

Heartland Member Area Annual Meeting

April 9-11, 2018
Leavenworth, KS

Synod 2018 Young People, The Faith and Vocation Discernment – Reflection and Sharing

We invite everyone to please take this opportunity to give input to their diocese/Bishops in reference to “Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment” by participating either by coming to our regional Heartland meeting or organizing your own local meeting if you are not able to travel to Marillac Center in Leavenworth, KS. Our contact person for this meeting is Lori Bengel: bengel@adorers.org

In preparation for our upcoming meeting in April our facilitator and the planning committee encourages everyone to please read and execute the following:

- Preparatory Document of the Synod on “Youth, faith and vocational discernment” (link to document below)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20170113_documento-preparatorio-xv_en.html

- Please check in your diocese/parish/community what already is happening in reference to discussing the Synod document and bring this information to share.
- What do you hope to happen in your local area with this discussion of the Synod document?
- Please review the Questions from the Synod Document below and be prepared to discuss them.

A. Young People, the Church and Society

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

1. How 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 our region today?
3. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutional or otherwise, have major success *within* the Church, and why?
4. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutional or otherwise, have major success *outside* the Church, and why?
5. What do young people really ask of the Church today?
6. What possibilities exist for young people to take part in the life of the Church community?
7. How is contact made with young people who do not participate in Church activities?

B. Pastoral Vocational Program for Young People

8. How are families and communities involved in the vocational discernment of young people?
9. How do schools, universities, or other educational institutions contribute to young people's formation in vocational discernment?
10. How are we taking into account the cultural changes of the digital world?
11. How can World Youth Days or other national or international events become a part of ordinary pastoral practice?
12. How is your diocese planning vocational experiences for young people?

Below are some Videos to peruse from:

International Vocation Conference: "Vocational ministry and consecrated life: prospects and hopes", promoted by the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL).

Rome, Italy. Pontifical "Regina Apostolorum" from December 1-3, 2017.

Materials created and/or gathered by: Fr. Toby Collins, CR

Videos:

Arrival

<https://youtu.be/JvFmhvwHaxI>

What Some English Speaking Attendees "Took Home"

<https://youtu.be/T-Cnv6DRjw8>

11 Proposals by English Speaking Countries

https://youtu.be/CQwhCmW3_pM

Keynote Address by Timothy Radcliffe, OP

<https://youtu.be/pWc6m9hawyg>

Interview with Timothy Radcliffe, OP

<https://youtu.be/JrZgJQkrqo4>

What we hope to achieve with our discussions?

- For vocation directors to have a better understanding of the document/synod
- For vocation directors to be reenergized by our discussions and recreation together
- How can we improve our vocation ministry and share our wisdom with fellow vocation directors
- To share with our communities the new insights we have gleaned from the meeting and document

Will we be sharing our summary from the meeting with the synod?

That is our hope!

How?

- We will be sending a summary of our discussions to Sr. Sharon Dillon, NRVC Director, in hope that she will be able to share our input
- Write to local Bishops in response to our meeting regarding the document
- An article written by Sister Barbara Jean in Horizon about our meeting

Thank you all very much for all the hard work you will be doing before you come to the meeting this year! The planning committee (Fr. Timothy Armbruster, Sr. Maria Victoria Cutaia, Lori Bengé and Sr. Barbara Smith) are very excited to see everyone and have great collaboration with old and new vocation ministers this year!

Sr. Connie Schoen, OP will be our facilitator and we have great hope that all of you will take home some great thoughts and inspiration to your communities in regards to the Synod document on youth in our country today and how we may integrate our lives.

Blessings!

The Planning Committee