

20 May 2017

Dear Holy Father,

In preparation for the upcoming synod on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment”, you have asked to hear from the world’s young people themselves about their lives – their hopes and ideas for their own lives of faith and their role in the Church, as well as their concerns and struggles in living out the Christian faith. Moved by this attentiveness to our concerns, we, young people from all around the world, write to you with a special request.

You have shown in many of your addresses that you understand how difficult it often is for us young people to live out our faith and become what we are called to be – saints! Holy Father, sometimes it seems not only difficult, but impossible. We are tempted to think, “In the past there were saints, but in our times? Perhaps those who have already found their vocations, but probably not I.”

We know this is not the case, but to combat these thoughts, we need also to be *shown* that this is not the case. We need a saint who is “one of us” – still young, not entirely sure what big plans God might have for him or her, and living not in some distant era but in our own age.

Given this need and the manifest worldwide devotion to Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati – how he has inspired thousands across the globe by his life and aided them through his intercession – we humbly ask you to use the occasion of this upcoming synod to give us a clear sign that sainthood is possible, even today, even for young people, by enrolling our beloved Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati into the canon of the saints.

We ask for this canonization because Bl. Pier Giorgio is in a special way “one of us” – a young person. He did not found any great congregations or rise to any powerful positions; rather, he simply lived his ordinary Christian life with extraordinary love for God and other people.

Bl. Pier Giorgio died at only 24 years old. He did not “have everything figured out”. He was still in the exciting but confusing age of young adulthood, when we are barely getting a glimpse of the arc our lives will take, and yet he lived that age (*our* age) with heroic virtue. He did not wait for the big decision to be made or the concrete direction his life would take to be clear to begin making the heroic daily decisions to love that characterized his young life. He is thus a model for us of discernment, showing that the bigger vocational questions are often answered gradually through the daily discernment of how to love concretely those before us.

You know well, Holy Father, the story of this remarkable young man, so you know that he is for us also a model of serving the poor, of students, of loving the outdoors, of dealing with difficult family situations, and of the tremendous value of friendship in these increasingly individualistic times. Finally, and most importantly, Bl. Pier Giorgio is a model for us of a young person in love with God. His life of prayer inspired those who knew him and has continued to inspire us a century later, showing us that we too can be filled with the same Spirit that moved Bl. Pier Giorgio to those works of love that led him to Heaven.

We humbly ask, dear Holy Father, that Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati – our inspiration to not wait until youth passes us by to begin loving God and neighbor in a heroic way – be lifted to the altars of the Universal Church as a canonized saint.

There would perhaps be no better way to show us young people that it really is possible to become a saint than to announce that yes, indeed, “one of us” has made it, and is proclaimed a saint! This gesture of canonizing Bl. Pier Giorgio on the occasion of the synod devoted especially to young people would prove to us that even we, young though we may be, may become saints!

With great love and the promise of our prayers for you and your ministry,

Young People of the World (And some who are no longer young in years, but love the youth!)