

# **Pope Francis Document on Youth, Discernment and Vocations –**

## **A Summary Discernment of Vocations:**

Pope Francis encourages all young people to discern their place in the world. Through Baptism, all people are called to live out a vocation to serve one another in Christ. These questions are wonderful to reflect on in discerning a vocation:

1. What is my purpose – what is the purpose of life?
2. Do I know myself?
3. Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart?
4. What are my strengths and weaknesses?
5. How can I serve others, the world and the Church?
6. Do I have the abilities to offer this service – and can these abilities develop more?

### **Listening like the Emmaus Journey**

Pope Francis -uses the Scripture image of Jesus walking alongside us; our calling is to listen carefully – look and listen. Jesus is in the streets – he gazes at us daily. Pope Francis also uses various other Biblical characters to explain discernment.

### **Some summary notes:**

- Christ is alive! – this is repeated several times by Pope Francis – do you truly believe this – really, really?
- Accompaniment of Young Adults – an investment in relationships and faith
- Youth Ministry programs – need to be about empowering young people with hope and mission
- “We are always missionaries” – new fields of mission in varied settings
- The importance of “testimonies” – sharing stories and being together to listen
- Moments of silence and Adoration; sharing Scripture and spiritual reflection
- Building a culture of encounter – communities of faith
- “Learn to swim against the tide.”
- Spending time with the elderly and the sick, the poor – outreach important
- Spiritual “Ecstasy” – do we experience these moments like St Paul?
- Dreams and decisions – Young people are encouraged to dream and understand discernment
- Vocations are pathways to revealing God’s greater glory