

TO THE EMERGING GENERATION AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In every age, the Lord does not abandon His Church. He continues to speak, to call, and to form a people capable of living the Gospel within the realities of their time. The Holy Spirit is never silent in history; He continually raises generations who carry both the burden and the promise of the future.

Today we stand before a generation—Gen Z and Gen Alpha—growing up in a world marked by rapid change, technological saturation, moral confusion, and a profound spiritual hunger. We must not approach them with suspicion, nor with naïve admiration, but with pastoral truth: they are gifted yet wounded, capable yet searching, courageous yet often unanchored.



I. A Generation Searching for Truth

Many young people today reject what is artificial and long for authenticity. They are weary of contradictions between words and actions, especially in matters of faith, leadership, and moral witness. This desire is not a threat to the Gospel; rather, it can become a privileged place of encounter with Christ, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn 14:6).

Yet this search is often marked by instability. Truth is reduced to feeling, conviction to preference, and identity to self-construction. Without being rooted in Christ and His Church, authenticity risks becoming a subjectivity without foundation.

II. Wounded by Distraction and Isolation

We must also speak honestly: many young people are formed in an environment of constant digital noise, comparison, and fragmented attention. Beneath the appearance of connection lies a deep experience of loneliness, anxiety, and disorientation.

The Church cannot ignore these wounds. She must name them, accompany them, and help bring healing to those who suffer beneath them. Christ does not merely affirm desires; He heals the human heart.

III. Gifted with Creativity and Courage

At the same time, we recognize genuine gifts within this generation: creativity, innovation, compassion for suffering, and a strong desire for justice. Many young people are not passive observers of history but active participants in shaping culture, technology, and social awareness.

These gifts are not accidental. They are entrusted by God and must be directed toward what is true, good, and beautiful. Creativity without moral grounding becomes noise; courage without truth becomes confusion.

IV. The Necessity of Conversion in Christ

Dear young people, the Church does not exist merely to accompany you in your questions; she exists to lead you to an encounter with the living Christ.

Jesus does not simply affirm your journey—He calls you to conversion.

Conversion is not the rejection of who you are, but the revelation of who you are called to become through grace. It requires repentance, discipline, prayer, sacramental life, and the humility to be formed—not merely to express oneself, but to be transformed “by the renewal of your mind” (Rom 12:2).

Without Christ, freedom becomes fragile. With Christ, freedom becomes fruitful.

V. A Word to the Church

To pastors, parents, educators, and leaders: we are not called to fear this generation, nor to flatter it, but to form it.

Formation requires truth spoken in love, discipline offered with mercy, and accompaniment rooted in fidelity to the Gospel. Young people do not need a Church that imitates the world; they need a Church that witnesses to Christ.

We must be witnesses before we are teachers, and servants before we are authorities.

Conclusion

Let us therefore walk together in truth and charity. May the Church always be a place where questions are welcomed, but also where answers are courageously offered in Christ.

Let no young person believe they are abandoned and let no shepherd fail in the sacred duty to guide the flock entrusted to him.

The Lord is not absent from this generation. He is already at work within it, calling hearts from confusion to clarity, from fragmentation to communion, and from self-construction to the dignity of divine sonship.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us and accompany the young with her maternal care, so that we may all remain faithful to Christ in our time.

In Christ our Hope,
Fr. Vilaire Philius
Pastor