

#CYJ24

ROM 12:12

TONGUES OF FIRE

MAY

HOPE IN MERCY

MAR

RUN, JUMP & SHOUT. BUT DO NOT SIN

JUN

REJOICE IN HOPE

JAN

CHEERFUL GIVER

JUL

SEP

LOVE IN ACTION

FEB

HOPE IN LOVE

DEC

REJOICE IN JOY

EATING THE SON

APR

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

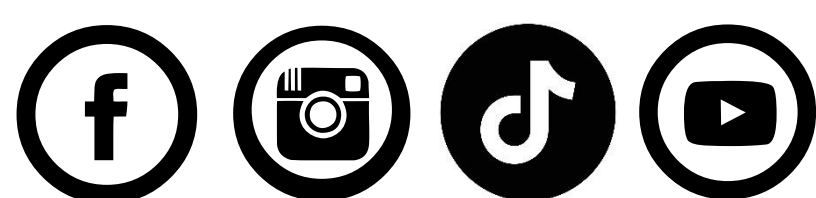
OCT

ROOTS OF JOY

NOV

MY SPIRIT REJOICES

AUG

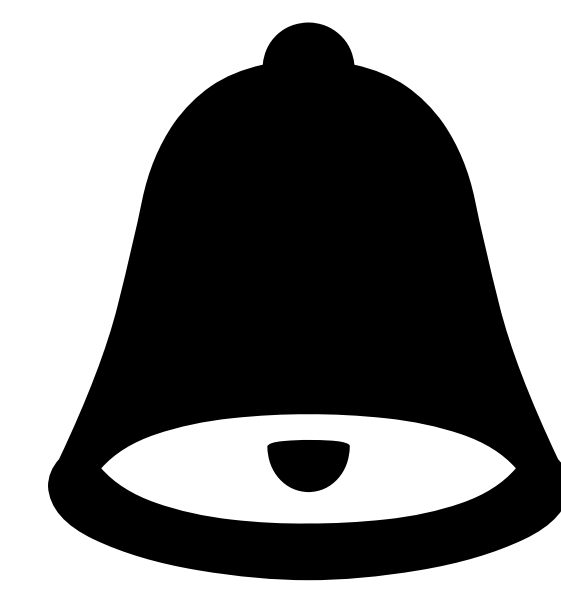


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#CYJ24

ROM 12:12

INTRODUCTION

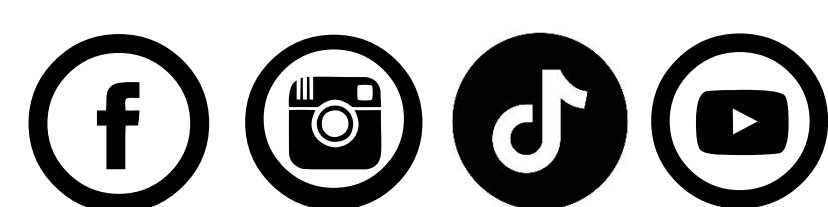


Each year, the Pope selects a pastoral theme of focus for the Youth of the Church. The purpose of each theme, quoted from Scripture, is to invite young disciples across the world to live their faith as authentic pilgrims journeying with Jesus, in the Spirit, to the Father's house. This tradition is rooted in the World Youth Day (WYD) initiative instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985. Each year, WYD was to be celebrated on Palm Sunday until Pope Francis moved it to the annual Feast of Christ the King in 2020. Every 2 to 3 years, a large inter-continental version of WYD is celebrated in a host country selected by the Pope. The next one will be in Seoul, South Korea, in 2027. Between these main gatherings, WYD is celebrated on diocesan level.

By embracing the Pope's selected themes in the spirit of pilgrimage young people have an opportunity to enrich our spiritual lives by engaging with the Word deeply, exploring resources that can enlighten us, sharing our faith with fellow youth, embracing mission as young agents of evangelisation, deepening our personal relationships with Jesus in our private and communal spaces of prayer, and experiencing conversion into ever-better versions of ourselves for God's glory.

Below are monthly theme cards introducing the sub-themes that our archdiocesan youth will be exploring throughout 2024. These are a mere introduction to what we will be exploring in each respective month. We will be invoking the accompaniment of a young patron saint for each sub-theme, and we invite you to anticipate each of them already. The key theme of 2024 was launched on the feast of Christ the King, 26 Nov 2023, and is taken from the Rom 12:12, "rejoicing in hope". This is the theme we will be exploring this year. The purpose of every sub-theme is to deepen our exploration of this key theme through scriptural reflections, resources and various activities. Throughout the coming year detailed theme cards and other materials will be broadcast to parishes and on our social media platforms. We will seek to interact with youth from a diversity of backgrounds and invite them to share their stories with us on these same platforms.

We eagerly invite the participation of all young disciples and challenge you to make more!



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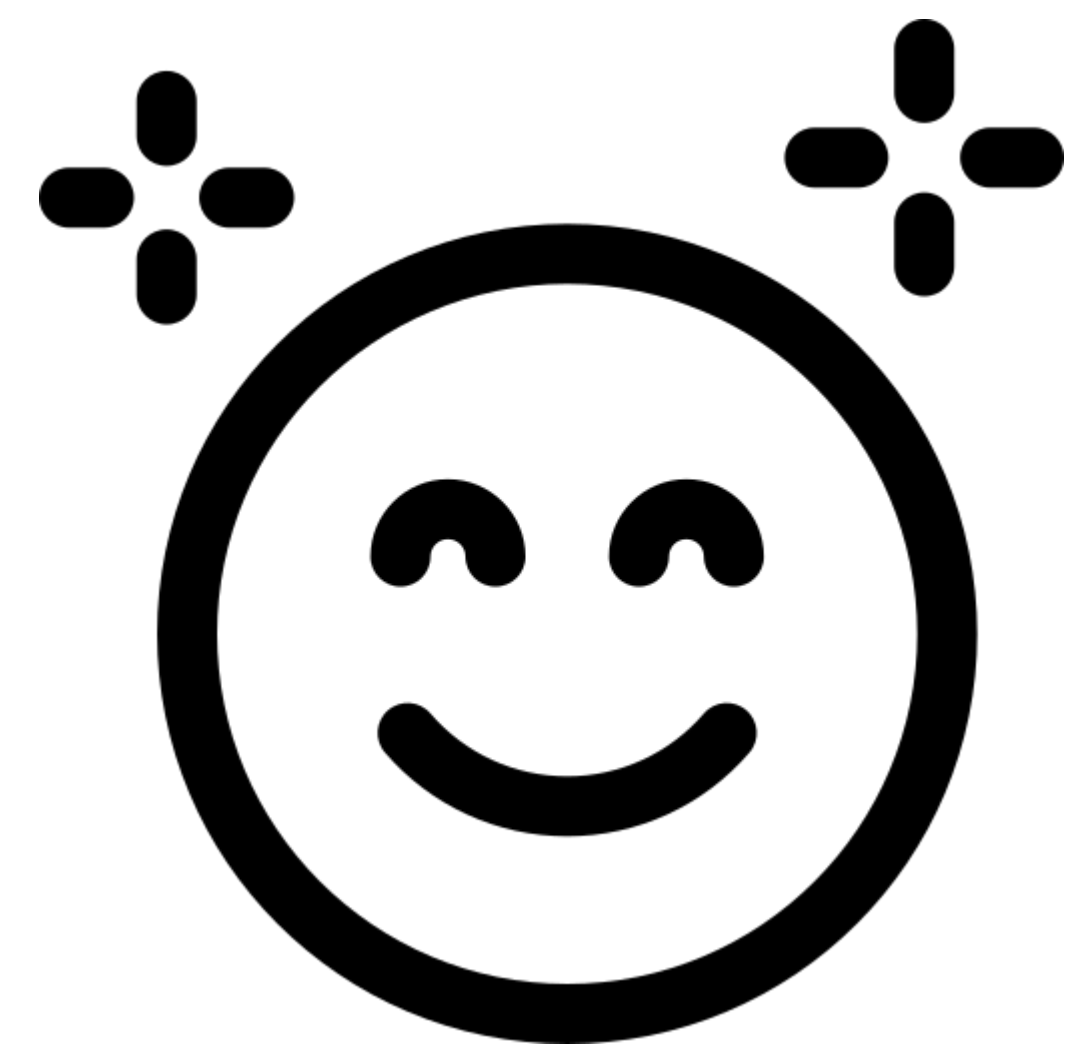


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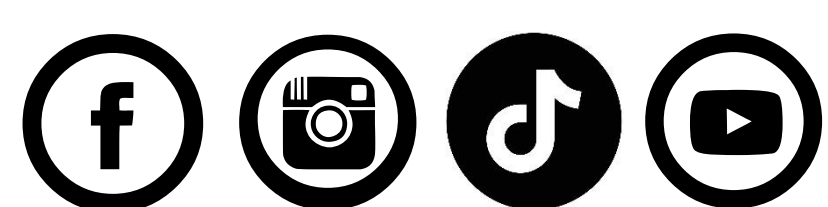
ROM 12:12

JAN

Rejoice in Hope



IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW BEGINNING. WITH HOW MUCH HOPE ARE YOU EMBARKING ON YOUR 2024 JOURNEY? IN WHAT LIES YOUR HOPE? DOES THIS BRING YOU AUTHENTIC AND LASTING JOY? YOU HAVE A CALLING AND A PURPOSE IN JESUS. STEP UP. GOD'S GLORY AWAITS YOU!



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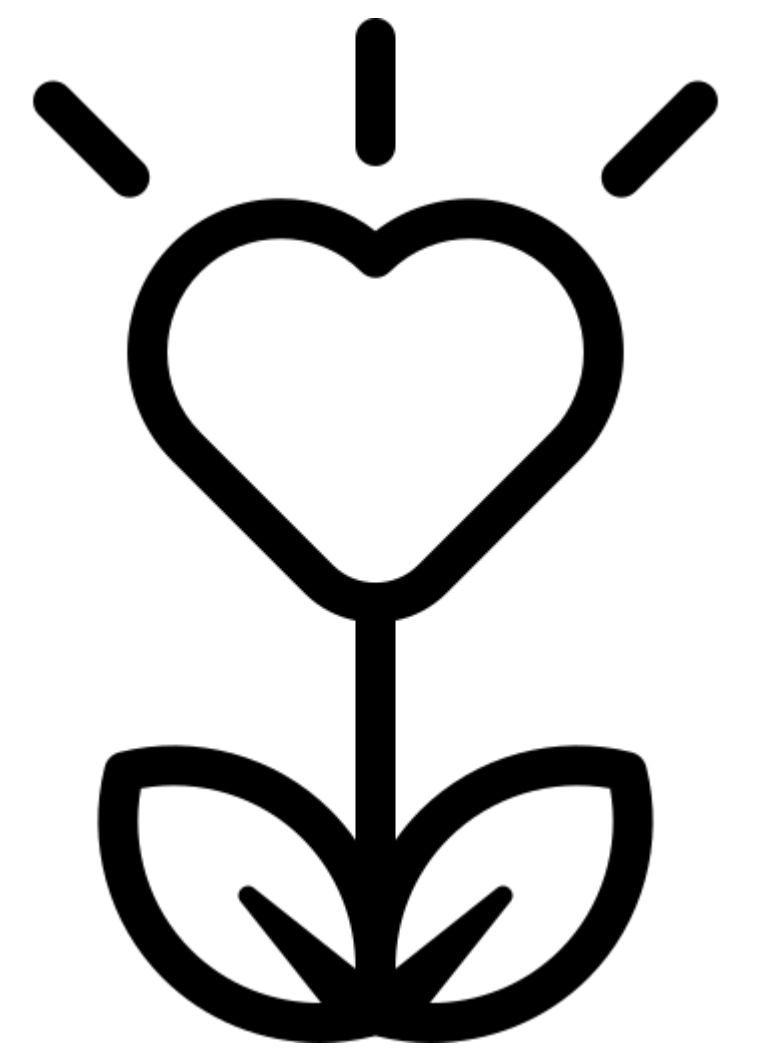


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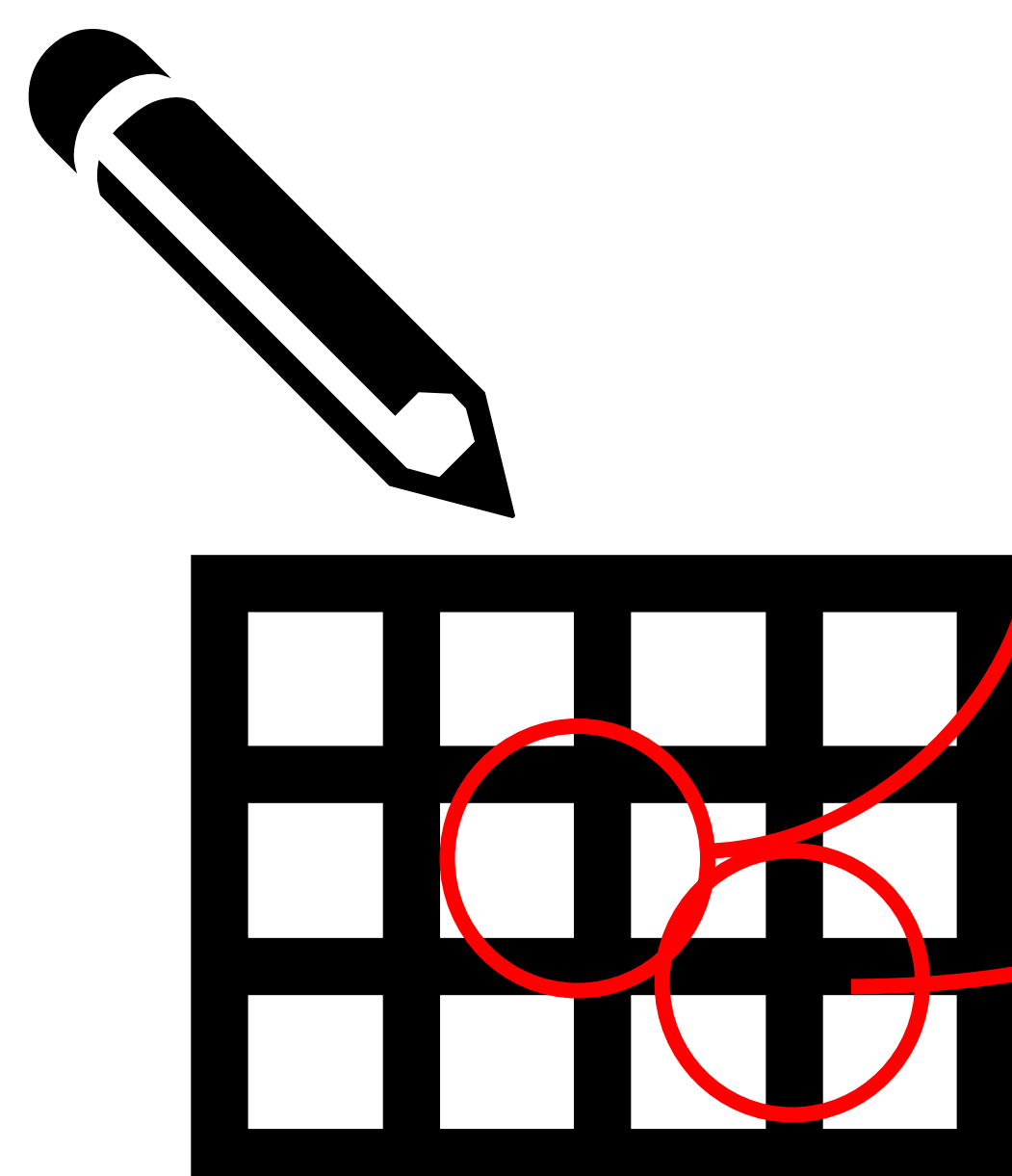
ROM 12:12

FEB

Hope in Love



DOES TODAY'S WORLD EVEN KNOW WHAT AUTHENTIC LOVE IS? CAN A SOCIETY THAT REJECTS GOD KNOW LOVE? WITHOUT TRUE LOVE, WHAT REASONS HAVE WE TO HOPE? HOW MUCH OF A PRIORITY IS LOVE IN YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU INTENTIONALLY SEEKING TO LIVE A LIFE OF AUTHENTIC LOVE? WHERE DOES JESUS FIT INTO THIS PICTURE?

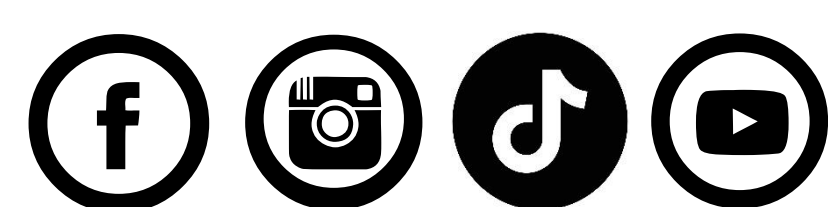


3 Feb

ANNUAL MASS

24-25 Feb

DASWA PILGRIMAGE



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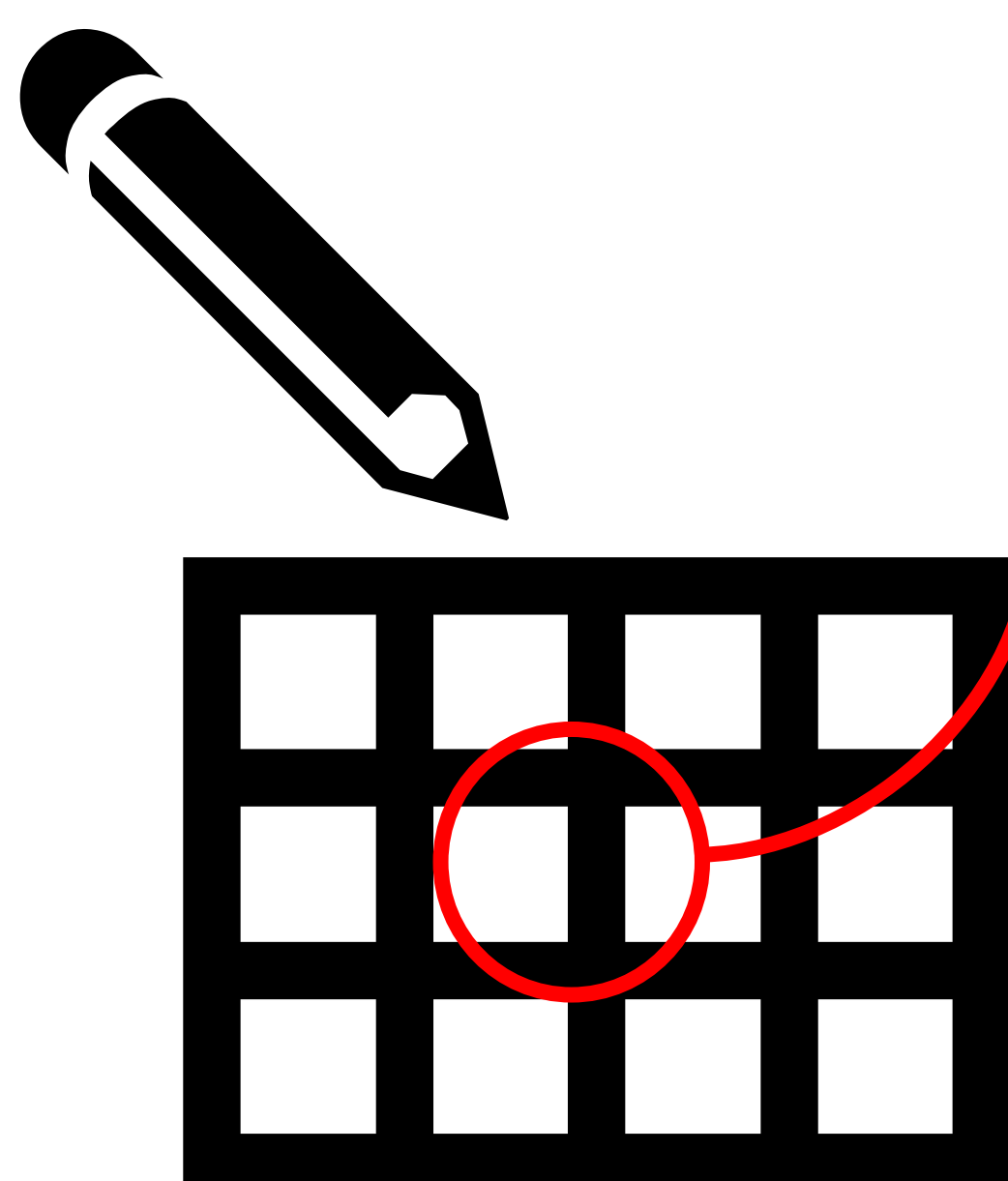
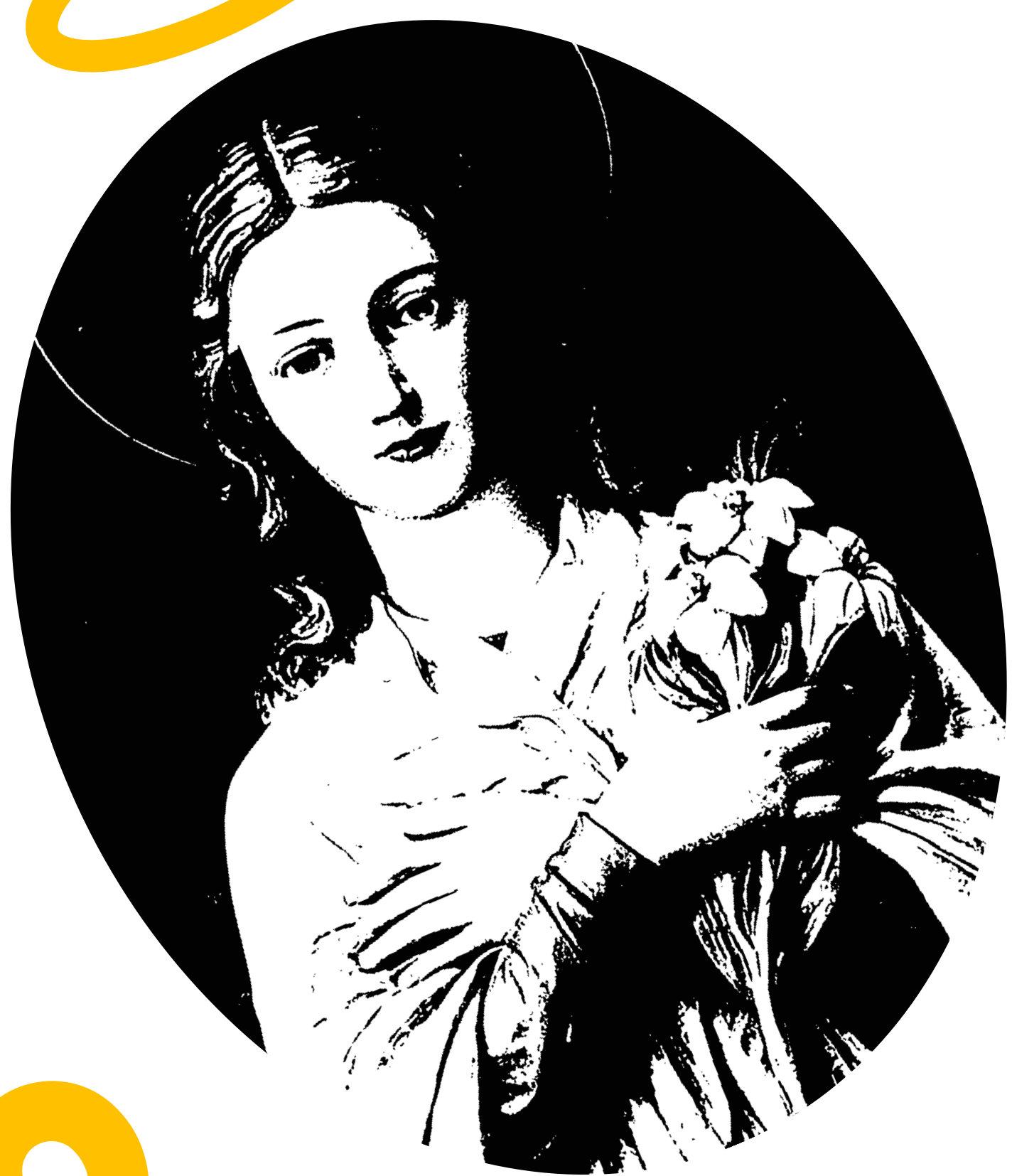
ROM 12:12

MAR

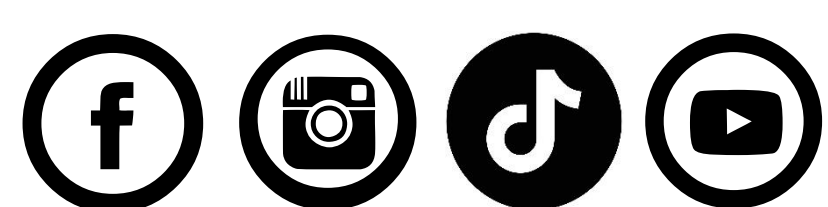
Hope in Mercy



REPENTANCE IS NOT JUST A FEELING. IT'S MOREOVER A DECISION TO CHANGE YOUR WAYS. GOING TO CONFESSION MEANS LITTLE WITHOUT A SINCERE DESIRE TO BE A BETTER VERSION OF YOURSELF, A BETTER DISCIPLE OF JESUS. DO YOU TRUST AND HOPE IN HIM? WHAT ARE YOUR ATTACHMENTS, DISTRACTIONS AND CONNECTIONS THAT NEED REDIRECTIONS?



9 Mar
AYF ENCOUNTER



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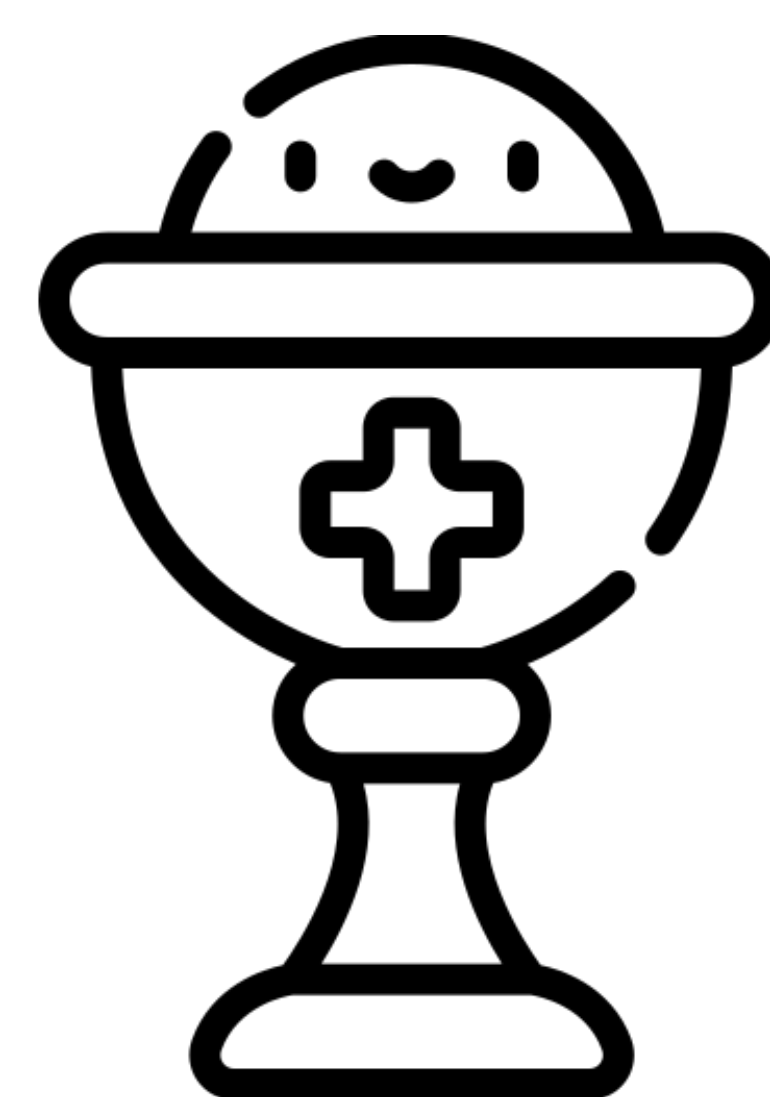


#CYJ24

ROM 12:12

ADR

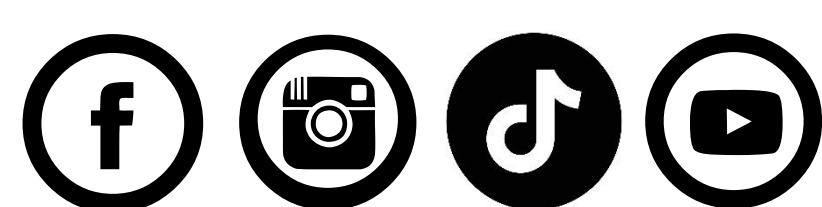
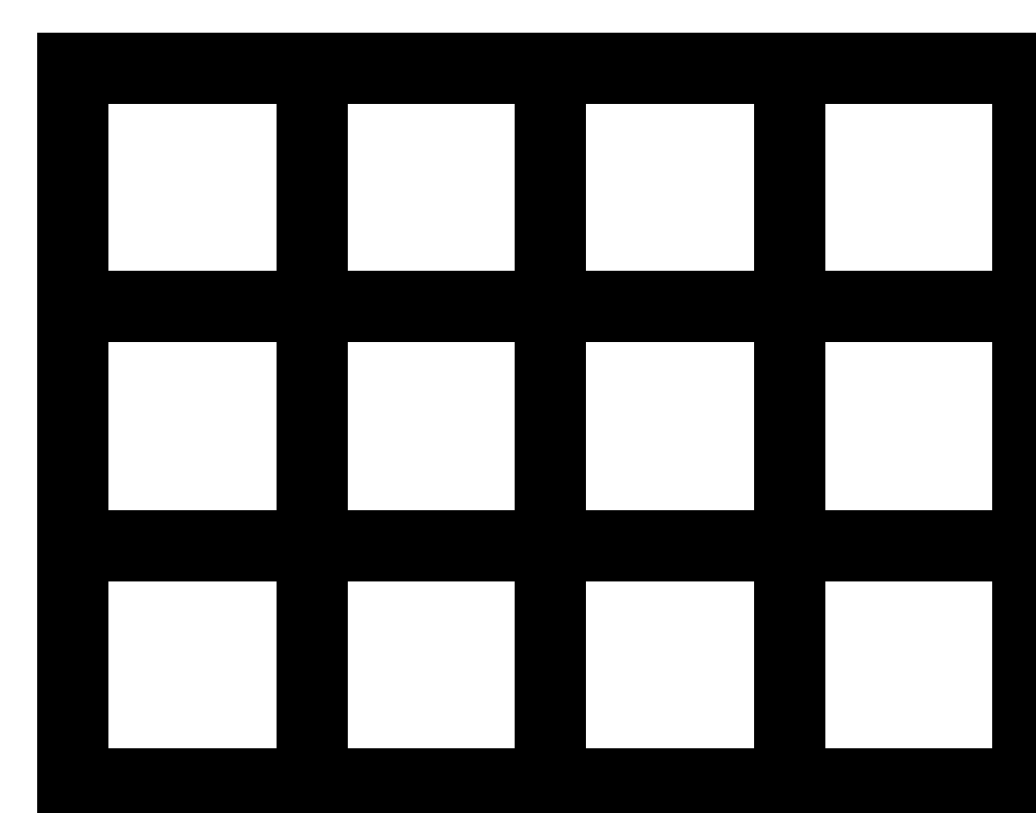
Eating the Son



SEE THE SON RISE! IS HALLELUIAH YOUR SONG?
 ARE YOU ALIVE BECAUSE JESUS LIVES? WHERE
 DOES HIS BODY AND BLOOD FIT IN? OR DO YOU
 SEEK LIFE ELSEWHERE? WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE
 TREASURE? WHAT ARE YOUR ULTIMATE GOALS?
 YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - HOW WILL
 YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR GOD'S GLORY?



Parish's
Deanery
Activities



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#CYJ24

ROM 12:12

Tongues of Fire

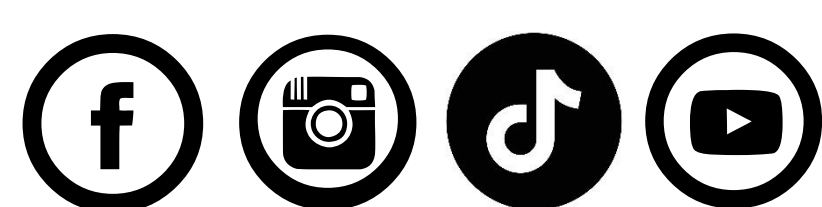
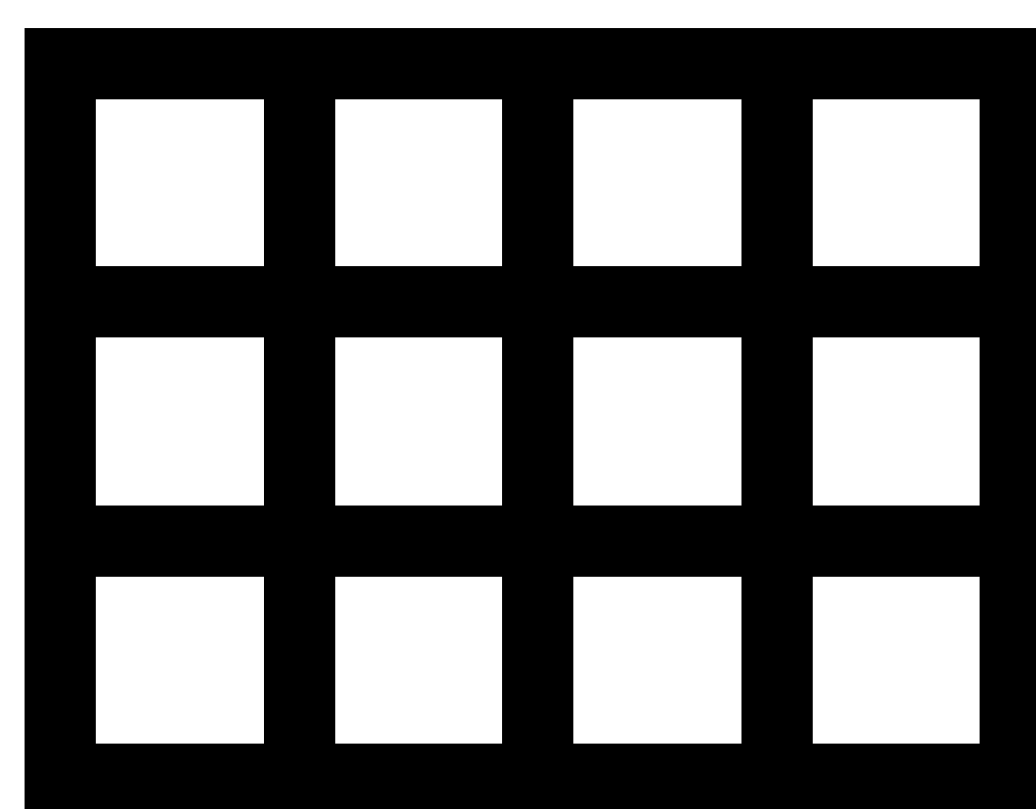
MAY



DID YOU EVER NOTICE HOW JESUS DID ALL THINGS AS THE SPIRIT PROMPTED HIM? WHAT DOES "LIFE IN THE SPIRIT" MEAN TO YOU? WHERE DOES THE DEEPEST OF JOYS COME FROM? WHAT DO YOU DEFINE AS "FREEDOM"? IF THE SPIRIT OFFERED YOU THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF YOUR LIFE, WOULD YOU PLACE YOUR HOPE IN HIM?



Parish &
Deanery
Activities



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ROM 12:12

Run, Jump & Shout. But DO NOT Sin!

JUN



HAVE YOU EVER REALLY PONDERED ON THE PURPOSE OF YOUR YOUTH? YOUTH OFTEN FEEL THAT THEIR VIBRANCY IS UNNOTICED, UNAPPRECIATED AND UNWANTED. IRONICALLY - EVERYONE WANTS TO BE "FOREVER YOUNG". IS HOPE & JOY NOT EVER YOUNG? HOW CAN YOUR YOUTHFULNESS BE A GIFT TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD?

16 June
DEANERY LEVEL YOUTH DAY

22 June
AMOF 24
AMOF JOZI

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JUL

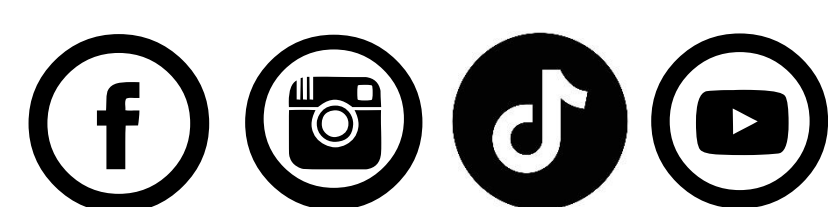
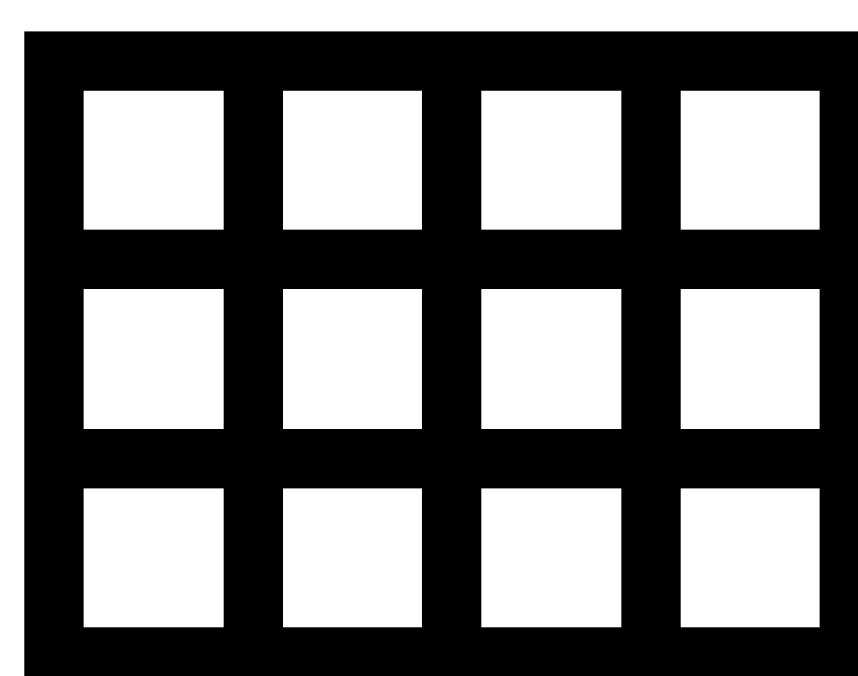
Cheerful Giver



OUR ELDERS OFTEN MISUNDERSTAND US AND VICE VERSA. YET WE CAN BE GREAT GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER WHEN WE MAKE EFFORTS TO BRIDGE INTER-GENERATIONAL GAPS. HOW CAN YOU BETTER EMBRACE WHAT YOUR ELDERS HAVE TO OFFER? DO YOU SEE THEM AS ROOTS OF JOY AND HOPE? IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU BRING HOPEFUL JOY TO THEM?



Parish &
Deanery
Activities



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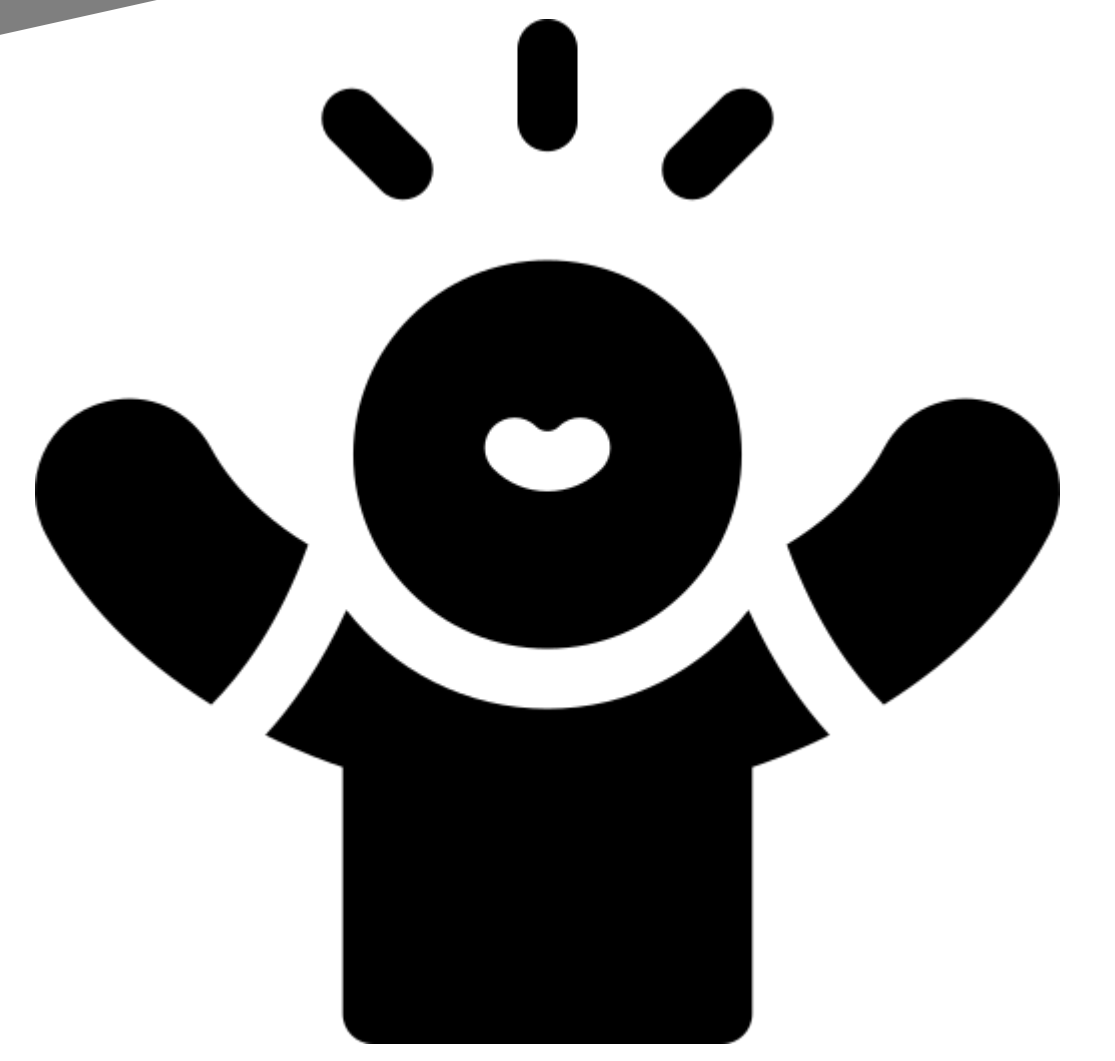


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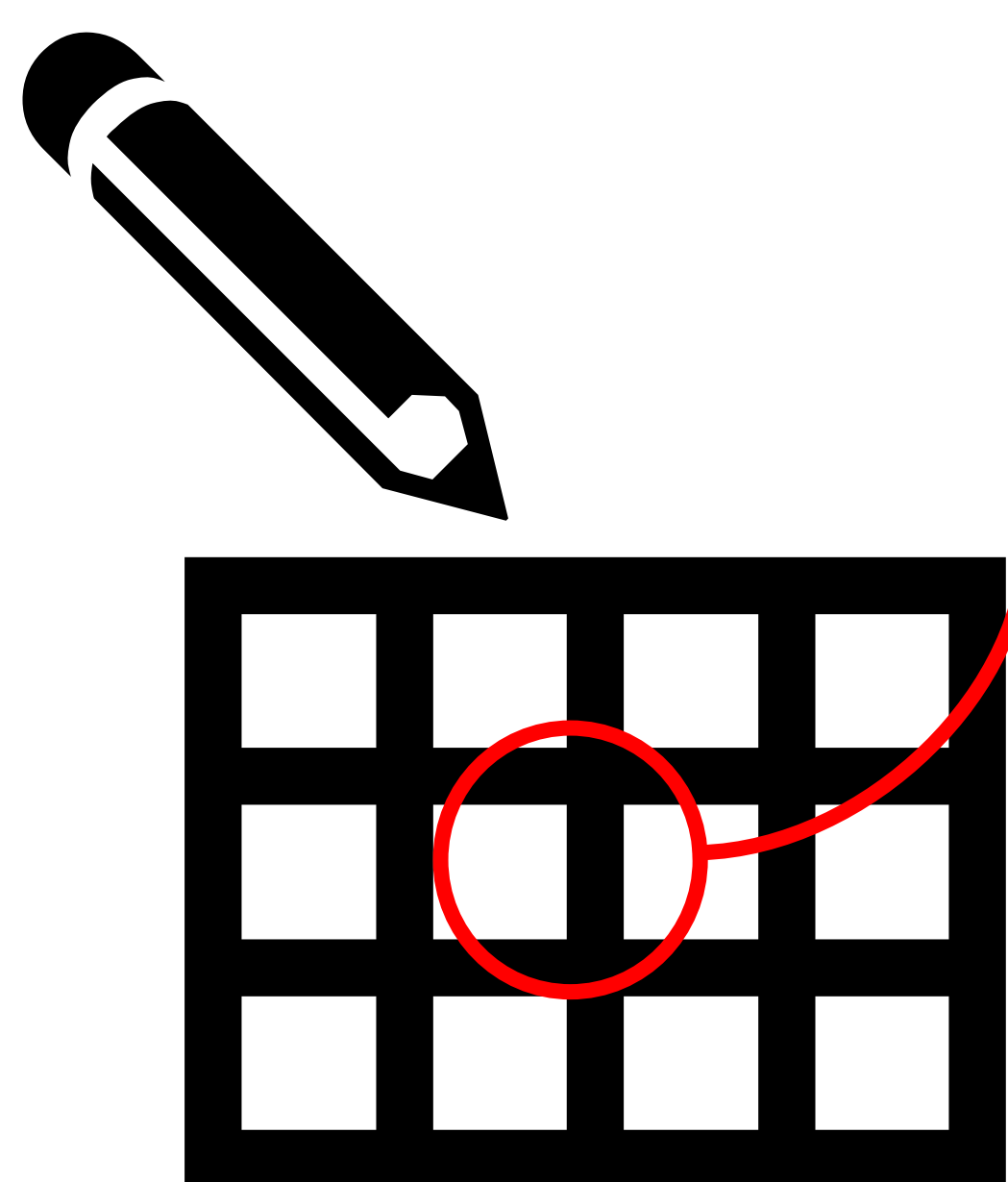
ROM 12:12

AUG

My Spirit Rejoices

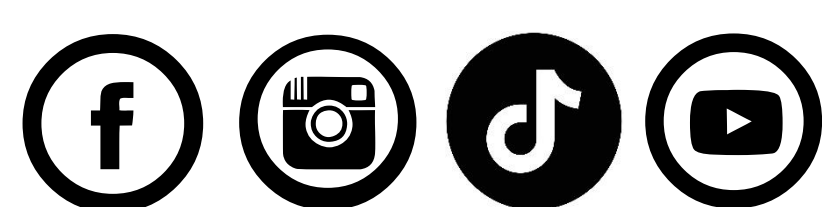


BEEN A LONG WINTER? THE TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS OF LIFE ARE MANY, AND EVIDENTLY NECESSARY. WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM? WHAT IS THE POSTURE OF YOUR HEART IN THE FACE OF YOUR PAINS, DOUBTS, FEARS, ANXIETIES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS? CAN YOU SAY WITH MOTHER MARY, "MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR"? EYES ON JESUS!



24 AUG

AYF ENCOUNTER



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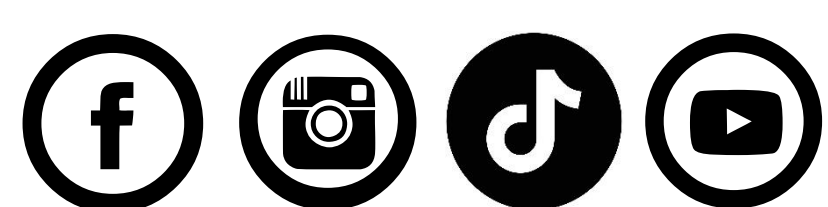
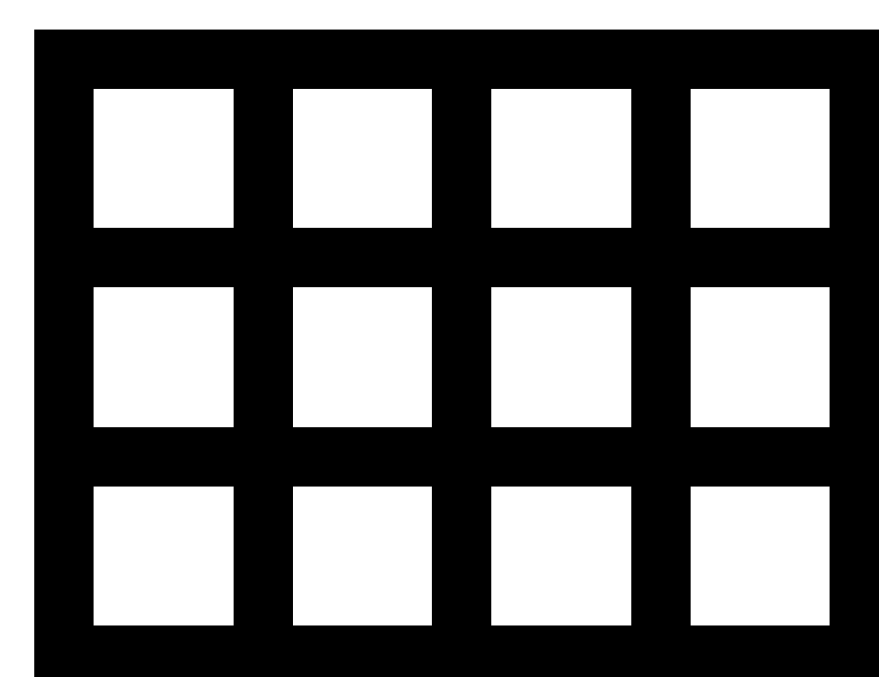
SEP

Love in Action



SPRING AND YOUTH BELONG TOGETHER. PONDER ON THAT, DEAR YOUNG ONE, REJOICE, AND SPREAD HOPE FOR OUR COMMON HOME. IT'S A MASSIVE TASK, BUT WHAT COUNTS IS YOUR SMALL DAILY EFFORTS TO CARE FOR YOUR CORNER OF CREATION. HOW CAN YOU GET PRACTICAL? WHERE CAN YOU START? DO IT!

Parish &
Deanery
Activities



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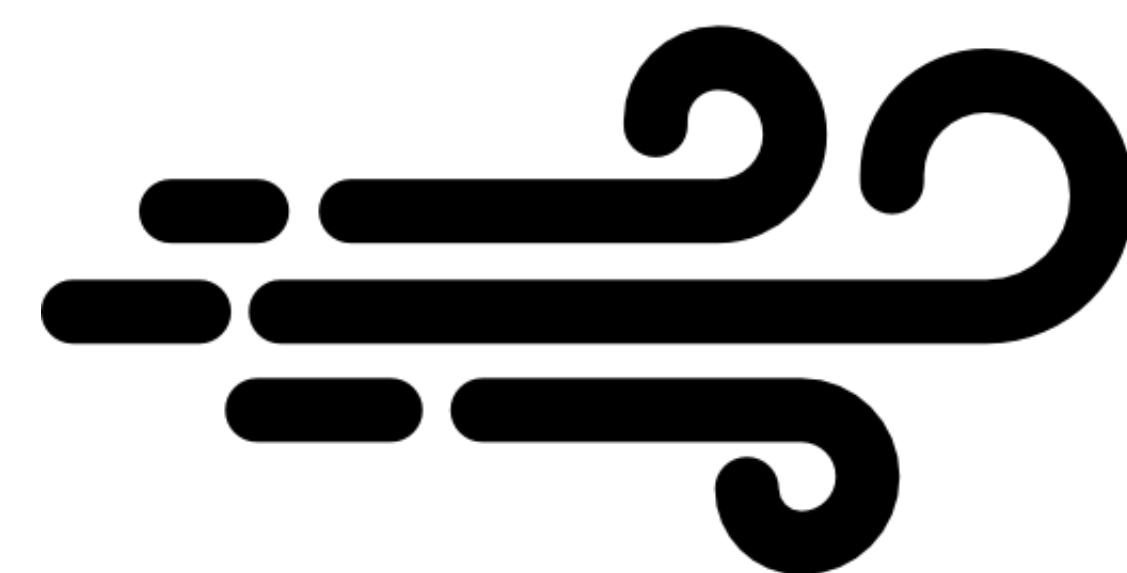


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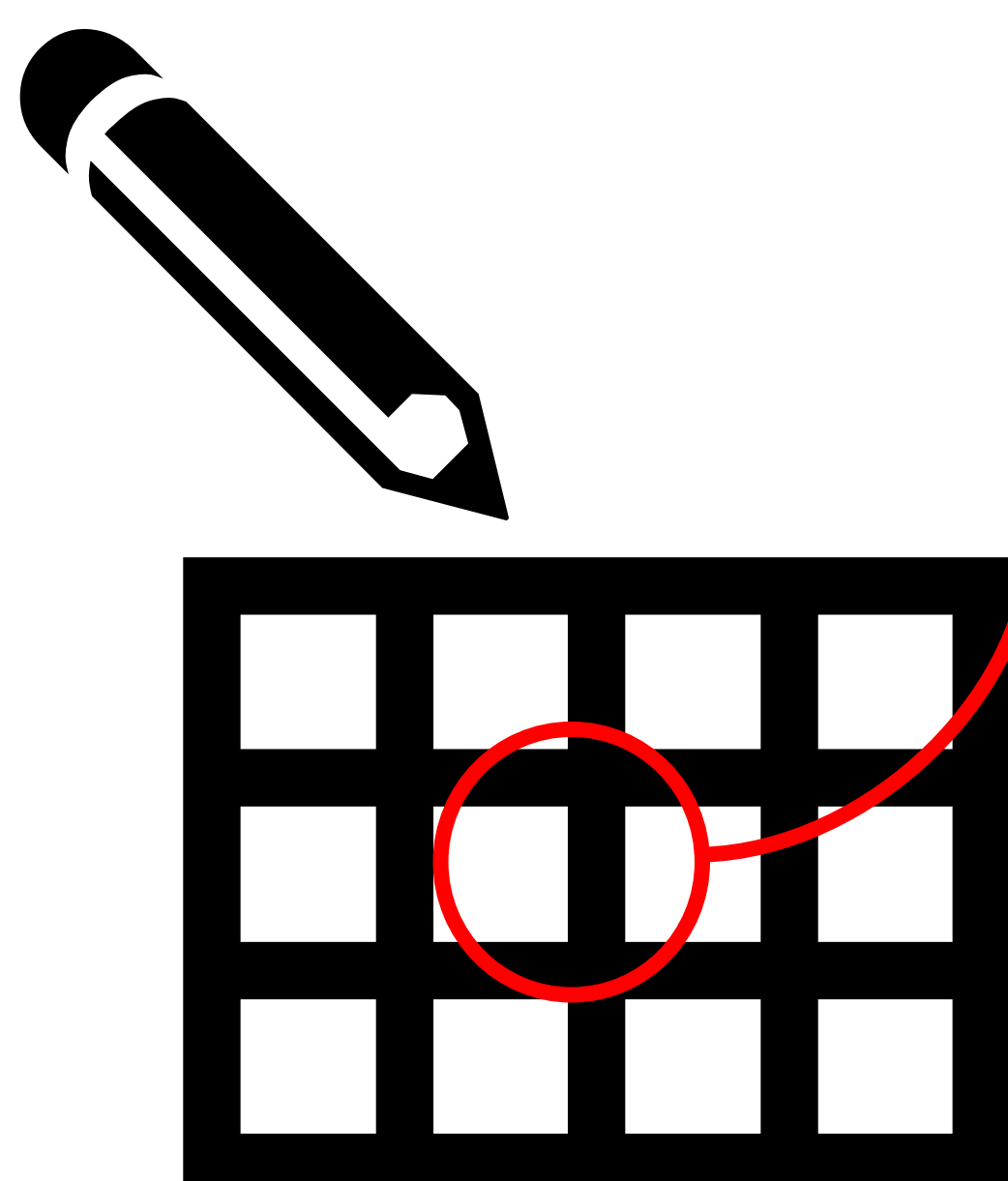
ROM 12:12

do whatever he tells you

Oct

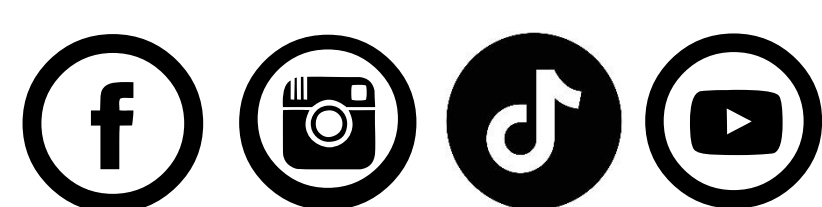
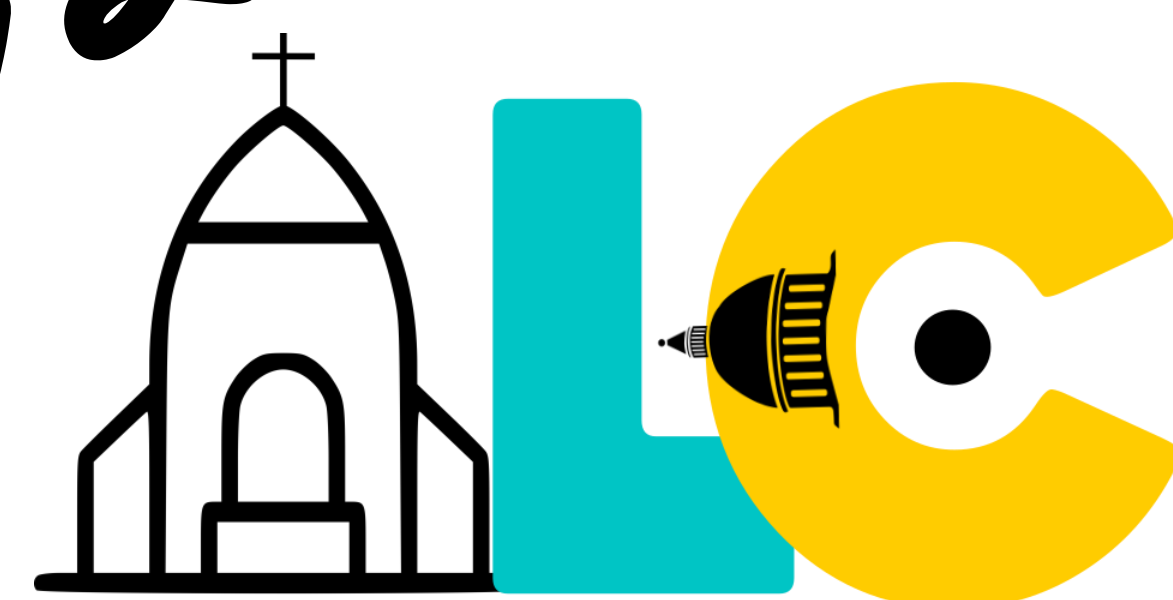


HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED - REALLY ENCOUNTERED JESUS? HAVE YOU DISCOVERED THE GREATEST JOY YOU'LL EVER HAVE? HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THAT IMPULSE TO SHARE THIS JOY WITH THE WORLD AND BRING HOPE TO THE LOST? EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A MISSIONARY! JESUS AWAITS YOUR YES! WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE ROLE IN THE GREAT MISSION OF JESUS?



19 Oct

ALC24



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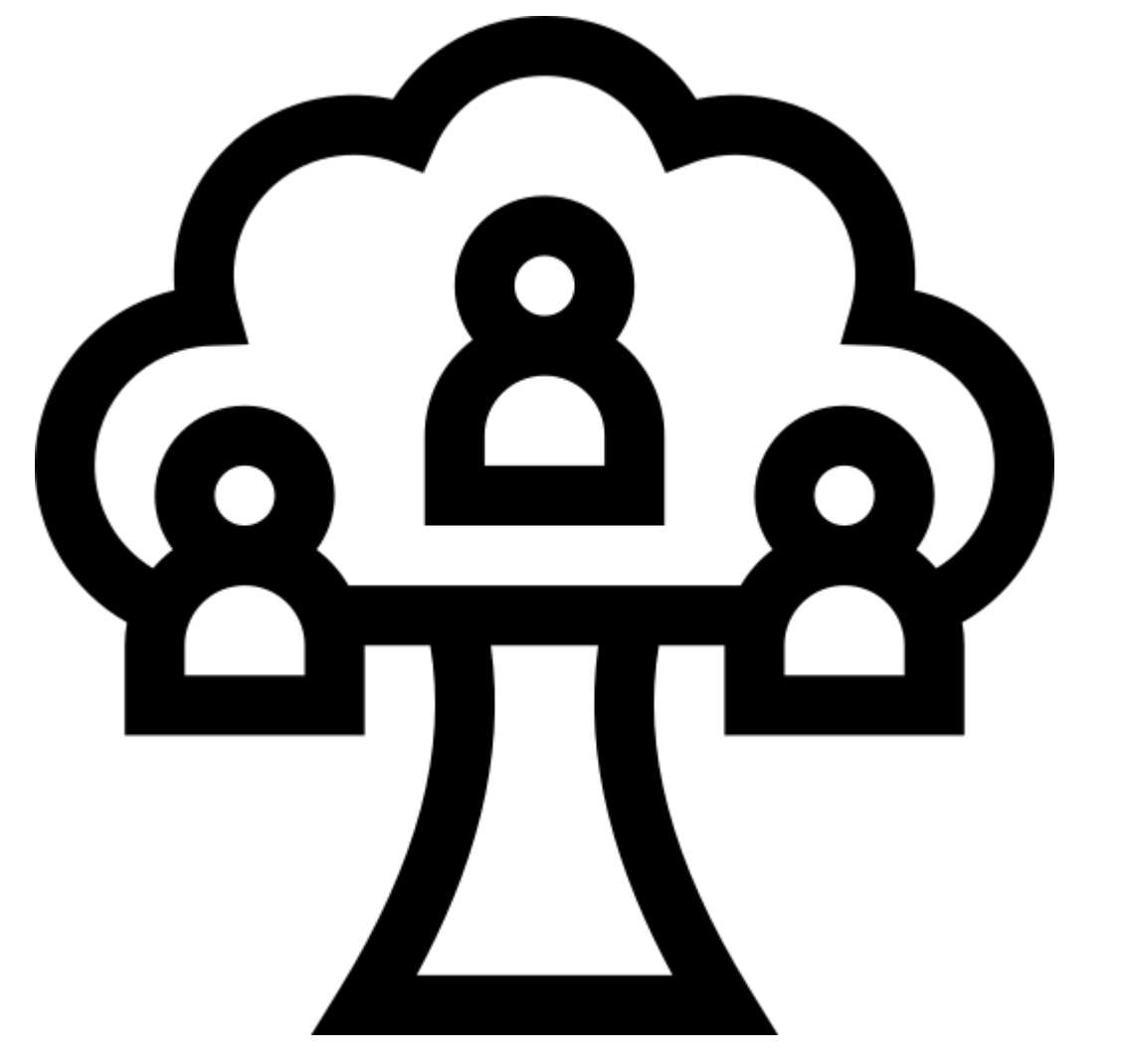


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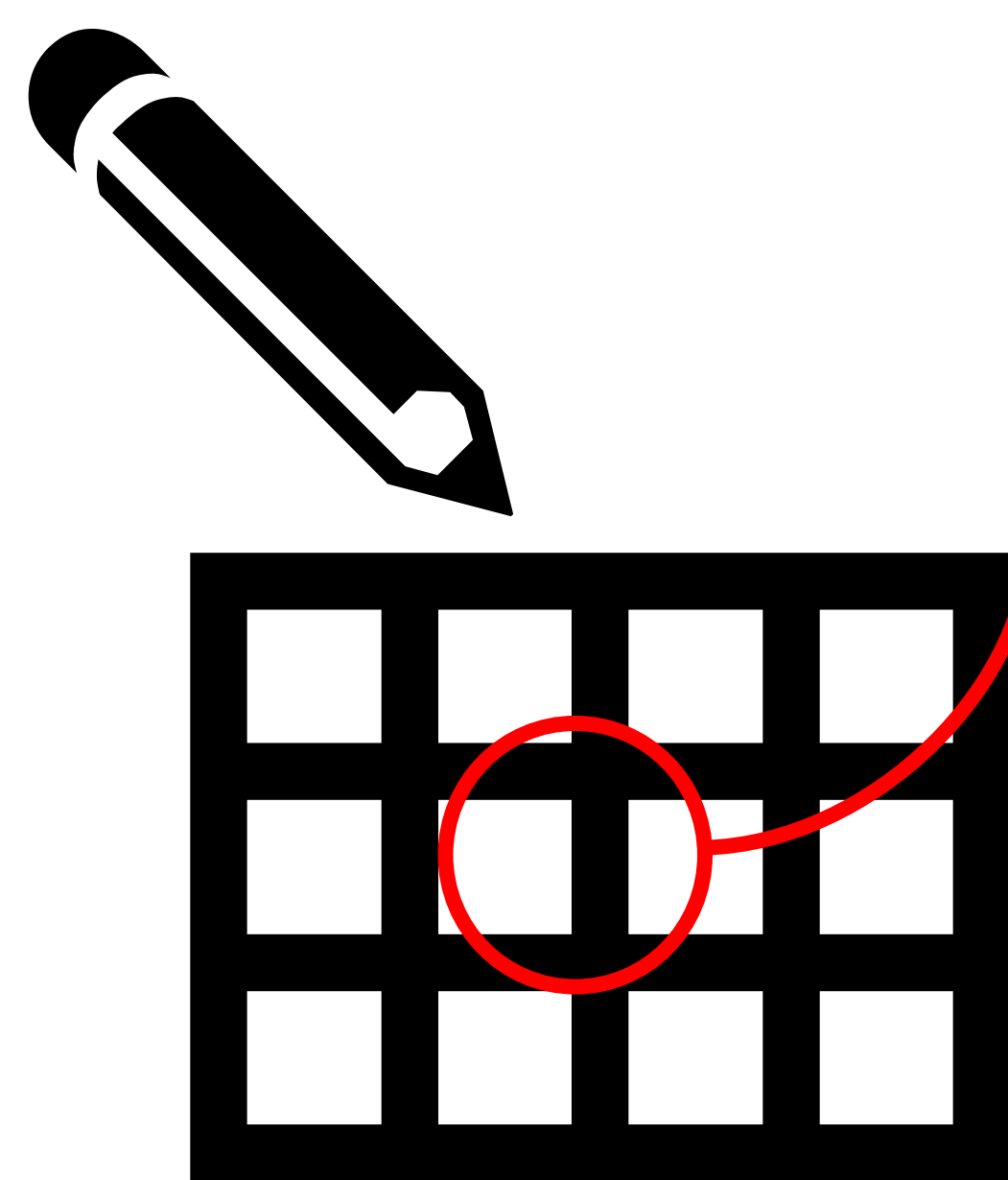
ROM 12:12

NOV

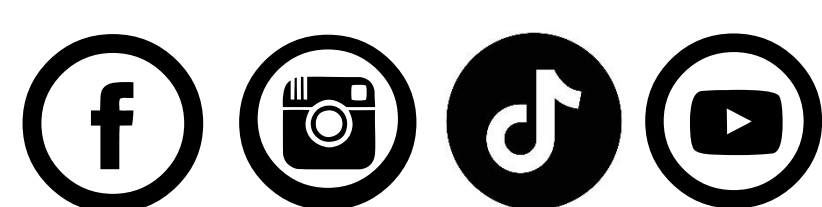
ROOTS OF JOY



WHEN YOU PROFESS THAT YOU BELIEVE IN "THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS", DO YOU UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE PROFESSING? DO YOU GRASP THE POWERFUL ASSISTANCE YOU CAN RECEIVE FROM YOUR HEAVENLY FAMILY? ARE THEY A SOURCE OF HOPE & JOY IN YOUR LIFE? DO YOU LOOK TO THEM AS INSPIRATION TO BECOME THE UNIQUE SAINT YOU'RE MEANT TO BE?



23 NOV
AYF ENCOUNTER



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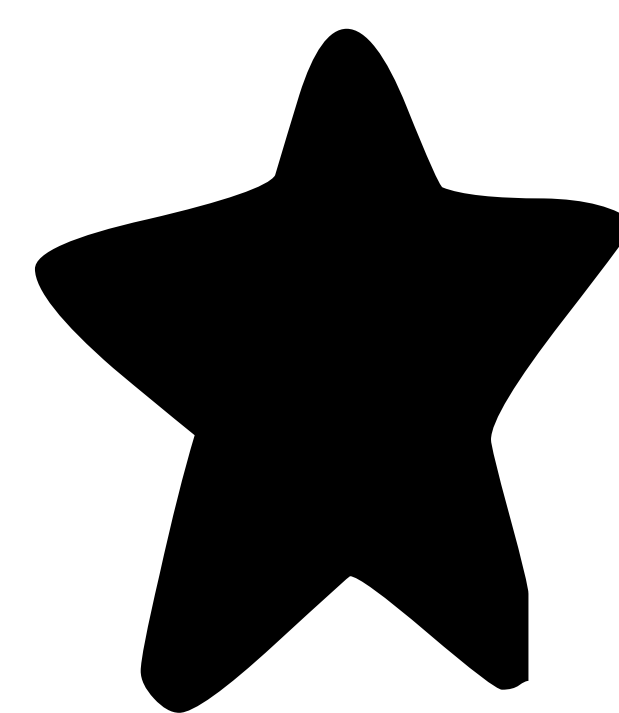


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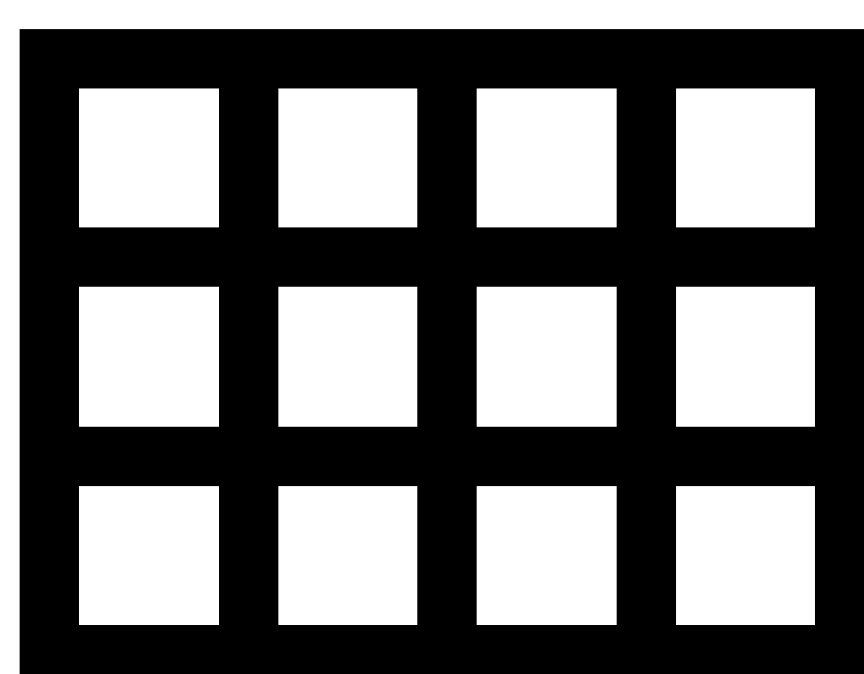
ROM 12:12

DEC

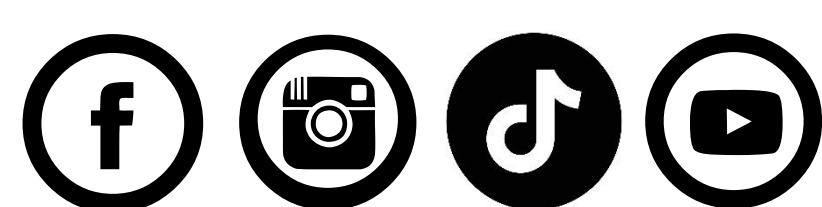
Rejoice in Joy!



WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE "CHRISTMAS SPIRIT"? IS JESUS AND ALL HE STANDS FOR PART OF IT? WHAT IS THE REAL "FESTIVE" JOY AND HOPE OF THIS SEASON? WITH MARY AND JOSEPH, JOURNEY IN THE SPIRIT TO SHARE IN AND SHARE THE GOOD TIDINGS WITH OTHERS. DO SO WITH RADICAL GENEROSITY AND HAVE YOURSELF A JESUS, JOSEPH AND MARY CHRISTMAS!



Parish &
Deanery
Activities



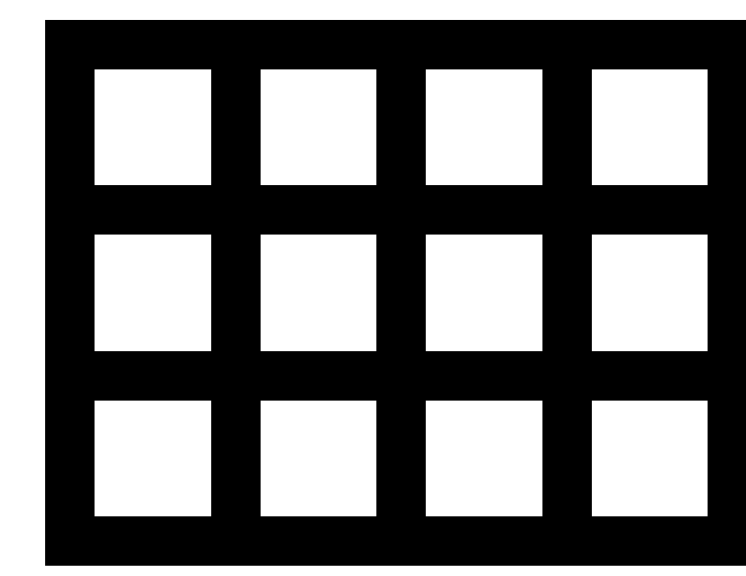
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PARISH & DEANERY EVENTS



Some of the theme introduction cards above include dates of key Archdiocesan events (see definition card below for clarity). We encourage parish and deanery youth leaders to keep these dates open and devise your own year plans around them. Listed below are proposed parish and deanery activities for consideration and planning. Note that these are basic key events and not exhaustive. Smaller activities will be suggested as monthly theme cards are released, and deaneries and parishes are encouraged to be prayerful, creative and diligent in organising activities and gatherings.



Please remember to share your year plans, promotion materials and info with the Youth Dept. as we would like to share and promote your activities in our social circles!

DEANERY YOUTH MASS

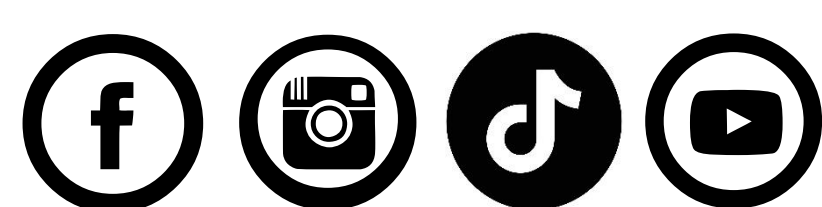
Youth Mass remains a highlight and has proven to be a powerful and empowering spiritual encounter for young people. Whether celebrated on its own or as part of other deanery activities (as listed below), we invite the Deanery Youth Forum (DYF) of every deanery to plan this celebration and welcome all youth within your respective deaneries.

YOUTH DAY (JUNE 16)

Deaneries have celebrated vibrant youth day events over the years filled with creative uniqueness. As a lead-up to AMOF JOZI, we invite DYF's to make Youth Day celebrations celebrated on June 16 a priority. This day can include multiple activities such as Youth Mass, spiritual formation activities, listening circles, culture and sport activities, fundraising initiatives (e.g. raffles, food and merchandise sales), etc. Our virtual connections via social media make this a multi-centred occasion by which we are apart yet one in this celebration. Looking forward!

WORLD YOUTH DAY (CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY)

Pope Francis has moved the annual global Youth Day celebration to the feast of Christ the King each year. Since our local Youth Day celebrations are celebrated in June (AMOF JOZI & June 16), we invite Parish Youth Forum (PYF) leaders to work with their respective parish pastoral councils (PPC's) in planning a special parish Youth Mass for this feast. Mass can be followed by fun and fellowship activities facilitated by the youth for all parishioners. This celebration also serves as a launching platform for the upcoming theme of the following year.

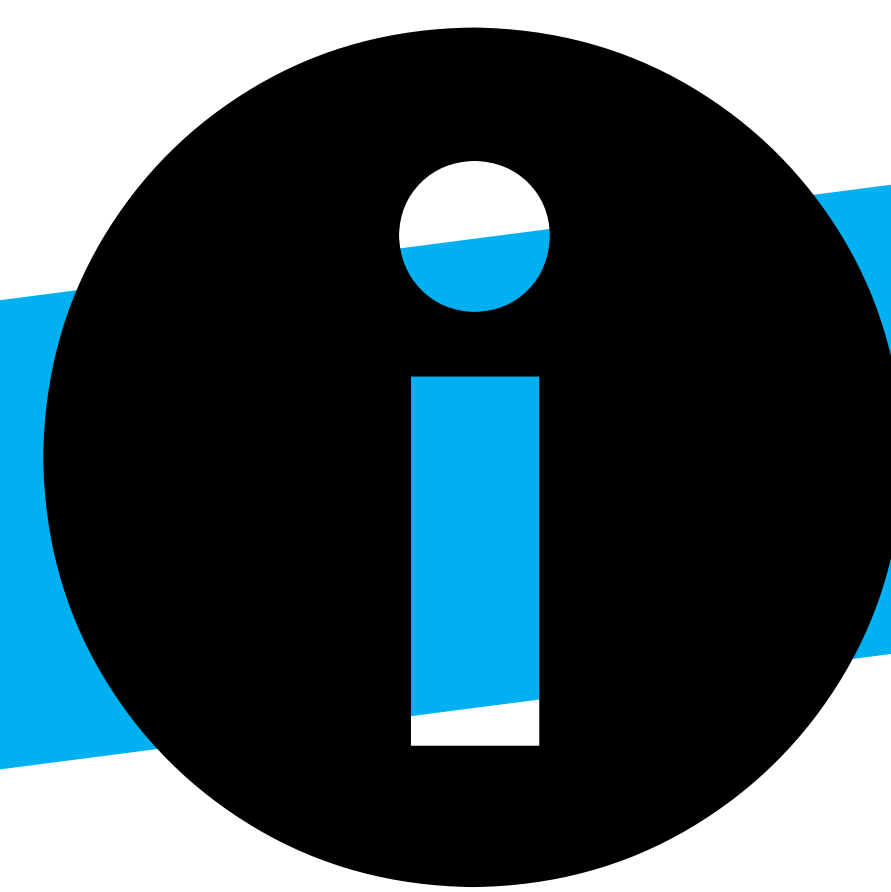


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DEFINITIONS

CYJ = CATHOLIC YOUTH JOZI

The archdiocesan catholic youth body. #CYJ23 refers to all things pertaining to the youth of the Johannesburg archdiocese. The year is specified, as a key theme (usually a scripture verse) is at the core of all events, gatherings and resources that will be produced in that year. The 'CYJ Mass' is a celebration open to all youth during which we give thanks for the year behind us and consecrate that before us to Jesus.

AYF = ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH FORUM

The AYF refers to the archdiocesan body of parish youth leaders, i.e. all Parish Youth Forum (PYF) chairpersons. This can be viewed as a youth version of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC). The 'AYF Encounter' is therefore a leadership platform by which we aspire to form, inform, inspire and connect parish youth leaders.

PYF = PARISH YOUTH FORUM

The Parish Youth Forum (PYF) consists of all parish youth. PYF leaders are referred to as the 'PYF Executive'.

DYF = DEANERY YOUTH FORUM

The Deanery Youth Forum (DYF) consists of the chairpersons and secretaries of every PYF in a given deanery. Deanery leaders are elected from the DYF to form the 'DYF Executive'.

WYD = WORLD YOUTH DAY

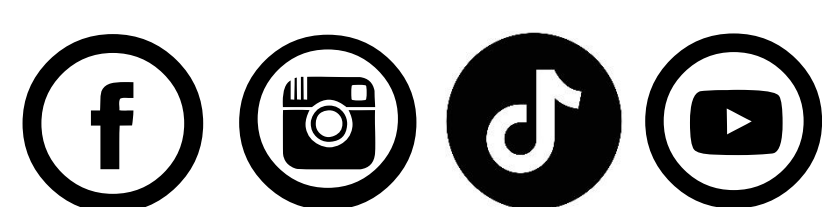
World Youth Day is celebrated every year across the world on the feast of Christ the King. One particular large gathering is celebrated every three years in a selected host country. The next large gathering ('WYD2023') will in be Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 Aug.

AMOF = ARCHDIOCESAN MEETING OF FAMILIES

One of our newest and biggest archdiocesan events, now officially hosted by the Youth department in collaboration with the Marriage & Family Life and Evangelisation departments. 'AMOF JOZI' has been instituted as the official youth event that will be celebrated each year in June (youth month). This event is by the youth, for the church!

ALC = ARCHDIOCESAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Another new and large archdiocesan event hosted by the Evangelisation department in collaboration with the Youth and Marriage & Family Life departments. ALC has been instituted as the official leadership formation event that will be celebrated each year on the Saturday before World Mission Sunday. This event is for all church leadership and welcomes aspiring leaders.



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