**** *« Youth, faith and vocational discernment »*

*THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TODAY’S WORLD*

***28th January 2018:***

***Let us pray for the young people***

***LET US PRAY FOR THE VOCATIONS!***

***Let us pray for us!***

***TODAY, IN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, READ THE QUESTIONS “the Instrumentum laboris”, (joint document)***

**QUESTIONS**

The aim of the questions is to assist the customary ecclesial bodies “by right” to express their understanding of the world of young people and assess their experience of vocational accompaniment, in order to gather information for drafting the work- document or *Instrumentum laboris*.

So as to take into account the various situations on the different continents and regions, three specific questions for each geographic area have been inserted after question 15, to generate response from the interested ecclesial bodies.

To facilitate and make tenable this work, the respective bodies are requested to limit their response to approximately one page for the question on statistics, one page each for the questions assessing the situation and one page for the three experiences for the continents and regions. If necessary or desired, other texts can be attached to support or supplement the contents of the responses.

**1. Gathering Statistics**

Please indicate, where possible, the source of the statistics and make reference to the year. Other pertinent information can be attached to better understand the situation in various countries.

- Number of inhabitants in the country / countries and the birth rate.

- Number and percentage of young people (ages 16-29) in the country / countries.

- Number and percentage of Catholics in the country / countries.

- Average age (for the last 5 years) for marrying (distinguishing between men and women), for entering the seminary and the consecrated life (distinguishing between men and women).

- In the 16-29 age group, the percentage of students, workers (if possible specify the type of work), unemployed, *NEET*.

**2. Evaluating the Situation**

*a) Young People, the Church and Society*

*These questions refer both to young people who take part in Church programmes, as well as those who do not take part or have no interest to participate.*

1. In what manner does the Church listen to the lived situations of young people?

2. What are the main challenges and most significant opportunities for young people in your country / countries today?

3. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutionalized or otherwise, have a major success *within*the Church, and why?

4. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutionalized or otherwise, have a major success *outside*the Church, and why?

5. What do young people really ask of the Church in your country / countries today?

6. What possibilities for participation exist in your country / countries for young people to take part in the life of the ecclesial community?

7. How and in what manner is contact made with young people who do not frequent Church surroundings?

*b) Pastoral Vocational Programmes for Young People*

8. How are families and communities involved in the vocational discernment of young people?

9. How do schools and universities or other educational institutions (civil or ecclesial) contribute to young people’s formation in vocational discernment?

10. In what manner are you taking into account the cultural changes resulting from the development of the digital world?

11. How can World Youth Days or other national or international events become a part of ordinary pastoral practice?

12. In what manner is your diocese planning experiences for the pastoral vocational programme for young people?

*c) Pastoral Care Workers with Young People*

13. How much time and in what manner do clergy and other formators provide for personal spiritual guidance?

14. What initiatives and opportunities for formation are in place for those who provide pastoral vocational guidance?

15. What personal guidance is offered in seminaries?

*d) Specific Questions According to Geographic Areas*

AFRICA

a. What plans and structures in pastoral vocational care for young people best respond to the needs of your continent?

b. What does “spiritual fatherhood” mean in places where a person grows without a father figure? What formation is offered?

c. How do you communicate to young people that they are needed to build the future of the Church?

***HOW CAN WE WORK WITH THE MATERIAL?***