**Questionnaire –**

**Young People: Faith, Vocation and Discernment**

In preparation for the Synod, the following questionnaire needs to be answered.

Parish Youth Groups are to answer the questions and send them to the Diocesan Youth Coordinator. He will collate them and send it to me: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com, on or before 24th September, 2017. Each question needs to have 2 or a maximum of 3 bullet points.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Youth Coordinators to get a perception of young people in their Diocese. Answers need to reach me on or before 24th September, 2017.

The answers will be sent to Bp Pedro Baquero sdb, Deputy Bishop for Youth and Bp Rolando Santos CM, who will write out a Pastoral Letter on Youth.

Do what is possible within the given situation, but make sure you return the questionnaire by the above date. Hence, your involvement is of extreme importance.

Diocese: Mendi

Name of the youth coordinator/ chaplain/ animator Fr Robert Ablewicz MSF

Contact: email, mobile, … 72070022

Number of Youth Groups in the Diocese: Each parish (32) has youth groups

Date of questionnaire answered: 23 September 2017

Questions to be answered:

**2. Evaluating the Situation**

***a) Young People, the Church and Society***

*These questions refer both to young people who take part in Church programmes, 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?

* Through Catholic primary & secondary schools in our diocese
* Through pilgrimages and retreats
* Through activities like sports, music festivals, rallies etc…

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

* Challenges are: negative impacts of mobile phone technology (facebook, twitter, internet, drugs & alcohol addiction, used by leaders in political campaigns, leaving school & hanging around at home or towns, too much dependence on parents/guardians.
* Opportunities: young people are too quick to learn thus need good running of schools. Parents need to work hard to shape their moral lives.

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

* Rallies attracts them a lot because they love to be together and intermingle.
* They love more of active participation—less on passive activities like retreats or prayer meetings.

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

* Big celebrations like jubilee, church opening, school opening or haus sik opening.

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

* Free handouts like money, food, clothing, etc
* Few ask for spiritual things

1. What possibilities for participation exist in your country / countries for young people to take part in the life of the ecclesial community?

* Good, strong and stable Catholic Schools

1. How and in what manner is contact made with young people who do not frequent Church surroundings?

* Need to do an aggressive “reaching out” and family Visits regularly in parishes

***b) Pastoral Vocational Programmes for Young People***

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

* Many families discourage their sons and daughters to enter seminary or convent. They want them to get good education and employment to bring goodies and prestige to family and clan.

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

* Most schools stress on “information” on intellectual level, and not “formation” of whole personhood.

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

* Use digital devices to promote positive values and information via our diocesan website and facebook.

1. How can World Youth Days or other national or international events become a part of ordinary pastoral practice?

* Young people need to be aware of national or international youth events, so that they prepare in advance.
* Follow-up programs should be established, otherwise they get lost.

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

* Organize retreats, general awareness during youth gatherings, circulation of pamphlets.

***c) Pastoral Care Workers with Young People***

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

* Occasionally by priests and religious
* More often by lay people

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

* School visits and general awareness

15. What personal guidance is offered in seminaries?

**ASIA AND OCEANIA**

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

* By providing their needs like food, clothing, school fees, employment

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

* Most young people lost values of local culture, need more awareness to recapture

1. 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?

* Church need to understand them, instead of expecting young people to understand the church.

Thankyou.

Remember to send in your collated answers by 24th September, 2017.

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

Secretary for Social Communications and Youth

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