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A little bit about my experience in youth and young adult ministry: at age 16 I began peer to peer ministry at my high school on the west coast, mostly in retreat settings. I then went to secular university on the east coast of the US, where I led retreats, Bible studies, and prayer groups. Now, I am a lay missionary in Texas and I minister to youth between the ages of 12 and 18+ years old.

One commonality I have found in all of these places is that young people want to be heard. They think critically and constructively about their Church and they want to be part of something that matters. The Synod document acknowledges this, it says that young people want to make a difference in the world.

The problem is, they – the young people – don't realize that the Church gives them that opportunity.

It is a beautiful thing that we have this opportunity to bridge the gap between the young people and the Church. The young people want it so badly and, yet, they don't know that the Church wants to give it to them so badly.

The young people that I see want to be part of an institution that acts on what it says and will put its money where its mouth is. I know they will rise to the occasion to which we call them. We want to teach them how to make good decisions, how to have a lifestyle that is comprehensive, and that is good for society. They will rise to that occasion when we call them to it.

For the Synod document, I would suggest that it is presented in a creative and palatable way. That means through videos, through local organizations, and using as much social media as possible.

Let us go out and reach young people and let them know this is out there for them. Thank you.