

organization in the United States and they provide a foundation for synodal dialogue about the needs and concerns of those who minister to youth. Available online.

- [National Catholic Committee on Scouting \(NCCS\)](#), an organization serving as an advisory committee to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) that provides guidance and structure for the integration of Catholic teaching into BSA programs at parishes and Catholic schools nationwide, recognizing that Catholic scouting is a form of youth ministry. Available online.
- [National Catholic Educational Association \(NCEA\)](#), in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, NCEA strengthens Catholic school communities by convening all stakeholders and providing professional development, data, public policy and resources to support faith and intellectual formation. Available online.
- [National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana \(LaRED\)](#), an organization nurturing the mission of PJH by incarnating the Gospel's message of love among youth and young adults in order to strengthen and further the mission of LaRED. Available online.

KEY SAINTS & BLESSEDS

Companions of Teenagers

- **Bl. Carlo Acutis (1991-2006, feast day October 12)**, patron saint of the internet and the first millennial saint, lived a life of heroic holiness and deep devotion to the Eucharist. He built a website tracking Eucharistic miracles and evangelized his family and friends during his short life before dying from leukemia at the age of 15.
- **Bl. Chiara Badano (1971-1990, feast day October 29)**, patroness of athletes, Chiara was a member of the Focolare movement in Italy and an incredibly joyful young woman even

until her final days of life as she passed away from cancer. She is attributed with telling people not to shed tears for her as she died because she was going to Jesus.

- **St. Jose Sanchez del Rio (1913-1928, feast day February 10)**, captured in Mexico during the Cristero War, St. Jose was tortured and killed, refusing to denounce Christ, instead he proclaimed, "Vivo Cristo Rey!" He is a beautiful witness to faith amid persecution.
- **St. Dominic Savio (1842-1857, feast day March 9)**, patron saint of choirboys and juvenile delinquents, St. Dominic was a student of St. John Bosco who lived a short life of deep devotion and piety, spending hours in prayer, before dying at the age of 14 due to poor health.
- **Bl. Laura Vicuna (1891-1904, feast day January 22)** expressed a deep inner piety and devotion to the Lord after the reception of her First Communion. She died of pulmonary tuberculosis after growing weak from physical abuse suffered from her mother's boss and offered up her life for her mother's salvation on her deathbed.

PRAYERS

Prayer for Youth

"Let the children come to me." (Mt. 19:14)

*Loving Father,
you look with compassion on all your children,
especially those who are vulnerable.
May we work to create a world in which every child
has access to food, clean water, shelter, education,
health care, and all other basic rights.
May we teach youth about their role in working for
peace, justice and the common good.
May we act together to ensure that the lives and
dignity of children everywhere can be respected.
Amen.*



As children of one heavenly Father we pray, "Our Father..."

(From USCCB handout for World Day of Peace 2012)

Prayer for Students

*Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your Spirit upon these students
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that they may
devote themselves to their studies
and draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.*

(USCCB Prayer for Students)

Christ the King Prayer

*Jesus Christ, King of the Universe,
to you we turn in humble prayer.
Look with favor upon all young adults,
bearers of hope for the Church and the world.*

*Jesus Christ, companion of young adults,
bless the paths of discovery and discernment,
through times of joy and experiences of hardship,
with the constant love and support of your Church.*

*Jesus Christ, alive in the hearts of all your people,
grant that we may "journey together, young and
old... to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to
emerge, awaken prophesies and enable hope to
blossom."*

*Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all humankind,
open our hearts to encounter all young adults,
to accompany and be in community together,
and as one Church, embark upon our holy mission.*

*Jesus Christ, in the company
of the Father and the Holy Spirit,
graciously hear our prayer
and be with us forevermore. Amen.*

(Adapted from "A Prayer for Youth and Young Adults," from *A National Pastoral Resource Guidebook for the Global Celebration of Young People: for the Annual Celebration of Youth and Young Adults in the United States of America on the Solemnity of Christ the King*, USCCB © 2021; quotation within prayer from Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, no. 199)

Pope Francis' Prayer for Young People

*Lord Jesus... your Church turns her attention
to all the young people in the world.
We pray that they might boldly take charge of their
lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things
of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered.*

*Accompanied by wise and generous guides,
help them respond to the call you make to each of
them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve
happiness. Keep their hearts open to dreaming great
dreams and make them concerned for the good of
others.*

*Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot
of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from You.
May they be witnesses to your Resurrection
and be aware that you are at their side
as they joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen.*

(Adapted from "Prayer for Young People, in view of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops 2018: Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment" by Pope Francis, *Libreria Editrice Vaticana* © 2017)

