



Vocations' Director Discalced Carmelites

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A Report on the Work of the Vocations' Director

It is now almost a year since I was appointed Vocations' Director for the English Region. I thought it opportune to let you know what I have been doing during this time.

Eighteen people have made serious enquiries. I have been to visit several of them in the places where they live and two have spent time with our community. Of those interested some were deemed to be unsuitable, others have ceased to make contact; there are currently two who have maintained contact, both are still at the discerning stage.

Most contacts come through social media, for this reason I have created a Facebook page, also Twitter: currently 231 followers. I have been working on our Vocations' website which we share with the Irish-Scottish Region. As some of you will know I have produced a vocation's video which has received over 1,300 views. I am currently studying how to create videos. At the same time I am creating an exhibition stand, similar to the one we used for St. Teresa of Avila's centenary. This can be put up in our centres, and travel with me when I visit other places.

Besides this kind of work I have written to most of the university chaplains in England and Wales, and followed up by phone calls. So far I have been able to visit five, including Oxford and Cambridge. I left my 'business card' with several of the students. I plan to visit more universities when the next academic year begins this autumn.

In December last year I attended a three-day seminar in Rome, at which there were 800 vocations' personnel from all over the world. This was called to prepare for the Synod of Bishops in October this year, which will focus on Youth. We were encouraged to get involved with pilgrimages as this can be a good source of vocations. For this reason in July I will accompany the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, then in October walk a section of the Camino. I could say more but want to keep this to one page. Please continue pray as a community for this important work. All of us are called to encourage vocations.

John McGowan

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