



**Dear Young Friends, We continue our spiritual pilgrimage toward Krakow, July 2016 International World Youth Day.**

**Our guide for the journey is the Beatitudes.**



*The Sermon on the Mount,*  
by Carl Heinrich Bloch

**This year, we reflect on the 6th beatitude:  
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for  
they shall see God" (Mt 5:8).**



*Adam and Eve Before the Fall, by Daderot*

# 1. The desire for happiness

God has placed in the heart of every man and woman an irrepressible desire for happiness, for fulfillment. Have you not noticed that your hearts are restless, always searching for a treasure which can satisfy your thirst for the infinite?



*The Garden of Eden,  
Attributed to Jan Breughel  
the Younger*

**The first chapters of Genesis show us the happiness that we are called to: perfect communion with God, with others, with nature, and with ourselves.**

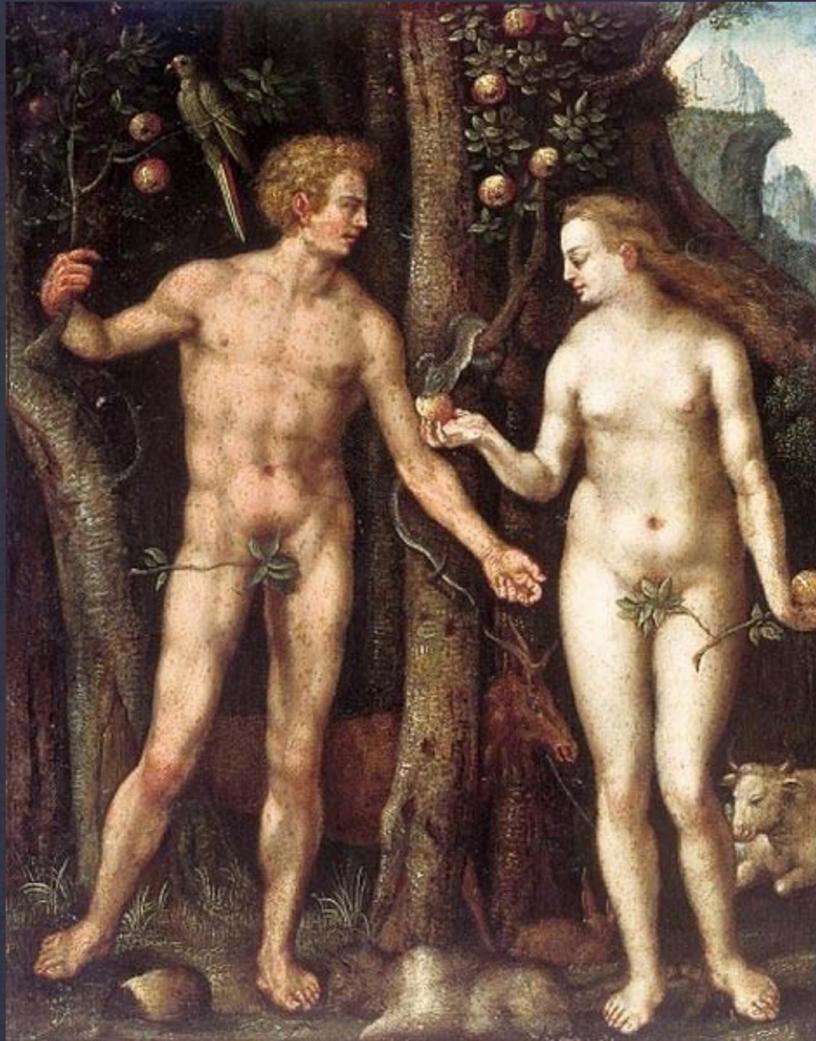


# God's plan from the beginning:

That we approach God freely, to see Him and to be close to Him, His divine light illumining every human relationship with truth and transparency.

**In the state of original purity,**

**there was no need to put on masks, to engage in ploys or to attempt to conceal ourselves from one another. Everything was clear and pure.**



**When sin entered into human history,**  
we were no longer capable of closeness to God. The  
attractions of power, wealth, possessions, and a desire for  
pleasure at all costs, led us to sorrow and anguish.

**"What can bring us happiness? Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord" (Ps 4:7).**

**The Father responded to this plea by sending his Son. In Jesus, God has taken on a human face. Jesus frees us from sin and opens new and unimaginable horizons.**



photo: [presidencia.gov.ar](http://presidencia.gov.ar)

Dear young men and women, **in Christ your every desire for happiness is fulfilled.**

He alone can satisfy your deepest longings, which are so often clouded by deceptive worldly promises.



*World Youth Day, Madrid  
2011 photo by Peter17*

**Shed the masks of a false life!**

**Do something great with your lives!**

## **2. Blessed are the pure in heart...**

**God does not look to appearances, but to the heart (cf. 1 Sam16:7). It is from the heart that we see God.**



**The heart is...**

**really the human being in his or her totality as a unity of body and soul, in his or her ability to love and to be loved.**

# How is “pure” defined?

The Greek word used by the evangelist Matthew is *katharos*, which basically means clean, pure, undefiled.

# **So what is the “happiness born of a pure heart”?**

**From Jesus’ list of the evils which make someone impure (evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness), we see that the question has to do above all with the area of our relationships.**

**Each one of us must learn to discern for ourselves what can "defile" our heart** and to form our conscience **rightly and sensibly**, so we can discern "the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom 12:2).

**So...**

**have a healthy concern for creation, for the purity of our air, water and food, but more than that, protect the purity of your heart and your relationships! Breathe the pure air that comes from beauty, from true love, and from holiness!**

**"Where is your treasure? In what does your heart find its rest?"**

**Our hearts can be attached to true or false treasures; they can find genuine rest or they can simply slumber, becoming lazy.**

**The greatest good we can have in life  
is our relationship with God.**

**Are you convinced of this?**

**Do you realize how much you are worth  
in the eyes of God?**

**Do you know that you are loved and  
welcomed by Him unconditionally, as  
indeed you are?**

**Do you remember the conversation that Jesus had with the rich young man (cf. Mk 10:17-22)? The evangelist Mark observes that the Lord looked upon him and loved him (v. 21), and invited him to follow him and thus to find true riches.**

**I hope, dear young friends, that this loving gaze of Christ will accompany each of you throughout life.**

**Youth** is a time of life when your desire for a love which is genuine, beautiful and expansive begins to blossom in your hearts. Do not let this precious treasure be debased, destroyed or spoiled. That is what happens when we start to use our neighbors for our own selfish ends, as objects of pleasure. Hearts are broken and sadness follows upon these negative experiences.

**I urge you: Do not be afraid of true love, the love that Jesus teaches us and which Saint Paul describes as "patient and kind".**



**Paul says: "Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor 13:4-8).**



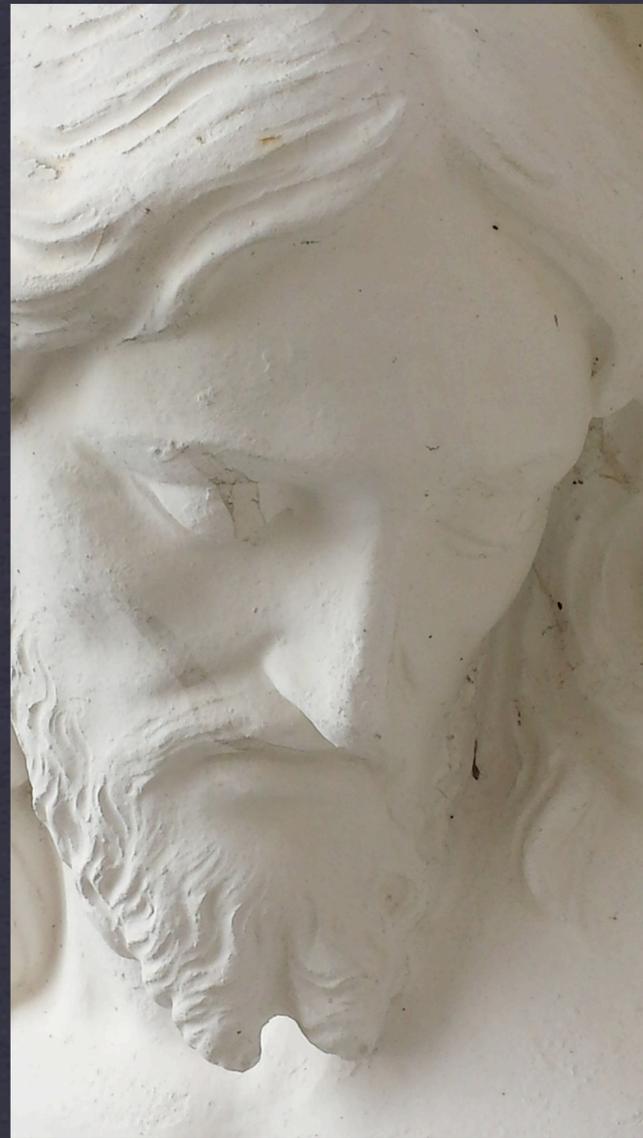
**Dear young friends,**

**Rediscover the beauty of the human vocation to love! Rebel against reducing love to something banal, to its sexual aspect alone, deprived of its essential beauty, communion, fidelity and responsibility.**

**Have the courage to 'swim against the tide'. And also have the courage to be happy."**

**Be revolutionaries! Rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility. I have confidence in you and I pray for you.**

**Allow yourselves to discover the rich teachings of the Church on love. Discover that Christianity does not consist of a series of prohibitions which stifle our desire for happiness, but rather a project for life capable of captivating our hearts.**



### **3. ...for they shall see God**

**In the heart of each man and woman, the Lord's invitation constantly resounds: "Seek my face!" (Ps 27:8). At the same time, we must always realize that we are poor sinners.**

**"Who can climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart" (Ps 24:3-4).**

**But we must never be afraid or discouraged: throughout the Bible and in the history of each one of us we see that it is always God who takes the first step. He purifies us so that we can come into His presence.**

The Lord's invitation to encounter him is made to each of you, in whatever place or situation you find yourself. It suffices to have the desire for "a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter you; I ask all of you to

**do this unfaithfully each day"** (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 3)



**It is enough to take a small step  
towards Jesus...**

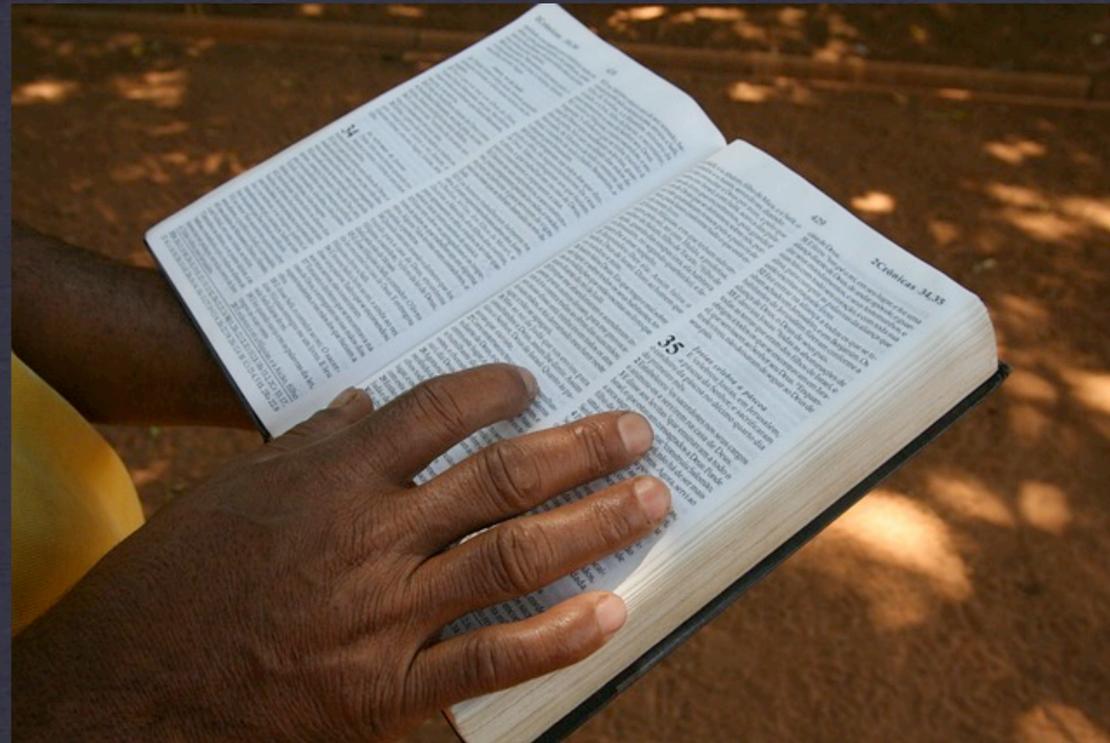
**to realize that He awaits us always with open arms,  
particularly in the sacrament of Reconciliation, a privileged  
opportunity to encounter that divine mercy which purifies us  
and renews our hearts.**

**My question to you is this: "Are you praying?"**

**Do you know that you can speak with Jesus, with the Father, with the Holy Spirit, as you speak to a friend? And not just any friend, but the greatest and most trusted of your friends!**



**You will discover what one of his parishioners told the Curé of Ars: "When I pray before the tabernacle, 'I look at him, and he looks at me'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2715).**



**I invite you to encounter the Lord  
by frequently reading sacred Scripture.**

**If you are not already in the habit of doing so, begin with the  
Gospels. Read a line or two each day. Let God's word speak to  
your heart and enlighten your path (cf. Ps 119:105).**

**You will discover that God can be "seen" also in the face of your brothers and sisters, especially those who are most forgotten: the poor, the hungry, those who thirst, strangers, the sick, those imprisoned (cf. Mt 25:31-46). Have you ever had this experience?**

**Dear young people,** in order to enter into the logic of the Kingdom of Heaven, we must recognize that **we are poor with the poor.** A pure heart is necessarily one which has been stripped bare, a heart that knows how to bend down and share its life with those most in need.

**Encountering God in prayer, the reading of the Bible and in the fraternal life will help you better to know the Lord and yourselves. Like the disciples on the way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35), the Lord's voice will make your hearts burn within you. He will open your eyes to recognize his presence and to discover the loving plan he has for your life.**

Some of you feel, or will soon feel, the Lord's call to married life, to forming a family. I also ask you to consider whether you are being called to the consecrated life or the priesthood. How beautiful it is to see young people who embrace the call to dedicate themselves fully to Christ and to the service of his **Church!** Challenge yourselves, and with a pure heart do not be afraid of what God is asking of you!



*Source: [krakow2016.com](http://krakow2016.com)*



## 4. On the way to Krakow

This year's World Youth Day begins the final stage of preparations for the great gathering of young people from around the world in Krakow in 2016.



**May the saintly Pope John Paul II, the Patron of World Youth Day, intercede on behalf of our pilgrimage toward his beloved Krakow. And may the maternal gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary, full of grace, all-beautiful and all-pure, accompany us at every step along the way.**

**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). Dear young men and women, as you see, this beatitude speaks directly to your lives and is a guarantee of your happiness. So once more I urge you:**

**Have the courage to be happy!**



photo: Alfredo Borba

**Pope Francis**  
full text at [zenit.org](https://www.zenit.org)



I am waiting  
for you at

Vincentian  
Youth  
International  
Meeting

Krakow 2016

Oczekuję Was na

Międzynarodowym  
Spotkaniu

Młodzięży

Wincentyńskiej

Kraków 2016

St. Vincent de Paul

FAMVIN.ORG.PL