

# EECMY- Children & Youth Ministry

## WHOLISTIC MINISTRY PACKAGES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT

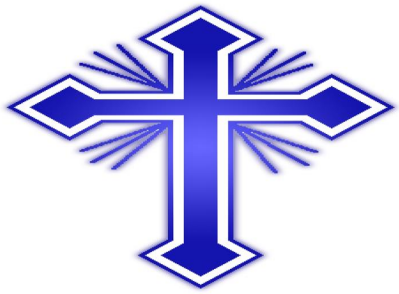
BY: WONDIMAGEGN UDESSA BIDIRE,  
EECMY CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

AUGUST, 2023

OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA CITY, USA



Wondmagegn Udessa Bidire- EECMY-CYMD-  
Director



# Greetings

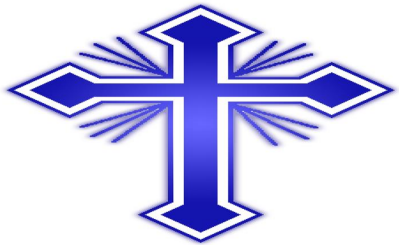


- *"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."  
Ephesians 1:2 (NIV)*
- Dear the NALC leaders and ministers, and all worldwide invited guests and partners... Shalom!
- I bring you greetings from my family, my wife and my two kids, and from all children and youth of Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY!



- Thank you for the invitation and this opportunity. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the North American Lutheran Church have been working in partnership since 2010. Thank you for partnering with EECMY in God's Mission. We will continue to serve in partnership till the end.

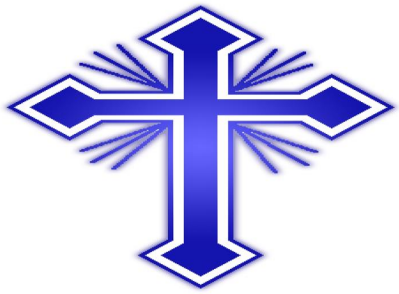




# Introduction



- About 70% of the population of Africa, Ethiopia, and EECMY is made up of children and youth. As a result, we refer to Africa as the young continent, Ethiopia as the young nation (with a long history), and EECMY as the young church. And for the church and the Christian community at large, this is a huge blessing and opportunity.
- The contribution of children and youth ministry to the expansion of the church has been great and created exceptional results since the start of evangelism work in Ethiopia and the foundation of EECMY.

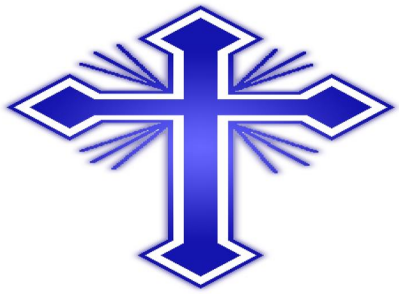


## Intro...



- For example: The total members of Mekane Yesus Church in 1959, during the official establishment was about **20,000**. But now, in 2023 it's about **12 million**. Among the main factors behind this miraculous growth, it's youth active involvement in the wholistic mission of the church. They are playing a significant part in the life and ministry of their church.
- Dear church leaders, brothers and sisters in Christ, despite all the growth to be joyful about, the youth are experiencing various social, economic, political, psychological, and religious issues in this complicated world. Therefore, a comprehensive ministry strategy must be employed and properly implemented to solve the issues our children and young are facing.





## Intro...



- This is why 'A Wholistic Ministry Package for Children and Youth' is developed based on the church's wholistic ministry strategy, to equip our children and youth in a wholistic way
- The package is mostly based on the church's strategic plan and the most recent capacity audit findings from our mini-research conducted in the first quarter of **2022.**

# EECMY- Children and Youth Ministry Department

## Mission:



- **Mission:** To facilitate the holistic growth and transformation of children and youth in the church so that they discover, develop and deploy their God-given spiritual gifts and natural talents for the glory of God and for the benefit of the nation and beyond.



## Vision:



- **Vision:** To see holistically transformed children and youth who will discover, develop, and deploy their God-given potential to make a positive impact in the church and beyond.

# Why Wholistic Ministry Package?



- To equip and grow our children and youth in a wholistic ministry approach,
- To implement the Motto of EECMY: Serving the Whole Person (Wholistic Ministry)- Serving both the spiritual and physical needs of a person.
- To strengthen the integrated and united holistic ministry approaches of the church (working with different organizations of the church and with local and world-wide partners) as one body and in one spirit and one hope.
- To achieve the stated purpose, the package is composed of 7 strategic areas and 5 implementation strategies.



# Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry

## 1. Spiritual Life Development

- ❑ Producing Christ-centred and missional disciples of Jesus through the inspired Word of God in keeping with Lutheran Confessions.
- ❑ **Main elements:** Discipleship, Mission & Evangelism, Diakonia, Relationship, Family
- ❑ **The NALC Core Values-** Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, Congregationally Focused



# Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages...

## 1. Spiritual Life Development

- i. *Discipleship: Equipping youth as a true disciples of Jesus Christ, like the Twelve disciples of Jesus, except Judah*
- *Photo: Discipleship class in Nekemt Congregation, Central Synod*





# Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages...

## 1. Spiritual Life Development

*ii. Mission and Evangelism: Equipping youth as a witness of Christ, like Paul the Apostle*

Theme: 'Today is the Day of Salvation!' (2Cor. 6:2 )

*Photos: Mission & Evangelism Movement in Bule Hora, SES*





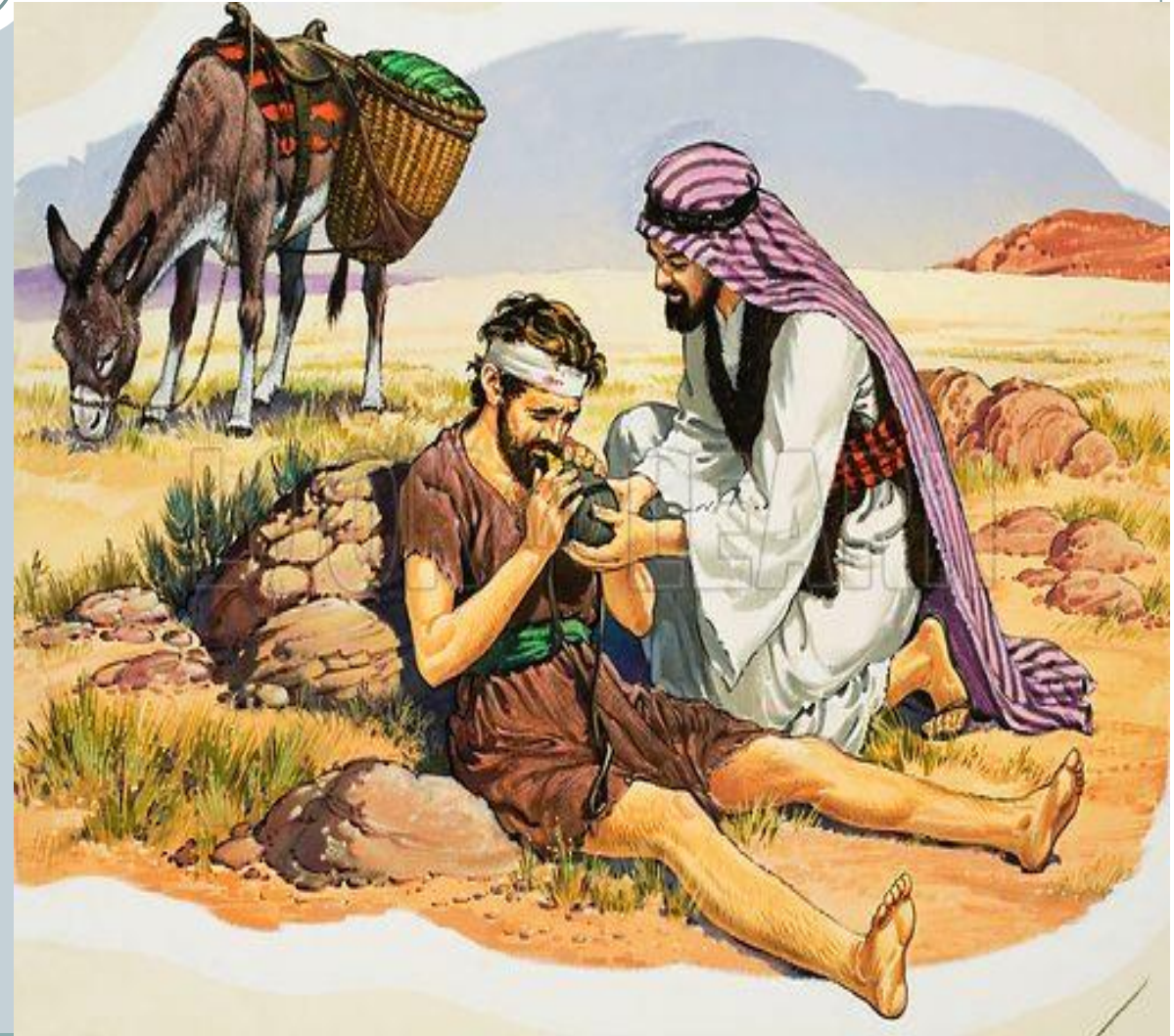
## Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages...

### 1. Spiritual Life Development

*iii. Diakonia: Producing generation like the Good Samaritan, living for others*

□ Luke 10:29-37 The Good Samaritan Story

✓ Helping the needy: the poor, orphans, widows, elderly's. the marginalized and etc...

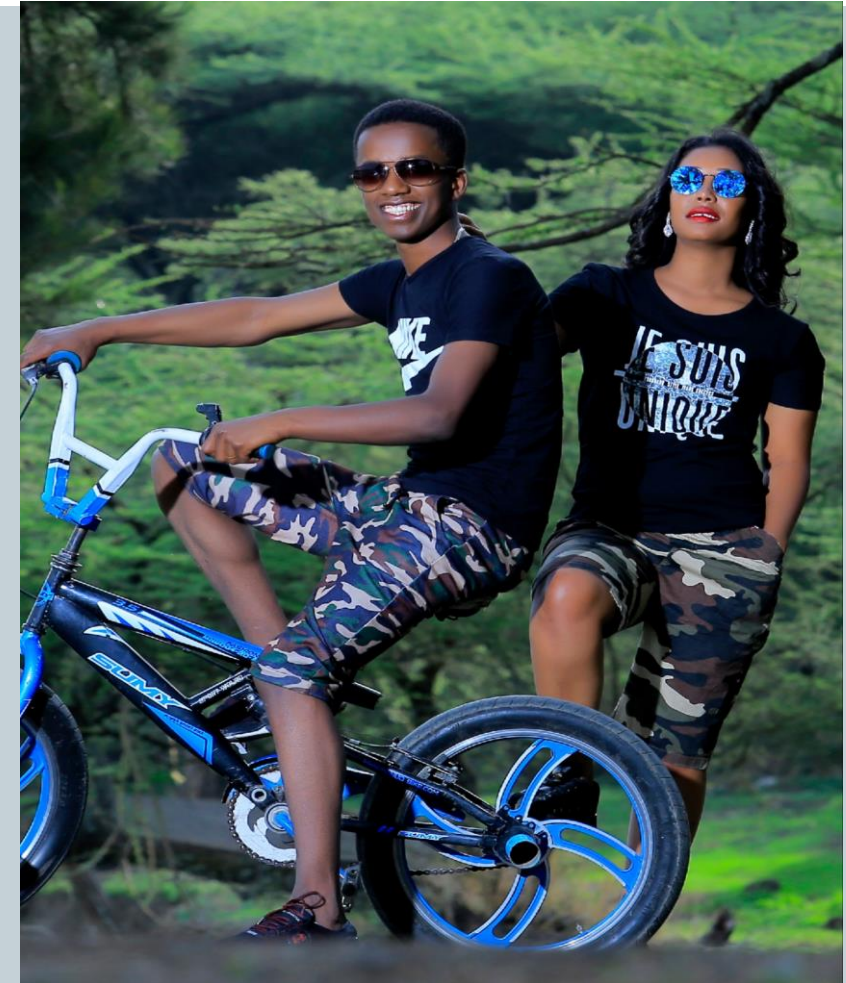


# Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages...

## 1. Spiritual Life Development

**iv. Relationship** – Equipping generation in holiness, healthy relationship with God and with others

- Generation like Joseph, Gen. 39:8-9 (Being trustworthy for God and man...)
- Equipping generation in holiness Lev. 11:45, 19:20, 20:26, 2 Cor. 7:1, 1Pet. 1:15-16 (You shall be holy for I am holy.)
- 1Thes. 4:7 God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness





# Part 1: Wholistic Ministry Packages...

## 1. Spiritual Life Development

v. Family: Equipping youth with Holy Christian understanding of marriage.

- ❑ Teaching about Biblical Christian Family between a man & a woman, the role of Christian husband and a woman, the role of family in raising Children in a Christian way
- ❑ Hebr. 13:4 'Marriage should be honoured by all...
- ❑ Eph. 5 & 6 The role husband, wife and children...
- ✓ Husband- love your wife as Christ loved the Church
- ✓ Wife- Submit to your husband as to the Lord
- ✓ Children- obey your parents
- Parents-Bring your children to the traing and instruction of the Lord

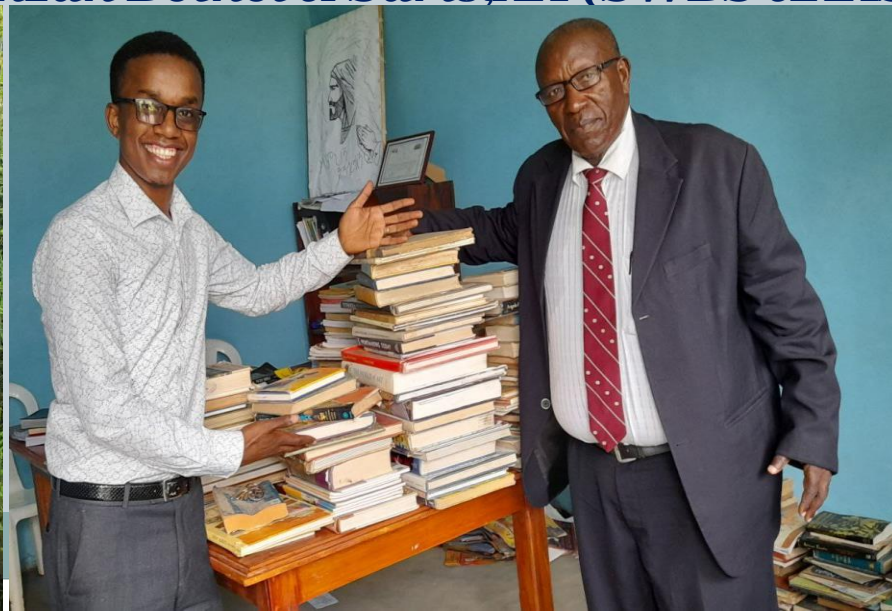


# Wholistic Ministry Packages ...Cont'd

## 2. Academic Excellence)

- ❑ Equipping qualified and trustworthy generation like Daniel, Dan. 6:3-4
- ❑ Equipping children and youth to excel academically and ethically.
- ✓ Establishing Students fellowship and academic teams under youth ministry
- ✓ Establishing Mini Library in each congregations
- ✓ Awarding academically excellent and model students to encourage others

*Photo: Opening mini-library in Mizan Bethel & Saris,AA (SWBS &AAS)*





# Wholistic Ministry Packages ...Cont'd

## Academic Excellence...

Photo:-Field Visit at Abrehot National Library with Synods Children and Youth Ministry Coordinators





# Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry

## **3. Art :** Equipping children and youth in their areas of gifts and talents (i.e spiritual gifts and natural talents)

- ❑ *Eph. 5:19- Speak to one another with Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs...*
- ❑ *Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath Praise the LORD.*

✓ *Eg: Singers, musicians, artists, poets, authors, painters, media experts...*



# Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry

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## 4. Entrepreneurship/ Good Work Ethics

- ❑ Developing entrepreneurial mind-sets in children and youth, as well as creating good understanding and practice of Christian work ethics
- ❑ **Gen. 2:15- Work is a gift of God**
- ❑ **2Thes. 3:10- ‘If a man will not work, he shall not eat.’ Work is necessary for survival.**





# Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry

## **5. Sport : Sport as a means of recreation and health, as a profession and a way of evangelization.**

-Facilitating playing fields, sport competitions with evangelism mission purpose

(Ethiopia: Home of athletes: Haile G/Sellassie, Derartu Tullu, Kenenisa Bekele, Tirunesh Dibaba...)

(In World Athletics Championship-2022 Ethiopia ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Africa, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world next to USA)

Photos: EECMY Youth Sport Evangelism (Summer Camp)- in Bule Hora (SES) and Nekemt (CS)





# Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry

**6. Environmental Care:** Equipping children and youth as ambassadors of environmental care and climate stewards.

**Theme: ‘I am Steward of God’s Creation.’ (Gen. 2:15)**

Eg. planting trees (once a year), cleaning our community (town, city)- monthly

*Photos: Tree Plantation in Bishoftu & Sebeta (EECMY Congregations)*





# Wholistic Ministry Packages of Children and Youth Ministry



## **7. Peace :- Equipping children and youth to be Ambassadors of peace (developing 'Ubuntu' culture within them, i.e, I am because we are.)**

-'Blessed are the Peace Makers.' (Matth. 5:9)

-We are Messengers of Christ for Peace' (2Cor. 5:20)





# Youth Peace Messengers Wholistic Training (in EECMY Hawassa (South Central Ethiopia Synod) and Metu (Ilubabor Bethel Synod))





## II. Strategies of Implementation (How to Apply the Package)

### 1. Prayer- creating a strong prayer network (Local-National-Global Level)

- ❑ Zech. 4:6 God's mission will be accomplished by God's Spirit, not by human might nor power.
- ❑ John 15:5 We can do nothing without Him, Jesus.
- ❑ Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio (Martin Luther)
- ❑ Oratio (Praying), Meditatio (Meditating on the Word of God), and Tentatio (Struggling with Word).



# Strategies of Implementation...

## 2. Teaching & Training- equipping the emerging generation by providing continuous teaching and training in their context

- ❑ *2Tim. 2:2- ‘...the things you have heard,...entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.’*
- ✓ *Material production and distribution*
- ✓ *Raising leaders and ministers for the ministry, through short term and long term training (Seminary)*



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# Strategies of Implementation...



## **3. Creating and Strengthening Financial Sources & Resources:** using different income generation schemes

- *Allocating enough budget by the church for the ministry*
- *Fundraising on Children's and Youth Day*
- *Working in cooperation with partners and donors*



# Strategies of Implementation...



**4. Using Digital Medias:** digitalizing the ministry to address the digital generation

- ❑ Opening Digital Media Accounts- YouTube, Facebook, Tiktok, Telegram, Instagram...etc: Eg. MY Sunday School (for Children), and EECMY Youth Ministry (for Youth).
- ❑ Giving Trainings for congregations on how to use digital media for the Mission of the Church
- ❑ Using Mainline Medias (Television, Radio...)



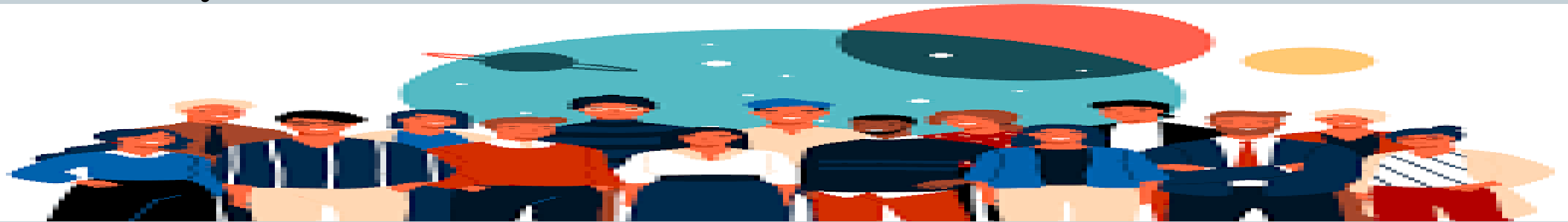


# Strategies of Implementation...



## 5. Creating Ambassadors:-

- ❑ Neh. 4:19 ‘...the work is great & extensive...’
- ❑ Matth. 20:18-20. The Great Commission (Co-mission)
- ❑ Working with volunteers who have passion and calling for the ministry
- We are working on creating **EECMY- Global Youth Network** (Local-National-Global Level) for fellowship and collaboration for the ministry of the Church.

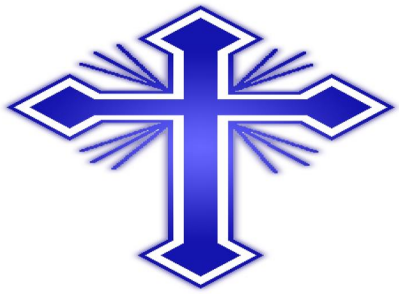


## Part III- EECMY Children & Youth Calendar

**(When to apply the Package- Based on the Calendar of the EECMY)**

Month	Festival Name	Theme	Remark
January-----	Children's Day	'Wholistic Growth for our Children' (1Tim. 4:15)	
January-----	IMS Day	'I do it all for of the sake of the Gospel!' (1Co. 9:23)	
February-----	Youth day	'Wholistic Growth for our Youth' (1Tim. 4:15)	
March-----	Radio & TV Day	'We are the light of the World' (Matth. 5:14)	
June-----	Bible Week	'I am not Ashamed of the Gospel.' (Romans 1:16)	
July-----	Green Month- Tree Plantation Month	'I am Steward of God's Creation.' (Gen. 2:15)	
August---	Summer Evangelism Month	'Today is the Day of Salvation!' (2Cor. 6:2 )	
Sebtember---	Peace Week	'Blessed are the Peace Makers.' (Matth. 5:9)	
November---	Volunteers Week	'I am created to do Good Works.' Eph. 2:10	
December---	Reformation day	'Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind.' (Romans 12:2)	8/18/2023



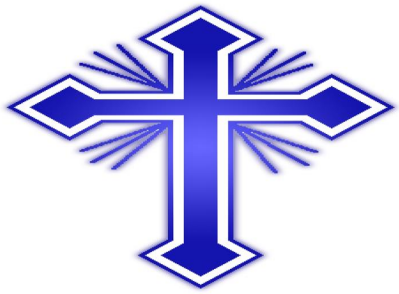


# Conclusion



Dear fellow brothers and sisters, both children and youth are considered the Church of today/present and tomorrow/future. A Church without children and young people is dead.

- “Children are the hope of the day after tomorrow and ... the youth are the hope of tomorrow, the adults are the only hope of today” (Sisemopre 1970, 14-5 referred in Buconyori, 1993, 101).
- In line with this assertion, the Church may die in two generations if children are lost.
- If the youth are lost, the Church may also die in one generation.
- If the adults are lost, the church may finally die in one generation’.

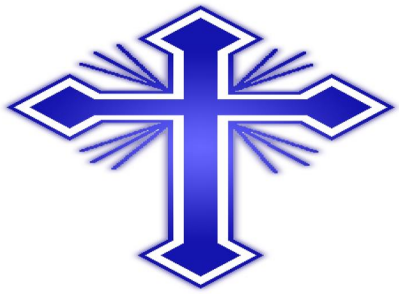


## Conclusion...cont'd



- In order to equip them to endure and challenge the existing and forth-coming complex world (modernity & post modernity), the early years of childhood are very important formative years when children are more readily influenced than adults. That's why the Roman Catholic Church states that if they can have the child before he/she is seven years old, he/she should be trained for the rest of his/her life as a Catholic.
- Therefore, let's arise and work to equip the emerging generation, the hope of today, tomorrow, and the future, our children and youth, in a wholistic way.





## Conclusion...cont'd



# Wholistic Ministry for Wholistic Growth and Transformation of our Children and Youth!

- Thank you, and God bless you!





## EECMY- Children & Youth Ministry-Contact Address



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- YouTube: EECMY Youth Ministry, MY Sunday School





Photo Gallery : Faith Formation Festival, August 09, 2023; Oklahoma, USA  
The NALC Mission Convocation  
By Wondmagegn Udessa- EECMY Children & Youth Ministry Department Director







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8/18/2023