

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER**  
***Youth Holiness—Yesterday and Today: Be Saints!***

**GATHER**

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*(The prayer space is set up with mini altars for each of our SYLC Patrons. The patron altars should be spread out enough for a small group to sit around. The lighting should be lit so that participants can read the stories of the SYLC Patron. As the participants enter the prayer space, the lyric video for “Just Like You” is played. Prayer Leaders encourage all to sing along.)*

**LEADER 1:** Good Evening! As we begin this week of SYLC, we pause for a time of prayer. We are invited tonight to think about how we are called to be saints.

**LEADER 2:** Don Bosco believed that God has great expectations for every young person and that they have the potential to take what looks like the impossible and make it absolutely possible, like being a saint!

**LEADER 1:** So let us pray that we might hear God’s call to holiness.  
Let us begin our prayer like we always do,  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

**LEADER 2:** Loving God, you who continue to walk alongside us,  
Open our hearts this week so we may hear you  
in our learning sessions, our many activities,  
those moments of play and fellowship,  
the times we gather for meals and for Eucharist.  
Help us to discover your call to holiness each day.  
Give us the courage to be saints for this new generation.  
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen.

**LISTEN**

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**LEADER 1:** Jesus knew that the kingdom of God would come through ordinary people making great things possible. As we are reminded in Matthew’s Gospel, we are all called to let that greatness shine.  
Let us listen to the words of Matthew.

**READER 1:** *You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.*

*Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.*

**LEADER 2:** We recognize that we live in a world that at times makes it very difficult to let our light shine. When we turn on the news or browse through our social media we may ask ourselves how, in the midst of so much darkness, we can possibly be light for the world or a city on a hill as Jesus says.

**LEADER 1:** And yet that is what our Holy Father, Pope Francis calls us to be  
**SAINTS**  
**FORTHE 21ST CENTURY**—men and women who have the courage to be a light amidst the darkness of this world.  
Let us hear the words of Pope Francis.

**READER 2:** *We need saints without cassocks, without veils.  
We need saints with jeans and tennis shoes.  
We need saints that go to the movies, that listen to music,  
that hang out with their friends.  
We need saints that drink Coca-Cola and bubble tea,  
that eat hot dogs, that surf the Internet and post on Instagram,  
that dance Cumbia and listen to their Spotify.  
who eat a pizza or have a drink with their friends.  
We need saints who love the movies, sports and theater.  
We need saints that love the Eucharist,  
who are not afraid or embarrassed to share and express their faith.  
We need saints that are open, sociable, normal, happy companions.  
We need saints who are in this world  
and who know how to enjoy the best in this world  
without being callous or mundane.  
We need saints who are compassionate,  
that go to the margins and encounter the poor and the outcast.  
We need saints for this new 21st century generation!*

## **RESPOND**

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**LEADER 2:** Looking to our Salesian Family, we find many young heroes courageous enough to share their light and continue the tremendous work of joyously building the Kingdom of God with an untiring spirit of hope and optimism. These young people remind us of the words of Pope Francis who says: “To be saints is not a privilege for the few but a vocation for everyone.”

**LEADER 1:** At SYLC, we are given young people from our Salesian Family who serve

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as models of youth holiness. They were regular young people like you and I. Their lives are examples of how to be holy in ordinary life. We invite you to choose any one of our SYLC Patrons that you want to know more about. Take a moment to read their life story.

**LEADER 2:** After you have finished reading, write in your journal the qualities you have learned from the patron and how that patron inspires you to be a saint. Then with your small group, share your reflections. You may now go choose your SYLC Patron.

*As the participants go to the SYLC Patrons, the song “Take, Lord receive” is played. After the song is over, quiet instrumental music is played. Give the participants 8-10 minutes to share. When it looks like the groups are finished sharing, call them back for closing prayer.*

***Take, Lord, receive. all my liberty. My memory, understanding, my entire will! Give me only your LOVE, and your Grace, that's enough for me! Your love and your grace, are enough for me! Take Lord, receive, All I have and possess. You have given unto me, Now I return it. Give me only your love, and your grace, that's enough for me! Your love and your grace, are enough for me! Take Lord receive, all is yours now. Dispose of it, wholly according to your will. Give me only your love, and your grace, that's enough for me! Your love and your grace, are enough for me!***

## **SEND**

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**LEADER 1:** Please take this time to wrap up your sharing.  
Let us close our time of prayer together by asking God to help us respond to our call to be saints.

**LEADER 2:** Let us pray.  
Creator God, you have loved us into existence,  
You have given each one of us a mission, a purpose, a call to holiness.  
We give you thanks for the saints, especially our Salesian saints,  
who are our models for a good and holy life.  
They teach us holiness is a call that belongs to everyone,  
for like them, we too have a light to share.  
Through their intercession,  
we ask you to fill us with courage and strength to respond and  
embrace that call by carrying out our daily duties—in school, at home,  
at work. May we respond generously and cheerfully,  
to the best of our abilities, and with great love for You.  
Following the example of the saints that come before us,  
may we be the saints of today. Amen.

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Mary Help of Christians.

*ALL:* Pray for us.

*LEADER 1:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*ALL:* Amen.

*LEADER 2:* At this time, we invite \_\_\_\_\_

who is \_\_\_\_\_

to come up and share with us our Salesian Good Night.