



JECI-MIEC  
European  
Coordination



# Joint Statement from Catholic Youth Around the World

## On the Occasion of the Papal Conclave 2025

1 May 2025

With deep sorrow and profound gratitude, we young Catholics from different countries and cultures remember the life and teachings of His Holiness Pope Francis with the utmost respect and admiration. He was a shepherd of peace, justice and care for creation, as well as a true friend of young people.

United by our common faith and guided by the Spirit of Christ, we offer this statement with deep hope and prayer as the College of Cardinals gathers to elect Pope Francis's successor.

As young people living in a rapidly changing world, marked by crises and new possibilities, we affirm our love for the Church and our desire to walk together on the synodal path. We also recognise the urgent need for renewed discerning leadership to carry forward Pope Francis' legacy of mercy, dialogue and care for our common home.

### Our Hopes for the New Pope

- Listen to the voices of the young and marginalised, especially those on the margins of society and the Church.
- Commit to peace, justice and care for creation in line with the spirituality Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3), and continue to take a prophetic stand against war, poverty, climate injustice and all forms of exclusion and exploitation.
- Promote an inclusive and welcoming Church where everyone, specially those who seek protection regardless of their race, ethnicity, economic or social class, gender or sexuality, is treated with dignity and love.
- Embrace the spirit of synodality by fostering lay participation, active listening and shared responsibility at all levels of the Church.
- Support youth formation and leadership by investing in our faith, education and mission as the agents of a more just and compassionate world, in line with Catholic social teaching as set out in *Laudato Si'*, *Fratelli Tutti* and *Christus Vivit*.

## **Our Commitment** (Under the leadership of the newly elected Pope)

- We are committed to continuing to live out the Gospel with joy, courage and creativity.
- In the face of the multiple global crises, we will be agents of social and ecological transformation.
- We will be “protagonists of the revolution of charity and service” ( Christus Vivit, no. 174.) for peace, justice, reconciliation and solidarity.
- We will put the teachings of Laudato Si’ and Fratelli Tutti into practice in our daily life, including in our studies, our work and our social services.
- We will continue to walk the synodal journey in communion with the whole People of God and listen with a discerning heart to the voice of the Holy Spirit as we respond to the cries of the poor and the earth.

We urge the College of Cardinals to read the signs of the times and elect a shepherd who embodies humility, boldness, and closeness to people at the peripheries and young people that Christ exemplified.

- **We encourage our fellow young people to pray, speak out and take action with hope.**
- **The future of the Church and mother Earth belongs to all of us.**
- **May the Holy Spirit guide the Church during this grace-filled time.**
- **Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of all the cardinals in the conclave.**
- **Send forth Your Spirit**

**Renew the face of the Church and the Earth !!! Endorsed by Catholic youth movements, student organisations, and young leaders from across the continents.**

## **Signatories**

- Pax Romana- International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) International
- Pax Romana- International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Asia-Pacific
- Pax Romana- International Catholic Movement of Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA) Asia-Pacific
- International Youth Training Center (IYTC) – Pax Romana Laudato Si’ Center in Chiangmai, Thailand
- JECI-MIEC European Coordination
- Pax Romana-International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS/MIEC), Pax Romana, Africa
- Pax Romana- International Catholic Movement of Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA), International
- International Young Catholic Students (IYCS-JECI), International