



Youth Ministry

The Province Youth Ministry Office along with other members of the Salesian Family collaborated to provide the province with monthly resources for you to use. Each month each resource will have a video from a member of the Salesian Family, a theme, prayer, saint and call to action. We encourage you to use these monthly resources not only with your young people but young adults as well. If you need further information or help please contact our Province Salesian Youth Ministry Office.

November

Adult leader:

Introduce the topic "Mary said Yes." "What is your FIAT?" Invite the young people or young adult group to read along or ask for participation.

Like Mary, we are invited to respond with our own "YES" our own fiat. Fiat is latin for let it be done. How could Mary, a teenager respond adequately to the wonderous message she hears from God as she goes about the daily routines of her life? How can you hear God's call?

Opening Prayer:

O God who called us into life,

You continually call your people into service, into holiness, into faith.

As a Salesian Family, we know our calling through Baptism.

We know our calling to serve and seek you in the young.

You raised up Don Bosco in an age of confusion and within the political turmoil of his native place, yet he spent his life to give witness to a special calling.

That calling was, and remains, to be signs and bearers of your love especially for the young and the poor.

Open our ears and our hearts to hear and respond to this call in our lives.

As Our Lady humbly submitted to your mysterious will

trusting boldly that within your will is our Salvation,

lead the young in our care to that same submission

entrusting their own lives into your hands.

We ask this through the intercession of the Lady who



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directed a young John Bosco to know your plan for his life;
Our Lady, the Help of Christians and the Mother of us all.
Amen.

Adult leader:

Before playing the video introduce Fr. Itchan Laygo. Fr. Itchan is a Salesian Priest who currently oversees the formation program for the young men at DeSales Hall in Bellflower, Ca.

Video: <https://youtu.be/9kslhERia-Q>

"Mary said Yes." What is your Fiat?

By Sr. Sydney Moss



I was never a "girly girl" and wearing dresses was not something I was a fan of. So it's a bit ironic that I will now be wearing a "dress" for the rest of my life! I know the seed of my vocation was planted when I was young, but it did not start to grow until I was in high school. But even then, it was growing below the surface and it was not until after college that it broke through the ground and shook up my life. I had graduated from college and was living in Washington, DC when the idea of religious life first came to me. I met Sisters who were young, energetic, worked with kids, and played basketball – just like me! But I had no desire to be a Sister. So like Jonah, I ran away from that idea. But after five years of running, I realized that if being a Sister would bring me true joy and allow me to be the best version of myself that I could be, I had to say "yes." I was serving as a lay volunteer with the Sisters in El Salvador when I finally had the peace and clarity I needed to answer God's call.

Our Blessed Mother didn't take nearly as long as I did to answer God's call, but she also didn't answer it without asking any questions. She was a faithful Jew, waiting for the coming of the Messiah. But she never would have guessed that the Savior of her



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people would come from the fruit of her womb. Mary does not doubt the angel's greeting when she says, "But how can that be?" Rather, in her humanity, she logically questions the validity of the angel's revelation that she will bear a son since she had never had relations with a man. God never expects us to follow him with blind faith.

He has given us reason and intellect and He wants us to use them. But there comes a point when we must stop trying to figure things out logically. Faith is not human logic, it is submitting ourselves to the logic of God, and if we always rely only on our own intellect, we are not opening ourselves to God's will. In the journey of discovering our vocation, there eventually comes the moment in which we have to say like Mary, "Let it be done unto me according to YOUR will," not mine. And then God unleashes all the graces we need to be the best version of ourselves that he created us to be!

Adult Leader:

Have your young people reflect on Sr. Sydney's story. In the journey of discovering our vocation how can we be more open to God's call?

Adult leader:

Angel Gabriel visits Mary and she gives her Fiat

Play video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT_cHi8QJMw

Adult leader:

Two people who answered God's call in difference ways are Bl. Br. Artemide Zatti and St. Bernadette Soubirous. Have the young people read the stories.



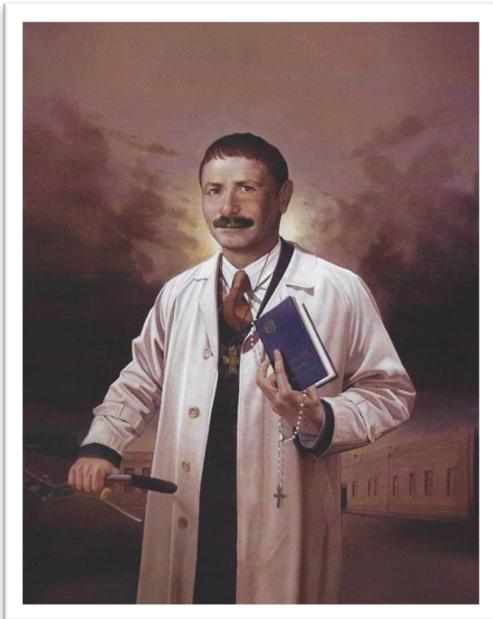
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Saintly Role Models



When most think of Mary's yes, they recall her great *fiat* of the first chapter of Luke, her affirmative answer to the Lord's call to bear into the world its savior. However, it's important to remember that this was more than one, all-consuming yes, but rather was undeniably tied in with all the "little yeses" of her life, in everything from humble acceptance of poverty to the many acts of daily service she undertook. Among the great examples in the choirs of saints is Blessed Artemide Zatti. Born to a family of eight in southern Italy, Zatti early on lived the life of a day-laborer, working full time, in fact, from the age of nine. In 1879, his family moved to Argentina in search of brighter horizons, where 17-year-old

Zatti heard the call to join the Salesian congregation in Bernal Argentina. Soon came to painful yes-es for the young man: first, the return at twenty years old to school at a fifth-grade level and second, contraction of tuberculosis. He bore both of these courageously and energetically.



It was in recovery from the tuberculosis, in fact, that he found his lifelong vocation. Father Evasio Garrone, the priest in charge of his care informed him that if he would dedicate his life to the hospital, he would be cured. Artemide agreed and slowly recovered. He soon became head of the hospital and from then on spent his days performing wide ranging medical services for the poor of the city, ranging from running of the pharmacy to house visits and collection of funds. Bl. Zatti spent his life for the service of the poor. He would sometimes, not only give them much needed medicine free of charge, but, in those in especially dire financial straits, leave a little wad of cash on the side. In the end, his beloved hospital,

where he dedicated so many years of his life was demolished in favor of other diocesan



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works and he was relocated. In this time of great transition, where his life's work was shaken up, he showed the fruit of so many yes-es made throughout his life. You see, he had learned well to say yes, even if it meant letting go and this was no exception. He humbly followed the Virgin Mary's example of *fiat* and humbly submitted as the hospital relocated.



Another great example of *fiat* is a great saint from humble beginnings. She was born in a situation of great poverty as the first of nine children in a relatively insignificant part of France. She suffered from asthma after contracting cholera and suffered her whole life long from poor health, yet she became one of the Church's most beloved and recognizable saint because of her yes to God's plan for her. Born Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France in the winter months of 1844, this new life suffered the scourge of poverty from the beginning. Not only did she contract cholera due to her poor living conditions, but was, because of the resulting poor health, frequently absent from classes, putting her at the bottom of

her class. It was to this uneducated young girl, who didn't even know how to read and write, that something absolutely incredible happened. One day she was collecting gathering firewood for her family with a couple other girls when a beautiful lady in blue and white appeared and, though she was sure of what she saw, her companions witnessed nothing. She returned soon thereafter and saw the lady again, but again it was only her eyes that could see the vision. "The vision," Mary, asked young Bernadette to return each day for two weeks. Despite the opposition of her parents and the disbelief of many (including the parish priest), she said yes through her actions by showing up each day, and when Our Lady instructed her to drink the filthy spring water and wash in it, she gave her yes yet again, only to see clear, fresh water in its place the next day. This spring water is the same that flows today in Lourdes France, the same that has wrought so many miraculous cures over the years and that still flows strong for the thousands of pilgrims that visit each year.



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She is patroness of illness, people ridiculed for their piety, and poverty. Both Bernadette and Zatti, however, have something extra special to challenge you and I to. In their everyday they gave countless little yes-es, from the yes to be charitable to the family member that really ticks them off, to the yes to get out of bed in the morning, to the yes to spend hours bicycling from house to house checking on patients. Every little yes they gave helped them to fulfill their big yes-es and that is exactly what we have to do.

Adult leader:

Have your young people write down 3 challenges they face today that may hinder them from hearing God's call in their life? What are some ways they be more attentive to God's call? Have then share their answers.

Adult leader:

Play the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihnzFH2L818>

What phases or words stood out? Can you name a vocation you are living out today?

Call to Action

The challenge this month is to find those little choices we are faced with especially the hard ones, and give them your best *fiat*, just like Mary.

Adult leader:

Encourage your young people to take a picture with someone who is living out their "Yes" (vocation, fiat) as Mary did during the month of November. Use hashtags:

#BeSaints

#IAmSalesian

#MyFIAT

and post to our Instagram page @sym_USAwest. Have them encourage other young people to do the same.



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Adult Leader:

Invite the young people to say the closing prayer together. Encourage them to listen and be open to God's call.

Closing Prayer

Saint John Bosco,
Father and Teacher of youth,
docile to the gifts of the Spirit
and open to the reality of your times
you were for the young
especially the little ones and the poor,
a sign of love and the special care of God

Be our guide as we walk the path of friendship with the Lord Jesus,
so that we may discover Him and in his Gospel
the meaning of our lives and the source of true happiness.
Help us to respond with generosity to the vocation we have received from God,
so that in daily life we may be
builders of communion,
and may collaborate with enthusiasm,
and in creating a civilization of love.

Obtain for us the grace of perseverance
in living a high standard of Christian life,
according to the spirit of the beatitudes
and grant that, guided by Mary Help of Christians
we may one day be with you
in the great family of heaven. Amen

November 3-9th is National Vocation Awareness week. Below are some links you can share with your young people as well as adults if they need further information on vocations.

www.salesianvocation.org www.salesianvolunteers.org