

ACHIEVING TOGETHER

WINNING THROUGH COLLABORATION



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The YCP staff was supposed to fly into DFW airport Wednesday morning, all set to prep for nearly 700 conference attendees arriving that weekend. But storms had other plans. Flights got delayed and cancelled left and right. Team members found their flights getting more and more delayed and sitting on the tarmac with engines idle as the skies opened up. One teammate, already exhausted from a 4 AM wake-up, watched her flight get cancelled entirely and spent the morning convincing the gate agents to squeeze her onto the next available flight to Dallas. The early morning airport chaos led to coffee spills and avocado stains. Not a single person arrived on schedule.

What could have been a disaster became something beautiful instead. Someone started a group chat to keep track of everyone's travel situations and coordinate rides from the airport.. People started sharing their airport disasters, cheering each other on through endless layovers, and somehow we all ended up laughing instead of stressing out

That little group chat became the thread that held us together all weekend long. It wasn't just about coordinating anymore. It kept us connected and laughing through everything that came next.

When the staff finally arrived in Dallas scattered across different flights, coffee-stained, and way behind schedule, something amazing was already happening. They figured out how to achieve together before even arriving at the conference site. The local team jumped in to handle last-minute preparations like last-minute vendor calls, urgent print runs, and a dash across town to collect liturgical items for the weekend's celebrations.

Despite everything that went wrong, you could feel it. This was going to be exceptional. But before diving headfirst into the whirlwind, the entire team paused. At noon Mass, they centered themselves in prayer, then gathered for lunch, reconnecting as people, not just colleagues. It was a reminder of what drives everything they do.

Back at the hotel, the real work began. Nearly 700 swag bags needed stuffing, sorting, and organizing before check-in opened. What could have been a tedious, overwhelming task transformed into something remarkable. With an assembly line in place and music filling the room, every bag was ready within hours, not because one person carried the burden, but because many hands made light work.

As the conference weekend began, competing priorities pulled teammates in different directions. Unexpected challenges emerged. But the team came together to achieve the goal. They divided responsibilities without drama, conquered obstacles without ego, and pivoted seamlessly when plans changed. This is what Achieving Together looks like in real time.



The YCP national conference is just one living example of our core value, Achieving Together. Achieving Together is not about completing a project at any cost. It's about lifting each other up, playing to one another's strengths, and supporting one another through the gaps. It's about coming together to create something better than any one of us could have accomplished alone.

When we embrace Achieving Together, we resemble the Holy Trinity's life-giving communion of persons. Unity, by its very nature, is creative. Even within different roles and hierarchies, new ideas emerge, fresh initiatives take shape, and breakthroughs are made when people unite under a shared mission for a greater purpose.

Imagine if every Catholic worker reflected the unity of the in their workplace. How might the professional world change if we all lived out our calling to imitate Christ through radical collaboration? Is it even possible to image God's Trinitarian communion at work, especially when we're teaming up with imperfect coworkers? The answers lies in understanding what achieving together truly means.

At YCP, our core values are:

- Excellence Always
- Cheerfulness
- Finding a Way
- Achieving Together
- Doing It All For Christ



These aren't just blanket value words and statements, they represent the bedrock of our apostolate, carefully chosen to cultivate a community of young Catholics who transform their work places into living examples of the love of Christ.

Today we'll explore the core value, 'Achieving Together,' to better understand why God calls us to share our work.



TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 tells us, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up.”

This passage reveals the profound truth that our efforts are multiplied when we welcome others into our labor, and the pitfalls that could destroy us individually become manageable challenges when faced together.

It’s easy to see the logic in this message, but it can be difficult to put into practice. Many of us carry scars from dysfunctional team experiences like group projects with peers who were either less than helpful or extremely overbearing.

Maybe we’ve experienced being micromanaged, underappreciated, or boxed out of participation. These wounding experiences teach us to associate collaboration with burden, frustration, and injustice. The temptation becomes overwhelming: retreat into self-reliance, trust only ourselves, and avoid the messiness of working with others.

But what gets lost in this withdrawal is the gift of the exchange. Joining forces with other people blesses us and sanctifies us, precisely because they aren’t us. Our teammates aren’t valuable merely for providing extra hands, eyes, or brain power. They bring distinct perspectives, unique skill sets, and different approaches that we desperately need.



“During past conferences, I learned that my downfall was not leaning on my teammates enough. I took way too much upon myself, often without even realizing it, which led to me being burnt out, overwhelmed, and missing some details of the event. This year, my goal was to delegate more, and I had to be intentional about that and ask for accountability.

One of the projects I chose to delegate was securing conference sponsors, since it consistently required a significant time investment.

We also faced the unique challenge of having limited venue space, so we needed to generate the same sponsorship revenue with fewer participating organizations. We made the strategic decision to outsource this work to someone with more experience. Susie not only lifted this burden from our team but also brought to the table a new approach to sponsorship.

Her expertise resulted in more meaningful strategic partnerships with our sponsors. Most importantly, we achieved record-breaking sponsorship revenue, surpassing all previous years despite having fewer sponsor slots available.”

-EMMA MCCLURE, YCP BELONG COORDINATOR



ONE BODY, MANY PARTS

St. Paul says, “For the body does not consist of one member but of many... God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body” (1 Corinthians 12:14-20).

Just as the parts of the body come together to make one fully functioning organism, our work teams thrive when every member contributes their own function, strengths, and even weaknesses. We do not expect the eye to lift heavy objects or the arm to analyze images. We don’t even expect our different fingers to perform the same tasks!

In the same way, we should not expect our teammates to excel in the same ways we do. The diversity of our gifts is exactly what makes teams powerful.





“What’s been powerful to witness among our team is how uniquely God wires each of us and how clearly that shows up in the way we work together. One person brings creativity in marketing, another brings order in operations, another brings clarity in finance.



We’re all different, and we’re all needed. And when you see everyone bringing their gifts toward one mission, helping young professionals encounter Christ and ultimately draw closer to Him, it’s a reminder of how the Body of Christ is meant to work. We’re not meant to do the same thing; we’re meant to do our part. And when each part shows up, something beautiful and eternal is built.

We saw this come to life during our one-year anniversary event. We had been planning for months, momentum was strong, and we had incredible support from our board and external partners. Then, just days before, a hurricane forced us to cancel. As president, I didn’t want that momentum to be lost.

The team rallied. Everyone pivoted quickly, leaning into their gifts. Logistics were rearranged, communication plans adapted, and people stepped in with backup solutions. We still celebrated our one-year, and it turned out to be a defining moment for our chapter not just because it happened, but because it happened together.”

-JOHN BENCIVENGA, YCP TAMPA PRESIDENT

LIVING IT OUT

As Young Catholic Professionals, we're called to model Christian unity through radical acts of Achieving Together. Not just "completing" together, or "finishing" together, but truly achieving excellence through genuine collaboration and partnership.

When we embrace others for who they are as whole persons, not just workers, we foster true charity in the workplace. One small act of encouragement or support can unlock surprising potential in those around us.

**"I know now that true charity
consists in bearing all our
neighbors' defects--not being
surprised at their weakness, but
edified at their smallest virtues."**

- ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX



TAKING ACTION TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER

01

Make recognition a reflex - Ask Christ to give you His eyes for viewing teammates. Call out and celebrate areas where they excel, especially during challenging moments. Leading with positivity and honoring teammates by highlighting their strengths can shift entire team dynamics.

02

Invite others in - Before submitting a proposal or launching a campaign, invite another teammate to review it. Invite others to collaborate in your work, even when it's not strictly "necessary." Not every task is a two-man job, but when another perspective could add value, don't miss an opportunity to unite forces.

03

Give and receive feedback with grace - Model humility to your team by giving and receiving feedback gracefully. When expressing your opinion, Fr. Mike Schmitz recommends filtering your words through four questions:

- What is my intention with sharing this opinion? Is it constructive or destructive?
- Is this objectively true, or just my personal preference?
- Who am I talking to and what is my relationship to this person?
- What is the tone I should use in expressing this so that it is heard correctly?





04 **Share credit and blame** - Embrace Achieving Together by sharing in both team successes and failures. Resist the temptation to exonerate yourself from certain decisions, blame teammates for problems, or separate yourself from group outcomes. Mortify your pride by taking ownership of both team accomplishments and setbacks.

05 **Prioritize the person** - As Christians, we must resist the common error of reducing our colleagues to their “working value.” Treat coworkers as whole persons by asking about their lives, interests, and families. Commit to speaking well of them when they aren’t around, especially if you have reasons not to.

06 **Go above and beyond** - Foster unity by going above the call of duty when you can. St. Josemaría Escrivá says, “When you have finished your work, do your brother’s, helping him, for Christ’s sake, so tactfully and so naturally that no one – not even he – will realise that you are doing more than what in justice you ought. This, indeed, is virtue befitting a son of God.”



At YCP, we believe that holiness is forged in community, and Achieving Together has the power to change the world.

As our culture seeks recognition and advancement at any cost, Christ calls us to enter humbly and obediently into whatever vineyard He places us.

May our presence at work create unity instead of division, collaboration instead of isolation, and new life instead of fresh wounds. When we achieve together, we don't just complete projects—we participate in the creative communion of the Trinity itself.



Check out the content in your Belong portal to learn more about our core values!

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