



POPE RESPONDS TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS AT PRE-SYNODAL MEETING

(5 questions from young people of different experiences and from different parts of the world. And 5 answers from Pope Francis ranging from the dignity of women to spiritual formation (26/03/2018))

How can young people help victims of human trafficking?

Pope Francis was clearly moved by the first question which addressed the reality of sex trafficking. He referred to the stories he has heard from trafficked women about the dangers they face trying to escape their captors. The Pope described this abuse, and even torture, as the “slavery of today”. The Pope went on to denounce the evil of exploiting women. He had especially strong words for baptized Catholics who pay for prostitutes. This is a “crime against humanity”, he said. Pope Francis called on young people to fight for the dignity of women and concluded by asking forgiveness for all the Catholics who take part in these “criminal acts”.

Where should a young person look for guidance in making life choices?

Pope Francis responded to a young French student seeking direction in his life, by suggesting we confide in those who possess wisdom, regardless of whether they are young or old. “The wise person”, he said, “is the one who is not scared of anything, but who knows how to listen and has the God-given gift of saying the right thing at the right time”. The Pope warned that when young people fail to find their “path of discernment”, they risk shutting themselves off. This can become like carrying a “cancer” inside, he said. And this risk weighing them down and taking away their freedom.

How can we teach young people to be open to their neighbour and to the transcendent?

Pope Francis said education should teach three basic languages: those of the head, the heart, and the hands. The language of the head, he said, means thinking well and learning concrete things. That of the heart means understanding feelings and sentiments. The language of the hands is making use of the gifts God has given us to create new things. The key, he said, is to use all three together. Pope Francis went on to criticize what he called the “isolating nature” of today’s digital, virtual world. Rather

than demonize technology, the Pope called it a richness that must be used well with a “concreteness that brings freedom”.

How is a young person preparing for the priesthood to respond to the complexities of present-day culture – like tattoos, for instance?

Pope Francis used this question from a young Ukrainian seminarian to reflect on the priest as a “witness to Christ”. Clericalism, on the contrary, said the Pope, is “one of the worst illnesses of the Church”, because it confuses the “paternal role of the priest” with the “managerial role of the boss”. He also spoke about the relationship between the priest and the community and how this relationship is compromised, and can be destroyed, by “gossip”. Responding specifically to the question of tattoos, Pope Francis recalled how different cultures have used them to distinguish and identify themselves, so “don’t be afraid of tattoos”, he said – but don’t exaggerate either. If anything, use the tattoo as a talking-point to begin a dialogue about what it signifies.

How can young women religious balance the dominant culture in society and the spiritual life in accomplishing their mission?

The Pope responded to this final question saying that an adequate formation throughout religious life needs to be built on four pillars: formation for an intellectual, communitarian, apostolic, and spiritual life. Having only a spiritual formation leads to psychological immaturity, he said. Even though this is often done to protect young religious from the world, Pope Francis said it is not protection, it is “deformation”. Those who have not received affective formation are the ones who have ended up doing evil. Allowing people to mature affectively is the only way to protect them.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

22 April 2018 is observed as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. I request all our Priests, Religious and the faithful to observe the day meaningfully so that more and more young people may be inspired to seriously think about vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

Anniversary of my Priestly Ordination

The Anniversary of my priestly Ordination is on **02 April, 2018**. Thank you very much for keeping me in your prayers. My feast day falls on **23 April, 2017** (the feast of St George). Please remember me in your prayers.

Ordination to Priesthood

Deacon Fredin Joseph will be ordained to the order of priesthood on Wednesday 4 April, 2018 at 10:30am in Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut. I cordially invite all the priests and Religious to participate in the ordination ceremony and pray for our deacon.

Reminders

You are kindly requested to remit Holy Childhood /Lenten Campaign (Collections of two Lenten Sundays) collections to the Curia by **30 April, 2018**.

Terra Sancta Collection

I would remind you to send the amount collected on Good Friday to the Curia before **30 April, 2018**, which will be, in turn, sent to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Rome for the needs of the Church in the Holy Land.

Diocesan Vocation Camp 2018

This year the Diocesan Vocation camp for the boys will be held from **24 April, 2018 - 26 April, 2018** at St. Paul's Minor Seminary, Marikunnu. Further details will be given by the Vocation Director, Rev. Fr Vimal Francis (9747125725) and Minor Seminary Rector Rev. Fr Simon Peter (8943498822). I request all the Priests and Religious to take keen interest in promoting vocations to the priesthood.

Seminarians' Villa 2018

The Major Seminarians of our diocese will have the Villa holidays at Vythiri from **15 May 2018 to 31 May 2018**. I welcome all the priests to Villa. Your presence will be a greater joy to our Brothers.

Ongoing Formation of the Clergy

The Clergy Commission has arranged a get together of the priests who were ordained after 2007. The Session starts at 4:00 pm on **16 May 2018** and ends at 1:00 pm on **17 May 2018** at Bishop's House. Kindly attend the sessions without fail.

Birthdays

April 07	: Fr Nithin Antony Baruva
08	: Fr Tony Gracious Nevez
14	: Fr Simon Peter
15	: Fr William Rajan
16	: Fr Thomas Panakkal
18	: Fr Francis Cheramanthuruthil
23	: Fr Jaison Kalathiparambil
24	: Fr Paul Andrews
25	: Fr Jenson Puthenveettil
30	: Fr Joseph K.S.

We join you dear Fathers in thanking the Lord for the gift of life and wish you a very happy Birthday and God's blessings. "*Ad Multos Annos*"

Seminarians' Formation Fund

1 St Joseph's Church, Malapuram	- Rs 25,000
2. Babyachan Mundathorath	- Rs 15,000
3. Rev Fr Jose Pulickathara	- Rs 1,00,000
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Total	1,40,000

BISHOP'S DIARY APRIL 2018

April 01		: Easter
April 02		: Engaged
April 03	10:30am	: Jubilee, Bethany Provincial House, Chevayur
	04:00pm	: St Xavier's College Committee Meeting, Bishop's House
April 04	10:30am	: Ordination of Deacon Fredin Joseph, Cathedral, Calicut
April 05	10:30am	: Jubilee, Christ the King Church, Eloor
April 06	12:00pm	: Paroppady
	03:30pm	: Meeting of Ministry Coordinators
April 07	12:00pm	: Baptism, Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut
April 08	11:45am	: St Joseph's Church, Calicut
April 09		: To Kalamassery
April 10	11:00am	: Charismatic Renewal Meeting, Kalamassery
April 11	10:00am	: Counselling Course, PMOC
April 12	11:00am	: Marriage, Palavayal
April 14	05:00pm	: 132 Years of Deepika Calicut, Tagore Hall, Calicut.
April 15	10:30am	: Feast Mass, Holy Cross Church, Poomala
April 16		: Meeting People
April 17	06:30pm	: Feast Mass, 50 th Jubilee of Assissi Bhavan, Malaparamba
April 18		: Thrissur
April 19	11:00am	: Marriage, Perinthalmanna
April 20		: Christeen Retreat, Navajyothis, Eranhipalam
April 21		: Leadership Camp, Navajyothis, Eranhipalam
April 22	05:00pm	: Feast Mass, Holy Redeemer Church, Marikunnu
April 23		: Engaged
April 24		: Engaged
April 25	10:00am	: Vocation Camp, St Paul's Minor Seminary, Marikunnu
April 28	10:00am	: Devagiri
	06:00pm	: KCYM Vanitha Camp, Thenhipalam
April 29		: Confirmation, Cathedral, Calicut
April 30	10:30am	: Marriage, Poomala