

Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations
Congregation for Catholic Education
Vatican City

21 June 2012

Your Excellencies, Bishops Delegates
for Pastoral Ministry for Vocations,
Directors of Vocations,

On the occasion of the publication of the new document which was prepared by the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations:

*Pastoral Guidelines for Fostering
Vocations to Priestly Ministry*

the Congregation for Catholic Education will hold a press conference on 25 June at 11.30a.m. at the Press Office of the Holy See, Via della Conciliazione, 54. Those who receive this letter and are in Rome at the moment, are cordially invited to attend.

The press conference will be presided over by the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, His Eminence Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, the Secretary of the Dicastery, His Excellency Bishop Jean-Louis Brugès and the Under-Secretary Rev. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani.

During the press conference a DVD will be projected regarding the Convention held by the Congregation for Catholic Education between 3-5 November 2011 on the occasion of the celebration of the Seventieth anniversary of the institution of the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations with the Motu Proprio *Cum nobis* (4 November 1941) by Pope Pius XII.

Copies of the Document and its translations will be distributed to those present at the press conference and they can also make questions regarding the situation of vocations to the priesthood in the world today. Besides that, the new document and the DVD will be sent through the Apostolic Nunciatures to the Bishops' Conferences and to the Delegates of the National Centres for Vocations. The document and the translations will be also available on the web-site priestlyvocations.com.

Following, some information regarding the pastoral ministry for vocations that is going on in the world:

The Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations thanks all the delegates who work in the field of vocations who have sent their reports regarding the activities that have been organized in the local Churches for the promotion of priestly vocations from the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2011 to the vigil of the WDPV 2012. These

reports will enrich the resource of experiences in the field of vocations which will be shared later on with all the National Centres for vocations throughout the world.

The new Message of the Holy Father for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations which was celebrated on 29 April 2012, having as its theme: *Vocations, the gift of the Love of God*, has given life to a good number of projects that are being worked out during these months in the local Churches. This can be seen from the vocation material that has been sent to this Office from countries like, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Korea, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, and the United States of America.

Since the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Holy Father has referred to the theme of priestly vocations in His speeches which he delivered to different groups of people. Here are some of them: the Homily of the Mass with priestly ordinations and the Regina Caeli on 29 April, two speeches delivered to the Bishops of the United States of America on the occasion of their “ad limina” visits to the Holy See on 5 and 18 May, the speech during His Visit to the Sanctuary of *La Verna* on 13 May, the speech during the General Audience of 30 May, the Homily delivered during the Mid-day Prayer with the Clergy, the Seminarians and the Consecrated persons in Milan on 2 June and the speech delivered on the same day during the meeting of the Holy Father with the boys and girls who this year received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These texts can be found on the Vatican web-site.

Between the 28 June and 1 July, the European delegates the national Centres for vocations will come together in Maynooth, Ireland, for their annual meeting which has the theme: “*The Eucharist, the source of all vocations: communion, witness, mission*”.

United in the prayer to the Lord of the harvest, I take this opportunity of the publication of the new document, to wish you a blessed time in the Lord.

Yours in Christ

Msgr Francis Bonnici

e-mail vocation@cec.va

tel. 0039 06 69884315 fax 0039 06 69884172