

# Young Missionaries Covenant



*“Therefore, put on the **armor of God**, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground.” (Ephesians 6:13) “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these **put on love**, that is, the bond of perfection.” (Colossians 3:12-14)*

The Young Missionaries of St. Theresa Parish are warriors of charity with missionary hearts. As disciples of Jesus Christ, who is Love Himself, we embrace our calling to “fight the good fight” of faith through love and service to our neighbor. We take as our example our patroness, St. Theresa of Lisieux, and her “Little Way” of holiness in doing small deeds with great love. We commit ourselves to the Four Pillars for Missionary Life:

## I. PRAYER

Prayer is the heartbeat of missions in that it allows us to remain in Christ and in His love which we desire to share. St. Theresa said, *“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”* Understanding that a personal relationship with Christ is the foundation of our ministry, we commit ourselves to a life of prayer where we communicate and share with Him our entire selves: our praises and thanksgivings, our actions and times of solitude, our joys and our hardships. In doing so, we unite our hearts with God and consecrate the entirety of our lives to be a prayer for His glory.

## II. COMMUNITY

A missionary is never alone in his or her duty to proclaim Christ’s love to our neighbors. Christ sent His disciples out in pairs or groups to ensure they always had a support system in their ministry. Following the example of Christ and the first Christian communities of the early Church, we must hold each other accountable in our pursuits of holiness and encourage one another in faith. St. Theresa reminds us that *“If every flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness”*; as the Body of Christ, we also recognize that we are strongest together in our mission of love when we know and embrace our individual gifts as well as the talents of others.

## III. ONGOING SPIRITUAL FORMATION

In order to effectively carry out our mission of love, we must know Christ personally and what His Church teaches. St. Theresa spoke of her firm commitment to continuous spiritual growth when she stated, *“I can nourish myself on nothing but truth.”* Only by being rooted in the Sacraments, Scripture, and knowledge of the faith are we able to boldly proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ to all. We commit to growth in our faith through

reading Scripture and other Church writings, participating in youth retreats and service events, and above all, going to Mass and frequenting the sacraments.

#### **IV. OUTREACH**

As the universal Church's patron of missions, St. Theresa had extraordinary zeal for sharing Christ's love with others. Her greatest desire was to travel across the world to spread the Gospel of Love to all that she met. Though her early death prevented her from traveling abroad, St. Theresa is honored today as a worldwide witness of love through the extraordinary fruits of her "Little Way" of holiness to those in her own home. We emulate St. Theresa's example of doing small deeds with great love by being witnesses of Christ in our own homes, schools, and communities.

#### **YOUNG MISSIONARIES SYMBOL**

As warriors of charity, we take as our symbol a sword, shield, and rose as the armor of love in the spirit of St. Theresa, the Little Flower. The sword and shield represent Christ as both our victorious strength and defense. The yellow rose, as a universal symbol of friendship, reminds us of our commitments to the "Little Flower" as our friend and guide as well as to each other in strong community.

As Young Missionaries of St. Theresa Parish, we joyfully respond to our duty of service to others so that ultimately we may live what St. Theresa exclaimed: "*My vocation is to **LOVE!***"