

# The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ



## **ARCHBISHOP'S PENTECOST LETTER TO YOUTH 2015** CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

### **Reflection Resource**

Every year, Archbishop Denis Hart writes a letter to young people which is released on Pentecost Sunday. The Pentecost letter is inspired by the Archbishop's annual conversation with student leaders, and reflects on the hopes, concerns and questions expressed by young people at this gathering.

This year's Pentecost Letter is an invitation for young people to 'go higher' in their lives by living the beatitude given as the 2015 World Youth Day theme: 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God' (Matthew 5:8). The invitation to 'go higher' is inspired by the life of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man whose

generosity and integrity was offered as a model for young people everywhere by Pope John Paul II who named him a 'man of the beatitudes'.

This reflection resource offers ideas to help young people in your school or ministry setting engage with the themes of the 2015 Pentecost Letter, but does not require young people to have access to the letter or to have read it. It contains links to four videos which may be used to promote discussion and for reflection.

Additional copies of the 2015 Pentecost Letter and the four accompanying videos may be downloaded from [cam.org.au/YouthLetter](http://cam.org.au/YouthLetter) or [cam.org.au/youth/resources](http://cam.org.au/youth/resources).



**Life is a gift from God,  
and God want us  
to enjoy it to the full.**

**Pentecost Letter 2015**



**Blessed are the Pure in Heart**

*The introduction of the reflection session explores the meaning of Matthew 5:8: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God".*

*In a large group setting read aloud the Beatitudes as an opening prayer.*

The Beatitudes are sayings from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew.

Pope Francis selected Matthew 5:8 as the theme of World Youth Day 2015, telling young people that this beatitude speaks directly to their lives and is a guarantee of their happiness.

But what is purity of heart? How can purity of heart lead to happiness?

**Watch > What does purity of heart mean?**

*As a group brainstorm words associated with purity of heart.*

In the 2015 Pentecost Letter, Archbishop Hart describes purity as seeking and fulfilling God's will in all things, and seeking and defending the true purpose of every human life. Purity is loving one another 'with an upright and undivided heart' (CCC 2520); it 'enables us even now to see things according to God' (CCC 2531). Integrity is a good word to describe purity of heart; as one of the young people in the video explains, someone who is pure in heart doesn't just say things, they actually do them. People with integrity 'know who they are.'

**Going higher**

What does purity of heart look like in real life? How can it lead to happiness for us and those around us?

*Invite young people to share examples of people they think exemplify purity of heart.*

Purity may seem a difficult goal when there are so many competing demands for our attention. Can the young people relate to the lives of the examples they have given?

**Watch > Who was Pier Giorgio Frassati?**



**Pier Giorgio showed us  
how rising to the virtue of purity  
can lead to a life that full,  
joyful, wildly generous and  
strikingly unique.**

**Pentecost Letter 2015**



Photo © Associazione Pier Giorgio Frassati, www.piergiorgiofrassati.org



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***In an age when we are constantly being enticed by vain and empty illusions of happiness, we risk settling for less and 'thinking small' when it come to the meaning of life. Think big instead! Open your hearts!***

**Pope Francis,  
Message for World Youth Day 2014**

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### **To hear the voice of Christ**

When mountain climbing with his friends, Blessed Pier Giorgio would frequently shout out 'Verso L'alto' 'To the heights!'. Once when climbing with his friends, he encouraged them by saying 'The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ.'

What does it mean to live higher and how can we hear the voice of Christ?

#### **Watch > Pure in heart: Hearing the voice of Christ**

In his Pentecost Letter, Archbishop Hart writes 'Rising higher in integrity is, like mountain climbing, a difficult and often rocky journey which requires courage. You can stay below, among the crowds of the city or you can listen to the voice of Jesus and follow him up the mountain to a higher place.'

*In small groups invite young people to discuss their response to Br Daniel's video*

- What voices do I listen to in order to guide my life?
- What challenges are present in the life of a young person towards living with purity of heart? What gets in the way of living higher in my life?
- What are the three ways Br Daniel offers to hear the voice of God? How can I hear the voice of God? How can I respond to the obstacles which may stop me from living higher?

### **Reflection**

*Conclude with a time of reflection and prayer. Invite young people to take a minute in silence to think of one action they may commit to which can help them better hear the voice of Christ in their lives.*

#### **Watch > Prayer of Blessed Pier Giorgio**

### **Prayer of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**

Let us pray together;

Pier Giorgio, help us to strive for simple hearts, attentive to the needs of others, and friendships based on that pact which knows no earthly boundaries or limits of time: union in prayer.

If we do not know the road, and if we often abandon the path, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

If by being superficial we have not put in our knapsack all that we need for the climb, and if we never lift up our gaze because we do not want to take the first demanding steps to set ourselves on the way, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

If we lack the strength to overcome the most difficult passes, and if we have the strength, but prefer to use it to turn back, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

If we never pause to be nourished by the bread of eternal life, and if we do not quench our thirst from the fountain of prayer, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

When we do not know how to contemplate the beauty of the gifts we have received, and when we do not know how to offer ourselves for others, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

If we have committed many sins, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

If we have lost hope, show us the way 'verso l'alto' upward to heaven!

Pray for us, Pier Giorgio Frassati. Teach us how to hear the voice of Christ calling us towards purity of heart.

Pray for us, Pier Giorgio Frassati. Show us the way 'verso l'alto', upward to heaven and deep in to the heart of God. Amen.

*Prayer adapted from homily of Fr Thomas Rosica, CSB preached on 14 July 2008 during World Youth Day Sydney at the Prayer Vigil and Eucharistic Adoration with the body of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, Australia.*