

Christus Vivit: The Pathway to Accompaniment

Vive Cristo: El Camino Hacia el Acompañamiento

Introduction

The Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* is the fruit of a synodal process that brought together a mix of bishops and laity, young and old, in order to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit leading the Church into new pathways of ministry centered on youth, young adults, and vocational discernment.

This document serves as a brief summary of the major themes found within *Christus Vivit*. The ten themes listed here do not follow the nine chapters of Pope Francis' document. Some of the below themes will focus heavily on certain chapters, but as a whole, these themes can be found throughout the entirety of the document.

While these ten themes are listed in a numerical order this is not meant to suggest that any one ranks higher than another. They are laid out in a way that is meant to help the reader of *Christus Vivit* digest the great wealth of content which has been gifted to the Church.

1. The Holiness of the Young ("La Santidad de los Jóvenes")

- A. Jesus Sanctified Youth and Young Adulthood ("Santificándola")
 - a. #22-29 - by being young, Jesus sanctified this stage of life
 - b. #30-33 - Jesus is the true youthfulness we are to be clothed in
 - c. #50 - Holiness of the young / balm of holiness
- B. The Young Heart as "Holy Ground" ("Tierra Sagrada")
 - a. #12 - Young hearts are ready to change... to learn from life
 - b. #13 - true youthfulness is having a heart capable of loving
 - c. #67 - Each young person's heart as Holy Ground
 - d. #210 - Each young person... daring enough to sow the seed of the message on fertile terrain that is the heart of another young person
- C. The Call to be "Ever Young" ("Siempre Joven")
 - a. #9 - glory of youthfulness is in the heart, not in physical strength
 - b. #13 - Jesus, as ever young, wants us to have hearts every young
 - i. In Greek with word for new, also means young (1 Col 3:9-10)
 - c. #34 - youthfulness is more than a period of time, it is a state of mind
 - d. #37 - Young people can help keep her [the Church] young
 - e. #160-161 - adults can mature without losing their youthful spirit

2. The Spirit of Synodality ("El Espíritu de Síndalidad")

- A. Synodal ("Sinodal") Places: Collaborative Communities
 - a. #110 - united together, we have a marvelous strength
 - b. #164 - The Holy Spirit draws us out of ourselves to embrace others

- c. #167 - If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together
 - d. #205 - collaboration across ecclesial spectrum in our ministry efforts
 - e. #215 - need for all institutions better equipped to welcome young people
- B. Synodal ("Sinodal") Processes: On a Journey Through Time
 - a. #29 - *synodia* evokes a "community on a journey"
 - b. #38 - a need to make room for the voices of young people
 - c. #206 - a participatory and co-responsible Church
 - d. #297 - time is greater than space; we need to accompany processes
- C. Synodal ("Sinodal") Dialogue: Encounter, Conversation, and Relationships
 - a. #38 - the Church can become a place of dialogue and empathy
 - b. #98 - a Church without dialogue is a terrain of corruption, abuse
 - c. #157 - Jesus can bring us all together in a single dream
 - d. #204 - ministry needs to be more flexible, for listening and sharing
 - e. #292-294 - three types of listening/sensitivity needed for dialogue

3. The Journey of Accompaniment ("El Camino de Acompañamiento")

- A. The Person ("La Persona")
 - a. The One Who Accompanies
 - i. #99 - adults who can serve as a point of reference
 - ii. #246 - the qualities of a mentor
 - b. The One Who is Accompanied
 - i. #71 - youth does not exist, there exist only young people
 - ii. #137 - marks of youth and young adulthood: (1) dreams, (2) relationships, (3) experiments, (4) choices
 - c. #199 - together we [young and old] can learn from one another
 - d. #297 - accompaniment first and foremost involves persons
- B. The Context ("El Contexto")
 - a. #30 - move young people into projects that foster encounter
 - b. #242 - the family as the first place of accompaniment
 - c. #243 - the community's role in accompaniment
 - d. #244 - the work of qualified ecclesial ministers
 - e. #247 - the responsibility of educational institutions
- C. The Process ("El Proceso")
 - a. The Emmaus Method
 - i. #237 - recognize, interpret, choose
 - ii. #292 - a sensitivity to the individual
 - iii. #296 - at some point, we must vanish as Christ did
 - b. #219 - the young are able to guide other young people and to exercise a genuine apostolate among their friends
 - c. #236 - a process that is gradual, respectful, patient, hopeful, tireless, and compassionate

4. The Now: Reality and Response (“El Ahora: Realidad y Respuesta”)

- A. Stage of Life Realities/Concerns (the experiences of being young)
 - a. #80 - intergenerational conflict
 - b. #81 - sexuality and identity
 - c. #82 - risk-taking behavior as a means of self-expression
 - d. #83 - experiences of setbacks and disappointments
 - e. #107 - discovering your true identity... who you are made to be
 - f. #137 - being young is about finding balance in your life
- B. Current Realities/Concerns (the experience of the world today)
 - a. #72 - widespread violence
 - b. #73 - unhealthy ideologies
 - c. #74 - marginalization and social exclusion
 - d. #78 - throwaway culture
 - e. #79 - exploitation of the young
 - f. #88-90 - challenges with digital culture
 - g. #91-94 - migration and family separation
 - h. #95-102 - abuse, including within the Church
- C. Our Christian Response (a pastoral approach to youth and young adults)
 - a. #75-77 - as a Church, may we never fail to weep before these tragedies
 - b. #83 - the Church can be an instrument on the path to interior healing
 - c. #103 - the Church must examine the situation of its young people; and provide youth and young adults with increased pastoral care
 - d. #104-109 - in the face of these concerns, do not let them rob you of hope
 - e. #110 - in face of these concerns, we must come together, stand united
 - f. #168 - in face of these concerns, we can be tempted to withdraw; rather, our response must be faith-based action and global engagement
 - g. #202- young people frequently fail to find response to their concerns in the Church; so there is a need for a more intentional pastoral care

5. The Gospel Message (“La Mistica del Evangelio”)

- A. God Loves You (“Dios te Ama”)
 - a. #112 - God loves you... at every moment you are infinitely loved
 - b. #114 - God uses his words to express the different ways he loves
 - c. #116 - The love of God has more to do with...
- B. Christ Saves You (“Cristo te Salva”)
 - a. #118 - Jesus, out of love, sacrificed himself completely to save you
 - b. #120 - Only what is loved can be saved. Only what is embraced can be transformed... worst fall is when we stay down
 - c. #122 - how valuable you much be to be redeemed by the blood of Christ
- C. God is Alive (“¡Él Vive!”)
 - a. #124 - Christ is alive... he is fully alive... filled with supernatural life
 - b. #125 - Alive, he can be present in your life at every moment
 - c. #126 - Death/evil do not have the final word... Your savior lives

- D. The Spirit Gives Life (“El Espíritu da Vida”)
 - a. #130 - The Holy Spirit opens your heart to receive this message and draw you into the heart of Christ (a heart that is ever young)
 - b. #131 - The Holy Spirit takes nothing away, but instead helps you find all
 - c. #133 - The Holy Spirit is the source of youthfulness at its best

6. Pathways of Ministry (“Los Caminos de Pastoral”)

- A. *Pastoral* Pathways (“Caminos Pastoral”)
 - a. #210 - Outreach - young people know the best way to do this
 - b. #212 - Growth - awaken the great experiences of faith
 - c. #216 - Respond to uprootedness by creating an attractive, fraternal environment
 - d. #213-14 - Growth rooted in the *kerygma* and fraternal love
- B. *Synodal* Pathways (“Caminos Sinodal”)
 - a. #204 - ministry needs to be flexible... experiencing shared encounters
 - b. #206 - a participatory and co-responsible Church
 - c. #207 - attracts young people through a unity of gifts
- C. *Popular* Pathways (“Caminos Popular”)
 - a. #230 - different style, schedule, pace, and method
 - b. #234 - open doors and make room for everyone
 - c. #236 - gradual, respectful, patient, hopeful, tireless, and compassionate
- D. *Missionary / Vocational* Pathways (“Caminos Misión”)
 - a. #138 - a willingness to embrace the mission
 - b. #240 - ministry is always missionary... making contact with people's lives
 - c. #241 - young people can find new fields of mission
 - d. #242 - families can accompany young people on the vocational pathway
 - e. #248 - seeing everything through the lens of vocation

7. The Wisdom of Generations (“La Sabiduría de las Generaciones”)

- 1. Ageless Wisdom: Scripture and Saints
 - a. #16 - a wise young person is open to the future, yet capable of learning from the experience of others
 - b. #35-38 - young people help the Church to remain young
 - c. #43-48 - example of Mary - saw herself a saw bearer of God’s promise... do we see ourselves this way?
 - d. #49-63 - the radiant witness of the saints...show us what young people are capable of when they open themselves to Christ
 - e. #229 - there are gifts of God which never grow old, for they contain a power transcending all times and place... eucharist, reconciliation
- 2. Rootedness (“Raíces”)
 - a. #179 - impossible to grow without roots/drift off with nothing to hold on to
 - b. #186 - from our roots comes strength
 - c. #190 - being open to receiving the wisdom passed down from generation to generation

- d. #200 - roots are not anchors... they are fixed points from which to grow
 - e. #216 - young people feel uprooted
3. Growing Together
- a. #14-16 - relationship of the generations “as brothers”
 - b. #80 - danger of inverting the relationship between generations
 - c. #191 - No benefit from the rupture between generations
 - d. #199 - if we journey together, young and old, hope can blossom
 - e. #217 - creating a home demands that everyone works together
 - f. #243 - appreciate young people and avoid demanding perfection of them

8. The Call to Leadership (“El Llamado al Liderazgo”)

- A. Becoming Protagonists (“Protagonismo”)
- a. #138 - restlessness leads to boldness to take responsibility for mission
 - b. #143 - make the most of these years; go out and live, be a leader
 - c. #174 - young people as the protagonists of change in the world
 - d. #245 - we must invest in training and equipping young leaders
 - e. #246 - we must mentor, accompany young people to be protagonists
- B. Becoming Agents of Ministry (“Agentes de la Pastoral Juvenil”)
- a. #203 - youth/young adults are agents of ministry to other young people
 - b. #230 - good ministry fosters the natural charisms of leadership
 - c. #231 - young leaders make room for everyone
- C. Becoming Prophets of Change (*outside of ministry*) (“Profetas de Cambio”)
- a. #139 - young people have so much strength... they are able to look ahead with hope
 - b. #141 - faith in Jesus leads to greater hope
 - c. #169-173 - young people: work for the common good and for societal change; be active in social engagement, especially with the poor
 - d. #174 - “los jóvenes en la calle” - young people on the streets of society: build a better world, be protagonists of change, transform the future
 - e. #177 - where does Jesus send us? No borders... he sends us everywhere around the world to be missionaries
 - f. #178 - the mission is never easy, but you are the “now” (“ahora”) of God
 - g. #231 - “popular” young leaders are able to make room for everyone

9. An Invitation to Discernment (“Una Invitación al Discernimiento”)

- A. The Importance of Prayer (“Oración”)
- a. #155 - prayer is an essential part of this encounter where we give Jesus permission to enter into our lives
 - b. #117 - God is concerned when you don’t talk to him/not open to dialogue
 - c. #224 - find the right means to embark on the experience of prayer
 - d. #279 - keeps us from becoming prey to passing trends.
 - e. #283 - cannot discern without “the silence of prolonged prayer”

- B. The Sacred Art of Listening (“Escuchar”)
 - a. #244 - Listening as a charism of the Holy Spirit
 - b. #280 - goes beyond prudence and reason to seek a glimpse of mysterious plan of God
 - c. #281 - the importance of conscience formation
 - d. #284 - prayerful discernment is born of an openness to listening to the Lord and to others
 - e. #292-294 - three types of sensitivity needed for dialogue
- C. The Call to Respond (“Respuesta”)
 - a. #138 - restless needs of young people gives boldness to take responsibility for mission.
 - b. #145-7 - Jesus does not stifle the desire for a full life... he wants you to be happy... it is about making the most of one's life using the gifts given
 - c. #161 - God continues to offer you more

10. Our Pathway to Mission (“Nuestro Camino a la Misión”)

- A. Our Baptismal Call to Holiness (“Santidad”)
 - a. #162 - becoming a saint is becoming more fully yourself
 - b. #150 - deepest and fullest experience of life is life in Christ
 - c. #159 - be serious enough about yourself to grow spiritually
 - d. #249 - the call of all the faithful to a life of holiness
 - e. #253-258 - the foundation of vocation in service for others
- B. Our Particular Vocation(s) (“Vocacion”)
 - a. #287-290 - personal vocation is a calling from a friend... Jesus
 - b. #285-286 - questions for discerning your particular vocational pathway
 - c. #259-267- considering the vocation to love and family
 - d. #268-273- considering the vocation in the workplace
 - e. #274-277 - considering the vocation to special consecration
 - f. #273 - we don't do things just for the sake of doing them, but rather endow them with meaning
- C. Our Missionary Mandate (“Misionario”)
 - a. #27 - the time of being young in life prepares us for our mission
 - b. #139 - young people stand with one foot forward, ready to set out
 - c. #168 - lay vocation directed to charity... living in the midst of the society
 - d. #177 - Where does Jesus send us?... He sends us everywhere
 - e. #178 - you are the “now of God” - He wants you to bear good fruit
 - f. #254 - Life on earth reaches full stature when it becomes an offering

Created by:

**NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY**

415 Michigan Ave NE, Suite 40
Washington DC, 20017 USA

NFCYM.ORG | 202.636.3825