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

*THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TODAY’S WORLD*

***28th JUN 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 “Preparatory Document the Synod of Bishops” in joint piece***

**FAITH, DISCERNMENT, VOCATION**

Through every phase of this Synod, the Church wants again to state her desire to encounter, accompany and care for every young person, without exception. The Church cannot, nor does she wish to, abandon them to the isolation and exclusion to which the world exposes them. That young people’s lives might be a good experience; that they do not lose themselves in violence or death; and that disappointment does not imprison and alienate them, all of this has to be of great concern to one who has received life, been baptized in the faith and is aware that these are great gifts.

Because of these gifts, being born opens a person to the promise of a full life and being accepted and cared for is the basic experience which places in the heart of each person not only the confidence of not being abandoned to a lack of a sense of meaning or to the darkness of death but the hope of being able to express one’s individuality in a journey towards the fullness of life.

The wisdom of the Eastern Church is helpful in seeing how this confidence might be based in an analogy of “three births”: natural birth, that is, one is born female and male in a world which can accommodate and support life; birth in baptism “when someone becomes a child of God through grace”; and then a third birth, that is, the passage “from bodily life in this world to the spiritual life in the next”, which opens a person to the full exercise of freedom (cf. *Discourse of Philoxenus of Mabbug*, a fifth century Syrian bishop, 9).

Offering others the gifts that one has received means accompanying them and walking beside them on this journey as they deal with the weaknesses and difficulties in their lives, and especially supporting them in the exercise of freedom which is still being formed. Consequently, the Church, beginning with her Pastors, is called to make a self- examination and to rediscover her vocation of caring for others in the manner recommended by Pope Francis at the beginning of his pontificate: “...caring [and] protecting demand goodness; [they] call for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.” (*Homily at the Beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome,*19 March 2013).

***Let us pray!***