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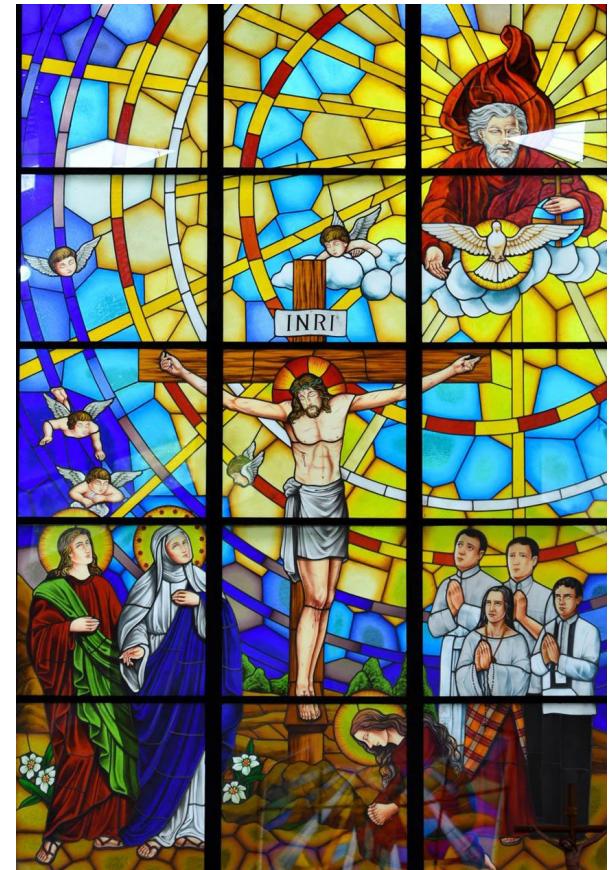
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Young Disciples of Mary



***"We bring Christ to the youth
and the youth to Christ
through Mary."***
(Alagad ni Maria Constitution)



I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Young Disciples of Mary (YDM) is a youth and young adult ministry movement affiliated with the Philippine Disciples of Mary in close collaboration with the F.A.M.I.L.Y. (Friends of Alagad ni Maria Involved in Leading the Youth) in the Diocese of Orange, California. The YDM consists of high school, college and young adults who are committed to enriching the Catholic faith among themselves and their fellow Catholic youth through programs that would facilitate Christian Leadership, Fellowship and Mission. Furthermore, the members of the YDM are formed to become productive and efficient ministers for the parish and the local church.

II. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the YDM is to form youth and young adult to become leaders and witnesses to the gospel who are:

- a) Able to organize peer communities which shall serve as venues for the formation and development of its members through guided Gospel reflections and faith experience-sharing, workshops and empowerment programs.
- b) *Responsive and committed to the situation and needs of their fellow youth/young adult—journeying with them through their struggles, challenges, growth and joys in life.*
- c) Able to establish a fraternal, praying, apostolic, Christian communities where Christian Values are enhanced through the exercise of their faith, in imitation of Mary and the saints who faithfully followed the footsteps of the Lord.
- d) *Able to participate and contribute actively in the ministries of their respective parishes.*

e) Committed to the vision-mission, the apostolic and pastoral goals of the diocese by inculcating, practicing, promoting and developing moral values, spirituality and other aspects of the Fil-American Catholic heritage and culture.

f) Committed to the promotion of Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life among Filipino-Americans and other young people.



III. SPIRITUALITY

The Young Disciples of Mary imitates the discipleship of the Blessed Mother, who had shown her obedience to God and docility to the Holy Spirit. The group continuously reflect and meditate on the openness of Mary to cooperate in God's work of Salvation from the moment of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), to the Lord's passion, death and resurrection and to the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The YDM desires to follow the example of Mary in being of service to the church in the present time.

IV. FORMATION PROGRAM

The YDM implements a basic three-fold formation program for its youth and young adult members. This program is done in close coordination with the Dioceses, parishes, other youth ministries and parents (for high school members).

The youth movement's ministry and training process consist of a three-fold program as follows:

A. INVITING AND ENGAGING THE YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT TO BELONG TO THE MINISTRY

The first step in the basic three-fold formation program is about encouraging and inviting potential / prospective members to join the YDM. The activities and endeavors on this level centers on promoting the value, benefits, challenges and joys of joining a Catholic youth group.

B. BUILDING THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN CHRISTIAN VALUES, SPIRITUALITY AND LEADERSHIP

The second fold is to strengthen the participation of the recruited members through empowerment formation programs that would solicit from them the commitment to take part in the ministries of the YDM and become Catholic Youth and Young Adult Leaders.

C. SENDING THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT AS WITNESSES

Members of the YDM at this stage of formation program are commissioned to share and witness to other young people and the young adult through active participation and leadership.

1. Help organize and facilitate the following activities:
 - a. Quarterly Gatherings and Assemblies
 - b. Prayer Activities
 - c. Bible sharing and meditation
 - d. Support group for Parish Activities
2. Conduct or help in activities that:
 - a. Raise awareness and concern regarding the enhancement of the Catholic Faith and Moral Values.
 - b. Promotes integral development/enhancement of young people: Sports, Games, Music, Arts and Crafts, etc.
 - c. Enhances Family Values and Home Responsibilities.
 - d. Foster cooperation, unity, support and fellowship among the different YDM chapters.
3. Involve themselves in parish activities that would enhance their faith and sense of mission.

