**Talk with the Elderly!**

**YOUTH&AGED for life** responds to Pope Francis’ challenge at World Youth Day in Krakow:

Talk to your grandparents. If you want to be hope for the future, you have to receive the torch from your grandfather and your grandmother … they are the wisdom of a people.

Talk with the elderly in order to remember … have the courage and bravery to meet situations head on and in that way to sow seeds for the future!

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**YOUTH&AGED for life** began at Jeanne Jugan Residence, a home for elderly persons in need administered by the Little Sisters of the Poor, in the spring of 2016. The group is developing under the direction of the Little Sisters and Janis Clarke, a consecrated virgin in the archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and singing evangelist.

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The goal of our initiative is two-fold:

- to give young people a firsthand experience of the Gospel of Life by putting them in direct contact with the elderly, with whom they can establish positive lasting relationships, what St. John Paul II called a “covenant between generations.”

- to offer intercessory prayer, especially the Rosary, to end abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and to bolster the Culture of Life in our contemporary culture.

“While working together with the Little Sisters to organize a holy hour to pray for their Supreme Court case, it became clear that we share a common dream: to help the elderly discover their great dignity in Christ, their great mission for these times, and their critical role in the lives of young people who need them as much as they need the young. Not long after that, Youth&Aged for Life was born: a Lord of the Rings kind of fellowship to pray for families, the unborn, and the elderly.”

– Janis Clarke

“Could there be anything more beautiful — or more representative of the thrust of the entire Christian life — than this beautiful initiative which both demonstrates and prays for respect for human beings at every stage of their life?!?”

– Helen Alvaré

YOUTH & AGED for life

is a spiritual work of mercy quietly taking shape in the archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

YOUTH & AGED for life

Prayer

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth! Stop the rising tide of the culture of death and open our eyes to the dignity of every human life created in God’s image.

We live in a throw-away culture where not only things, but people are considered disposable, especially the very young and the old. We want to challenge this culture by strengthening the covenant between generations.

As young people we want to be hope for the future, but we know this is impossible without a sense of memory. We ask you, Holy Spirit, to open our minds that we may be receptive to the wisdom our elders wish to pass on to us.

As elders we thank you, Lord, for the graces of a lifetime. Open our hearts that we may listen to the young, learn from them, and share our wisdom with them. We want to pass the torch of faith on to our children and grandchildren, that they may carry it into the future with courage.

Strengthen in us the conviction that there are no disposable human beings, but that everyone is a someone for whom the Son of God came into this world and gave his life.

Thank you Lord, for loving us and giving us life. Help us to cherish our own lives, whether we are young or old, weak or strong, for life is your greatest gift!