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### **Melbourne YCS Announces New Membership and Structure to Promote Social Justice and Catholic Social Teaching**

Having just marked its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Melbourne YCS has announced a radical plan for its future. The Melbourne YCS will introduce direct individual membership and develop a greater presence on social media to link students and to promote social justice and faith formation.

In the past, participation has been based on membership of a school or parish YCS group. Under this new model the Melbourne YCS will operate under a direct individual membership system and a new diocesan structure based on assemblies of members.

For decades there have been changes in the media and technology that drive the communications between students and how they relate to the worlds in which they live. The Covid-19 Pandemic has accelerated these longer-term changes.

From 1 January 2023 a student will become a member of the Melbourne YCS by pledging to “work for social justice based on the beliefs, values and principles of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching”.

“We estimate that there are about 30,000 students in the 15-to-18-year age bracket in Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Melbourne and about another 15,00 Catholics in non-Catholic schools. Our strategy is to reach out to those students and build a movement founded on their commitment to work for social justice based on the beliefs, values and principles of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching”, said Liam Cowan, the Melbourne YCS worker.

More information is available at

<https://m.facebook.com/YCSMelb/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ycsmelb/>