

VOCATION PROMOTION – CHERISHING OUR CALL!

Our ‘Province Apostolic Plan’ (PAP) sets Vocation Promotion as the top priority of our Province, and urges each of us to promote vocations with greater apostolic aggressivity. How have we fared? It is that time of the year when our attention is squarely focused on the numbers in our pre-novitiate and our novitiate.

Well, the question is: Should we focus on the numbers or should we evaluate our efforts in promoting vocations during the year that has gone by? It is not so much the time to evaluate the work of the vocation promoter or the vocation commission, but our individual efforts. How have I fared and what have I done?

Under the short-term plans of our PAP, each Province member is called to be an instrument in helping young minds and hearts to realize their vocation as God’s children. We are called to do so by helping youth to know more about the religious vocation and about the Society of Jesus. This call, which is given to every member of the Province, is in keeping with the invitation extended by Pope Francis to everyone. In *Christus Vivit* he stresses that all work with youth can be focused on accompanying the vocational processes to enable them to discern their call. Fr. General too insists that vocational guidance becomes a special characteristic of our ministry with the youth. This is also integral to the third UAP. Fr. General further states, ,I am convinced that the Lord is providing us with vocations and that this must be a committed work in every Province if our mission is to continue with vigour and confidence.

‘ Yes, it is the Lord who calls, but we have to do our part in helping individuals to discern. Our contribution is very much required. It should be common practice and everyone should be involved at various levels and in different ways. As Fr. General states, ,we should create a culture of vocation promotion in our Provinces.

‘ Finally, good example as happy and committed Jesuits and prayer are important aspects that encourage and inspire vocations. As we live and cherish our call with gratitude, I urge you to cultivate prayer for vocations in our communities and apostolic works. This, we can all do and we must do, without fail. May God continue to bless us with generous and committed youth to work in His vineyard.

- Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ
Provincial of Pune Jesuits