

## **Called to a Deeper Discipleship?** by Fr Richard Nesbitt

Are you ready to enter the Year of Faith on October 11<sup>th</sup>? What questions do you need to ask, what changes and commitments do you need to make in your life if this really is going to be a life-changing year for you?

Just as we know that if we want to experience a good Lent we need to be committed from the very first day, so I believe that the way we begin the Year of Faith will be crucial to how fruitful this year will be for us. In order to help us really enter whole-heartedly into the Year of Faith, I would like to invite you to a unique day of preparation and inspiration at **St Mary of the Angels, Bayswater on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am to 4pm.

This is a day for men and women of all ages and at all different stages of their faith journey to be inspired, encouraged and challenged. It is a day in which each one of us will be invited through talks and discussions, through silence and prayer to discern what our unique “key” might be which will help us to enter most fully through the door of the Year of Faith. In what definite ways will we each strive during this year to come closer to God, to deepen our understanding of the faith and also to witness to this faith in our everyday lives?

With the help of 4 young Catholics - a poet, an entrepreneur, an impassioned teacher of the theology of the body and a seminarian - we will spend the day listening, being entertained, asking questions, talking and eating and spending time in silence in order to reflect on how we can all step through this “door of faith” more bravely and to emerge more truly ourselves. Some may be inspired by the spark of the artistic process shared by Sarah de Nordwall – a bard with a bard school; others may be challenged by Nick, the family man with an unusual business, to pursue the social teaching of the Church more radically in their working lives. Others may be touched by the experience of Fiona Mansford who works for *Pure in Heart* and *Youth 2000* and has a passion to encourage the young with a fresh vision of their own great beauty, dignity and potential. Or you may discover a fresh urgency in the words of the young seminarian who will share the story of his call to the priesthood.

There will also be a “Faith Fair” - a chance to meet some of the many people in Westminster Diocese who are already living out their faith in different ways, bringing their own talents and dreams into the mix, from contemplatives to campaigners from artists to doctors. In listening to each other we become aware of our deepest desires and calling. As a Christian brother of ours said “Where your own deep gladness meets the world’s great need, there is your vocation to be found”.

But what is a vocation? And who is this God who calls us to His heart and into the heart of the world and all its needs? We are not called to become someone else, but to become ourselves. Christ’s is the call of one who knows exactly who we are because He made us. The Year of Faith is an opportunity to hear his call more clearly. I look forward to seeing you on October 6<sup>th</sup> as we prepare to enter together through the “door of faith” in search of a deeper meaning and fulfilment in our lives – a deeper discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Places are limited so to register for the *Called to a Deeper Discipleship?* event, email me at [richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk)

*Called to a Deeper Discipleship* is the first of a series of days of discernment during the Year of Faith. There will also be: *Called to the Priesthood?* (24 November); *Called to Marriage?* (1 December); *Called to Consecrated Life?* (2 February); *Called to the Diaconate?* (16 February); *Called to the Priesthood/Religious Life?* (27 April).