



## 2013-2014 Respect Life Program

### Reflections on World Youth Day

This summer, Pope Francis met with over 3 million youth and young adults in Rio de Janeiro to celebrate the 28th World Youth Day. During his final Mass, Pope Francis requested that the parents of a child born with anencephaly participate in the Mass. As they presented the gifts during the Offertory, they carried with them their precious daughter, showing the world their love for the gift of her life. Although the couple had been pressured by doctors to abort their little girl before she was born, they instead welcomed her as a gift from God.

At the end of the final Mass, Pope Francis challenged the youth of the world to “*go, do not be afraid, and serve.*” He continued, “*Dear young friends, Jesus Christ is counting on you! The Church is counting on you! The Pope is counting on you! May Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always accompany you with her tenderness: ‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’*”

Young people today are more pro-life than previous generations and can help

change the “culture of death” to a culture that embraces life as the gift it truly is. This is perhaps most effectively done through example. You can take on the challenge of Pope Francis to go out into the world without fear and live in service of others. Just as the couple bringing up the gifts during the Offertory at Mass showed the world how to open their hearts to life, so too, can you proclaim to the world that every life is sacred, simply by showing every person you meet the same love that Christ shows you.

Pope Francis’ command to “open your hearts to life” doesn’t simply speak about the attitude we should have on the serious issues of abortion or euthanasia. Rather, to *open our hearts to life* is to approach every person we meet with an attitude of gratitude. Every person exists because God loves them. So, whether by simply smiling at the person walking past you on the street or stopping to spend time with a loved one who perhaps has no one to care for them, you are asked by God to see the goodness of those around us, and to love them by everything you do.

# Respect Life 2013-2014: A Message to Youth from Pope Francis

## Word Scramble

- Instructions: (1) Fill in the missing words below, based on the reading selection.  
(2) Copy letters that appear in the circles in the blank space at the bottom.  
(3) Rearrange the letters to make the answer to this question:

**What is this year's Respect Life theme, borrowed from Pope Francis?**

- 1.) World Youth Day 2013 was celebrated at this location:

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.) What did the little girl who was asked by the Pope to participate in the Offertory during the Mass have?

\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ OO \_ O \_

- 3.) What beach was the final Mass celebrated on?

\_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_

- 4.) At the final World Youth Day Mass, Pope Francis told the world to:

"\_\_\_\_\_, do not be \_\_ O \_\_ O \_\_ and \_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_."

- 5.) Who did Pope Francis say is counting on us to "go and make disciples of all nations"?

\_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ O, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ O

- 6.) We should approach each person we meet with an attitude of...

\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ O.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ !