



YEAR OF THE YOUTH

(2019-2020)

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE YOUTH

THEME: “YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT”

My Dear Young People,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

The *Year of the Youth* is gift of God to the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani. It should likewise be seen as God’s gift to you individually and collectively. This graceful period is to help you to intensify your reflection on your identity, faith and vocation. This is an opportune time to reappropriate exact knowledge of the Catholic faith, so as to strengthen it, purify it, confirm it, and confess it, and to guide you to choose the right vocation in your journey of life.

Young People

Having been incorporated into the Church through baptism, it is important that you recognize constantly your identity and dignity as people called to holiness. Holy Mother, the Church appreciates and recognizes your special identity and role as young people in the propagation of faith. This notwithstanding, there is the need to undergo continuous catechesis for effective faith formation to intensify your apostolic activity for the renewal of the temporal order.

Faith

The journey of faith begins with baptism and lasts for a lifetime. This year is an opportunity for all young people to open more and more the door of faith (cf. Acts 14:27). It is a graceful and grace-filled period.

In the course of the year, you will have the opportunity to rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, lived and prayed. In his Apostolic Letter-*Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that knowledge of the content of faith is essential for giving one’s own assent to the faith. Giving assent implies that you believe and practise everything the Church teaches because God gave it to us (cf. *Porta Fidei*, No. 9).

Vocational Discernment

As you reflect deeply on your life and faith, it is my fervent hope that you would be well disposed and willing to embark on a sincere journey of vocational discernment. I entreat you to be open for guidance and spiritual direction in your quest to discern your vocation in your journey of faith. It is our duty as Shepherds of God's flock to accompany you to live joyful but responsible lives in order to build our Church and Communities and to renew the face of the world. Eventually, this celebration should prepare you to become authentic witnesses of the Gospel in this challenging world.

I invite all of you, young people, to consciously aspire to acquire a systematic knowledge of the content of your faith. For this purpose and to achieve this, I charge all the youth to peruse, scrutinize and carefully study the Catholic Catechism which is the required handbook for all the youth. The youth version of the Catholic Catechism is suitably designed and arranged for your study. Read the bible side by side with the Catholic Catechism and let these two books be your companions in the faith.

Let this year be a year of faith formation for the youth. Let the youth have a culture of studying and living our faith, be proud of it and share and spread the faith.

I wish to see the youth powered by a new Pentecost by the end of this year. The youth should be teaching the faith by word and action. That is, you should be convinced of the faith and in consequence spread the faith to all villages and communities in the Diocese by establishing churches where there is none. You need to say 'yes' to your faith and to your God. You need to say 'yes' to the dreams of God for your lives just as Abraham, Mary and Joseph, husband of Mary did (cf. Heb. 11:8, Lk.1:38)

I, therefore, call on all young people in the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani to celebrate this year of the youth in a worthy and fruitful manner. May you be transformed by the grace of the Holy Spirit and be encouraged that the light of the Spirit will always illumine your path into the way of truth.

With prayerful wishes and blessings, I remain,

✠MOST REV. MATTHEW KWASI GYAMFI

Bishop of Sunyani