

ARCHDIOCESE



OF BIRMINGHAM

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ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE  
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November 2016

Dear Headteacher

**Diocesan Conference for Young Men  
Leaders of Faith**

I am writing to ask for your assistance as a school leader within the Archdiocese in supporting a one-day conference that is being organised for young men between the ages of 14 and 18 years, which will be held at the National Motorcycle Museum on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The aim of this conference is to provide young men from the school communities of the Archdiocese of Birmingham with an opportunity to explore what it means to respond to the call of Christ in their lives. There will also be a special focus on the vocation to the priesthood and what it means to be a leader of faith.

During the conference the young people will be asked to consider a variety of important issues, including what it means to grow as a man of faith and to be able to discern the call of Christ in their own lives. The conference will help them to reflect on how they can discern and respond to this call amidst the challenges of today's society. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with inspiring and experienced facilitators from a range of local and international backgrounds – all sharing the witness of Christ in their lives as lived out through the special call to a vocation to priesthood.

The day will provide opportunities to encounter Christ in prayer, praise and worship, adoration, reconciliation, fellowship and talks and workshops.

The conference organisers ask you to select ten young men to represent your school at the conference, who then on returning to the school community, can share their experiences in practical ways. Suggestions and ideas for this initiative will be offered during the day itself.

I would be grateful if you could ask your RE subject leaders, lay chaplains and other staff with special responsibility for the Catholic life of our schools to promote this conference within the school community. I am sure that this conference will bring inspiration and renewed confidence to the young men who attend, helping them to discern the call of Christ in their lives and deepen their discipleship of him.

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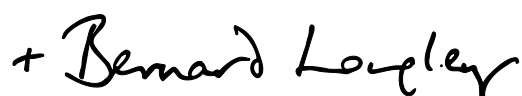
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Further information can be found on the diocesan vocations website – [www.vocations.org.uk](http://www.vocations.org.uk) or by contacting Ann-Christy John on 0121 321 5139 or at [ann\\_christy@vocations.org.uk](mailto:ann_christy@vocations.org.uk). You will also be receiving a printed pack shortly before Christmas with more promotional materials and information on how to book for the event.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to promote a culture of vocation within our school communities and be assured of my support and prayers.

With my prayers and very good wishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bernard Longley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a plus sign at the beginning.

✠Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham

Cc:  
Chair of Governors  
Heads of RE