



Vocation

Pope Benedict's Hyde Park Vigil Address, 18 September 2010



About this resource

In his speeches and homilies Pope Benedict XVI left the Church in England and Wales a legacy of reading material for ongoing reflection and prayer. From November 2011 - October 2012 one sheet will be offered monthly to assist deepening our shared appreciation and understanding of what he said.

Home Mission Desk, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



'One of the Cardinal's [Blessed Newman's] best-loved meditations includes the words, "God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another" (Blessed John Henry Newman, *Meditations on Christian Doctrine*).

'...only Jesus knows what "definite service" he has in mind for you. Be open to his voice resounding in the depths of your heart: even now his heart is speaking to your heart. Christ has need of families to remind the world of the dignity of human love and the beauty of family life. He needs men and women who devote their lives to the noble task of education, tending the young and forming them in the ways of

the Gospel. He needs those who will consecrate their lives to the pursuit of perfect charity, following him in chastity, poverty and obedience, and serving him in the least of our brothers and sisters. He needs the powerful love of contemplative religious, who sustain the Church's witness and activity through their constant prayer. And he needs priests, good and holy priests, men who are willing to lay down their lives for their sheep. Ask our Lord what he has in mind for you! Ask him for the generosity to say "yes!"

Full text: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/Replay-the-Visit/Speeches/Speeches-18-September/The-Holy-Father-s-Hyde-Park-Vigil-Address>

FOR REFLECTION

God has created me to do Him some definite service,
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another,
I have my mission,
I may never know it in this life but I shall be told it in the next,
I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons, He has not created me for naught
I shall do good - I shall do His work
I shall be an angel of peace,

a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments,
Therefore I will trust Him whatever I am, I can never be thrown away... He knows what He is about.

(Extract, *Blessed John Henry Newman, Meditations on Christian Doctrine*). <http://www.dioceseofmenevia.org/index.php/vocations/>



NEW VOCATIONS FOR A
NEW EUROPE

‘...every vocation, as a stable and definitive choice of life, opens up in three directions: in relation to Christ every call is a "sign"; in relation to the Church it is a "ministry"; in relation to the world it is "mission" and witness to the Kingdom.

If "the Church, in Christ, is in the nature of a sacrament", then every vocation reveals the profound dynamic of the Trinitarian communion, the action of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as the event that makes those called be in Christ as new creatures modelled on Him.

Every vocation then is a sign, is a particular way of revealing the face of the Lord Jesus. "The love of Christ urges us on" (2 Cor 5, 14). In this way Jesus becomes the moving force and the decisive model of every response to God's appeals.

In relation to the Church every vocation is ministry, rooted in the pure gratuity of the gift. The call of God is a gift for the community, for the common good, in the dynamism of many ministerial services. This is possible in docility to the Spirit who makes the Church a "community of gifts"(42) and generates love in the heart of the Christian, not only as an ethic of love but also as profound structure of the person, called and enabled to live in relation

with others, in an attitude of service, according to the freedom of the Spirit.

In the end, every vocation, in relation to the world, is mission. It is life lived to the full because it is lived for others, like Jesus did, and therefore it is life-giving: "life generates life".(43) Hence the intrinsic participation of every vocation in the apostolate and mission of the Church is a seed of the Kingdom. Vocation and mission constitute two faces of the same prism. They define the gift and contribution of each person to God's plan, in the image and likeness of Jesus.

Every encounter or dialogue in the Gospel has a vocational significance: when Jesus walks the roads of Galilee He is always sent by the Father to call man to salvation and reveal to him the Father's plan. The Good News, the Gospel, is precisely this: the Father has called man through the Son in the Spirit, He has called him not only to life, but to redemption, and not only to a redemption merited by others, but to a redemption that involves him first of all in person, making him responsible for the salvation of others.

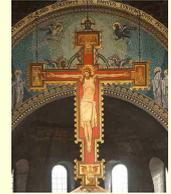
In this salvation, active and passive, received and shared, is contained the sense of every vocation; is contained the very sense of the Church, as a community of believers, saints and sinners, all "called" to participate in the same gift and responsibility. This is the Gospel of vocation.’

In Verbo tuo, 19c, 31. Full text: <http://www.vatican.va/>

Pause to re-read this extract and to reflect.

Image of God

‘The vocation of humanity is to show forth the image of God and to be transformed into the image of the Father's only Son.’



Catechism of the Catholic Church 1877

St John Vianney

St. John Vianney, Priest (Patron of priests) Feast day - August 4 Universally known as the "Cure of Ars)". His reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world. http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=399



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Build a culture of vocation in the Church in England and Wales

Promote the calls to specific vocations, including priesthood, the diaconate, marriage, the religious life and all other forms of consecrated life.

<http://www.ukvocation.org/about-us>