



As part of the preparation for the 2018 Synod of Bishops in Rome the following questions have been posed. To help us formulate a Diocesan response we would appreciate your help in answering them from your own experience. Thank you for your help.

1. Evaluating the Current Situation:

- a) In what ways does the Church listen to the lived situations of young people?
- b) What are the main challenges and most significant opportunities for young people today?
- c) What kinds and places of group gathering of young people do you feel have had a major success within the Church, and why?
- d) What kinds and places of group gatherings of young people do you feel have had a major success outside the Church, and why?
- e) What possibilities are you aware of for young people to participate in the life of the Church?
- f) In what ways is contact made with young people who do not frequent the Church?

2. Pastoral Vocational Programmes for Young People:

- a) How are families and communities involved in the vocational discernment of young people?
- b) How do schools, colleges, universities etc. contribute to young people's formation in vocational discernment?
- c) In what ways has the development of digital social media affected how you relate to young people.
- d) How can large national or international events like World Youth Day become a part of everyday pastoral programming?

3. Your Pastoral Care of Young People:

- a) How much time do you spend offering one-to-one spiritual guidance to young people?
- b) What programmes or initiatives have you taken part in or are aware of that offer formation and support for those involved in ministry to young people?
- c) What ways are offered to young people to look to the future with hope?
- d) Young people often 'protest' in response to feelings of isolation and exclusion from political, economic and social life – can you suggest ways in which this feeling can be transformed into participation and collaboration?
- e) At what level do relations between the generations still work? How can we renew these relationships?

4. Sharing your best practice:

- a) List the main types of pastoral activities, accompaniment and vocational discernment you are engaged in.
- b) Choose three activities you consider the most interesting and relevant to share with the universal Church, and for each activity briefly:
 - Describe the activity – who is involved, where does it take place, how?
 - Analyse the activity – what are the goals, its theoretical basis etc.?
 - Evaluate the activity – are goals achieved, what are the strengths and weaknesses, what are the consequences on the social, cultural and ecclesial levels? Why is activity important?

You are invited to add any further comments or responses to the Preparatory Document. The Diocese will collate a synthesis of the responses received from those engaged with young people and young people themselves. This will feed into the final response which will be prepared on behalf of all the Irish Dioceses by the Irish Bishops' Conference.

Thank you for taking the time to make a response.