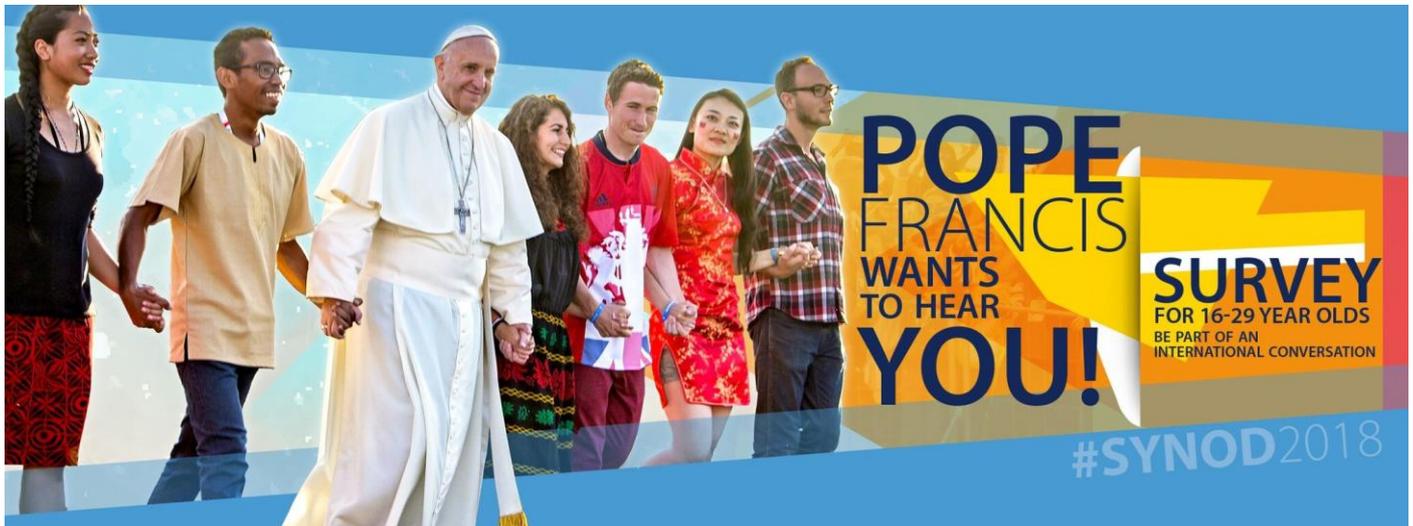




Diocesan e-News

YOUNG PEOPLE: POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Young people across Australia are being called to share their views about life, faith, and their experience of Church through an online survey. Australians aged between 16 and 29 years are encouraged to complete the survey. The questions cover a range of topics including: the experience of being listened to, using social media and technology, friendships and influences in today's world.

The survey seeks to capture the opinions and perspectives of young people as part of a national consultation process that will inform an international conversation in Rome next year. Representatives from all over the world will be invited to Rome to share their experiences and views with Pope Francis at a meeting (Synod) in October 2018. There will be other consultation in dioceses later in 2017 in preparation for the Synod.

Pope Francis has called young people to join this inclusive journey saying that the Church "wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith: even your doubts and your criticisms. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities."

The Pope stressed, "Every young person has something to say to others ... all of us need to listen to you!" He wants to hear from all young people, "even young people who consider themselves agnostics, even young people whose faith is lukewarm, even young people who no longer go to church, even young people who consider themselves atheists."

This Australia-wide survey has been developed by the National Youth Office, part of the Australian Bishops Conference. It will also ask about opportunities for engagement with Church activities such as outreach programs, youth masses, community leadership or parish events.

This is a unique opportunity for young people to have their voice heard on a range of topics. It is the first step leading to the Australian **Year of Youth 2018** with its theme *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*.

The survey is open until **July 2, 2017**. Click [Survey](#) to start.

For more information www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry, youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125.

Amanda Smith, Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry