



DICASTERIUM PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Holy Mass for the 41st Anniversary of Jesus Youth

21 October 2026

“Communion – Grow Together: Conversion of Life and Communion”

**Homily of S.E. Mons. Dario Gervasi – Adjunct Secretary of the Dicastery for
Laity Family and Life**

Dear friends of Jesus Youth, I bring you the greetings of Cardinal Kevin Farrell and of the whole Dicastery. I am very happy to be here with you today for the opening of your meeting, together with Father Giovanni Buontempo.

We begin these days with the message that the Word of God offers us in today's Liturgy. St Paul tells us:

“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8).

The boundless riches of Christ! I like this expression. Let us consider what a great gift it is to believe in Jesus Christ. To believe in Him is truly a treasure. Pope Francis spoke of these riches at the beginning of *Christus vivit*:

1. Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!
2. He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.

“You also must be ready”

Today’s Gospel invites us *to be ready, for He is coming*. It is beautiful to entrust ourselves to Jesus. And we ask ourselves: how can we keep this faith throughout our whole life?

In the Gospel, Jesus explains how important it is to live our Christian journey in a true spirit of faith. When a servant receives a task and forgets to carry it out as his Master commanded, everything begins to feel like a burden.

Each of us has received something from God to take care of: our life, our vocation, our friendships, our own mission. These are goals to be achieved. Sometimes, as the years go by, the spark of faith grows dim. Many people today are worried about losing their

youth. But we should not be afraid of losing our youth; we should be much more afraid of losing the enthusiasm of faith! And to reach our goals, the secret is to be ready and to stay constantly connected with Jesus.

The harsh image of the beating that the unfaithful servants deserve is, in fact, the image of a life that has lost its connection with Jesus. Many things become a burden.

“When someone is given a great deal...”

Jesus ends his discourse with a striking sentence:

When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person; when someone is entrusted with a great deal, even more will be expected (Lk 12:48).

This saying comes from the world of business. It speaks of a trader who knows how to make a profit. If you are given capital and invest it well, your returns will be great. The same happens with faith. If you live your faith, faith will show you wonders: the wonder of a life truly connected with Jesus! The six pillars of your spirituality are a great help in this.

Another vital way to nurture faith is to *live it in community*. The title of your meeting speaks to our times with great urgency: communion and growth in faith always go together. When we help one another by sharing our faith, it grows and becomes stronger. The fruit of faith is conversion of life, and the fruit of conversion of life is growth in communion. This is no small thing, and each one of you has an important part in it. Today the world needs people who are able to live together in the light of the Gospel. A community that lives the Gospel is a light for the world.

Pope Leo said at the close of one of his homilies:

Thus, dear brothers and sisters, it is wonderful to become pilgrims of hope. It is wonderful for us to continue to be pilgrims together! The faithfulness of God continues to amaze us. If we do not reduce our churches to monuments, if our communities are homes, if we stand united and resist the flattery and seduction of those in power, then we will be the generation of a new dawn.¹

I wish that this meeting may help you strengthen your faith in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

¹ Pope Leo XIV, *Saint Peter's Basilica, Epiphany, 6 January 2026*.