



Dear Fathers, Sisters, Pastoral Associates, Parish Leaders and Principals,

From the beginning of this year the Diocesan Vocations Committee (Bishop Paul Bird, Sr Pam Barlow RSM, Fr Peter Hendriks MSC, Mr John Meneely, Sr Paula Asiasiau CSN, Fr Neville Stanislaus, Fr Matthew Thomas, Mrs Sonia Walker, Fr Ed Moloney) has been meeting to reflect on ways to continue promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

We recognise that all vocations in the Church find their origin in the shared priesthood of the faithful conferred at baptism. We seek to raise awareness of the various vocations within the life of the Church, inclusive of marriage and the single life, whilst retaining a particular emphasis on priesthood and religious life.

Bishop Paul has asked that during the Season of Spring each parish would bring the subject of "Vocations" to awareness in the Parishes, Colleges and Schools around the diocese.

Please find enclosed in this pack some material that may be of assistance:

1. Vocations Prayer Cards.
2. Notice for the Parish Bulletin regarding a Vocations Retreat Day.
3. Prayers of the Faithful which might be of assistance for Masses for one weekend in Spring.
4. Snippets from Pope Francis' Message to Young People at the World Youth Day Vigil Gathering in Poland.

Thank you for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Moloney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr Ed Moloney
Ballarat Diocesan Vocations Director

BALLARAT DIOCESAN VOCATIONS PROMOTION

BULLETIN NOTICE:

YOUNG MEN INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?

A Priesthood Vocations Retreat Day for any young students/men around the diocese hosted by St Patrick's College Ballarat will take the form of pilgrimage on Saturday 12th November. Bus will leave 10.30 am from St Patrick's College to Scarsdale for a 13km walk to Linton followed by Mass and lunch concluding at 3.00 pm. Fr James Kerr and two Melbourne seminarians from Corpus Christi College will participate in the Retreat Day to answer questions about life in the seminary. For more information or to register attendance please contact Fr Ed Moloney Vocations Director Edward.Moloney@cam.org.au

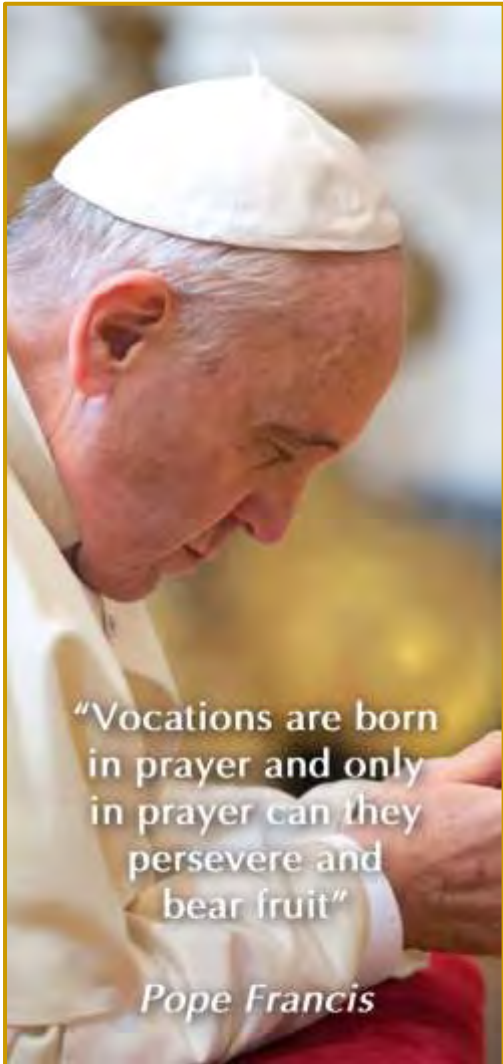
SUGGESTED PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For those who are rearing families: that they may nurture faith, prayer and love for God, and cultivate an environment in which each of the Christian vocations is valued and explored as a possibility for their children's future – Marriage, the Priesthood, Religious Life or the Single Life. Lord hear us. ***R/.***

For all young adults: that they may have the courage and openness to search earnestly for the vocation that will enable them to grow to that fullness of life which God is offering them. In particular we pray for an openness to hear God's call to Priesthood or Religious Life. Lord hear us. ***R/.***

**World Youth Day Prayer
Vigil Address of the Holy Father
Campus Misericordiae, Kraków Saturday, 30 July 2016**

Dear young people, good evening!



It is good to be here with you at this Prayer Vigil!

As we were praying, I thought of the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Picturing them can help us come to appreciate all that God dreams of accomplishing in our lives, in us and with us. That day, the disciples were together behind locked doors, out of fear. They felt threatened, surrounded by an atmosphere of persecution that had cornered them in a little room and left them silent and paralyzed. Fear had taken hold of them. Then, in that situation, something spectacular, something grandiose, occurred. The Holy Spirit and tongues as of fire came to rest upon each of them, propelling them towards an undreamt-of adventure.

My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, of the eternal “more”. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, the joy that is born of God’s love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the “craziness” of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists. The God who asks us to devise an economy inspired by solidarity. In all the settings in which you find yourselves, God’s love invites you bring the Good News, making of your own lives a gift to him and to others.

God expects something from you. God wants something from you. God hopes in you. God comes to break down all our fences. He comes to open the doors of our lives, our dreams, our ways of seeing things. God comes to break open everything that keeps you closed in. He is encouraging you to dream. He wants to make you see that, with you, the world can be different. For the fact is, unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different.

The times we live in do not call for young “couch potatoes” but for young people with shoes, or better, boots laced. It only takes players on the first string, and it has no room for bench-warmers. Today’s world demands that you be a protagonist of history because life is always beautiful when we choose to live it fully, when we choose to leave a mark. History today calls us to defend our dignity and not to let others decide our future. As he did on Pentecost, the Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building the world of today. And he wants to build that world with you.

You might say to me: Father, but I have my limits, I am a sinner, what can I do? When the Lord calls us, he doesn't worry about what we are, what we have been, or what we have done or not done. Quite the opposite. When he calls us, he is thinking about everything we have to give, all the love we are capable of spreading. His bets are on the future, on tomorrow. Jesus is pointing you to the future.

So today, my friends, Jesus is inviting you, calling you, to leave your mark on life, to leave a mark on history, your own and that of many others as well.

Life nowadays tells us that it is much easier to concentrate on what divides us, what keeps us apart. People try to make us believe that being closed in on ourselves is the best way to keep safe from harm. Today, we adults need you to teach us how to live in diversity, in dialogue, to experience multiculturalism not as a threat but an opportunity. Have the courage to teach us that it is easier to build bridges than walls! Together we ask that you challenge us to take the path of fraternity. To build bridges... Do you know the first bridge that has to be built? It is a bridge that we can build here and now – by reaching out and taking each other's hand. Come on, build it now, here, this first of bridges: take each other's hand. This is a great bridge of brotherhood, and would that the powers of this world might learn to build it... not for pictures on the evening news but for building ever bigger bridges. May this human bridge be the beginning of many, many others; in that way, it will leave a mark.

Today Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, is calling you to leave your mark on history. He, who is life, is asking each of you to leave a mark that brings life to your own history and that of many others. He, who is truth, is asking you to abandon the paths of rejection, division and emptiness. Are you up to this? What answer will you give, with your hands and with your feet, to the Lord, who is the way, the truth and the life?