Christus Vivit

Short quotes

16

It is unhelpful to buy into the cult of youth or foolishly to dismiss others simply because they are older or from another generation.

19

We can, in fact, spend our youth being distracted, skimming the surface of life, half-asleep, incapable of cultivating meaningful relationships or experiencing the deeper things in life.

29

In fact, “Jesus did not grow up in a narrow and stifling relationship with Mary and Joseph, but readily interacted with the wider family, the relatives of his parents and their friends”

31

Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you.

“Jesus had unconditional trust in the Father; he maintained friendship with his disciples, and even in moments of crisis he remained faithful to them.

He had the courage to confront the religious and political authorities of his time; he knew what it was to feel misunderstood and rejected; he experienced the fear of suffering and he knew the frailty of the Passion.

32

With him at our side, we can drink from the true wellspring that keeps alive all our dreams, our projects, our great ideals, while impelling us to proclaim what makes life truly worthwhile.

34

 Youth is more than simply a period of time; it is a state of mind.

35

Let us ask the Lord to free the Church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill.

36

We must dare to be different, to point to ideals other than those of this world, testifying to the beauty of generosity, service, purity, perseverance, forgiveness, fidelity to our personal vocation, prayer, the pursuit of justice and the common good, love for the poor, and social friendship.

37

Young people can stop the church from becoming corrupt; they can keep her moving forward, prevent her from being proud and sectarian, help her to be poorer and to bear better witness, to take the side of the poor and the outcast, to fight for justice and humbly to let herself be challenged.

41

They do not want to see a Church that is silent and afraid to speak, but neither one that is always battling obsessively over two or three issues.

A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum

43

 While still very young, Mary accepted the message of the angel, yet she was not afraid to ask questions (cf. *Lk*1:34).

56

When Saint John Bosco taught St Dominic Savio that holiness involves being constantly joyful, he opened his heart to a contagious joy. He wanted to be close to the most abandoned and infirm of his fellow young people. Dominic died in 1857 at fourteen years of age, saying: “What a wondrous thing I am experiencing!”

65

All too often, there is a tendency to provide pre-packaged answers and ready-made solutions, without allowing the real questions of young adults to emerge and facing the challenges they pose”

76

Can I weep when I see a child who is starving, on drugs or on the street, homeless, abandoned, mistreated or exploited as a slave by society? Or is my weeping only the self-centred whining of those who cry because they want something else?”

Learn to weep for all those young people less fortunate than yourselves. Weeping is also an expression of mercy and compassion.

81

Yet in a world that constantly exalts sexuality, maintaining a healthy relationship with one’s body and a serene affective life is not easy.

Sexual morality often tends to be a source of “incomprehension and alienation from the Church, inasmuch as she is viewed as a place of judgment and condemnation”.

106

Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies. Don’t let that happen to you!

107

Dare to be more, because who you are is more important than any possession.

108

If the years of your youth are to serve their purpose in life, they must be a time of generous commitment, whole-hearted dedication, and sacrifices that are difficult but ultimately fruitful.

109

If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails. You can do the same if you feel overwhelmed by vices, bad habits, selfishness or unhealthy pastimes.

Jesus, brimming with life, wants to help you make your youth worthwhile. In this way, you will not deprive the world of the contribution that you alone can make, in all your uniqueness and originality.

110

Whenever you are enthused about life in common, you are capable of great sacrifices for others and for the community. Isolation, on the other hand, saps our strength and exposes us to the worst evils of our time.

112

God loves you. Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life. At every moment, you are infinitely loved.

115

Try to keep still for a moment and let yourself feel Jesus’ love. Try to silence all the noise within, and rest for a second in his loving embrace.

116

 It is the love of the Lord, a daily, discreet and respectful love; a love that is free and freeing, a love that heals and raises up.

120

The Lord’s love is greater than all our problems, frailties and flaws. Yet it is precisely through our problems, frailties and flaws that he wants to write this love story with us122

122

Dear young people, you are priceless! You are not up for sale! Please, do not let yourselves be bought.

You must repeat this often: I am not up for sale; I do not have a price. I am free! Fall in love with this freedom, which is what Jesus offers

125

Jesus fills your life with his unseen presence; wherever you go, he will be waiting there for you.

Jesus did not only come in the past, but he comes to you today and every day, inviting you to set out towards ever new horizons.

126

Evil does not have the last word. Nor will it have the last word in your life, for you have a friend who loves you and wants you to triumph.

129

If you can make friends with him and start to talk to him, the living Christ, about the realities of your life, then you will have a profound experience capable of sustaining your entire Christian life.

137

“Youth, as a phase in the development of the personality, is marked by dreams which gather momentum, by relationships which acquire more and more consistency and balance, by trials and experiments, and by choices which gradually build a life project. At this stage in life, the young are called to move forward without cutting themselves off from their roots, to build autonomy but not in solitude” (quoting St Paul VI 1963)

138

Much of the longing present in the hearts of young people can be summed up in the word “restlessness”. As Saint Paul VI said, “In the very discontent that you often feel… a ray of light is present”

142

Anxiety can work against us by making us give up whenever we do not see instant results. Our best dreams are only attained through hope, patience and commitment, and not in haste.

Avoid the paralysis of the living dead, who have no life because they are afraid to take risks, to make mistakes or to persevere in their commitments. Even if you make mistakes, you can always get up and start over, for no one has the right to rob you of hope.

143

Don’t observe life from a balcony. Don’t confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen.

Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don’t take early retirement.

147

God’s word asks you to enjoy the present, not simply to prepare for the future: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own; today’s trouble is enough for today” (*Mt*6:34).

151

Friendship is one of life’s gifts and a grace from God. Through our friends, the Lord refines us and leads us to maturity.

The experience of friendship teaches us to be open, understanding and caring towards others, to come out of our own comfortable isolation and to share our lives with others. For this reason, “there is nothing so precious as a faithful friend” (*Sir*6:15).

155

With a friend, we can speak and share our deepest secrets. With Jesus too, we can always have a conversation.

Prayer enables us to share with Jesus every aspect of our lives and to rest confidently in his embrace. At the same time, it gives us a share in his own life and love.

159

I hope that you will be serious enough about yourselves to make an effort to grow spiritually.

162

You have to discover who you are and develop your own way of being holy, whatever others may say or think. Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy.

164

The Holy Spirit wants to make us come out of ourselves, to embrace others with love and to seek their good. That is why it is always better to live the faith together and to show our love by living in community

169

 I ask young people to go beyond their small groups and to build social friendship, where everyone works for the common good. 170

170

Social engagement and direct contact with the poor remain fundamental ways of finding or deepening one’s faith and the discernment of one’s vocation.

174

Please, do not leave it to others to be agents of change. You are the ones who hold the future! Through you, the future enters into the world.

Continue to fight apathy and to offer a Christian response to the social and political troubles emerging in different parts of the world. I ask you to build the future, to work for a better world.

Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, support the revolution of love and service, be capable of resisting the damage done by consumerism and superficial individualism.

176

Why should we not speak of Jesus, why should we not tell others that he gives us strength in life, that we enjoy talking with him, that we benefit from meditating on his words?

183

There is extraordinary beauty in the fellowship of a family at table, generously sharing what food it has.

201

Steer clear of young people who think that adults represent a meaningless past, and steer clear of those adults who always think they know how young people should act.

252

The life that Jesus gives us is a love story, a *life history*that wants to blend with ours and sink roots in the soil of our own lives.

257

Your vocation inspires you to bring out the best in yourself for the glory of God and the good of others.

260

I like to think that “two Christians who marry have recognized the call of the Lord in their own love story, the vocation to form one flesh and one life from two

277

Jesus is walking in our midst, as he did in Galilee. He walks through our streets, and he quietly stops and looks into our eyes. His call is attractive and intriguing. Yet today the stress and quick pace of a world constantly bombarding us with stimuli can leave no room for that interior silence in which we can perceive Jesus’ gaze and hear his call.

279

Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend”.

281

Forming our conscience is the work of a lifetime, in which we learn to cultivate the very sentiments of Jesus Christ, adopting the criteria behind his choices and the intentions behind his actions (cf. *Phil* 2:5)”.

284

Prayerful discernment has to be born of an openness to listening – to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways.

285

Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses?

What is my real place in this world? What can I offer to society? Even more realistic questions then follow: Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service? Could I develop those abilities?

286

Discernment leads us to see our life in relation to the lives of others.

‘Who am I?’ You can keep asking, ‘Who am I?’ for the rest of your lives. But the real question is: ‘For whom am I?’”

287

When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have. It will not necessarily be what is most expensive or hard to obtain, but what we know will make them happy.

289

When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.

290

The choice that Jesus sets before us is to follow him as friends follow one another, seeking each other’s company and spending time together out of pure friendship. Everything else will come in time, and even failures in life can be an invaluable way of experiencing that friendship, which will never be lost.

295

Good discernment is a path of freedom that brings to full fruit what is unique in each person, something so personal that only God knows it.

298

 If you are to accompany others on this path, you must be the first to follow it, day in and day out. That is what Mary did, in her own youth, as she confronted her own questions and difficulties.