

## SPEND TIME WITH THE LORD

Through the Desert God  
Leads us to Freedom



Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more - in the words of the prophet Hosea - the place of our first love, " the Pope observed.

**"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."**

( Exodus 20:2 )

### Vicariate Youth Meeting - March 30, 2024

"Through the desert, God leads us to freedom."

On this radiant day, our St. Barnabas youth group brimmed with joy as we gathered in Larnaca to unite in the spirit of our monthly Vicariate assembly. While we missed the presence of Paphos, as they were engaged in Easter celebrations, the Larnaca group, with the invaluable assistance of Sr. Aurora and Sr. Roly, orchestrated a truly magnificent day for all attendees. We were 55 youths and 15 adults who participated in it.

The day commenced with a captivating skit illustrating liberation from the entanglements of worldly powers through the grace of Jesus, our sole Redeemer. Following this inspiring start, we immersed ourselves in a deeply moving Adoration. With hymns resonating, the Blessed Sacrament was reverently exposed, prompting profound reflections on the Lenten message of our Pope Francis that he mentioned the words of prophet Hosea – the place of our first love. God shapes His people; He enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life.



All of us, in humble reverence, knelt before the Lord, communing in silence, expressing gratitude for His abundant blessings. Subsequently, a sacred moment unfolded as the youth were tenderly invited to partake in confession, an experience that resonated deeply, drawing each individual closer to God during this Lenten season.

Daniel Gatt of Larnaca thoughtfully crafted a Cross, symbolizing our collective journey, which the Vicariate will carry forth as a beacon of faith. With reverence, this symbol was passed to the Nicosia group, entrusted with hosting the forthcoming gathering.

Transitioning from solemn reflection to spirited friendship, our meeting continued at the theater. The Limassol group enraptured us with a dynamic group dance and a poignant portrayal of the Prodigal Son. Nicosia added to the tapestry of our shared experience with two soul-stirring group songs, intricately woven with today's thematic threads.

In a momentous addition to our assembly, Monsignor Bruno Varriano graced us with his presence, imparting words of encouragement for the youth to actively contribute to the betterment of our island community and nurture their faith with unwavering devotion.





Msgr. Bruno shared plans for an upcoming pilgrimage to Compostela, Spain, underscoring the significance of early registration alongside Fr. Theodoros and Sr. Roly.

Post-meeting, Mis. Katherina Andreou generously treated us to a nourishing meal from McDonald's, replenishing our bodies and spirits alike. As laughter echoed and friendships flourished, our afternoon unfolded with leisure activities tailored to individual preferences, from spirited games of football to exhilarating rounds of basketball.

With hearts overflowing with gratitude, we offer our sincerest thanks to the Almighty for gracing us with this extraordinary day of fellowship, love, and jubilation. May His blessings continue to unite us, providing countless opportunities to come together in joyous celebration.

