

# VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE VOCATIONS ANIMATOR

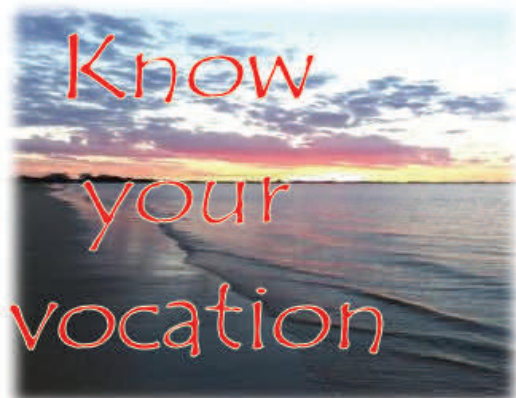
## INDICATORS

In the 'olden days', the tell-tale story of a vocation was well formed young men from stable Catholic homes and schools/parishes who thought about a priestly and religious vocation as part of their upbringing. How times have changed! We are now faced with developing a new model of recruitment, a topic I would like to explore with you in 2013.

For the moment, I am taking this opportunity to share with you a list of primary indicators to look out for, and explore with those who are considering a vocation to the ordained or consecrated life. Of course, we should not be expecting young people to be able to tick all the boxes immediately. The list should also give us an indication of the qualities we can help them to develop as they grow into 'good Christians and solid citizens'.

Again, the best way we can engender these qualities is by personal example. If they are not alive in our own lives, we cannot expect young people to take up the challenge!

Peter Monaghan



### 1. **DESIRE TO DO GOOD** †

A person drawn to ordained or consecrated life generally has a sense and a history of giving his time and is attracted towards helping others, e.g. as a volunteer in any services that a parish provides, youth camps, sporting teams, soup kitchen, social justice action in schools, etc. Beyond this practical outreach, they also recognise the importance of helping other people to draw closer to God through these activities.

### 2. **CHARITY TOWARDS OTHERS** †

A person with a basic optimism about people and the world. Has a sensitivity to others and feels compassion for them. He stands up for the under-dogs and refuses to let others coerce or bully them. This person shows respect for, and sensitivity to, the culture, ethnic and racial diversity of the Church. He is open to people of varying economic backgrounds, faith traditions and physical abilities.

### 3. **PRAYER** †

A person who is able to demonstrate that he is committed to and interested in further developing faithfulness to daily prayer.

### 4. **LEADERSHIP** †

A person with the ability to engage people, lead by example, work as part of a team, respecting the giftedness of others and empowering them to develop their gifts. He manifests initiative, is not afraid to take risks and perhaps fail, and acknowledges that he is not an authority on all aspects of Church life.



# PRAYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

## 5. **COMMITMENT** †

A person who is true to his word - dependable and reliable with a demonstrated capacity to 'see things through'.

## 6. **SOCIABILITY** †

A person with a sense of humour and the ability to interact with peers, relate appropriately with both men and women of all ages, carry on a conversation with others and talk about his faith.

## 7. **SEARCH FOR MEANING** †

A person who seeks deeper meaning in life, who is able to ask the important questions, and can focus on more than just the here and now.

## 8. **POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE** †

A person who shows initiative and works at leading a balanced life of prayer, relationship and life-long growth. A person who is able to make appropriate emotional responses, has a good work ethic, doesn't take himself too seriously, has self-confidence and positive self-esteem and is open to growth and change.

As a follow on from the previous newsletter that highlighted the four calls to all young people, namely the single life, married life, ordained ministry and consecrated life, the prayer below may be good for any groups of young people assembled in a reflective mood:

God, I know you love me  
and have great plans for me.

But sometimes I am  
overwhelmed by the  
thought of my future.

Show me how to walk  
forward one day at a time.

May I take heart while I  
search openly, learn about  
choices, listen to others for  
advice and pay attention to  
my own feelings.

By doing these things, may I  
hear your call to a lifestyle  
and a career that will let me  
love as only I can.

And let me serve others  
with the special gifts that  
you have given me.

Amen.

