

Dear friends,

During the Advent season, we wait for God's greatest gift, the arrival of the Christ child, Jesus. Our joy lies in knowing that this tiny baby will transform the lives of those whose hearts are open to his extraordinary love.

I have enjoyed the opportunity recently to participate in activities organized by Marriage, Family and Young Church Ministry and have had the pleasure of witnessing the deep faith of our young people. It instills great confidence knowing the future of the Church is in such good hands.

In 2020, Young Church Ministry launched a pilot project called YC (Young Church) Tuākana: College Youth Ministers. As Tuākana, or "older siblings", the young people in their early 20s are appointed in colleges to accompany students on their faith journey at school, acting as peer witnesses to the relevance and value of the Catholic Christian faith today.

"I get to be the kind of role model I missed having when I was in high school. I hope to make faith a bit more relatable and help students understand that it is more than just a subject, but that faith is something you can live out in your everyday life."

> Teresa Rayner, YC Tuākana, St. Catherine's College, Kilbirnie



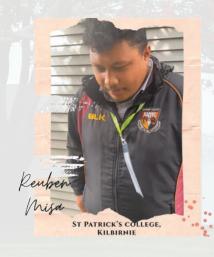


"The Tuākana role has been a really cool one for me. I get to be myself at work and it lines up with how I want to live the rest of my life. I run a Christian initiation programme at the school and get to see young people who are really enthused by the faith which is really refreshing."

John Richards, YC Tuākana, St. Bernard's College, Lower Hutt

> "Tuākana, means older sibling, and as an older sibling, the role is being there for them, listening to them, having their back, engaging with the young men and showing them that being Catholic is really cool."

> > Reuben Misa, YC Tuākana, St. Patrick's College, Kilbirnie





"My favourite part of the YC Tuākana role has to be the relationships you build with the students. They recognize you and associate you with someone they can talk to. You're someone there for them."

Maggie Webb, YC Tuākana, Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt.

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Not surprisingly, these young people are doing a marvelous job, confirmed by the fact that all four colleges plan to continue the programme in 2021. It would be wonderful to have one YC Tuākana placed in each of our nine Catholic Colleges. I should note that the Archdiocese contribution of \$10,000 is matched by each college for a total of \$20,000 per placement. This is a significant commitment on behalf of our Colleges and the Archdiocese itself, but I believe the journeys of faith and the faithful lives of our youth are worth the investment. I hope you do to.

The launch of the YC Tuākana pilot programme, and other initiatives of Marriage, Family and Young Church Ministry were made possible by a generous response to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal was cancelled and funding for ministries in the Archdiocese has been deeply affected. This is why I have asked that all funds raised from the 2020 Cardinal's Care Appeal be directed to Marriage, Family and Young Church Ministry. I appreciate your faith and trust in me to use your precious gifts in this way. Not one of the programmes we run is possible without your support and I am truly humbled by your continued generosity.

I pray that during the Christmas season and throughout the new year you and your families will experience the extraordinary love and presence of Christ in your lives.

Using God's given gifts of time, talent and treasure is referred to as stewardship and

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Cardinal John Dew

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