

‘Do Whatever He Tells You’

DRAFT of A Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness

~

Archdiocese of Detroit

“Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life are first and foremost the fruit of constant contact with the living God and insistent prayer lifted up to the ‘Lord of the harvest’, whether in parish communities, in Christian families or in groups specifically devoted to prayer for vocations.” Pope Benedict XVI

The Office of Priestly Vocations, by virtue of this pastoral plan, endeavors to remind the people of God of the ‘new life’ they have received through the sacrament of baptism. By virtue of water and the Holy Spirit at baptism, we have become His sons and daughters and thus called to live a life of holiness. As a baptized member of the family of God, we are all imbued with a vocation, a calling.

In a particular way, this *Plan* will focus on providing the education, direction, and inspiration necessary to assist our priests, lay ministers, and all people of God to become ‘vocation directors’. This will afford everyone to be reminded of the important role they play in the *life of the Church*, and give our still discerning young people the best possible opportunity to consider, ‘Could God be calling me to live out my life as a child of God, my holiness, as a Priest or Consecrated Religious?’

The Office of Priestly Vocations hopes to accomplish this task in three specific ways:

- ✓ **Education-** *sharing the research and statistics presently at our disposal*
- ✓ **Direction-** *providing priests, parish staff, and laity with the ‘tools’*
- ✓ **Inspiration-** *reminding via theological reflection why this should be a priority*

The goal of the Office of Priestly Vocations is for this Pastoral Plan to be studied and implemented at every parish and school throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit. A true increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese of Detroit will only occur when all the people of God realize their vital role of both modeling their Catholic faith and then inviting young people to follow. How else will our youth be able to hear the call of the Lord or the challenge of our Blessed Mother, ‘to do whatever He tells you!’

Chapters for
Do Whatever He Tells You:
A Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness

I. Priest:

- Statistics
- Challenge- Leadership- Shepherd
- 'Procreative' Father
- Invitation

II. Catechist/Youth & Young Adult:

- Statistics
- Challenge – Bringing Vocation Awareness to our Young People
- Discipleship
- Invitation

III. Pastoral Staff:

- Connection with the parishioners
- Part of the 'Team'
- Parish programming (part of everything)
- Invitation

IV. People of God:

- Baptism- the 'heart of it all'
- What is a vocation- do I have one?
- Lead by example
- Invitation

V. Timeline

VI. Resources:

- Parish Vocation Committee Guide
- Website/Social Media
- Vatican Documents/Papal Letters/Decrees/Addresses
- Youth/Young Adult Documents
- USCCB Documents
- Books/Articles

Chapter IV: PEOPLE OF GOD

*The Second Vatican Council explicitly reminded us that “the duty of fostering vocations pertains to the whole Christian community, which should exercise it above all by a fully Christian life”
(Optatam Totius, 2)*

EDUCATION:

~Baptism – the ‘heart of it all’~

§1213 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.”

§1267 *Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ*

§1269 *Having become a member of the Church, the person baptized belongs no longer to himself, but to him who died and rose for us. From now on, he is called to be subject to others, to serve them in the communion of the Church, and to “obey and submit” to the Church’s leaders, holding them in respect and affection. Just as Baptism is the source of responsibilities and duties, the baptized person also enjoys rights within the Church: to receive the sacraments, to be nourished with the Word of God and to be sustained by the other spiritual helps of the Church.*

By our baptism, we receive a universal call to holiness, to follow God, according to His will and purpose. At Baptism we become a child of God; our life no longer becomes our own. At St. Paul writes:

...yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up of for me. Gal 2:20

~What is a vocation – do I have one?~

Vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare* which means “a calling.” At Baptism each one of us receives a vocation. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches:

- *Vocation is the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (§§ 1, 358, 1700).*
- *Christ calls the faithful to the perfection of holiness (§825).*
- *The vocation of the laity consists in seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will (§ 898).*

- *Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. §§ 873; 931).*

As people of God we need to realize that the dynamic of all vocations begins at the moment of Baptism; therefore we are all charged to take up our responsibility, our vocation, for the sake of the Kingdom and the Church. As we enter adulthood, we need to listen to the Lord and see what it is he is asking of us.

The “call” that comes to us at Baptism is unique and lived out in many different ways as we strive to respond and lay down our lives in service to Christ and the Church. Most will be called to marriage and within marriage, the diaconate; some will remain single; however, others will be called by God to live out their holiness/vocation as a priest, or religious sister or brother.

~Lead by example~

As disciples of Christ each one is called upon to use the unique gifts and talents given to us by God and with charity of heart put them to the service of the Church and one another. Fostering vocations is the duty of the entire Christian community, and this is done first and foremost through living a full Christian life.

Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God, CCC §2226. The family is the “seedbed of vocations”; thus parents become the first instructors of their children as to the meaning of what is a vocation by becoming living witnesses of their marital vows with acts of faith, hope and charity. The Church, therefore, should work hard to make the local church (parish) more family-centered and a source of support for couples and families in their everyday lives.

Catechists supplement what is taught in the home and assist with the responsibility of forming our young people by imparting the teachings of the Church and encouraging them to be open to God’s divine call.

Members of every parish, as disciples of Christ, also witness to our youth to follow God’s call by the dynamics manifested in the parish as a community of prayer, piety, holiness and charity.

All priests are called upon to be “apostolically zealous to foster vocations as much as possible...” and it is “for the bishops...to stimulate their people to foster vocations and to coordinate resources and efforts.” (*Optatam Totius II.2*)

~Invitation~

Vocations are a gift from God to the individual; but the people of God need to do their part to request them. The soil for vocations is prepared at home and in the parish through good catechesis and by the living examples of faith; but, if the seeds of vocations to the priesthood and religious life are not planted in the minds and hearts of the faithful when they are young, those prospective vocations may never mature and become harvested.

All the faithful should be encouraging of those among them who manifest the qualities that would indicate God may be calling them to the priesthood or religious life. The values we look for in individuals who are about to become spouses are exactly the same

for those considering the priesthood and religious life: love of God; love of family; a desire to grow in holiness; service to God and neighbor; selflessness; an active prayer life; respect for others; participation in the Eucharist, actively and regularly; ability to make a commitment.

Praying for vocations is essential! :

Jesus wanted to teach us that vocations in the church do not come by chance, neither by themselves, nor can we make them out of human efforts only. They come to us from the mercy of God. If we do not pray to obtain them, they will not be given us. -Blessed Hannibal DiFrancia-

When we see someone whom we think may have a calling to the ordained or religious life, all we need to do is ask “have you ever thought about becoming a priest?”; “have you ever thought about being a religious sister or brother?”; “have you ever thought about becoming a deacon?”

DIRECTION:

- ✓ All the faithful need to become educated in the language of vocations by becoming familiar with the terminology.
- ✓ Prayer is critical:
 - All people of the diocese need to pray for an increase of vocations.
 - Every Mass should include a petition for an increase in vocations especially to the priesthood and religious life
 - Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament praying for vocations or as a petition with parish prayer groups.
 - Families should pray for an increase of priestly or religious vocations at home.
 - Participate in the Traveling Chalice or Cross program.
 - Attend a Holy Hour or Mass for vocations as a family when available in the parish, vicariate or region.
- ✓ Parents need to acknowledge that children are gifts from God and they should be willing to allow God to direct the lives of their children in whatever path He may be calling them to follow.
 - Encourage their children to participate in age appropriate parish ministries, altar server, lector, usher, or EME.
 - Ensure proper catechesis about vocations is being taught at home, in the parish school or with the catechetical programs.
- ✓ Form a Parish Vocation Committee to guide and direct the efforts of the parish in fostering vocations
- ✓ National and World Vocation events should be acknowledged and celebrated at home, in the school and in the parish

INSPIRATION:

Listen to the invitation of Jesus: "Come and see". Give your witness to Christ in the ecclesial community, according to the totally personal and unrepeatable plan which God has for you. Let the Holy Spirit, who has been poured into your hearts, guide you to the truth and make you witnesses to authentic freedom and love. Do not let yourselves be overwhelmed by easy and fallacious myths of fleeting human success and riches. On the contrary, do not be afraid to follow the demanding and courageous paths of charity and generous commitment.

Blessed John Paul II, 1998

RESOURCES:

- www.detroitpriest.com (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- www.foryourvocation.org (USCCB Vocations)
- <http://cara.georgetown.edu> (Center for Applied Research Apostolate)
- *Vocation Committee Handbook* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- *Vocations Reference Guide* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- *Let the Children Come* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations – lesson plans for vocations, grades K-8)
- *A Guide for Parents to Nurture Vocations* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations).
- *Be Not Afraid* – (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations – activities for youth and young adult ministries)

Websites for the Family

- Catholic Families: www.catholicfamilies.org
- Domestic Church: www.domestic-church.com
- Home Faith: www.homefaith.com
- Apostolate for Family Consecration: www.familyland.org
- Mass times when on vacation: www.masstimes.org
- Catholic Exchange: www.catholicexchange.com
- Family Vocation Ministries: www.familyvocations.org



Archdiocese of Detroit

PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE GUIDE [DRAFT]

OFFICE OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS
2701 Chicago Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48206
www.detroitpriest.com
313-237-5875

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I. PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parish Vocation Committee (PVC) is to assist the parish community in fulfilling and advancing the mission of fostering vocations, reminding parish members to respond to God's call in their lives, especially to ordained ministry and consecrated life. The Parish Vocation Committee will take the lead in shepherding the whole parish through initiatives of prayer, promotion, mentoring and invitation, which are organized and promoted throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit by the Office of Priestly Vocations.

FUNCTIONS

- ◆ The Parish Vocation Committee relates to the Parish Pastoral Council as a recommended committee. This Committee also should take its direction from the Archdiocesan Office of Priestly Vocations and its current initiatives and programs that are established for implementation in the parishes and schools.
- ◆ The principal activity of this Committee is vocational awareness ministry. Committee members will promote and advertise vocations in the parish in a variety of ways, including a parish campaign of prayer, posters, bulletin articles, prayers of the faithful, speakers that can be provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations, etc. Members of the PVC should attend workshops offered by the Office of Priestly Vocations and seek to stay informed about vocation trends and programs offered.
- ◆ The Parish Vocation Committee will monitor whether the vocation resource materials provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations and sent to every parish, religious education program and school are being implemented, especially during *National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Priesthood Sunday, World Day for Consecrated Life* and other special dates designated for vocations.
- ◆ The Committee will seek input from the parish to identify potential candidates for priesthood and religious life and will help the parish extend a personal invitation to them to consider that vocation. Members should be aware of events sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Priestly Vocation such as the *Evening Prayer/Dinner with the Archbishop, Discernment Weekends/Overnights, Day of Discernment; Jr./High School Vocation Awareness Days* and *Come and See Weekends*. The PVC members should also be aware of discernment events sponsored by various religious orders present in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

STRUCTURE

The Parish Vocation Committee should draw its membership from all dimensions of parish life. It is essential to receive input and support from the Pastor and members of the pastoral team/staff. If possible a priest, deacon or consecrated sister or brother should be a part of the committee. Persons who take to heart the Church's need for holy priests and religious should be invited, along with parents and youth who sense this important concern for the future of the Church. The Committee should identify its own chair and spokesperson. A good number would be 5-7 members.

II. STEPS IN FORMING A PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE

1. **Understand the reasons for forming the Parish Vocation Committee:**
 - a. Canon Law 233 §1. *The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently. This duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and in a special way, priests, particularly pastors.*
 - b. Forming a Parish Vocation Committee and promoting vocations is part of the Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Detroit and important for the vibrancy and future of the Church.

2. **Get Organized:**
 - a. Study the chapter on Vocations from the Archdiocese of Detroit *Together in Faith* Pastoral Plan.
 - b. Study the *'Do As He Tells You'* Pastoral Plan for Vocations provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations.
 - c. Meet with the pastor to discuss the responsibility of the Parish for promoting vocations and the need to form a Parish Vocation Committee to implement the goals of the Pastoral Plan and ongoing vocation awareness.

3. **Identify People to Join the Committee**
 - a. Review the following attributes of a PVC member and invite individuals to the first meeting;
 - 1) Has a passion for the promotion of Church vocations
 - 2) Is willing to be present and support parish vocation events
 - 3) Is open to on-going personal formation in vocations awareness
 - 4) Is willing to pray on a regular basis for vocations
 - b. Reach out to people in multiple ways
 - c. Recommended size of the committee is between 5-7 members.
 - d. Suggested members:
 - 1) Parents or relatives of priests, religious or seminarians;
 - 2) Religious sisters, brothers or priests who work or are members of the parish;
 - 3) Members of Serra Club;
 - 4) Members of Knights of Columbus;
 - 5) Parishioners who serve the parish as Lectors, EME's, catechists, or are involved with youth or young adult ministry;
 - 6) Interested parishioners

4. **Inform the parish about the work of the Parish Vocation Committee**
 - a. Place an article in the bulletin about the new Parish Vocation Committee;
 - b. Speak at each Mass on a given weekend to inform the parish about the new committee and invite people to join.
 - c. Display information about the committee in a prominent place in the parish.

5. **At the first meetings:**

- a. Select a chairperson
- b. Study the following three documents:
 - 1) *Archdiocese of Detroit "Do As He Tells You" Pastoral Plan for Vocations;*
 - 2) The chapter on vocations from the *AOD Together in Faith Pastoral Plan;* and
 - 3) The *Parish Vocation Committee Guide*
- c. Establish goals and objectives for the year.
- d. Look to simply implement and/or promote the vocations programs sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations.

III. PRESENTATION BY PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 6:8 – “Then I hear the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” ‘Here I am,” I said; “send me!”

Good morning/evening! My name is _____. I am a member of the newly formed Parish Vocation Committee in our parish.

Every parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit is being asked to form a vocation committee to make fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life a priority in the AOD.

Jesus said “The harvest is abundant, the laborers are few!” If we do not strive to help others hear and answer God’s call in their lives now, than we will have no one to blame but ourselves when we no longer have priests to provide the sacraments, nor religious sisters and brothers to serve the needs of our Church. God has not stopped calling, rather it is the people of God who have chosen to stop listening. We can change this; we must change this!

I invite you today to respond as Isaiah did “Here I am, send me” and prayerfully consider joining our newly formed Parish Vocations Committee and our effort to promote, nurture and increase vocations awareness in our parish and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The primary purpose of the Parish Vocation Committee is to assist the parish community in fulfilling and advancing its mission of fostering vocations, reminding us all to respond to God’s call in our lives, especially if God is calling any of us to the ordained ministry or consecrated life. The Parish Vocation Committee will take the lead in shepherding the whole parish through initiatives of prayer, promotion, mentoring and invitation.

Please pray for the success of this committee and to pray for an increase in vocations every day. If we become the persistent widows and storm the gates of heaven with our petitions, surely our merciful God will hear and answer us.

If you have any questions or wish to sign up for our committee, I will be available in the Gathering Space (vestibule) after Mass. Thank you and God bless.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE

Can. 233 §1 The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently. This duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and, in a special way, priests, particularly pastors. Diocesan bishops, who most especially are to be concerned for promoting vocations, are to teach the people entrusted to them of the importance of the sacred ministry and of the need for ministers in the Church and are to encourage and support endeavors to foster vocations, especially by means of projects established for that purpose.

- The Parish Vocation Committee (PVC) is primarily responsible for fostering vocation awareness in the parish. This will be accomplished through education, mentoring, prayer and invitation and the implementation of the programs from the Office of Priestly Vocations.
- Suggested size of the committee is between 5 - 7 members; consisting, when possible, of parishioners, priests, lay and religious, teachers/catechists, parents, seniors, and youth to ensure the plan touches all members of the parish family.
- Written goals and objectives, agreed-upon committee assignments among members and a written calendar of events will make the work of the committee more effective.
- Promotion of vocations events and planning from the Office of Priestly Vocations is crucial.
- The PVC should keep a permanent file on committee activities; including minutes, correspondence, copies of planned events as well as information and resources from the Office of Priestly Vocations and religious communities.
- The Pastor should always be informed and included in the planning and vision set by the Parish Vocation Committee.
- Members of the PVC should attend the annual Vocations Convocation hosted by the Office of Priestly Vocations and be aware and supportive of vocation activities in the vicariate, region and archdiocese.
- Members of the PVC should work to create a pro-vocations environment in the parish.
- Individual committee members should be willing to pray daily for vocations; offer support and encouragement to priests and religious within the parish; and accept and carry out assigned tasks and to report on the progress of assigned committee work.
- Members of the Parish Vocations Committee should always be looking for new members from the parish community and invite them to join.

V. 20 SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE PARISH VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Encourage a parish-wide *Campaign of Prayer* for vocations:
 - ◆ Pray for an increase in vocations at every Mass.
 - ◆ Suggest that parish prayer groups and individuals include prayers for vocations in their prayers; including seniors and those who may be shut-in and unable to come to the parish.
 - ◆ Organize a Holy Hour and/or Mass for Vocations at the parish, and/or assist organizing one at the vicariate or regional level.
 - ◆ Place a sign (with permission) in the Eucharistic Chapel requesting prayers for vocations.
 - ◆ Encourage prayers for vocations in the family, in the parish schools and religious education programs.
2. Work with the Bulletin Editor to ensure Vocation Bulletin Announcements and vocation events sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations are listed in parish bulletin or newsletter.
3. Sponsor a vocation discernment evening for the parish youth; which may include hosting a dinner and inviting young people to have dinner with a priest or religious to discuss vocations.
4. Encourage the pastor and or deacon to preach on vocations.
5. Network with the Regional Vocation Coordinator and/or Vicariate Vocation Committees.
6. Make sure the parish and vicariate bulletins and newsletters contain vocations information sent from the Office of Priestly Vocations.
7. Coordinate activities in conjunction with *National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day of Prayer for Vocations* and *World Day for Consecrated Life and Priesthood Sunday*.
8. Promote vocation discernment events hosted by the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Priestly Vocations: *High School Vocation Day, Discernment Overnight or Weekend; or Day of Discernment with the Archbishop*.
9. Encourage your pastor to invite men in the parish who may be called to the priesthood to attend the *Evening Prayer/Dinner with the Archbishop*.
10. Be aware of and promote discernment events hosted by religious orders in the archdiocese and encourage and invite women who may be called to the religious life to attend
11. Work with the parish Youth and Young Adult Minister, DRE and School Principal to have special programs on vocations.
12. Collaborate with the SERRA Club or Knights of Columbus in their vocation outreach programs.
13. Start a Traveling Vocations Chalice or Cross program in the parish.
14. Celebrate Priesthood Sunday in the parish as well as - ordination anniversaries, feast days and birthdays of priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and individuals in religious formation from the parish.
15. Create a vocations corner/kiosk/bulletin board in the parish; keep it supplied with posters, prayers, brochures and information about priesthood, diaconate, religious communities, seminarians, etc.

16. Prepare a calendar that includes world, national, archdiocesan, regional, vicariate and parish vocation events and publish it in the parish; make sure vocation events from the Office of Priestly Vocations are included.
17. Collaborate with other parish committees, organizations, to promote vocations.
18. Give a short presentation at the end of all Masses on a particular Sunday, briefly explaining the vision of PVC and inviting parishioners to support vocations efforts.
19. Be familiar with and make available vocation resources to the parish, schools and religious education programs.
20. Encourage those who may have a calling to the priesthood or religious life to respond!

VI. UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES IN VOCATION AWARENESS

- ❖ The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, which means a calling.
Vocation is the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (CCC§§ 1, 358, 1700).
- ❖ Each of us is called by God to a particular vocation; this call is rooted in Baptism, and is a way of participating in the mission of Jesus.
- ❖ God has not stopped calling the faithful to hear and respond to His plan for them. Most will be called to live out their holiness in marriage, some will be called to the single life or in community as religious brothers and sisters, and some will be called to the ordained life as priests or deacons.
- ❖ Sisters, brothers, deacons and priests are ordinary people who desire to serve the Church by dedicated their entire lives to the service of the Church.
- ❖ Personal invitation continues to be the main reason an individual considers the call to religious life or the priesthood.
- ❖ Terminology related to Church ministry and vocations needs to be properly taught in the family, parish, religious education programs and Catholic schools.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of every Christian to foster vocations; especially to the priesthood and religious life.
- ❖ *The ability to foster vocations is a hallmark of the vitality of a Church.*
–Pope Benedict XVI–
- ❖ If we wish our young people to hear and respond to God’s call in their lives we must teach them to pray:
Prayer itself, born in Catholic families, nurtured by programs of Christian formation, strengthened by the grace of the sacraments, is the first means by which we come to know the Lord’s will for our lives. To the extent that we teach young people to pray, and to pray well, we will be cooperating with God’s call. Programs, plans and projects have their place; but the

discernment of a vocation is above all the fruit of an intimate dialogue between the Lord and his disciples. Young people, if they know how to pray, can be trusted to know what to do with God's call. -Pope Benedict XVI -

VII: RESOURCES

- AOD, Office of Priestly Vocations Materials:
 - *A Guide for Parents to Nurture Vocations*
 - *Be Not Afraid* – (Vocation activities for youth and young adult ministries) Available December 2011.
 - *Let the Children Come* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations – lesson plans for vocations, grades K-8) Available December 2011
 - *New Vocation Committee Packet*
 - *Parish Vocation Committee Guide*
 - *Vocations Reference Guide*

- Website/Social Media
 - www.detroitpriest.com (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
 - www.foryourvocation.org (USCCB Vocations)
 - www.facebook.com (AOD go to *Office of Priestly Vocations – Archdiocese of Detroit*)
 - <http://cara.georgetown.edu> (Center for Applied Research Apostolate)
 - *Vocations Resource Guide* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
 - www.vocation-network.org **Vision Guide:** Comprehensive website from the National Religious Vocation Conference with articles on prayer and discernment and references to hundreds of religious orders, also in Spanish.

- Websites for the Family
 - *Catholic Families:* www.catholicfamilies.org
CatholicFamilies.org is committed to the traditional faith of the Catholic Church.
 - *Domestic Church:* www.domestic-church.com
This is a family apostolate that provides very good links to information, activities and articles about being a Catholic family.
 - *Home Faith:* www.homefaith.com
Published by the Claretians, this website is devoted to nurturing spirituality in Catholic families.

- *Apostolate for Family Consecration*: www.familyland.org
The Apostolate for Family Consecration was founded to simultaneously transform families and parishes; and to nourish families through the Catholic Faith in the Eucharistic and Marian Spirit of Blessed John Paul II.
 - *Mass times when on vacation*: www.masstimes.org
Mass Times was developed in 1994, to help traveling Catholics in the USA find a nearby church with a schedule of religious services.
 - *Catholic Exchange*: www.catholicexchange.com
Catholic Exchange is a non-profit media organization that seeks to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ as proclaimed by the Catholic Church to the world through the modern tools of mass communication. Inspired by Pope John Paul II's call for a "Springtime of a New Evangelization," and in faithfulness to Pope Benedict XVI, we strive to "put out into the deep" a relevant response to the need for greater catechesis and revival of the lay faithful.
 - *Family Vocation Ministries*: www.familyvocations.org
Family Vocation Ministries is a non-profit organization founded for the purpose of promoting and praying for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life by sanctifying family life.
- Vatican Documents/Papal Letters/Decrees/Addresses
- *The Basic Sixteen Documents, Vatican Council II, Constitutions Decrees, Declarations, Decree on the Training of Priests, Optatum Totius*, ed. Austin Flannery, O.P., Costello Publishing, 1996
 - Documents on Papal Letters, Decrees and Addresses may be found at the Vatican website: www.vatican.va
- USCCB materials on vocations found at: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vc
- Books/Articles
- *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*, ed. John P. Beal, James, A. Coriden, Thomas J. Green, Paulist Press, 2000.
 - *Lend your Own Voice to Christ: A Helpful Guide for Priests*, by Fr. Thomas Richter, NCDVD, 2010
 - *The Meaning of Vocation: In the Words of John Paul II*, Scepter Publications, 1997.
 - *The National Strategy: "A Future Full of Hope", A Natural Plan for Vocations*, USCCB Committee of Vocations, Washington D.C., 2003.
 - *To Save a Thousand Souls: Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood*, by Fr. Brett Brannen, Vianney Vocations, 2010.

AOD TOGETHER IN FAITH: VOCATIONS

Vision: Given that “the duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently” and that “this duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and, in a special way, priests, particularly pastors”, (Canon 233 §1); the vision of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be to create a vocations friendly environment at every level so that those who are called by God, especially vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life, may hear and respond.

Definition of Vocation:

The word “vocation” comes from the Latin *vocare* which means “a calling.” The people of God, have received “new life “ through the Sacrament of Baptism; and as baptized members of the family of God, are imbued with a vocation, a calling to live a life of holiness, and to follow God according to His will and purpose. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines vocation as:

- *... the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (§§ 1, 358, 1700).*
- *The vocation of the laity consists in seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will (§ 898).*
- *Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. §§ 873; 931).*

Goal 1: To properly educate, direct and inspire the faithful of their duty and responsibility to foster vocations at home, in the parish, vicariate and the region by the implementation of a Pastoral Plan for Vocations

Goal 2: To create Parish Vocation Committees in every parish of the Archdiocese of Detroit to assist in the mission of fostering vocations.

Goal 3: To give priority to fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life at every level of the archdiocese.

TO RESPOND TO THIS VISION AND MEET THESE GOALS

It is recommended that Families and Individuals will:

1. Become better educated to the meaning of vocation and to be open to following God's will for their lives.
2. Pray for an increase in Church vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life.
3. Participate in vocation awareness events or programs offered at the parish, vicariate, regional or archdiocesan level.

It is recommended that the Parishes will:

1. Through the Pastor's leadership and example provide an environment that is supportive, and encouraging of Church vocations.

2. Study and implement *Do Whatever He Tells You*, a Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations.
3. Form a Vocation Committee
4. Start a campaign of prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
5. Consider hosting a Holy Hour or Mass for vocations at least once during the year.
6. Send representatives to attend vocations events at the vicariate, regional or archdiocesan level.
7. Identify those among them who may have a special calling to follow Christ into the priesthood and religious life and invite them to attend a discernment event or program.
8. Ensure a vocations component is included in the school and religious education curriculum and provide materials for vocation awareness to students and families.
9. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and religious communities present in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

It is recommended that the Region/Vicariate will:

1. Collaborate with the Director of Priestly Vocations and the Vocation Regional Coordinators in support of vocation initiatives.
2. Host a vocations event at least once a year and encourage every parish in that region or vicariate to participate in the planning.
3. If more efficient; form a vicariate vocation committee to assist with the mission of fostering vocations.
4. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and communities of religious present in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

It is recommended that the Archdiocese will:

1. Encourage pastors and pastoral councils to implement the Pastoral Plan for Vocations.
2. In collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, provide materials to parishes to promote vocational awareness.
3. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and communities of religious present in the Archdiocese of Detroit by whatever communication means are available.
4. Through the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools in collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, ensure that vocational awareness is part of the curriculum of the schools, religious education programs and adult faith formation programs.

It is recommended that the Archbishop will:

1. In compliance with Canon 385, “as much as possible” ...“foster vocations to different ministries and to consecrated life, with special care shown for priestly and missionary vocations.”
2. Direct pastors to study and implement *Do Whatever He Tells You*, the Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness, provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations.
3. Direct the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools, in collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, to actively support vocation endeavors in the archdiocese by whatever means is available.
4. Direct a campaign of prayer throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit for an increase in Church Vocations, especially during *National Vocation Awareness Week*, *World Day for Consecrated Life*; *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*; and whenever a *Discernment Overnight* or *Weekend* is occurring.