



Greetings on this beautiful day from our new office. The sun is streaming in, giving us a real boost. This weekend, I was reminded of our theme for our annual conference, which we held in May. "A hope-filled Church, an opportunity for Religious and Youth to share their stories, their faith and their hopes for the future. Moving together towards a more participative response to the call of Christus Vivit." I was blessed to be part of the Youth 2000 Summer Retreat who gathered in Newbridge College. I have attended this retreat every year for the last 8 years, except during COVID, and this was by far the best experience I have had. Although the numbers were much lower this year, we still had almost 500 young people. The speakers and workshops were inspiring, and the conversations with the young people were amazing. Some good, insightful questions about religious life. We were so happy to have so many religious with us over the weekend who were able to engage in conversation and take part in the workshops with the young men and women present while sharing their own vocation story. Despite the prevailing negativity in our world today. I am filled with profound hope for the future of the church and religious life. It's not the church or religious life of the past, but a Church and Religious life that's in tune with the Spirit, moving forward with courage and wisdom. While the path ahead may not be crystal clear, the guiding presence of the Spirit is unmistakable. Prayer groups are springing up all over the country, and there is a need for more opportunities to engage in a discernment process.

Margaret Cartwright

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AGES 16-35 WWW.YOUTH2000.IE DONATION ONLY

YOUTH 20000
SUMMER FESTIVAL
2025

DOMINICAN COLLEGE
NEWBRIDGE
CO KILDARE
7TH - 10TH
AUGUST 2025

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HEAR AMAZING TALKS
MEET OTHER YOUNG
CATHOLICS
EXPLORE YOUR FAITH.
COME AND SEE.

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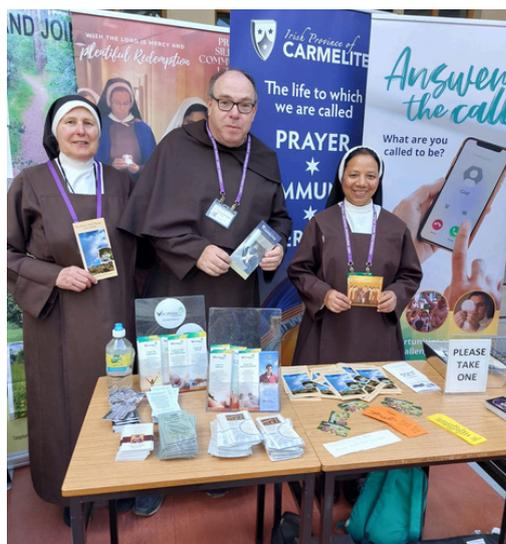
Members of Vocations Ireland spent a wonderful few days at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival in Newbridge. Some of them share with us about that experience.

This year Youth 2000 summer retreat was in Newbridge college, where normally we have Youth 2000 winter retreats. So, the first thing I noticed was the brightness and warmth in the place, instead of darkness and cold we normally experience when we go there for the winter retreats. There were over 400 young people on the day I attended the retreat (Saturday). There were also many religious and number of catholic organizations present at the retreat.

I had some conversations with young people about religious life and about Franciscan life. There was a beautiful and inspiring testimony by a Lebanese man who converted from Islam to Catholicism. He shared about God's grace and guidance he enjoyed during a time of suffering and confusion in his life before coming to the Catholic faith. I also attended a workshop on Jubilee year. The lady who gave the talk told how the Jubilee year is a year of great blessings and a time of four F's: forgiveness, freedom, family and fullness. So it was a wonderful experience to be at the retreat.



**Br Anthony
OFM Cap**



Sr Gwen - Carmelite Nun from New Ross with Fr Michael Troy O'Carroll and Sr Emy

My experience at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival 2025 was truly remarkable. I had the blessing of meeting countless young people who are sincerely searching for spiritual guidance and support not only in their faith but also in finding direction for their careers. It was inspiring to mingle with many individuals profoundly rooted in Catholicism, when faith radiated throughout every interaction. One of the most powerful aspects of the day was observing the life of prayer centered on the Eucharist. The continuous Eucharistic Adoration, followed by Holy Mass, created an atmosphere charged with reverence and devotion. Workshops were held which provided both intellectual and spiritual nourishment. From profound liturgy to heartfelt small group discussion, every element of the festival came together beautifully. Overall the experience was not only uplifting but also profoundly effective in deepening my sense of community, purpose and devotion. It was a day that affirmed that the presence of Christ truly lives on through the youthful faith of the Church.



Sr Jacinta Okechukwu MMM

I was only able to attend the Saturday program, but that single day left a lasting impression in my heart. From the moment I arrived, I felt the presence of the Lord so strongly, especially during Eucharistic Adoration. The reverence in the room was powerful, and seeing so many young people gathered to seek God filled me with hope and joy for a better future. Adoration was a time of deep peace and renewal. It felt as though my soul was being gently refreshed in God's presence.

A talk on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the woman of Sorrows, especially touched me. It reminded me that it is often in our pain and vulnerability that we encounter God most intimately. There is something truly sacred about knowing He draws near when we are at our weakest. One of the most moving moments of the day was a testimony shared by a man who found God while in a prison cell. His story gave me chills. Hearing how God's love reached him in a place of darkness was a powerful reminder that no situation is too broken for God to redeem. His grace truly knows no bounds.

The talk on Scripture also opened my eyes in a new way. I was reminded that the Word of God is alive, sharp, piercing, and full of truth. It stirred something deep within me and helped me realise how much wisdom and treasure are waiting to be discovered in His Word. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist was a highlight. The hall was alive with people of all ages, united in worship. The music lifted our hearts to heaven, and as we shared in the breaking of bread, I felt a profound sense of unity with the body of Christ. It was beautiful, sacred, and deeply fulfilling.

Even the mealtimes held their quiet meaning. Sitting with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and ages reminded me of the joyful diversity within the Church. We shared stories, smiles, and laughter, bonding over simple meals and heartfelt conversations. The workshops added depth and perspective to the day. One session focused on finding authenticity and discerning God's purpose for our lives. Sharing in a small group with three religious sisters from different congregations was truly inspiring. Their joy in serving the Lord made me reflect on my calling with fresh eyes. Seeing so many young people genuinely open to exploring God's plan for their lives was one of the greatest blessings of the day.

But what stood out the most was the spirit of unity. There were priests, sisters, brothers, and laypeople, young and old, from many nations and backgrounds. Yet, in those moments of prayer and worship, we were one. Most of us sat on the floor, shoulder to shoulder, praising God with one voice. It made me wonder, is this a taste of heaven? A beautiful gathering of hearts in perfect harmony, seeking the face of God.

As I look forward, I carry with me the peace, joy and sense of unity I found at the retreat. This retreat reminded me that the Church is alive, joyful, and full of hope. It renewed my spirit and encouraged my journey of faith. If you have never attended a Youth 2000 retreat, I encourage you to give it a try. You might just find what your soul has been searching for. May God continue to draw us all closer to His heart. Amen.



As we are getting fewer and fewer people attending in-person events, it becomes more costly to offer such workshops. Therefore I would suggest you might like to avail of some of the zoom workshops offered by NRVC.

If you wish to attend, please register and say you are a member of Vocations Ireland.

October 6-10, 2025, Virtual Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors

October 13 2025, Virtual Understanding the Lasting Impact of Childhood Trauma on Candidates for Religious Life workshop

October 14, 21, and 28, 2025 (only Tuesdays), Virtual Culture Matters: are we listening with today's discerners workshop

October 15-17, 2025, Virtual Behavioral Assessment 1 workshop

October 29-30, 2025, Virtual Ethical Issues in Candidate Assessment workshop

Registration for Fall Institute workshops are open in the online store on the NRVC website <https://nrvc.net/store>

If you have any difficulty in registering, I am happy to help.
Margaret



Congratulations to the Redemptistine Community who recently celebrated the First Profession of Sister Anusha Antony of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.
 More details on their website
<https://www.rednuns.com/post/first-profession-of-sr-anusha>



Most Rev. John Baptist Odama recently visited the AMRI offices. Archbishop Odama was the first Metropolitan Archbishop of Gulu, Uganda, serving the Archdiocese of Gulu and the Gulu Ecclesiastical Province for 25 years Margaret Cartwright from Vocations Ireland presented him with a copy of Gods call is Everywhere and a copy of Gerard Gallagher book Faith In search of Greater Glory in Sport.

FMM Sisters recent Pilgrimage of Hope in Ireland - here is short clip from Instagram of the highlights.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DM5nSHZtMTu/?utm_source=ig_web_button_native_share

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE
 A FRANCISCAN JOURNEY THROUGH DUBLIN



SATURDAY
2ND OF AUGUST
FREE EVENT
 Start 12.15pm
 Outside left of
 the Pro-Cathedral

All adults 18-35 welcome.
 Prayer-Song-Reflection-Joy-Fellowship
www.pilgrimageofhope.eu
franciscanpilgrimage@dublin@gmail.com
 Sign up before 25th July.

Contact us | Sr. Suzanne FMM 0872433155 | Francesco Giusti 0899651257

You can keep up to date with AMRI news on their website including recent press statements on different issues around the world
<https://www.amri.ie/news-blog/>

Upcoming Events

We are now preparing for the **Higher Options** Event in the RDS from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th September and the **National Ploughing Championships** in Tullamore from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th September.

These are two more worthwhile spaces for vocation and faith conversations. Don't miss out on this opportunity. If you wish to be part of these two events please contact me and let me know. Anne-Marie Whelan will coordinate the Ploughing Championships and will be holding a zoom session Monday 8th September for those planning to attend.

I will coordinate the Higher Options as they both take place the same week.

It is worth noting that there have been more positive stories on religious life slowly appearing in our media. The Kylemore Abbey series is well worth watching. You can watch this back on RTE Player if you missed it.

Please keep your stories of professions, new projects, celebrations, and pilgrimage events coming in so we can continue to share the good news of Religious life and continue to build a hope-filled church

Margaret



Why I joined New Ross Carmel written by Vandana

In the quiet depths of my soul I heard a gentle, persistent call like a divine whisper guiding me towards a life of deeper communion with God. The Carmelite path shaped by saints like St. Theresa of Avila and John of the cross resonated within me. Their wisdom on contemplative prayers and deep union with God helps me to seek Him wholeheartedly.

Choosing the cloistered life isn't an escape from the world but a deliberate movement toward its heart. Within the silence and simplicity of the cloister, I find space to listen before offering anything back.

This Journey isn't without its trials and moments of confronting my own limitations. Yet in those moments I'm comforted by the promise "Seek God wholeheartedly and you shall find Him.



VOCATIONS IRELAND WEBSITE

We are updating our directory of membership and would be grateful if EVERY congregation that has not yet returned their membership form could please do so before 31st August 2025.

A copy of the membership form is on the back page of this newsletter.



VOCATIONS IRELAND/AMRI MEMBERSHIPFORM 2025

AMRI/Vocations are now moving premises we require to update all our files and we would be grateful if you could complete the form below and return no later than 11th April 2025

Name of Congregation.....

Name of congregational leader.....

Please complete the table below. (We need the name of each vocation director and their team members)

NAME	TITLE ROLE e.g Sr, Br director, Fr team other member, promotor	POSTAL ADDRESS	EMAIL	MOBILE	WHATSAPP

Can your Congregation commit to remain with vocations Ireland for the next three year's. this is to allow us to have a stable membership, and which would help us with our strategic planning.

Can your congregation contribute to Vocation ministry the cost of 1 cup of coffee per day at the cost of €2.00 per cup thus 365x2.00 = €730 per year

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: info@vocationsireland.com or contact Margaret on 086 782 0149

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE TO OUR ONLINE BANK: BOI Ranelagh Branch A/C: 81984354 IBAN: IE65BOFI90017281984354 BIC BOFIE2D

Ref AC24 Contribution Please ensure you put NAME OF CONGREGATION ON LODGEMENT