

What is Consecrated Life in Youth Apostles?

Consecrated life in Youth Apostles is a radical way of life dedicated to God. Through this life the Consecrated grow in love and service to God, the community, and the youth. There are two different forms of Consecrated life. A man can be a Consecrated priest or a Consecrated layman in Youth Apostles. Both take promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

The promise of poverty is “to be poor that others may be enriched, and to live a life of simplicity, generosity and concern for others” (General Statues Appendix 6). As Consecrated, our simplicity and our generosity with our time and talents are ways that we no longer live for ourselves but rather for God and for others.

The promise of chastity is “to be celibate as the ultimate expression of an undivided heart working for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, and to love others for their own sake rather than my own pleasure” (GS App 6). Consecrated celibacy is a total gift of self made out of love for Christ and His Church. This free sacrifice of marriage and family life allows the consecrated member to devote all his energies to the Kingdom, especially to the youth. “Sacrificing family life does not mean that the consecrated member lives without human love. On the contrary, the heart of the consecrated member is open to love and to be loved by everyone. This love, experienced and fostered primarily within community, is to be shared with all the Christian faithful, most especially the youth to whom the member ministers” (Internal Guidelines for Consecrated Full Members 2.3).

The promise of obedience is “to be obedient to the Will of the Father, to the Magisterium of the Church and to the established authority of the Youth Apostles Institute, and to free my will from personal likes or selfish concerns, in order to be prompt to follow Christ and be close to Him” (GS App 6). Obedience involves being aware that God is working through the community. Respecting those in authority in all matters gives the most solid foundation for the will of God to reign and for the community to grow. This promise of obedience preserves the unity of the community and encourages the growth of the individual and the community.

Consecrated Priests

Being a Consecrated priest in Youth Apostles is the priesthood with a Youth Apostles flavor. The term Consecrated priest is used because the priests live Consecrated life together with the Consecrated laymen. As Consecrated, they make promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience and commit their lives to ministering to God’s little ones. A Youth Apostle priest, as is true with any Catholic priest, has the privilege to bring Christ to others in a special way through the sacraments. The priests are essential to our community. They celebrate the sacraments for the lay brothers in our community houses. They also celebrate the sacraments for the youth they serve and for other youth in the places where our lay brothers minister. The married brothers in community and their families are blessed with the presence of the priests. The priests are able to visit their homes and share meals with them. From baptisms, to first communions, to weddings, to anointing of the sick, the priests celebrate many sacraments for brothers in community and their families. The married brothers and their families are a blessing to the priests because they allow our priests to be extended members of their families.

Lay Consecrated

Consecrated laymen in Youth Apostles make promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience but they are not priests. They bear witness to Jesus' example of humility and do the thankless tasks that are so necessary to demonstrate true care, build community, and minister to young people. They are a bond of unity in our community, creating a bridge in community among the married and single and Consecrated priests. They also play a crucial role in welcoming new members to the community because of their regular presence in the house and their focus on hospitality. The Consecrated laymen in Youth Apostles are fundamental to our vision for our community. Because of their unique commitment to the humble service of their brothers, their central role in our community houses, their function as agents of unity for the different vocations, and their dedication to love their brothers, they represent the heart of our community.