

# CHAPTER EIGHT

CHRISTUS VIVIT- "VOCATION"

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*“The first thing we need to discern and discover is this: Jesus wants to be a friend to every young person” (250). Vocation is a call to missionary service to others, “for our life on earth reaches full stature when it becomes an offering” (254). “To respond to our vocation, we need to foster and develop all that we are. This has nothing to do with inventing ourselves or creating ourselves out of nothing. It has to do with finding our true selves in the light of God and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit” (257). “This ‘being there for others’ normally has to do with two basic issues: forming a new family and working” (258).*

*As for “love and family”, the Pope writes that: “Young people intensely feel the call to love; they dream of meeting the right person with whom they can form a family” (259). The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony “envelops this love in the grace of God; it roots it in God Himself” (260). God created us as sexual beings. He himself created sexuality, which is a marvellous gift. “It is not taboo”. It is a gift the Lord gives us. It has “two purposes: to love and to generate life. It is passion... True love is passionate” (261).*

*Pope Francis observes that the “increase of separations, divorces... can cause great suffering and a crisis of identity in young people. Sometimes they must take on responsibilities that are not proportioned to their age” (262). Despite all the difficulties, “it is worth your every effort to invest in the family; there you will find the best incentives to mature and the greatest joys to experience and share. Don’t let yourselves be robbed of a great love” (263).*

*“To think that nothing can be definitive is a deceptive lie... I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries, I ask you to swim against the tide” (264).*

*As for work, the Pope writes: “I ask young people not to expect to live without working, depending on others for help. This is not good, because work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment. In this sense, helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs” (269).*

*After noting how young people in the world of work experience forms of exclusion and marginalization (270), the Pope affirms with regard to youth unemployment: “This is a highly complex and sensitive issue that politics must make a priority, especially at present, when the speed of technological advances and the concern to reduce labour costs can lead quickly to the replacement of many jobs by machines” (271). To young people he says: “It is true that you cannot live without working, and that sometimes you have to accept whatever is available, but I ask you never to give up on your dreams, never completely bury a calling, and never accept defeat” (272).*

*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 fulfilment” (276).*

## Paragraph Highlight:



*"Your own personal vocation does not consist only in the work you do, though that is an expression of it. Your vocation is something more: it is a path guiding your many efforts and actions towards service to others. So in discerning your vocation, it is important to determine if you see in yourself the abilities needed to perform that specific service to society" (Christus Vivit 255).*

## Thoughts for your own reflection

How do we encourage our young people to truly consider their vocation?

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How do you stay grounded in your vocation and prioritize your true vocational calling?

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How can we better promote the vocation of priesthood or religious life?