

*“The fire within the hearts of youth lights the path to a brighter future.”*



## THE VICAR WRITES

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As we commemorate Youth Weekend, may we be reminded that our Cathedral youths are a precious part of our church! Do we have hopes for a brighter future for SAC? I'm sure we do! These hopes cannot be realised without our youths! When we invest in our young people, we are investing in the future of our church.

As we ponder the above quote, many of us will recall Paul's words to Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:5-7)

Here we see that Timothy was mentored by his biological family (Eunice his mother and Lois his grandmother) as well as his spiritual family (Paul his spiritual father). Both kinds of mentoring relationships are vital. Parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual formation of their children, but the church family also plays an important role. Each of us should be ready to be a spiritual parent to younger members of our

community, and the impact we can make is very significant indeed!

As a first-generation Christian who started going to church at the age of 16, all the spiritual mentoring I received came from my church community. I was blessed to have several leaders and members invest their time and energy to help me grow spiritually. I'm sure I frustrated them at times, but they didn't give up on me! Those formative years were crucial, and I wouldn't be where I am today without their efforts to disciple me.

I pray that we in SAC will heed the call to mentor and disciple our youths—spending time with them, listening to them, sharing with them, and helping them to grow. It might surprise us how much we can receive as we give ourselves to them. This is a work with eternal consequences that's richly rewarding! So let's all do our part to fan their fire for God. May we raise up a generation whose spiritual zeal will light the path to a brighter future for His Church!

