

New Vocations for a New Europe: A *very* brief summary

- The letter is addressed directly to young people to reassure them that realising your vocation is about becoming who you are meant to be. It doesn't take away from life, it helps you discover what it is that brings you joy
- Why do we need an attempt to look at vocations now? The reasons cited are still relevant today. Young people experience a plurality of values/experiences/ideas which seem to create a pick and mix culture where anything goes. At the same time however, fragmentation and hatred appear to be on the rise and young people are often left dissatisfied by life.
- The truth is that for many the church in Europe provides no answers for young people and is perceived by many to be irrelevant to their lives. The church needs a language to be able to communicate with the young
- Without this sense of vocation, without a sense they matter, that they are loved, many young people drift. They claim to want independence but are strongly influenced by social media which can force them to conform to current ideas or to feel afraid and powerless to change things
- We (the Church) need to be able to speak to young people and present them with the Good News in a form that is relevant to them. Within young people there is still the desire to search for meaning and we need to be able to talk about vocations within this desire.
- The language of vocations needs to express itself in different ways. We need to talk about the dream God has for people, that each of us is uniquely called to be part of a larger purpose.
- We need to recognise that everyone is called by God. The way they express their vocation will be unique.
- Vocations work is not about recruitment but about allowing each person to discover who they are called to be.
- The greatest vocation is to love and what love is, we learn from Jesus. Jesus is the one who teaches us that love is about service, about being there for others.