



invite you to **apply** for the

FOURTH NATIONAL SPEAKERS' TRAINING

NW England (Manchester), Sept-Nov 2013

Catholic Voices was originally created for the 2010 papal visit, when 23 'ordinary' Catholics received training in communications techniques and media skills, as well as in-depth briefings on the neuralgic issues behind most news stories concerning the Church. The 'Catholic Voices' appeared on more than 100 programmes at the time of the visit, and continue to give interviews on TV and radio. The project has led to books, similar projects abroad, the Catholic Voices 'Academy', regular communications workshops and talks, an authoritative blog (cvcomment.org) and the enthusiastic backing of bishops and broadcasters. The project has also spread abroad: there are now CV groups trained by the coordinators in Spain, Mexico, Ireland, Poland, Chile and the USA.

In the UK, the heart of the project remains our ambition to create, each year, a growing number of trained Catholic Voices (CVs) who, together with the existing teams, make themselves available to comment on radio and television. In autumn last year our third National Speakers' Training took place in Bristol and Devon over three weekends; the new team of 18 have joined the 23 CVs of 2010 and 16 CVs of 2011 in making media appearances (many of which are recorded and uploaded to our website, www.catholicvoices.org.uk). Last year, 2012, CVs did 93 radio and TV interviews on a huge range of topics. This year, we expect to do more, as more media come to us.

This year, the fourth National Speakers' Training will be held, following the same three-weekend format, in the north-west (Hawkstone Hall plus studios in Manchester). **We particularly hope to receive applications from the dioceses of Liverpool, Salford, Lancaster, Shrewsbury but we welcome applications from anywhere in England and Wales.** The training is free, but we ask participants to pay for their travel and accommodation costs if they are able (if not, we will subsidise).

We welcome applications from any practising, committed Catholics of all ages and walks of life; **who are available on all three training weekends and one of the interview dates**; who believe they may have a calling as a Catholic Voice; and who will offer themselves after the training for interviews on a variety of topics. (There are more details about this in our 'Notes for Applicants' sheet).

Dates: Interviews will be on **26th and 27th April in Manchester, and 29th April** in London. The **three residential weekends**, each lasting from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, will be: **20-22 September, 18-20 October, and 15-17 November.**

If you think you might like to be a CV, please email info@catholicvoices.org.uk for an **application form and our 'Notes for Applicants' sheet, and apply by 28 March 2013.** (Feel free also to contact us informally via the same email address).

Austen Ivereigh, Jack Valero, Kathleen Griffin (Coordinators)