**Questionnaire for the Young People in Preparation for the Synod of Bishops 2018**

**with the theme: “Youth, Faith, and Vocational Discernment**

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1. **Evaluating the Situation**

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. In what manner does the Church listen to the lived situations of young people?

**Answer:**

* The Church should organized programs that can gain the interest of the young people by making or forming little sharing groups where they feel free in working and evangelizing.
* In a way that young people will attract their interest by putting up programs like sports, youth conventions, Bible camps or Church Organizations.
* (suggestion) The young people should work together to help each other and should be obedient to their parents and leaders so that the church can listen to and help them in their life situation.
* The church listen to the life situation of the young people by the church initiated spiritual programmes and no others.
* Youth outreach to youth and encourage them to take part in the church,(church leaders by their help and encouragement.

\*\*\*\*\* I find that the church does not listen to the life situations of all the young people. The church concentrates on young people who live in groups: schools but to those who are not attached to any group are seeing to be ignored, criticized or talked of with negative comments.

1. What are the main challenges and most significant opportunities for young people in your country / countries today?

**Answer:**

Challenges:

* Family problems/broken homes
* Moral breakdown
* Young people are affected by the increasing of lawlessness
* Young people taking drugs and alcohol
* Having girl and boy relationships that leads to premarital sex
* Criticism from other denominations
* The life situation of young people today is very complicated; a lot of situations are faced through media, drug, alcohol, and many different types of denomination influences and explanations.
* Unwanted and teenage pregnancies that will lead to abortion
* Unprepared marriages
* Unemployment

\*\*\*\*\*\* There is not any opportunity that will give or guide the young people to take a positive approach toward these challenges.

Opportunities:

* Involving music activities
* Involving sports activities
* Involving church activities
* To be a missionary or a pastoral worker (vocation)
* To become a health worker and a teacher
* Retreat and other occasion that will take place to have conversion for the young people
* The young people should be asked and allowed to take part in building and leading their fellow friends in Christian way in the country.
* To build the young people’s knowledge of Christ and in faith through education opportunities.
* Inter dialogue with the youth within the country or other countries.
1. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutionalized or otherwise, have a major success within the Church, and why?

**Answer:**

* Having retreats in quite places because some came to realize where they stand now through this activity in other catholic community.
* Youth Convention, and world youth day (parish, diocese, national and international)
* To take part in the church activities and working with church workers to do programming
* (Suggestion) The youth organized activities and be encourage and ready to allow themselves to accept in group gathering within the church they are the backbone of the community in which they live
* The Youth workshops, pilgrimages, and other programmes within the parish or in the diocesan level.
* Liturgy and feast days
* Rallies and seminars

\*\*\*\*\* The church needs a lot of these activities to be in place so that the youth participation will continue. A lot of inspirations and conversions occur during these activities.

1. What kinds and places of group gatherings of youth, institutionalized or otherwise, have a major success outside the Church, and why?

**Answer:**

* Social and educational teamwork because some take part in other major activities in big communities or big youth gathering
* In the streets or urban places and the rural areas such as cultural show, sports, talent show (youth clubs), and gambling
* (Suggestion) The leaders should work along with his/her members and encourage them to be confident in group gatherings of youths. The problem is if the leader is not interested in doing his task, then the members will be scattered.
* Short term youth courses and experiences without certificates and or degree courses
* Promotes youth mobilization
* Sports associations offer a lot of entertainment, fun and enjoyment to those young people who are involve.

This makes it for the young people to meet new people and share ideas, skills, and fun.

1. What do young people really ask of the Church in your country / countries today?

**Answer:**

* Financial benefactors for education/ most young people really ask the church to sponsor for further education
* The Church Doctrines
* They want to live a good Christian life by changing their lives
* The young people really ask the church to teach and help them to understand the Christian doctrines and regulations in the country today.
* They really ask for support from the community and the society to maintain their youth group that produce good effects in life.
* Solidarity: everything we do must work to our own good and good for others. When we follow their teachings of the common good; we make sure that our choices and actions enable ourselves and others (in our community, our country, and in the whole world) to meet their needs.
* Initiate programs and activities which bring about Integral Human Development.
* Our young people really want to know many things about the church. As to build their faith, the need to know more on the meaning of statues, Eucharist, medals, and many of the customs and traditions of the church. There is a need for better explanations.

6. What possibilities for participation exist in your country / countries for young people to take part in the life of

the ecclesial community?

**Answer:**

* Sports
* Youth sessions / further courses for youth programs
* Youth Conventions
* Prayer
* World youth day
* Choir group
* Retreat
* In taking up responsibilities in the church, community, and the exercise of decision making.
* Bible studies
* Outreach involve in major church activities
* Seminaries and pastoral colleges are known as the only possibility for young people to participate in the ecclesial community; unfortunately, not all communities have the opportunity, possibility and facilities.
1. How and in what manner is contact made with young people who do not frequent Church surroundings?

**Answer:**

* Sharing groups
* Reaching out in sharing and socializing
* Do some interesting programs to get interest of the young people like music, sports, drama and party.
* To talk in a way that they can be attracted or convinced, example: sharing on how the church help the young people.
* To talk to them and encourage how to do church work
* By communicating and accepting each other’s burden of the young people.
* Through the peer groups of the youths and have concerns, also how to approach the young people who do not frequent in church surroundings.
* There should be a contact person before visiting them. The youth group with the church elders visits the person or persons.

b) Pastoral Vocational Programmes for Young People

**Answer:**

* Progammes that is educational in getting employed or fulfilling their vocation.
* Send the young people for youth programmes or for further courses
* By listening and seeking advice from the community and the church as well with the young people
* Through sharing their experiences and by leading the per youth groups according to their interest and not the leader’s interests.

\*\*\*\*\* Pastoral Vocational Programmes for young people is really of great need. A lot of young people find the church to have been very selective and have missed out a lot. This is in regard to the people who are capable but the church have ignored due to reasons which the person does not know.

1. How are families and communities involved in the vocational discernment of young people?

**Answer:**

* Praying for the members of their Team work
* The families/community keep in contact through correspondence to the vocation director/directress from the Diocese and different male/ female congregations.
* Sharing vocational materials to the families/communities.
* Moral support from the families/communities.
* **Unfortunately, families and communities are not really involved in the vocational discernment of the young people.**
* By helping us with their knowledge and understanding.
* Financial help
* To show how young people their reaction toward communities and friends.
* The families and communities involved by sharing their experiences and word of encouragement to them about prayer in the young people’s discernment.
* The families and the communities involved by prayer but very little support of materials in the vocational discernment of the young people.
* Parents reach their children while in the homes and the community comes in the second place when the youth is out or the family to help.

\*\*\*\*\*\* Families and communities have supported, encouraged and guided young people in vocational discernment. But a lot more people ignore, criticize, and hesitate to involve. This is due to cultural, educational, denominational, and family differences.

1. How do schools and universities or other educational institutions (civil or ecclesial) contribute to young people’s formation in vocational discernment?

**Answer:**

* Giving educational skills, writing programs
* Debating and giving educational questionnaire that give a positive effect on the life of young people
* They contribute by sharing some of their knowledge and experiences to the young people
* By giving their knowledge through teaching, showing good example or to become a good leader and also financial help.
* Other institution coming to gather young people to give ideas or share some good ideas
* The school contributed by religious lessons and the other educational institutions, to the young people’s discernment.
* Through the church religious instruction in the lower schools but the other institutions, no idea.
* Participate in the church work when the students come back home, in their villages or parishes.

\*\*\*\*\* Educational institutions did contribute to young people’s formation in vocational discernment. As in studies as part of learning, giving guidance, religious lessons, and other courses that direct or guide them. The institutions also carry out activities like retreat, meetings and carrier – expo that directs the young people inthier vocational discernment. But still the biggest populations of young people are missing out.

1. In what manner are you taking into account the cultural changes resulting from the development of the digital world?

**Answer:**

* A devastating effect of young people’s sense of morality, politics, dressing, and sexual mores.
* Seriously, we are taking into account to stop the cultural change from the development of the digital world
* Before our old people were using letter or blowing corn shell to send message. The world changes how we send our messages by using mobile phone and other information connection.
* By the practices and the advices of the people or society and the parents but their values are to remain as they are.
* Through parental advice and the practices.
* We help the young people to live the changing cultural development in the right to God’s will.

\*\*\*\*\*\* The digital world is really causing a lot of problems, inconveniences when compared to our culture. A lot of the young people forget their time used. They spend more time on computers, phones, music, video, etc. and give less time to do homes duties. A lot western influences are obtained from the digital things.

These are the example:

* Dressing
* Music
* Religion
1. How can World Youth Days or other national or international events become a part of ordinary pastoral practice? **Answer:**
* It can be celebrated within the community using the same theme having the celebration on the same day with our leaders.
* Through their annual programmes or by celebrating them in the church calendar
* Inter relationship with other youth from other countries, province and churches in the cults.
* There should be a national, diocese and parish level the same gathering programmed to celebrate. This should be an annual practice and will inspire, mobilized and motivate a lot of young people.

12. In what manner is your diocese planning experiences for the pastoral vocational programme for young people?

c) Pastoral Care Workers with Young People

**Answer:**

* The Diocese planning to bring young people to become Christian like brothers and sisters.
* They share experiences and through the spiritual guidance and spiritual directors for the young people.
* The youth coordinators go for outreach, shared ministers in the pastoral activities.

\*\*\*\*\* The pastoral vocational plan for young people at the diocesan level is weak at the practical part. Verbally a lot noise is done. Therefore, not a lot is seen. Pastoral care workers involved with young people are few. The majority talks only but seem to be ignorant therefore I don’t see a lot planning experiences from the diocese.

13. How much time and in what manner do clergy and other formators provide for personal spiritual guidance?

**Answer:**

* Not often it’s how the person takes or accepts the teachings for personal guidance.
* Once or twice a year through instructions, running courses, and awareness.
* There’s should be much time given for the formators to provide personal and spiritual guidance.
* The time spent is not enough as an individual young person because the formators and the clergy they provide for personal guidance in groups and not as an individual.
* There is not enough time is given through sharing their experiences and also by encouraging each and every individual to share their problems to the clergy and other formators.

\*\*\*\*\*\* Formators and clergy take up meditations, retreats, counseling, adoration, etc. these are seen as a means for personal spiritual guidance. A lot of time is really needed. Some spend less time others more.

14. What initiatives and opportunities for formation are in place for those who provide pastoral vocational guidance?

**Answer:**

* The chances of knowing who you are, the qualities you have in you by the priest providing guidance.
* They want to help the ones who want to do pastoral/ vocational work.
* The understanding of the church doctrines, the laws or regulations through workshops, meeting and awareness.
* The opportunities in the Diocese like short or long term courses, workshops, meetings, and others.
* There a lot of opportunities and initiatives like awareness, workshops, retreats, reflections etc. for formation are not carried out. A lot of talk done but less work.

15. What personal guidance is offered in seminaries?

**Answer:**

* Studying the philosophy
* Takes up reflections and recollection
* Self-discovery, Self – evaluation and Personal guidance.
* The personal guidance is offered in seminaries is that they want to be honest and be patient.

**ASIA AND OCEANIA**

1. Why and how do religious gatherings by those who are non-Catholic exercise an attraction on young people?

**Answer:**

* To create that youthful zeal for the mission that compelled our founders to act so assertively. To play a key role around the world as an agent for transformation.
* Because they wanted to attract the young people so that they can join their religious gathering by their music, their songs, how they dance and even bribing money. One of their preaching is husband and wife attraction
* Some young people they do have interest in the view of the preparation in the church program taking place in the other denomination
* They attract the young people through marriage and through relationship because of the way they worship and the doctrines that they have.
* The religious gatherings of non – Catholics that attracts the young people is the type of music, the friendliness, the miracles performed, and the persuasive type of teaching, attitude and behavior.

b. In what way can the values of a local culture be combined with Christian teaching, while also giving importance to popular piety?

**Answer:**

* Educational programs engaged in public policy debates where there has been a clear impact on the lives of our brothers and sisters.
* In the value of a local culture, feasting is combined to the Christian teaching ( Youth Convention)
* Through marriage blessing with bride price
* The church can also take part in the local culture for example going for youth conventions and other occasions in the area taking place in connection with the celebration of the local culture of the people.
* Through the practices and experiences of the culture and Christian teaching but their values will remain the same.
* Church and culture should combine together to live peacefully and harmony.
* Local culture should be practiced according to the teaching of the church and the values of the culture remain.
* The values of sharing meals, caring for others, traditional marriage values be recognized by the church.

c. How is the language used in a young people’s world incorporated in the pastoral care of young people, especially in the media, sports and music?

**Answer:**

* English is the main language or some use non – verbal communications.
* In a young people’s world the language is abused in the media, sports, and music.
* In a way that the young people is honored and respected.
* It is used to attract young people for their own interest and choices in the social aspects and not for the spiritual side because misunderstanding. The use of language especially for the uneducated.
* The language is used was not good or abusive in order to influence their lives to join in with the rest and from there, they forget all about their spiritual beings. But those that are interested in the spiritual side, they used the good language.
* English should be spoken in the English speaking countries through social media.
* Sports commentators and gospel music.
* Language is abused because of mix language. Example: English, pidgin, local languages also influenced through mix marriages.
* The language is really of the digital world. As a result of gender equality, feminism is becoming strong. Young people are seen as future leader, but most social issues are said to be the cause of young people. The church tries to mold or shape all young people by initiating a lot of social and spiritual activities within the church. These do not conquer the majority it’s only a minority. Most young people spend time in sports, music and video or movies.