

The Eucharistic Youth Movement, 98 years of experience



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Claudio Barriga, sj

apora@sjcuria.org

mejinternational@gmail.com

www.apostleshipofprayer.net

Facebook: Mej internacional

- Eucharistic Youth Movement
- Mouvement Eucharistique des Jeunes
- Movimiento Eucarístico Juvenil
- Movimento Eucarístico Jovem (Brazil)
- Thi  u nhi Th  nh Th   (Vietnam)
- Krus Vir – Soldiers of God (India)
- Ingendanyi z'Ukaritsiya (Burundi)

Our story starts in 1844 in southern France when the Apostleship of Prayer was born. A group of young Jesuit seminarians learned that their daily lives were useful to the Church as of now, during their time of studies, and that they could collaborate with the mission of the Christ by offering their prayers, works, studies, joys and sufferings. They learned to find God in everything they did and to live their whole life united to the mission of the Church.

The Apostleship of Prayer today is the Church service in charge of spreading the Pope's two monthly intentions.

The youth branch of the Apostleship of Prayer, the Eucharistic Youth Movement is the present day version of the old Eucharistic Crusade, founded in 1914. With a change of name and a deep renewal in 1962, in France, the EYM today offers dynamic Christian formation to over a million children and young people in 50 countries, from ages 5 to 25.

Our formation program

- Jesus wishes to build a personal heart to heart friendship with each of his EYM friends.
- The Apostleship of Prayer provides a guideline, a *spiritual way of the heart* that leads the young person to know he is loved and cared for by Jesus.
- Jesus comes to us in our community life, in friendship among ourselves, in prayer, in our formation sessions, in our games, in our experience of service to others.
- We are grounded on the Eucharist, which we learn to live as a practical life-program. The EYM teaches us to lead a Eucharistic life in all we do (not only attending Sunday mass). We learn to receive every day in awe and gratitude the gift of our life; we offer it back to the Lord with a humble heart. Eucharistic celebrations and adoration are our spiritual nourishment.
- We learn to commit ourselves to the service of the Church and the world in our daily life.
- The EYM is a movement based on the local Church structures, present in parishes and in schools.
- In the EYM the young person learns to discover and develop his or her own talents and personal gifts, and puts them to the service of others.
- The Ignatian roots of our spirituality teach us to seek and find God in all things of daily life. The world is seen as the place where God can be found and where he should be served.

Our methods

- Teams of ten or twelve members of similar age, in charge of a young guide or "animator", meet weekly to share their life in the light of the Word of God. The groups are organized by age branches.
- Three moments of prayer each day: morning, during the day, evening.
- Personal notebook (a pedagogical tool for personal discernment)

- National gatherings, summer camps, evaluation.

Our structures

- Worldwide coordination, National teams, Continental Coordinators.

Latest news

This coming September we will meet in Argentina for our first worldwide EYM Congress in Argentina.

Why does it work today, for present-day youth?

Movements in general and the EYM in particular create mystique. The sense of belonging to a group and to an international organization is attractive to them. They love the EYM!

The clarity of its programs and the simplicity of its methods make the EYM very suitable and popular especially among parishes or schools with few human or material resources. It offers clear guidelines, stages of growth, songs, symbols and colors to organize the pastoral programs for children and youth.

I have verified at the grass-root level, in different countries, how the EYM really works in fostering in the youth love for their Catholic Church (sometimes a small minority in that country), how it teaches them to be more responsible, gives them joy and meaning, leads them to true Christian commitment.

Testimonies from a poor rural parish in Ethiopia, 9 months after the EYM started

- This Movement has brought love to the parish. It keeps us united and makes our faith grow.
- Before this group came, each one was on their own, chewing chat and other wrong things. Now we are united, there is a big change in the family, people see this.
- We used to waste our time in bad habits, now we come here to learn about Jesus, and in our free time we play ball. We have now become strong in our faith, like our ancestors. We now want to attract all those that have not yet come.
- We have been given responsibilities and an opportunity to learn new things. From the Sister we learned to go out and visit the sick, and now we do it.
- Before there were no groups in the parish. Now we all participate here.
- Before the EYM, I was ashamed of going to Church (said a teenage girl).

Testimonies Egypt (2009)

- In the EYM I feel I can relate freely to the others, like brothers and sisters, with joy and spontaneity, and I can express myself without fear.
- I grow here. We learn to see the world as Jesus did.
- I came because it was something new for me. Here I have learned to pray. Then I liked offering my service as a youth leader. That changed me interiorly.
- In the EYM I have learned to relate deeply with others and with God.
- Here I feel I do something meaningful, I am proud of doing something different.
- The EYM has given us the spirit of responsibility and teaches us to do something to make this world a better place.
- Here we have learned to accept the differences between us and also of different images of God.
- Having the chance to share my spiritual life has been great for my formation.
- In the EYM we learn to have an open mind, here in this Egyptian society. We even have the chance to give a service to Muslims.

Testimonies Lebanon (2009)

- In the EYM I have discovered my talents. And I have learned to accept others, without prejudice.
- The EYM has given me identity, a sense of belonging to the group.
- The EYM has accepted me with my strong and my weak points.
- The EYM has helped me structure my life. I have learned how to make the right choices.
- The EYM has made the Word of God simpler to me, connected to everyday life.
- I owe to the EYM the capacity and ability to speak in public, important now in my professional life.
- I have learned to see the beauty of simple things. I see things in a more positive way.
- What I have learned here, I could not have learned outside.