



The Archdiocese of Armagh
Pope John Paul II
& Muiredach Cross

Resource Pack

believe



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Youth Ambassador

Synod of Bishops 2018
Young People, the Faith & Vocational Discernment



How
to
live

ON BEING CALLED

Go at the call of God,
The call to follow on,
To leave security behind
And go where Christ has gone.
Go in the name of God,
The name of Christ you bear;
Take up the cross, its victim's love
With all the world to share.

Go in the love of God,
Explore its depth and height.
Held fast by love that cares, that heals,
In love walk in the light.
Go in the strength of God,
In weakness prove God true.
The strength that dares to love and serve
God will pour out in you.

Go with the saints of God,
Our common life upbuild,
That daily as we walk God's way
We may with love be filled.
O God, to you we come,
Your love alone to know,
Your name to own, your strength to prove,
And at your call to go.

AMEN

YOUTH AMBASSADOR FOCUS GROUP

THE IDEA - helping Pope Francis

Pope Francis is having a special Synod that is focused particularly on Youth. He wants to produce a new document about young people in the Church and before he does that he wants to hear from you. This activity is just that, we want to hear what you have to say and be able to send everything to Rome to help Pope Francis write this document.

ACTIVITY

Gather a small group of people to be a focus group to help Pope Francis. One person has to be the facilitator and will begin by reading the prayer 'On Being Called' from the inside cover of the resource pack. One person should be the notetaker and should record what those in the group have to say.

DISCUSS

The facilitator now leads the group in discussion of the following questions:

1. Do you feel the Church is relevant to you and your life?
 - Yes/No
 - Why did you answer Yes/No to this question?
2. As a young person do you feel the Church includes and listens to you? Please comment
 - Yes/No
 - How do you feel this can be improved?
3. What are the challenges of being a young person today? Give examples.
4. Where do you like to socialise?
 - Why do you like to socialise there?
 - What makes that place important to you?
 - Where do you like to socialise associated with the Church?
5. If you could ask the Church to do one thing for you, what would it be?
6. Do you feel there are any opportunities for you to be involved in your parish community?
 - Have you been invited to become involved in your parish community?
 - How would you like to be involved within your parish community?

GETTING YOUR THOUGHTS TO US

The recorder can summarise the answers from each question and be able to enter them into our online form at

<http://www.armagharchdiocese.org/synod/>



PRAYER

Begin with small prayer... On Being Called, or read inserted letter from Pope Francis.



“QUOTE”

“I plead with you-never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”



YOUCAT 342 (p. 189)

Are we all supposed to become “saints”?

Yes. The purpose of our life is to be united with God in love and to correspond entirely to God's wishes. We should allow God "to live his life in us" (Mother Teresa). That is what it means to be holy: "a saint".





LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENT OF THE 15th ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

My Dear Young People,

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your “compass” on this synodal journey.

I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” (Gen 12.1). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to “go”, to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, “Go!”, what did he want to say? He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this “new land” for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

But unfortunately, today, “Go!” also has a different meaning, namely, that of abuse of power, injustice and war. Many among you are subjected to the real threat of violence and forced to flee their native land. Their cry goes up to God, like that of Israel, when the people were enslaved and oppressed by Pharaoh (cf. Ex 2:23).

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: “Teacher [...] where are you staying?” He replied, “Come and see” (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: “Can we change things?” And you shouted: “yes!”. That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a “throw-away culture” nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: “Do not be afraid, [...], because I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because “the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best.” (Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to “work with you for your joy” (2 Cor 1:24). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God's call with the words: “Here I am” (cf. Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,

FRANCIS

Given at the Vatican, 13 January 2017