



‘Heart speaks to Heart’ - being a missionary and synodal diocese.

A Six-Week Course for the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia

WEEK 2: YOUTH AND RAISING UP LEADERS

Meeting young people in our youth work with them, in schools and chaplaincies, and on pilgrimages or World Youth Day, have been some of the most rewarding parts of my ministry these past three years. We need to develop opportunities to reach out to young people and provide them with solid accompaniment and formation. Young people are not only our future, but our present too.

The Church understands this particularly as building a culture of vocation. God has a dream in his heart for each person.

It has been really encouraging to see the development of our Emmaus Youth Mission, inviting young people across the Archdiocese into a real and deep relationship with Jesus. This work takes the very simple model that the Risen Jesus walks beside each young person. Our task is to walk with them and help them discover that He is at their side. Discipleship really begins when we realise that Jesus desires each of us individually. He calls us personally, to “Follow Him” (Mk 1:17). He enlightens our hearts with his loving gaze (Mk 10:21). I can still recall as a 17-year-old, experiencing deeply the overwhelming magnetic pull of Jesus’ love. That love gives meaning and orientation to our life. It makes possible a life of prayer and of service.

We want this for each young person so that they discover what dream God has for them. Some of these will be called to leadership in our Church, or discover their particular vocation, to marriage, to consecrated life, to priesthood. Among these, we pray particularly that more men, young and not so young, will discover their vocation to the diocesan priesthood among us, for we know our need of this particular service that all the baptised live out their vocation more fully.

For reflection (Week 2):

- 1. The first ‘pillar’ links ‘youth work’ and ‘vocation’ – why? Did you find that surprising? Why does it do so?**

ARCHBISHOP *of* CARDIFF-MENEVIA



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2. What does youth work look like in our parish – and does it resemble this vision?
3. How can we here help ‘each young person discover what dream God has for them’? Do we do this already? If not, does it seem a ‘daunting task’? What would be needed to make it happen here?