



**Monday, May 16, 2022**

## **Narrative of the Youth Chaplaincy Ministry at Cordi Jesu Cairo**

### **Introduction**

The city of Cairo has a population of over 25 million inhabitants and offers numerous opportunities for work and studies to the youths from all over the world. The presence of Comboni missionaries in this city has been continuous and active with attention also to the formation of the young men and women. Cordi Jesu Shrine is situated at down town Cairo hence easily accessible by the metro, by the bus or other means of transport. The history of this Church goes back to as early as 1874 which became the first sanctuary in Africa to be dedicated to the Heart of Christ. A community of Comboni missionaries takes charge of the different commitments in the compound.

### **1. The situation of the Youth**

There are numerous catholic university students in Cairo in the public and private universities, some are self-sponsored while others are on scholarship offer agreements between their countries of origin and the Egyptian government / or ministry of higher education. Besides the above mentioned groups, there are many youths and students from the among the refugees and immigrants communities resident in Cairo. A good number of Egyptian university students are showing interest in knowing more of the journey of faith and discernment enriched by a variety of missionary realities from other countries.

#### **1.1 The target Group**

The target group of Youth Chaplaincy is therefore: (a). Foreign Catholic universities students in Egypt, (b). Catholic university students from the refugees and immigrant communities in Cairo and (c). Egyptian university students resident in Cairo.

Cairo city is highly multicultural and the Church is characterized by a variety of rites which for the new comers can be really demanding and challenging especially given their young age most of them being in their early twenties. The Islamic and Arabic traits of this society also influence a lot the life style of the society a reality which is very new for the youths from other countries but can as well be an intriguing challenge for the Egyptian youths of the Coptic Catholic origin.

### **2. The objectives of youth Chaplaincy**

Due to the above mentioned situation and challenges and above all the urgency to seize the moment and give a favorable environment for growth to our university students and the youth, the following are the main objectives of the youth chaplaincy at Cordi Jesu Cairo:

- 2.1 To provide a safe platform for the youth in Cairo where they can feel united with the others, be in union with the Church, feel at home and free to express themselves, seek guidance and develop their talents.

- 2.2 To offer opportunity for spiritual growth, nurturing of their faith especially through catechesis and dispensation of sacraments. Strengthening of our Catholic faith and identity amidst many odds.
- 2.3 Offer to the youth an opportunity and platform for social, intellectual and cultural exchange in order to favor integration in the society and human growth.
- 2.4 Missionary animation, promotion of vocations and favoring outreach to the others and especially those most in need. Favoring the dialogue and profound interaction a with the numerous realities in our society today.

### **3. The programs and schedules**

#### **3.1 Friday's programs**

The weekly appointment for the group is every Friday at Cordi Jesu Church with the celebration of the Youth Eucharistic celebration at noon. The Eucharistic celebration celebrated is usually the one of the coming Sunday because a good number of them might not have the opportunity to join the Parish communities on Sundays for the liturgical celebrations. The first and third Fridays are dedicated to a full program meaning that we do have an after mass program prepared by the animators or the different members, during the first the week the program is of spiritual while on third week it is more cultural or social.

On Friday evening there are catechism classes in Arabic for the university students as from 4:00p.m followed by the liturgical preparation for the coming Sunday and choir practice.

#### **3.2 Sunday's Schedule**

On Sundays there is the Arabic mass at 7:00p.m in Arabic. The Egyptian university students requesting to join the Youth Chaplaincy programs may be more available to have their programs on Sunday's from 4:00p.m up to 6:00p.m and possibly join either the French mass or the mass in Arabic, they may as well participate and animate the Monday evening mass in Arabic.

#### **3.3 Yearly program**

The following programs are foreseen within the year: a retreat during the Advent and Lenten seasons, a pilgrimage or a trip once a year. A three day youth congress to conclude with the Youth Day at the conclusion of the Liturgical year and beginning of the Academic year will take place once a year.

#### **3.4 Catechism and Sacraments**

Catechism for the Sudanese students in Arabic takes place on Friday evening. The registration of the Sudanese who receive sacraments take place in Sakakini as a place of reference for the Sudanese in Cairo while the other foreign students may be registered in St. Joseph's Parish, Zamalek. For the sacrament of confession and counseling/ guidance provision, the priests and the resource persons are always available according to agree upon arrangements.

### **4. Resources and needs**

The presence of the youths, the premises at Cordi Jesu are great resources but above all the good will and the enthusiasm of the participants and the readiness to bond, learn and grow. The premises at Cordi Jesu and the Comboni community in loco has become a point of reference. The actual

Chaplain is Fr. Joao Dinis Joao assisted by the Scholastic Deogratias Alule and Pre- postulant Mina Khangar Labib.

Right from the beginning and to date, two main needs became manifest namely: *the need of the musical instruments for a better animation* of the mass. The youth love music and the great majority are eager to learn. There is a pressing need to have a good keyboard, the guitars, the drums, the sound system and the speakers.

During our sessions, *we do need to have snacks during the short programs or sandwiches during the full programs*. From the beginning the group mentioned the necessity of having contributions from the members that can sustain the running of our activities, self-reliance and assistance to the others especially the poor and needy.

The local contribution for seen during this year as appears in the pre-budget is **17,100.00 EGP** and the amount requested is **96,300.00 EGP**. The reporting will ensure keeping and presenting the receipts, in proposing the prices we consulted three different shops as indicated in the attached provisional receipts.

The local contribution comes from the contribution of youth themselves. The contributions are in different forms as mention below:

#### **4.1 Different levels of financial contributions:**

- a) The quarterly contribution from each member in a year.
- b) When there are planned extraordinary sessions, programs, projects or needs, we will agree on the amount each one is to contribute and we intend to raise the required amount.
- c) The tithes, intentions of mass and other offerings are at free will.

## **Conclusion**

The activities with university students of Sudanese origin has been going on for the last at least five years, the university students from different foreign countries started their gathering last October, while a group of Egyptian students some of whom are from the former Comboni Youth groups in Cairo in the past are returning ready to make a journey of faith.

Though three different groups are mentioned, they all work under one inspiration, one Chaplaincy and one umbrella. The languages used at the moment are English and Arabic while ensuring that the necessary translations and adapting to other languages take place. During the main solemnities and feasts in the Church the groups come together to celebrate according to the possibilities together with the Christian community in the shrine as one family. We are grateful to the Lord for the chance of working with the youth, the youth too are grateful as expressed in the attached witnesses.

Yours faithfully,

*Fr. Joao Dinis Joao (mccj)*

*( Chaplain Youth Chaplaincy)*

## YOUTH CHAPLAINCY CORDI JESU CAIRO

Pre- Budget Financial Year Jan. - Dec. 2022

DESCRIPTION	Local Contribution		TOTAL EGP
<b>Music Instruments</b>			
Roland EAT Keyboard			23.100,00
Semi-acquistic guitar			4.500,00
5 String Bass guitar			6.000,00
Electric drumset			10.500,00
Bass guitar amplifier			9.000,00
Electric guitar amplifier			6.000,00
Drums amplifier			6.000,00
			<b>65.100,00</b>
<b>Spiritual programs</b>			
Lenten Retreat Arabic (food)	500,00		1.500,00
Incentives to Lent retreat preacher	100,00		150,00
Advent Retreat in (transport)	1.000,00		1.500,00
Advent Retreat (preacher)	100,00		150,00
Advent retreat rental charges for the place	200,00		300,00
Advent Retreat (food)	700,00		2.500,00
			<b>6.100,00</b>
<b>Celebrations and Anniversaries</b>			
Easter celebrations (food)	2.000,00		2.500,00
Christmas /new year celebrations (food)	2.000,00		2.500,00
Birthdays and anniversaries	1.500,00		1.500,00
			<b>6.500,00</b>
<b>Summer trip outside Cairo</b>			
Transport / bus hire	2.500,00		7.000,00
Renting of the place	3.000,00		8.000,00
Food and meals	3.500,00		10.000,00
			<b>25.000,00</b>
<b>Teaching aids and tools</b>			
Projector			10.700,00
			<b>10.700,00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17.100,00</b>		<b>113.400,00</b>
<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>96.300,00 EGP</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.262,30</b>



Some youths from Malawi & Zambia



Some youths from Uganda



Fr. Dinis with some youth



Playing music during mass



Some youths from Madagascar



Offertory procession during Mass



A group of youth during the Summer trip 2021



Christmas Carols program 2021