



Evangelisation: Student Task – 'Go make disciples of all nations'

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Rio 2013

As you have just read on page 26 in the CSW 2015 resource, Matthew's 'Go make disciples of all nations' was the theme for World Youth Day in Rio 2013. When Pope Francis addressed the millions of young people in attendance, he made reference to these words and indeed, evangelisation.



Here are the words Pope Francis offered at Rio WYD 2013 to the millions of young people who gathered to be with him. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Go, Do Not Be Afraid and Serve

'During these days here in Rio you have enjoyed a wonderful experience, meeting Jesus with others and sensing the joy of faith. But this experience must not remain locked up in your life or community, it must be shared and passed on so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus.'

Pope Francis, Rio 2013

Pope Francis pointed out that Jesus' message of love is not just for some, it is for everyone, and he urged the young people not to be afraid of bringing Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem most indifferent.

Pope Francis encouraged young people to 'press refresh' on the faith page. 'The Church needs you,' he said, 'your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.' 'Do not be afraid,' he repeated, 'Jesus never leaves you alone!'

'And finally: Serve. Just as St Paul made himself a slave to all,' the pontif explained. 'Evangelising means bearing personal witness to the love of God, it is overcoming our selfishness, it is serving by bending down to wash the feet of our brethren as Jesus did.'

'If you follow these three ideas,' Pope Francis concluded, 'you will experience the joy of faith. So go home and do not be afraid to be generous with Christ. He is counting on you! The Church is counting on you! The pope is counting on you!'

Source: www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-go-do-not-be-afraid-and-serve

Questions for you to answer:

1. The three ideas Pope Francis focused on here are:

- a. Go
- b. Do not be afraid
- c. Serve.

Choose one of these ideas and explain, in your own words, how this might apply to young people of faith here in Ireland.

2. 'The Church needs you ...'

What gifts of young people does Pope Francis praise during the Rio 2013 address?
Which of these qualities can you best identify with?

3. Evangelisation means ...

Pope Francis offers an understanding of evangelisation. Having read this article, describe what evangelisation means to *you*. What does evangelisation call us as people of faith to do?