

# Priesthood attracting a new breed of young Catholic

Elena Curti

A NEW generation of serious young Catholics is expressing an interest in the priesthood and religious life and the Church must work harder to meet their pastoral needs, according to the vocation directors of England and Wales.

These Catholics, mainly in their teens and 20s, may have been the only pupils in their

class to attend Mass. Once at university they consciously shun secularism in favour of discovering more about their faith.

"They are swimming against the tide and asking themselves why they are doing it. They are more knowledgeable about their faith and more keen on explicit gospel teaching," said Fr Paul Embery, of the National Office for Vocation.

The new breed of young Catholic was

identified by delegates at the annual conference for Vocations Directors of Priesthood held at Womersley Seminary last week. Some were said to come from the new movements or chaplaincies. Others had undergone a significant conversion experience.

Fr Embery said that such young people were much in evidence at the Catholic Youth Services Oct06 event in Birmingham two weeks ago.

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Miss Margaret Lightbound

Curial Office, 2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

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