

Promoting vocations to the youth and young adults

Canossian

"The entire Church must formally pray for this aim," he wrote, "because the purpose of the prayer to gain vocations must concern all the faithful, every Christian who has at heart the good of souls and, in a particular way, the Bishops who are the shepherds of the spiritual flock and to whom souls are entrusted. They are the living Apostles of Jesus Christ today. "The annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations instituted by Pope Paul VI in can be considered a response to his intuition.

The Youth

The Church attributes "special importance to the period of youth as a key stage in the life of every human being" (JP II, *Dialectic Amici*, #1). It is the "time of a particularly intense discovery of the human "I" and of the properties and capacities connected with it" (op. cit., #3). The youth ask questions about the value and meaning of human life and manifest their search for truth, goodness and happiness in many different ways.

Barriers to Vocation Discernment

What keeps the youth and young adults from considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life?

Some issues on Secular values:

- Materialism (Internet),
- Consumerism,
- Secularism,
- Affluence,
- Individualism

Internet:

While the youth enjoy the benefits of internet, they are likewise exposed to changing views of human person and human life through it. Issues and problems associated with internet... can lead the youth to crisis of values as they get more and more confused about what is right and wrong, about what is true and good.

Consumerism:

As in the late 19th century, in many parts of the world, profit seems to be now replacing the inherent dignity of the human person, and thus, the dignity of work.

Individualism:

Most of our youth turn to Television, the Inter-net,...etc., and tend to choose their own 'heroes' and role models, and thus, follow some fictitious personalities or even notorious characters that are depicted there.

Lack of family and peer support When youth no longer find guidance and security at home and with their families, they can tend to resort to drugs and other means of escapism to deal with their own problems and cope with their pains, anxieties and sufferings.

Lack of family and peer support can also lead to fear of commitment to the unknown Debt/college costs

Sources of Hope

What gives young adults hope about vocations?

Spirituality of young adults
Generosity of young adults as shown in service
Eucharist and prayer

Religious and Priests who give a positive witness, serve as role models, willing to talk about vocations, Campus ministry and youth ministry, World (Diocesan)
Youth Days

Orientations

We acknowledge with gratitude the kindness of the Lord who deigned to bless our communities with Vocations. True to our specific identity and mission (charism) we cannot but continuously express our solicitude for Vocations, motivated not only by the scarcity of the workers in front of the harvest which still remains so vast, but by the conviction that our growth in number and quality means the growth of the Church.

According to the nature of the church, all are called to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life. It is the special concern and challenge to find ways to promote and encourage also the Vocation to priesthood and religious life as “a gracious and mysterious gift of God, valid in itself.”

We priest and religious firmly believe that all our efforts, activities or strategies, both personal and communitarian, to promote Vocations for the Church, and in particular for our respective Congregations, must always be accompanied by the irreplaceable value of a happy and courageous personal testimony of our specific identity.

The Candidate Addressee of the Vocation Promotion

Identify the prospective candidates. (Example: young professionals).

30 The Candidate Desirable Qualities in Candidates to the Religious and Priestly Life One who considers a ***personal relationship with God*** as an important part of life. One who has an ***ability and willingness to talk about his/her faith life***. One who has a ***desire to serve others and make a difference in people's lives***. One who is ***willing to sacrifice personal or material gain for the service of the Gospel and the Church***. One who is recognized as being ***approachable***.

One who ***enjoys life, people, and has a sense of humor***. One who has the ***ability to lead and work with people of all ages***. One ***who recognizes the importance of the Church***. One who ***forms and maintains healthy relationships with both men and women***. One who ***feels good about himself/herself, has average to above average intelligence, and has good physical, mental and emotional health***.

Vocation Discernment and Youth Spirituality & Their Desires

We desire a Covenant relationship with our Church. Everything we ask of the Church we will offer in return. We ask for prayer and will pray in return for the Church. We seek wisdom and knowledge and will use those gifts in return to enrich our Church. Prayer is the first form of witness that awakens vocations. – ***Benedict XVI***

As young people we seek answers to the many deep questions that dwell in the depths of our hearts. Please openly witness to your faith, by being available. Specifically, to you who live the consecrated life and serve as ordained ministers, offer us authentic joyful witnesses to your way of life, that we may experience the passion of your service. Invite us to share your excitement and deep love of Christ and the Church. Prayer is the first form of witness that awakens vocations. – ***Benedict XVI***

We are one body in Christ: Inspire us with open dialogue, a dialogue where we will recognize our responsibility and accountability. Dialogue with us so that together we can work towards equality, healing the brokenness of sin and pain, and bring about authentic renewal. We are longing for honesty, respect and openness. Please recognize our gifts that we want to use in building with you, in consecrated life, a community of faith. Prayer is the first form of witness that awakens vocations. – ***Benedict XVI***

We request continued nurturing of our personal vocations as baptized Christians, inclusive of all vocations to the married, single, or religious life. Create discernment teams, in parishes and on college campuses, consisting of faith filled people who can support and nurture vocations. We invite the religious to share personal authentic stories with us, including their struggles and joys. We invite Spiritual Directors to share their skills, accept us unconditionally, offer us a safe place to seek answers and grow, and direct us towards a deeper spiritual life. Prayer is the first form of witness that awakens vocations. – ***Benedict XVI***

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"But the Lord said to me, Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you shall go, and whatever I command you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you says the Lord." Jeremiah 1:7-8 Prayer is the first form of witness that awakens vocations. – ***Benedict XVI***