

From the Summit Statute:

“National Vocation Summit seeks to build a true vocation culture in any Christ-centered community in the Church, building leadership teams of committed Vocation Apostles. We aspire that all the participants to the Summit leave with a greater dependence on the *Lord of the Harvest*, a renewed love for the Church, zeal for the common mission, and an ever-deeper hope in Christ and his grace for our lives.” (p. 3 of program)



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St John Paul II
New Vocations for a New Europe (1997)



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The Challenge of an “Antivocation culture”

“The decisions of our young people are chosen with no reference to the mystery or the transcendent, and perhaps, too, with little responsibility in relation to life, one's own and that of others, of life received as a gift to be generated in others. This is, in other words, a sensitivity and a mentality which risks producing a type of ***antivocational culture***. As if to say that in a Europe which is culturally complex and deprived of fixed points of reference, similar to a great *pantheon*, the prevalent anthropological model seems to be the “*man without vocation*”.

To Families and Educators

#5 "Filled with the same hope we address you *parents*, called by God to collaborate with His will in giving life, and you *educators*, teachers, catechists and promoters, called by God to collaborate in different ways in His plan of formation for life. We wish to tell you how much the Church appreciates your vocation, and how much it relies on your vocation to promote the vocations of your children and a real and ***proper vocational culture***."



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To those specifically in vocation ministry

“We know how difficult this proclamation is nowadays and how easy is the temptation to discouragement when the effort seems useless. "Vocations promotion, with respect to other ministries in the Christian community, is the most difficult and most delicate". However, we wish also to remember that there is nothing more stimulating than a witness to one's own vocation, which is so passionate as to make it contagious. Nothing is more logical or coherent than a vocation which generates other vocations and makes them completely "fathers" and "mothers".”

All are Vocation promoters

The so-called vocations crisis is above all related to the reticence of some witnesses which weakens the message. ***In a Church which is totally vocational, all are vocations promoters.*** Blessed are you, then, if you can express with your lives that to serve God is beautiful and fulfilling, and reveal that in Him, the Living one, is hidden the identity of every living person (cf *Col/3, 3*).



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Hope!

We are profoundly grateful to these brothers and sisters, as we are to all those believers who continue to testify that ***"hope is the secret of the Christian life and the breath which is absolutely necessary for the Church's mission, particularly vocations ministry..."*** Therefore, we must regenerate it in priests, educators, Christian families, religious families, secular institutes, in all those who must serve life with the new generations"



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Why is an annual conference necessary?

- ❑ Anti vocational culture immerses us
- ❑ “Loneliness” of Vocation ministry
- ❑ Need to refresh yourself and awaken this vision in others