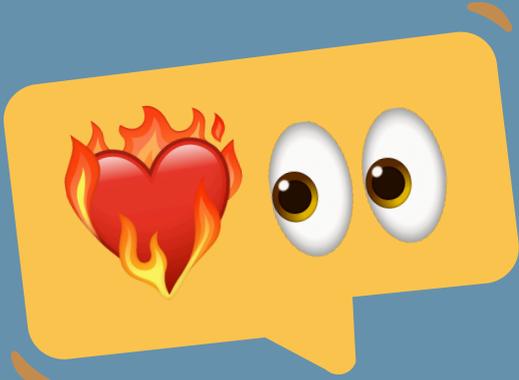


FIRM IN HOPE 2025

Charisma Week
guide booklet



Youth Network Presentation

Prepared by
Youth Network
Coordinating Team
Presentation
church sisters and people

Meet our logo



To enter Charisma Week, we must climb a mountain toward the most important peak for every Catholic: Holiness. And what better way than with the help of Marie Poussepin

"Let us hold fast the hope we profess, for He who made the promise is faithful."

Hebrews 10:23

Dear young people, sisters and pastoral leaders

In this year of grace where we have as a foundation the virtue of the Esperanza, "the one who never disappoints", as Youth Network Presentation We invite you to join enthusiastically to the VI Week of the charism, with the motto: Firm in Hope; which will take out from October 20 to 25.

We will have as preamble the ninth to our founding mother, which will help us to delve into each day about the signs of Hope present in the Dominican Charisma of Marie Poussepin in all the provinces of our beloved Congregation, preparing the heart for the active and aware experience of all activities both face-to-face and virtual arranged during the week of the Charisma.

It will be a valuable opportunity to strengthen our identity charismatic, share our riches and climb together as Family Presentation The Mountain of Holiness.

Have you ever climbed a mountain?

During this charismatic experience you will have the opportunity to Do it in the depths of you. Climbing a mountain is not Easy task: requires effort, decision, trust and a clear goal in the heart. Each step is a challenge, each stone an obstacle and every I rest an opportunity to contemplate what has already been traveled. This is also the path of holiness: a constant rise towards God, in which it is not about getting fast, but about moving forward with fidelity and perseverance.

Marie Poussepin, was a woman who chose the highest peak: holiness, and he did it not from the extraordinary, but from life daily, serving the poor, the sick, the children and the young people, letting themselves be inspired by charity and trusting absolutely in the providence of the Lord.

Her life is like a great climb:

She chose faith as the firm rope that supported her.
She made charity the ring that united her to others.
She protected herself with hope, which kept her safe in the face of difficulties.
And, with a humble and determined step, she raised the flag of holiness at the summit of her life.

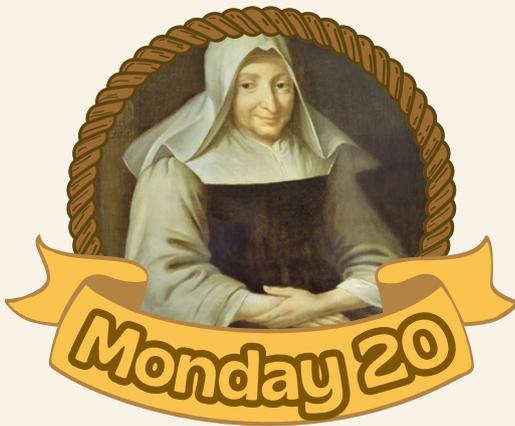
During this Charism Week, we want to walk in her footsteps as climbers of charity, learning that each virtue is like a mountain team that helps us climb. We are not alone: the community is the rope team that propels us and God is the Guide who assures us.

Reaching the summit means living our vocation with radicality and joy, remaining firm in hope

Below, we present the weekly schedule so that you can share it and encourage participation in virtual activities, which will take place in the evenings and schedule the in-person activities we propose with young people in their youth communities and parishes.



Programming



Inauguration of the VI Charisma Week: Firm in Hope

7:00 pm Colombia Time
Via Zoom
Broadcast on the YouTube channel



Workshop: Africa teaches us to climb with faith.

In-person activity
It will be held in the youth communities of schools, parishes, and universities, according to the schedule agreed upon in each institution and/or parish.



Workshop: Giving is living in Charity

In-person activity. It will be held in the youth communities of schools, parishes, and universities, according to the schedule agreed upon in each institution and/or parish.

7:00 pm Colombia Time
Via Zoom Broadcast on the YouTube channel

Programming

Virtual Meeting:
**"Climbing with Hope: The
Challenge of Vocation"**
7:00 pm Colombia Time
Via Zoom
Broadcast on the YouTube
channel



Virtual Meeting:
**"Touching the Summit: Traces of
Holiness"**
7:00 pm Colombia Time
Via Zoom
Broadcast on the YouTube channel



**Virtual Meeting: Firm in Hope,
United in Congregation**

8:00 am Colombia Time
3:00 pm Rome Time
Via Zoom
Broadcast on the YouTube channel





**Activities to
experience**

ÁFRICA

teaches us to climb with faith

Thursday 21

Climbing a mountain requires effort, perseverance, and trust, but also the certainty that we do not climb alone. The ropes represent the means that support us, that help us move forward, and that keep us safe on the path to the goal.

For this day, our gaze turns to the majestic Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, a symbol of Africa, the continent where our sisters serve in Chad, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Congo, and the Ivory Coast. This mountain invites us to look up, to keep our gaze firmly on God, and to climb sustained by the virtue of this day: Faith.

Thus, we invite you to experience the following gathering:



Opening monition

In Africa, communities walk together, helping each other, and telling their stories through signs and gestures. Today we bring that experience here: the rope will be our symbol of trust, and Kilimanjaro, the goal that invites us to reach higher. Let us open our hearts: at what moments did faith take you by the hand and sustain you? This is also what Marie Poussepin experienced, who trusted in God even in poverty and misunderstanding, finding in faith a stepping stone to holiness.



Icebreaker activity

To play the "Ladder of Trust," keep these steps in mind:

Form pairs.

Each pair takes a short piece of rope (or holds hands if there is no rope).

One partner closes their eyes and the other guides them along a short path (a line marked on the floor or around the center rope).

After 2–3 minutes, switch roles.

Quick questions at the end (in pairs):

How did you feel when you were guided?

What gave you confidence at that moment?

We suggest that whoever is leading the meeting observe and remember to invite the young people to share their feelings, without forcing confessions.

Once the activity is finished, the following reading of the Word will be carried out:

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen.

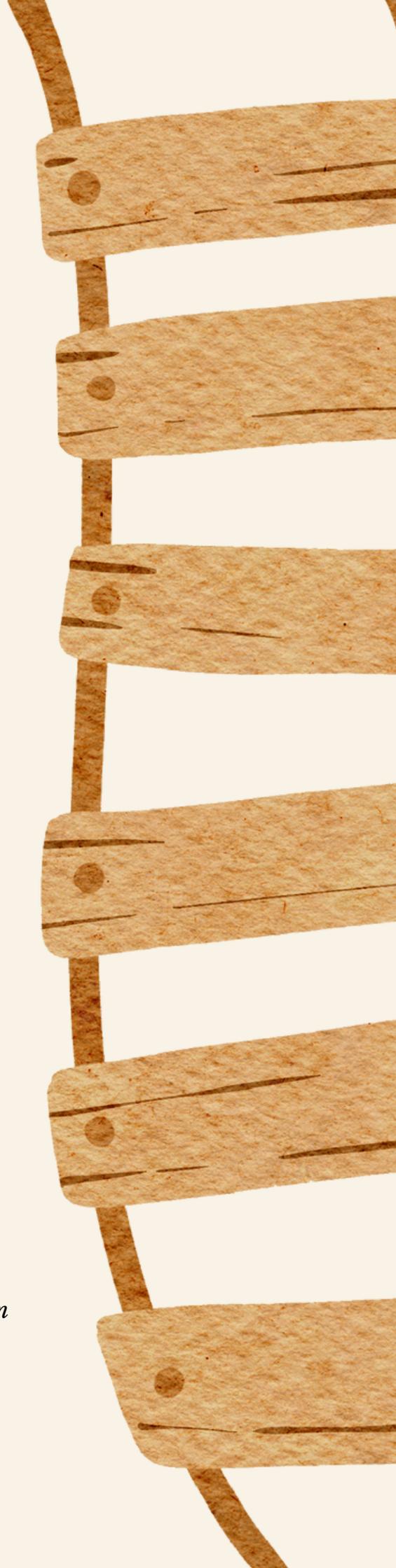
Hebrews 11:1

Around this passage, we ask ourselves: What is Faith? Faith is not just believing in ideas or repeating words:

It is trusting in God even when we don't see the end of the road.

It is the rope that sustains us, the beacon that illuminates, the force that propels us to climb our personal mountain.

It is certainty in the midst of uncertainty, support in fragility, impetus in the mission.



Relationship with the game escalation of trust

In the icebreaker dynamic, one walks with their eyes closed and must fully trust the voice and gestures of their guiding partner. This concrete experience teaches us:

- **Trust without seeing:** just as in faith, we take steps, even if we don't know exactly where they end.
- **Listen attentively:** in play, the guide's voice is essential, just as in faith we hear the Word of God that guides our path.
- **Feel secure in the relationship:** Faith is not walking alone, but allowing ourselves to be supported by God and the community, just as in play we feel the security of a hand or a rope.

Faith is like that moment of walking with your eyes closed: it can be scary, but when we trust in the guide—who is God—we discover that we are not alone and that each step brings us closer to our mountain's goal.



Activity - My Rope of Faith

“Faith sustains our steps on the mountain of life”

On this day, we want to recognize the moments in which God and Marie Poussepin have been present in our history, holding our hand, holding the rope, and encouraging us to move forward. It will be a space lived through personal experience, where each person can discover how faith has supported them on their journey.

For Marie Poussepin, faith was a fundamental stepping stone on her path to holiness:

- **Total trust in Providence:** when she left the safety of Dourdan to go to Sainville, she relied on faith more than on material resources.
- **Faith that translates into works:** she did not limit herself to prayer alone, but made faith a concrete lifeline by founding the community, educating, caring for the sick, and serving the poor.
- **Faith tested in adversity:** in moments of misunderstanding, poverty, or rejection, she did not let go of God's tether, but clung more tightly to Him.
- **The path of holiness:** each decision was a stepping stone sustained by faith, leading to a life of simplicity, humility, and heroic charity.

Materials: a small piece of string (ribbon/thread) per participant, paper, pencils.



step by step

1

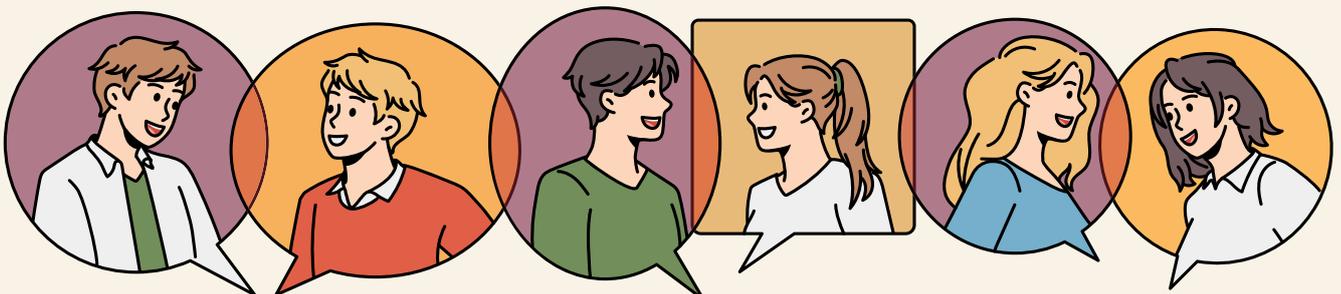
Each participant receives or draws a piece of paper and writes:

- A moment when faith sustained you (1–2 sentences).
- One word that describes how you felt during that event (fear, hope, joy, confidence, etc.)

2

Once completed, form circles of 4 to 6 people, where each person reads what is written on their sheet of paper. Then, ask the following questions as a group:

- What happened at that moment that helped sustain you?
- Who or what was your specific lifeline (person, prayer, symbol)?
- How did your perspective change after that experience?
- What community resource would you like to have more of in your life?
- What does "looking up" mean to you in your context (studies, family, life plan)?



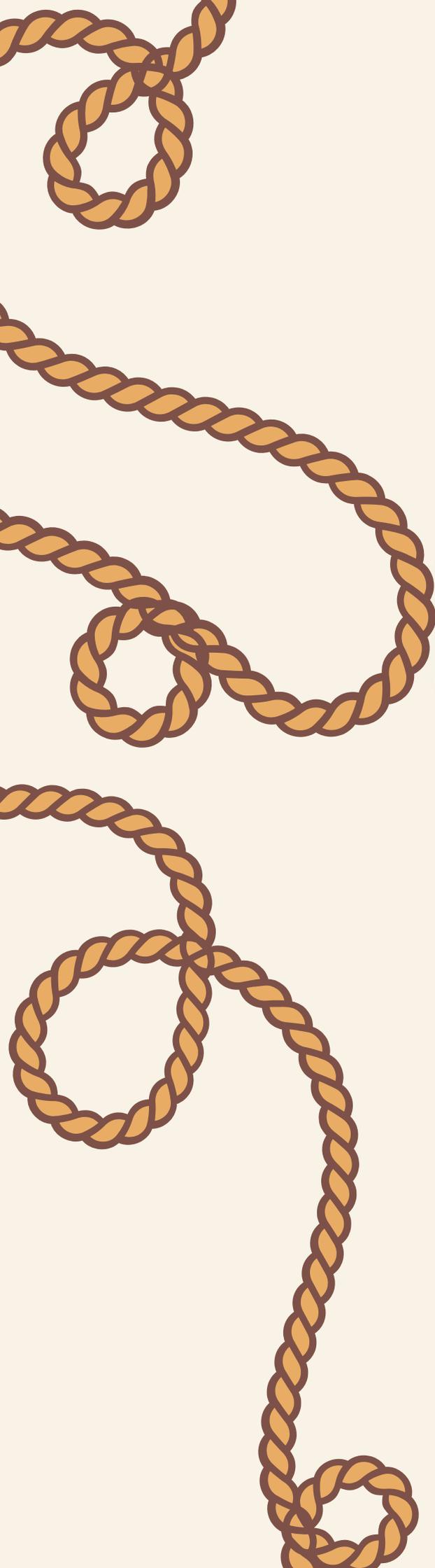
Based on what has been done, a symbolic gesture will be made:

3

- Each young person is given a piece of string, and on it hangs the paper on which they wrote the word that describes how they felt from the previous exercise.
- After sharing, each young person ties their piece of string to the central string in front of Kilimanjaro.
- While tying, the facilitator briefly names the words that appeared on the cards: hope, community, trust, comfort, strength...
- When finished, the central string will be composed of everyone's stories.

If the group is very large, the cards can be collected in a box and 3–5 testimonies can be read in plenary (previously selected by the facilitators, taking care to be sensitive).





The gesture of tying the rope: taking a
step up in faith
Reflection

When each young person ties their rope to the central cord, they're not making any ordinary gesture. With that knot, they're saying:

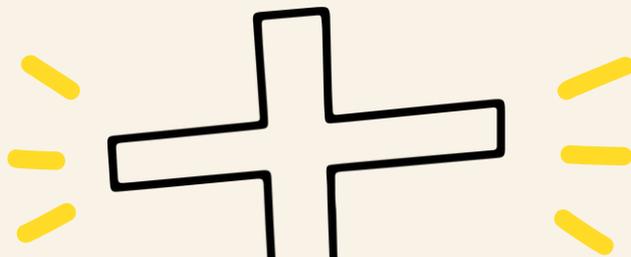
"I recognize that my life has also had moments where faith sustained me."

"I accept that God has used people, events, and concrete signs to encourage me to climb the mountain rather than remain at the foot of the mountain."

Each bond we tie is like a step of faith we build together: step by step, knot by knot, we climb toward the summit. And that summit is more than a distant goal: it is the horizon of plenitude, holiness, and hope that God dreams for each of us.

Kilimanjaro, in Africa, reminds us of just that: its greatness invites us to look beyond, to soar higher, to never settle for less. Tying the rope is like saying: "I believe I can continue climbing, because I am not alone, because faith drives me, because God sustains me."

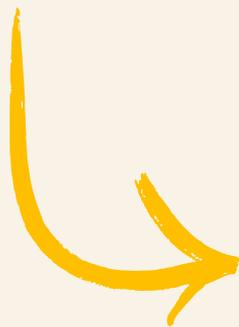
In the end, the rope formed by all the pieces is the visible sign that our personal faith unites and strengthens in community, and that, like Marie Poussepin, we can walk firmly toward the heights, supported by God and those who accompany us.



Prayer - Africa teaches us to climb with faith

"Lord, you who support the steps of those who seek you, we want to thank you for the hands that have accompanied us. Like Kilimanjaro rising toward the sky, we want to raise our hope to you. We present to you the stories we have brought, each one tied to this rope: take it, hold it, make it a sign of union and companionship. Give strength to those who feel tired, comfort to those who live alone, clarity to those who seek their path. May our faith be a bridge and not a wall, may it unite us and impel us to look higher. Amen."

Video: From Africa comes to us: "Zunoog Soab la Yamba" (Blessed be you)



This video is a tribute to Marie Poussepin produced by the Sisters of the Vice-Province of Africa. The Sisters wanted to sing to Marie Poussepin, whom the Church has elevated to the rank of Blessed, in recognition of her exemplary life and the gift of her charism to the Church.

The song is in More, one of the national languages of Burkina Faso, with lyrics in the principal languages of the Congregation: French, English, Spanish, and other African languages spoken in Ivory Coast, Chad, Cameroon, Togo, and Congo. We wish to reiterate to the "Social Apostle of Charity" our affection and our determination to make him known and loved throughout the world, using music as a medium that knows no borders. The author of the song is Sister Nicole Kaboré, a Dominican of the Presentation.



Prayer for Africa and our Sisters

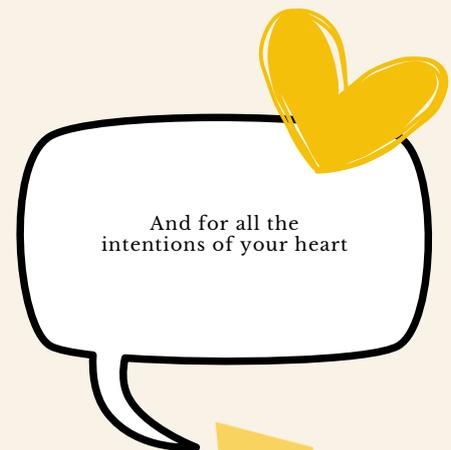
Lord of life and hope, we present to you today the African continent, with its greatness, its richness, and also its suffering.

Bless our sister peoples of Chad, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Congo, and the Ivory Coast, where the Congregation makes your love present through the Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Presentation.

Support with your strength those who serve in health, education, the advancement of women, and pastoral care, so that, like Marie Poussepin, they may live their faith as a firm rope that propels them up the mountain of life.

May Kilimanjaro, the sign of this journey, remind us to always look upward, and may faith make us strong to soar higher on our path to holiness.

Amén



EUROPE

Charity that transforms

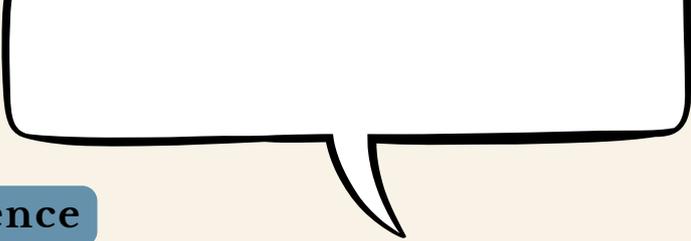
Wednesday 22

When we climb a mountain, we usually do so with a backpack full of supplies that will be necessary to persist on the path to the summit. However, the ascent is not the same for everyone, which is why climbing as a team involves a careful attention to others, which can be reflected in many actions. The rope we are invited to experience today is the rope of Charity, to remind us that in this challenge, we are never alone or isolated from the world.

Today we turn our gaze to the continent where Marie Poussepin's story of charisma began. Mont Blanc has been the place that has brought together all those who have wished to experience hiking and mountaineering since the 13th century, and its virtues inspire us toward holiness.

We therefore hope that the meeting we propose below will be held sometime before Charisma Week, so that on Wednesday the 22nd, each youth community can embark on a journey to give of itself to some work of charity.





Motivation to Experience

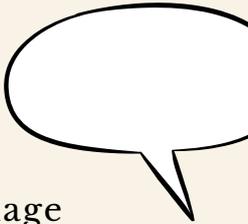
The facilitator at the entrance to the space where the youth are meeting will tell them to line up shoulder to shoulder because the supplies they will be carrying while climbing the mountain with the charity rope must be checked. They will then give each of them a blindfold.



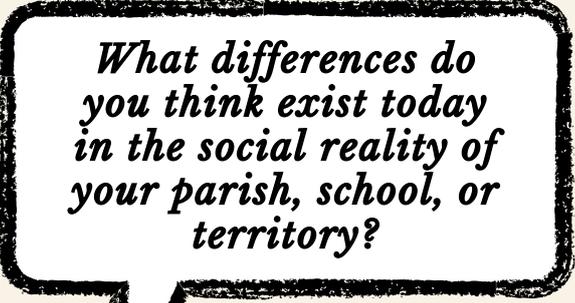
The following variety of materials will be used: stones of different sizes; cotton balls or sponges impregnated with both pleasant and unpleasant odors; dried leaves and flowers; and sweet and sour candies.

Each youth should receive one of these items and try to decipher what they have been given with their remaining senses. After a few minutes, they will be asked to name and describe aloud what they are holding, and then they can remove the blindfold.

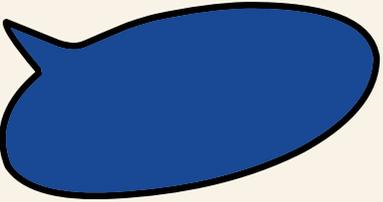
Relationship of Motivation with life



Once everyone has completed the exercise, the facilitator will explain that, in life, although we have all been created in the image and likeness of the Lord, sometimes there are realities that differentiate us from one another, so based on the activity, he will ask them:



What differences do you think exist today in the social reality of your parish, school, or territory?



This question is for your consideration only, not for you to answer out loud.

The goal is for young people to be able to identify the real circumstances in the area they live in that make some people feel more vulnerable or disadvantaged compared to others. This can sometimes separate them from the rest of the population, which further contributes to their disadvantage. In this sense, we are not limited to people of all ages and backgrounds, but also to other creatures and beings belonging to our common home.



Activity - Experience Description

The facilitator will provide a brief background to the activity, explaining that long ago, when Marie Poussepin was young, she inherited a hosiery factory from her father when he died. Seeing the needs of the people in her hometown, she not only gave them hosiery, but also gave them work and taught them how to knit them. This time, each of the young people will become a tailor to knit some hosiery and keep warm those who are cold.

The youth group should be divided into smaller groups, and each group will be given a piece of paper containing a brief description of a person or creature in a vulnerable situation. Here are some options, or the youth can choose a person based on their answers to the motivation question:

- Homeless
- Companion who has nothing to eat
- Someone who suffers racial discrimination
- A displaced mother
- Abandoned Pet



The objective is for each team to construct a pair of socks on a piece of Kraft paper, the threads of which must be the actions necessary to help that person.



They will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete the activity, and afterward, each team will share their completed exercise in a plenary session. Once everyone has shared their thoughts, the facilitator can ask the students:

How did you feel while doing the activity? What did you identify? What did you discover? What attitudes and actions should be taken to help others?

Analysis of experience

Based on the lived experience and contributions made by the young people, the facilitator will conceptualize what is understood by Charity, guided by Marie Poussepin.

Charity is more than simply putting oneself at the service of others. Charity is “living a transformed and life-changing life, open to God's action, aware of its limits, but courageous in love. It is recognizing that a smile, a look, a greeting, a visit can be daily sacraments.” (Communities in the Philippines).

With these actions, we dignify the lives of others by giving meaning to our own, because when we give ourselves out of love, it is to God we are giving, who heals, saves, and forgives, because in every gesture hope is sown.

Now, Marie Poussepin was a faithful example of how to live charity through attitudes that we can practice today to be humanity at the service of humanity: Active listening and contemplation of the world around us, of our neighbors in their need, and of God through prayer; Fraternity, because works are not only performed individually, but are lived and built in community; Piety, to work in evangelization, which is none other than bearing witness to the living Jesus; Simplicity, since service is not an act of privilege or recognition; it is a vocation that is constantly renewed; Work, since all charitable service requires actions, not inaction.



In the same way, those who have ever climbed and continue to climb Mont Blanc recognize themselves as part of a whole, whose actions can contribute to or, on the contrary, affect the success of both their fellow climbers and the mountain that welcomes them on their journey.

Thus, through charity, we are called on this climb to recognize ourselves as part of a community and, with that, to distance ourselves from the idea that we are islands separated from one another. Just as Mont Blanc is surrounded by many other glaciers that depend on its condition, so too are we surrounded by lives that will eventually require us to reach out and not let them fall.

Discernment from Experience

The space for this moment will be decorated with candles in the center of the room, accompanied by the Bible with the biblical text to be read, along with an open chest. Around this sign, there will be a series of paper coins scattered on the floor.

The facilitator will have the youth sit in a circle around the sign and invite them to listen to the following reading:

Jesus was sitting in front of the offering box, watching how the people put money into the box; and many rich people put in a lot. Then a poor widow came and put in two small coins, which is a quadrans. Calling his disciples, he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all the others who have contributed to the box; for they have all given out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, has put in everything she had, all that she had to live on.'

Marcos 12, 42-44



After reading the text, you will ask:

What does this text invite us to do?

After hearing some answers, the facilitator will make the following reflection:

Blessed Marie Poussepin was a woman who, having started out in the silk stocking industry, set her sights on those who most needed to be noticed and recognized, and with that, she left her homeland behind to go where war, poverty, and disease invaded every corner. She gave her all, from her humanity to the resources at her disposal, for the just recognition of the rights and duties of all people. That's why she built a community where she honored women who in turn replicated her work, but she also brought the water of life to those who were thirsty.

We are young people, who like Marie Poussepin, whether near or far, are surrounded by a reality in which some are less fortunate, and it is there that the Lord calls us to do his work. We learned this before: from the smile we share with the sad, to the food we bring to the hungry, it is charity when we are able to give of ourselves, as the widow gave of what she had and what she was. Not because of appearances or because he had too much, but because we accepted the mission that has been entrusted to us.

With this in mind, the facilitator will invite the young people to each take a coin and write on it what attitude or action they want to take to live in charity, just as Marie Poussepin did. As a sign of commitment, they will place it in the chest, just as the widow did.

The facilitator will close the meeting by inviting everyone to embrace each other in a peaceful embrace.



Once again, we invite you to hold this meeting with your youth community before Charisma Week, since once you have a closer understanding of the great virtue of Charity, as a team you can move toward the goal of Wednesday the 22nd: Carrying out a work of charity.

Here is a list of works that the youth of the Presentation Youth Network can carry out to transform lives wherever we are. Don't forget that we will be receiving photos of your meetings on the Instagram account @rjpresentación and that on Wednesday evening we will be sharing a little more about what it means to live in charity in every place where Marie Poussepin's mark is felt.

Solidarity visits

Plan a morning or afternoon where the community can gather to share, provide playtime, entertainment, or even food at a senior citizen home, a child care center, a care facility for people with disabilities or the sick, or other facilities.

Collection Campaigns

They would seek to promote campaigns to collect cleaning supplies to institutions that need them, as well as campaigns for school supplies or groceries for those most in need.

Community Services

Identify an area of the school, parish, or neighborhood that needs help restoring, cleaning, or maintaining it. This will help generate a greater sense of ownership.

local actions

Hold events offering free hugs, listening spaces for those who need them, and even a corner where people can write down and receive messages of support.

Solidarity Garden

As a community, plant a community garden that provides food to those most in need and can become a shared project.

Awareness campaigns

With those topics of greatest need, they can inform themselves and create posters or a social network to make known aspects of the same that possibly many do not know.

But never forget that everything you do, like Marie Poussepin, is inspired in the name of Jesus Christ and his love.



We are grateful for your commitment and communion with this initiative that seeks to exalt our charism and forge bonds of fraternity.

We join together in prayer, entrusting our needs and dreams to Our Lady of the Presentation.

With love,
Coordinating Team
Presentation Youth Network

