



Office of the Archbishop

## Archdiocese of San Antonio

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Dear Young People and Youth Ministers,

Filled with hope, I write this letter to encourage you to participate in the Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults, "God's Word Comes to Life in Young People." The Word of God has been, is, and always will be a fountain of true life for each person who receives it with an open heart.

The foundation on which we construct our Christian life ought to be a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, who is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Sacred Scripture, we come to know Jesus more deeply, and in this way, we can love Him more and give our lives to Him.

The Apostles had their lives transformed after their personal encounter with Christ: they started to live according to His teachings, having Jesus as the foundation and goal of all they did. Jesus became the center of their life, and the Word became the source that nurtured their ministry and impelled them to announce Him to the whole world.

I hope each one of you may have a similar experience. Jesus wants to encounter the youth of today, making Himself present among them through the testimony of young missionaries who live according to God's Word and share it in community.

If you are a young person who knows that Jesus loves you, if you know Him well and consider Him your friend, you are invited to be a member of a team of young missionaries. If at this moment in your life you are in need of love or hope, or you feel sad and discouraged, Jesus invites you to participate in this Biblical Mission. He wants to be close to you, so that you may know Him better and experience the great love He has for you. He wants you to know Him as the one who reconciles and gives new life.

And to you, dear priest, ordained to be a good shepherd among the youth; dear youth minister; teacher of religion in a school; catechist in a parish; parent... Jesus invites you to organize this Biblical Mission. There are so many young people thirsting for God! Do not miss this great opportunity! It is urgent that "God's Word come to life in young people," and you can become one of the apostles who help to form young missionaries in our Church today.

I offer my prayers for all of you, and remain yours in Christ, prophet of hope among our youth,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez, S.T.D.

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