

PURE IN HEART

Young adult Catholics often feel as if they have dropped into a gap (“doughnut hole”) when it comes to the Church’s outreach in support of its members. Primary and secondary school-aged youngsters gather in formal religious ed programs; teens cluster in C.Y.O. or Life Teen youth groups; established adults gravitate to varied sodalities for faith enrichment and service opportunities. Likewise, disabled Catholics can find support in groups like the Victorious Missionaries (a chapter of this group meets here at the Shrine on the 1st Thursday of each month).

As part of the “New Evangelization” movement in the Church, organized groups are emerging specifically geared to young adults (ages 18-35) - for example, on campuses: F.O.C.U.S. (*Fellowship of Catholic University Students*) and The Newman Connection. One such Catholic young adult ministry that uniquely straddles both collegians and those still discerning their life direction as they enter the work force is Pure in Heart (P.I.H.). This international group’s mission summarized in a nutshell is “educating, inspiring and empowering young people.” Obviously, the ministry is grounded in fellowship but it is equally committed to weekly prayer meetings incorporating Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation and the Rosary.

Pure in Heart emphasizes: dedication to spreading Jesus’ teachings on the sanctity of life; the beauty of human sexuality and the joys of living chastely as well as the faithful discernment of one’s vocation in life. The exploration of Pope St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* forms the basis for the group’s faith education component – drawing on those spiritual insights and combining rigorous factual data from biological and psychological sciences, a comprehensive/holistic view of our graced human condition is affirmed. It allows young people to find their place in a “culture of life” – a culture at variance with many of the values promoted in contemporary society.

A Chapter of Pure in Heart has been established here at the Shrine of St. Joseph the Worker. Our meetings take place every alternate Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 pm. under the tutelage of some members from the organized Boston Chapter. We average some dozen local young adult participants. Fr. Terry O’Connell, OMI is spiritual director.

All are welcome. Invite a friend.

Visit: www.pureinheartamerica.org on the Web and Facebook