

## Formation

The delicate work of formation provided by the Church for all the faithful at different levels and stages of the faith journey is of paramount importance. The National Office for Vocation works with formation teams who are accompanying others and so;

- *The National Office for Vocation will continue to listen to vocations ministers to understand their needs for support and respond to those needs as best they can by providing resources and training where possible.*
- *The National Office for Vocation will endeavour to keep up to date with current trends in society and the Church in order to guide those ministers who seek advice.*

## Resources

Resources for promoting vocational discernment can be important tools for disseminating a common understanding of vocation.

- *The National Office for Vocation will continue to work particularly through websites and social media platforms so that as many people as possible will have easy access to information and support.*
- *The National Office for Vocation will continue to collate statistical information to monitor trends in newly ordained and consecrated religious vocations.*

### Contact us

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## Funding & Projects

The National Office for Vocation relies greatly on the generosity of donors in bringing to fruition its aspirations and special projects. Below are some of the projects that we are planning for 2020 - 2023. If you would like to make any financial contribution to support these projects, or would like more information, please do contact us.

- **International music competition 2021:**

This is our principle area of need for financial support. We need to raise thousands of pounds for...

- Website development £5,000
- Sponsorship for prizes
- Advertising & promotion

- **Flame 2022:**

- Flame 2019 cost us £3,000 for the stand space
- £594 for Display updating
- £600 for hand-out badges

- **World Youth Day (2023)**

This will be held in Portugal, we will need support for...

- Purchasing a display stand
- Promotional gifts to young visitors.



National Office  
for Vocation

*Helping people hear God's call*



# National Vocations Framework

# 2020-2023



The National Office for Vocation is an office working at the service of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales. It is situated within the department for Evangelisation and Discipleship.

**God, who calls us before we are formed in our mother's womb, chooses us and sends us, so that we in turn might make disciples of all nations.**

The importance of vocation is often underestimated in our society, especially in our culture of self-determination and choice.

**chosen** For a Christian, however, God initiates the relationship. Before anything else, the invitation of God to be in relationship with him takes first place. Then, from that filial relationship in Jesus Christ, **sent** we are sent. These are two essential characteristics of who we are.

The work of Vocations promotion builds upon these two characteristics. We help people hear God's Call and from there, help them discern where that Call is sending them. We are called as disciples of Jesus Son of God, and moved by the Holy **disciples** Spirit, to be husbands, wives, parents, friends, ordained ministers and consecrated brothers and sisters. From this foundation, we are sent out to bear fruit.

## Objectives:

1. To help people discover their vocational identity.
2. To support the Catholic Church in England & Wales nurture a Culture of Vocation.

### 1 To help people discover their vocational identity

#### Called to Holiness

We are called to be holy. Holiness is 'a calling that gives meaning to one's entire life journey' and prompts us to respond by conforming our lives to that of Jesus, our model and saviour. That is why we are called Christians. It is this meaning of our life that forms the basis of our Christian Identity. We are all called by God to be holy; 'For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight'.

- *Vocational accompaniment should therefore be founded on a spiritual itinerary aimed at deepening one's relationship with Christ, including the use of Sacred Scripture, Catholic practices and beliefs.*

#### Communion:

God is Trinity, a communion of persons. As we are made in the image of God, we too are made for communion. The life of each is bound up in the life of others, whether this relationship is through family, love or friendship. We are called to a love modelled on God's love, which is self-giving and sometimes a sacrifice. This means that any vocation will be a call to be in communion with the Church and with our brothers and sisters.

- *Vocational animation must therefore have a communal dimension. This includes community prayer, friendship and service.*
- *For those discerning ordained ministries, or some form of special consecration in the Church, human and psychological accompaniment should form part of their journey, so that they are best prepared for authentic communion.*

## Vocation / Call:

'The word "Vocation" is not outmoded.' To help people discover who God has called them to be should be a profoundly liberating experience, 'but it has to be seen in the context of the entire people of God, our preaching and catechesis, and above all our personal encounters with others, for these are the first step in our proclamation of the Gospel'.

It is true that bringing this to light can be an arduous passage, but to follow the example of Jesus our Lord is also the way of the cross. The challenge of vocations promotion today, lies greatly with the plethora of calls for our attention and the draw of our consumeristic culture. It is difficult to hear God's call. In our largely de-Christianised culture, we need to re-learn how to interpret the gentle whisper of God's call in our life.

Vocational accompaniment should be modelled on Jesus' own accompaniment. One example of this is in the Emmaus story. It is only in walking with Jesus, and hearing his word, that we can experience the living Christ in our lives and passionately serve Him and go out to share with others.

- *Pastoral plans for vocational ministries should therefore be structured on Jesus' model of accompaniment: Encounter – Walking with – Sending*
- *The National Office for Vocation will continue to work on making available signposts and guides, to help people hear and interpret the call of the Lord in their lives.*

### 2 To help the Catholic Church in England & Wales nurture a Culture of Vocation

#### Discernment

A person cannot follow God's will for them if they do not know what it is. To be a disciple, a person needs to discern that will. The National Office for Vocation has as its primary task, that of helping people discover the art of discernment.

- *The National Office for Vocation will therefore support structures and programmes that favour discernment.*