

# THE PROCESS

Our Mission is to invite and unite teens to ENCOUNTER CHRIST, to empower them as HIS DISCIPLES, and inspire them TO LOVE GOD & SERVE HIS CHURCH

We accomplish this mission in three ways: meeting teens where they are at and inviting them to intentional community, accompanying them through the trials and triumphs of their lives, and leading them to their home in the Church and our shared mission as sons and daughters of God.

We meet teens where they are because that is where they are at (evangelization), and we create safe and intentional community (fellowship). It is seldom that a young person will stumble across our ministry by chance or choice, and near impossible that they will be in the same spiritual, emotional, and intellectual place as others. Our task, then, is to engage in **relational ministry** with them – getting to know them, their lives, and their situations without other motive or agenda; spending time with them within ministry events and without; loving them as individual persons. In this encounter, we model the **incarnation** of Jesus, who became human like us purely out of love for us, in order to show us how to be like God.

We accompany teens through their trials and triumphs because that is how we share vulnerability. Young people experience more pressure, anxiety, and isolation than any other age group or generation – both because of the internal processes of puberty and adolescence and the external forces of culture. Our task, then, is to engage in **accompaniment and apprenticeship** – helping them to uncover where God is active in their lives, to interpret their experiences through the lens of the Gospel, and to model for them life as a Christian (discipleship). In these moments, we model the **crucifixion** of Jesus, who “humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8).

We lead teens home to the Church and to our shared mission as sons and daughters of God because we have a shared future. Young people have a “desire to do something great with [their] lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow [them]selves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit [them]selves humbly and patiently to improving [them]selves and society” (John Paul II). They “were not made for comfort; [they] were made for greatness” (Benedict XVI). Our task, then, is to **introduce them to God** who is bigger than their successes and failures (worship) and **engage them in the work of the Church** today (ministry); to show them how to be the saints God calls them to be. In these moments, we connect with the **resurrection** of Jesus, who conquered sin and death and calls us to be citizens of heaven and builders of the Kingdom of God on earth.