

Pope Francis concludes this chapter by talking about “the vocation to special consecration.” “In discerning your vocation, do not dismiss the possibility of devoting yourself to God... Why not? You can be sure that, if you do recognize and follow a call from God, there you will find complete fulfillment.” (276)

Chapter nine: “Discernment”

The Pope recalls that: “Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend.” (279) “A particular form of discernment involves the effort to discover our own vocation. Since this is a very personal decision that others cannot make for us, it requires a certain degree of solitude and silence.” (283)

“A vocation, while a gift, will undoubtedly also be demanding. God’s gifts are interactive; to enjoy them we have to be ready to take risks.” (289)

Three sensitivities are required of those who help young people in their discernment. “The first kind of sensitivity is directed to the individual. It is a matter of listening to someone who is sharing his very self in what he says.” (292) “The second kind of sensitivity is marked by discernment. It tries to grasp exactly where grace or temptation is present.” (293) “The third kind of sensitivity is the ability to perceive what is driving the other person,” discerning “the direction in which that person truly wants to move.” (294) “When we listen to others in this way, at a certain moment we ourselves have to disappear in or-

der to let the other person follow the path he or she has discovered. We have to vanish as the Lord did from the sight of his disciples in Emmaus.” (296) We need “to encourage and accompany processes, without imposing our own roadmaps. For those processes have to do with persons who remain always unique and free. There are no easy recipes.” (297)

The exhortation concludes with “a wish” from Pope Francis: “Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, “attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith... And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us.”

© Copyright – Libreria Editrice Vaticana 2019

Greeting of Pope Francis to Participants in UNIV During the General Audience in St. Peter’s Square, The Vatican (April 17, 2019)

In his greetings at the end of his catechesis to the Spanish language pilgrims from Spain and Latin America, the Pope said: “Let us ask our Lord that the celebration of Easter not be just one more moment in our life, but that it give us impetus to live each day for the glory of God, confiding to the Father the trials that afflict us and finding in him the merciful embrace that animates us to forgive others. May God bless you!”

He also recalled in Italian to the participants in the 2019 UNIV gathering. “My dear young people, who are living these days of formation following the example of St. Josemaría, base your lives more and more on the values of the Faith on the model of Christ, transforming the world that surrounds you.”

© Copyright – Libreria Editrice Vaticana 2019