children to help. At first everyone stood in awe and looked at the beautiful brilliant colors of the petals being blown all around. The children were jumping high, but couldn't catch any petals, when they started to say, "Oh, we need some help! We can't catch them!" A soft whisper sound of music was heard when the children saw an army of angels appear. What a magnificent splendor of beauty to see all the angels catching rose petals!

Ivan thought, "Oh, how beautiful this is!" It was like looking at the entire world with people of so many different colors to behold the glory and wonders of God. The angels gathered the rose petals and gave them to the Blessed Mother. The entire group stood in awe as she started to place them on a huge heart that was surrounded by a beautiful picture of Jesus.

As the Blessed Mother was arranging the rose petals, she stopped to reflect; noticing that one petal was missing to complete the heart. Is it yours? If so, please let Jesus know how much you need and love Him, so His merciful heart can be completed. Our Lady continued to say, "There is a lot of stress in the world, government and families. But remember the greatest stress is in your heart, without the presence of God."





We, along with the entire world would like to wish our dear friend and spiritual leader, Pope John Paul II, a Happy 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! You have carried your brothers on your shoulders all these years bringing them the gospel of Christ. We assure you that we will continue to carry God's and your message of love to all.

The Youth of the World 2002

THE END

Written by Mrs. Helen Suire

Illustrations by Mrs. Mary Ann Pater

Printed by Mr. Gary Pater

