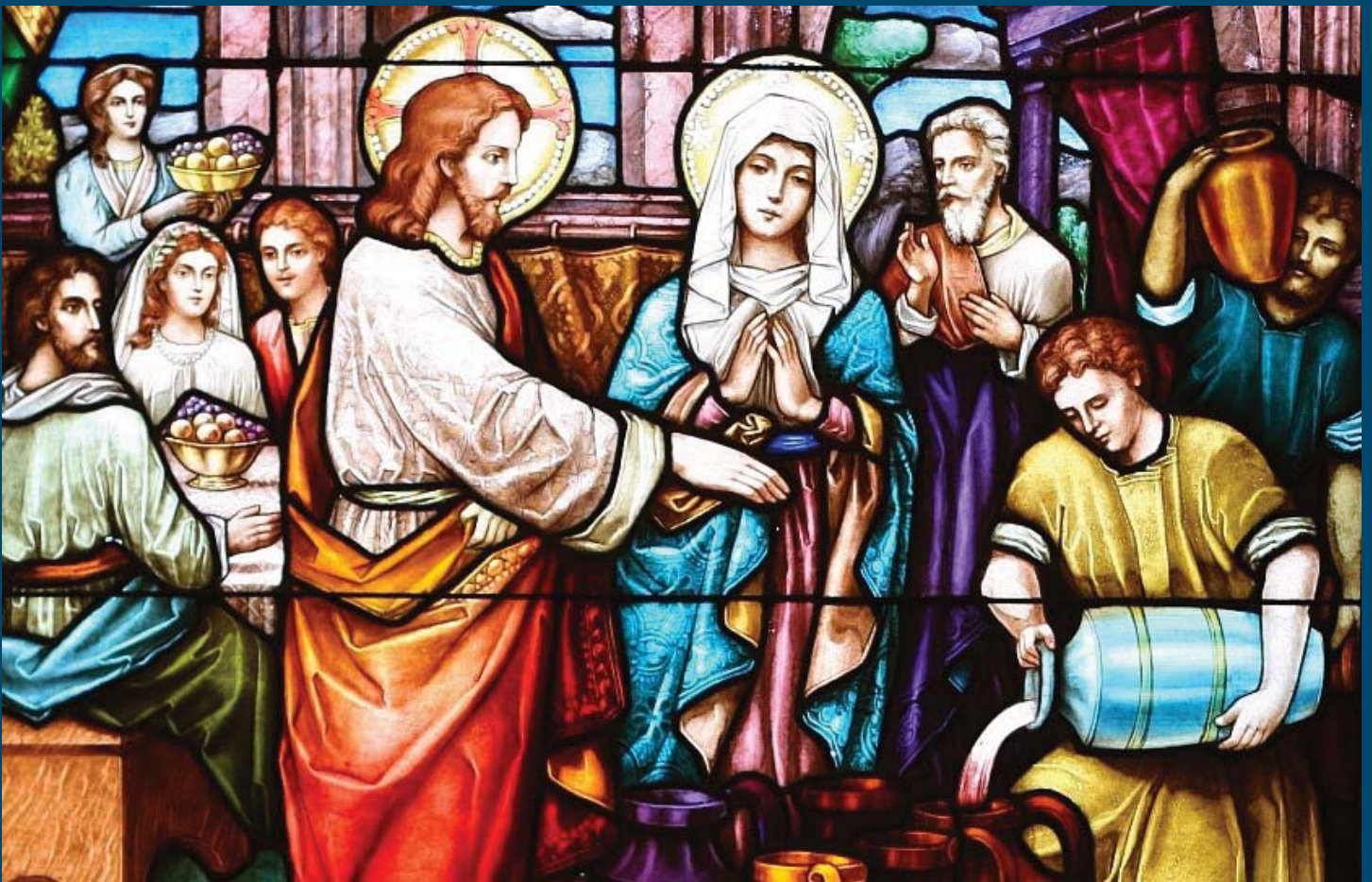


# Do Whatever He Tells You

---

A Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness  
Priesthood and Religious Life



Presented by the Office of Priestly Vocations  
Archdiocese of Detroit





## Introduction

*“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. While the focus is on the specific vocations of priesthood and religious life, all can benefit from a deeper reflection on vocations. 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!’ (John 2:5).





# Table of Contents



|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <b>I. Priest:</b>                 | <b>6</b> |
| - Statistics                      | 7        |
| - Challenge- Leadership- Shepherd | 7        |
| - 'Pro-creative' Father           | 8        |
| - Invitation                      | 8        |



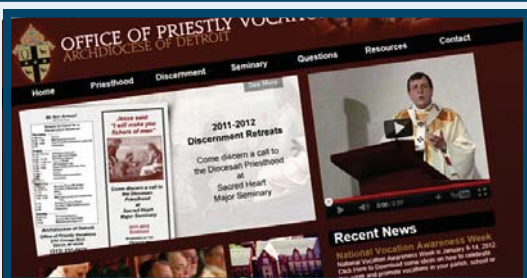
|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>II. Catechist/Youth &amp; Young Adult:</b>                    | <b>12</b> |
| - Statistics   | 13        |
| - Challenge – Bringing Vocation Awareness to our<br>Young People | 13        |
| - Discipleship   | 14        |
| - Invitation   | 15        |



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>III. Pastoral Staff:</b>               | <b>18</b> |
| - Connection with the parishioners        | 19        |
| - Part of the 'Team'                      | 19        |
| - Parish programming (part of everything) | 20        |
| - Invitation                              | 20        |

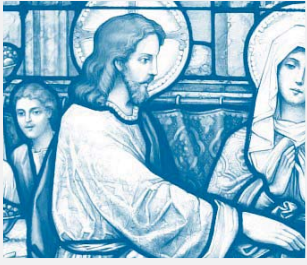


|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>IV. People of God:</b>            | <b>22</b> |
| - Baptism- the 'heart of it all'     | 23        |
| - What is a vocation- do I have one? | 23        |
| - Lead by example                    | 24        |
| - Invitation                         | 25        |



|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>V. Resources:</b>                         | <b>28</b> |
| - AOD Office of Priestly Vocations Materials | 29        |
| - Websites/Social Media                      | 29        |
| - Vatican Documents/Addresses                | 30        |
| - Books/Articles                             | 31        |

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| <b>VI. Appendices:</b> | <b>34</b> |
|------------------------|-----------|



# Chapter I: Priest





# Education

## Statistics

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, we have experienced a steady flow of men into the seminary, however, the numbers have not fluctuated to any great degree. Since 1988, and the re-founding of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, we have averaged a per year total of 40.6 candidates into the seminary. According to our best records, our largest number of seminarians during this time period was 49 and the lowest number was 32. During the same time period, we have ordained 122 men, with a per year average of 5.3. While these numbers are respectable, they are far from what should be achieved for an Archdiocese of 1.3 million Catholics. If we were to do a sampling of per capita comparisons to other (Arch)Dioceses in the USA, it would look something like this:

| <u>Diocese</u>    | <u># of Catholics</u> | <u># of Seminarians</u> | <u>AOD Seminarian Equivalent</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bismarck:         | 59,000 Catholics      | 16 Seminarians          | 353                              |
| Marquette:        | 62,000 Catholics      | 11 Seminarians          | 231                              |
| Lansing:          | 250,000 Catholics     | 30 Seminarians          | 156                              |
| Minneapolis/Paul: | 800,000 Catholics     | 61 Seminarians          | 100                              |

The Archdiocese with the largest amount of seminarians is Chicago at 100. While we are half their size, their numbers provide us with the ability to set realistic goals for the Archdiocese of Detroit. It would be unreasonable to expect 150 seminarians, when we know Chicago is twice our size and does not even have that amount. So, taking all the above into consideration, a realistic and attainable number of seminarians for the Archdiocese of Detroit should be in the 70-85 range. While it will always be advocated for quality over quantity, that should not limit us to examining how we 'measure up' to other locations throughout the country and how we can improve.

## Challenge - Leadership - Shepherd

If not us, who? The preface from, "Lend Your Own Voice to Christ", by Archbishop O'Brien states: "Though some of our Catholic faithful might find it hard to believe: while survey after survey

indicates that more than 90% of American priests are happy in their vocation, too many are reluctant to encourage other men to experience the joy of the priesthood. On the other hand, the more than 80% of men ordained each year point to the prompting of a priest as the reason for taking the first step toward the seminary." If not us-priests, who?

When it comes to men, regardless of their age, an invitation to consider the Catholic priesthood comes best from a priest! People in the business world will tell us...follow the facts....and the facts are overwhelmingly clear. The single most important factor for increasing our potential candidates for the seminary is as simple as a personal invitation. No budget is needed, no creative advertising strategy, no social media, no technology...just the courage to do what Jesus did...look a man in the eye, extend a hand and simply invite them to, "Come, follow me!" This is our challenge as leaders, as shepherds of Christ's flock.

### Pro-creative Father

Go and multiply! Is it not a biological fact that innate within every man is the desire to reproduce? While this might seem quite bizarre to consider for a group of celibate men, in fact, it applies just as much. It is healthy to desire a re-production of ourselves- priests of Jesus Christ! How could we not want more men to become what we have been ontologically changed into – an *Alter Christus*. What we are thus making more of is not ourselves, we surrendered that desire on the day we made our promise of celibacy, but rather men configured sacramentally into the life of Christ as His priest. In this sense, we need to be reminded that not only is our invitation powerful when it comes to assisting someone to discern a calling, but so is the natural sense of just being a man and the innate desire to see more 'like us'.

### Invitation

And so we find ourselves at the pinnacle of all things orientated towards vocation ministry... the almighty and price-less invitation. Of all the powers our comic book heroes possess, of all the characters who light up the movie screen and inspire us with their 'abilities', all of these pale in comparison to what our invitation can help create. Just think, the encouragement of a priest to a young man to consider a priestly vocation, could be the birth of yet another minister of God's graces, preacher of the Good News, man of God for others. What power we priests all possess. Imagine if every priest made it his goal to have one man each year from his parish attend a vocation event at the seminary – that would be 280 men each year spending just a little time, asking, "What is He telling me to do?"



## Direction

- Preach at least 3 times each year on the topic of vocations:
- National Vocations Awareness Week (*January*)
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations (*April*)
  - Ordination Day (*May-June*)
  - Good Shepherd Sunday, Corpus Christi, Priesthood Sunday, etc.
- Have the courage to personally invite at least 1 young man each year to at least consider a vocation to the priesthood and/or attend one of the Vocation Events sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations:
- Prayer/Dinner with Archbishop Vigneron
  - Discernment Weekend or Overnight
  - Day of Discernment with Archbishop Vigneron



## Inspiration

*Christ, who commanded prayer for the laborers in the Harvest, has also personally called those laborers. But usually He calls by means of us and our words. **So, do not be afraid to call.** Go and meet them personally and call them. The hearts of many young people...and not-so-young people...are ready to listen to you. Many of them are **looking for something to live for**; they are waiting to discover a worthwhile mission to which they can devote their lives. Christ has attuned them to His call and yours. **We must call**; the Lord will do the rest. – Blessed John Paul II*

*I address a particular word to you, my dear Bishops [priests]. To ensure the continuity and growth of your saving mission in Christ, you should “foster priestly and religious vocations as much as possible...” The Lord needs you to cooperate with him in ensuring that his call reaches the hearts of those whom he has chosen. – Pope Benedict XVI*



# Resources



## Online

- [www.detroitpriest.com](http://www.detroitpriest.com) (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) (USCCB Vocations)
- <http://cara.georgetown.edu> (Center for Applied Research- Apostolate)



## Literature

- *Lend your Own Voice to Christ: A Helpful Guide for Priests*, by Fr. Thomas Richter, NCDVD, 2010
- *To Save a Thousand Souls: Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood*, by Fr. Brett Brannen. Vianney Vocations, 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.
- (See a more complete listing in the Resources section)





## Chapter II: Catechist/Youth and Young Adult Minister





# Education

*“Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated.” Pope Benedict XVI*

## Statistics

Since the 1960’s the Catholic Church in the U.S. has seen a pronounced drop in the number of priests and religious sisters and brothers who are available to minister in the Church. Many Catholics today, over the age of 50, might say that they learned about Church vocations from the religious sisters and brothers who taught them in the Catholic schools or religious education programs. This is no longer the case. So significant is this decline in the number of religious in our midst that many of our young people may not even encounter a religious sister or brother during their elementary school years. According to a recent CARA<sup>1</sup> survey, only 4% of all Catholic educators in the U.S. are religious sisters, brothers/priests.

In the United States in 1965 there were close to 180,000 sisters, and over 12,000 religious brothers; in 2010 the number of religious sisters has dropped over 60% to 58,000 and the number of religious brothers has dropped by 62% to 4,700. In 1965 there were over 58,600 diocesan and religious priests, by 2010 the numbers have dropped to 40,000; a decrease of 32%. In 2009 the median age of religious women was given as 75 years of age. At the same time the Catholic population has increased from 48.5 million to 77.7 million.

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Catholic population has seen a slight decrease: 1,494,700 in 1965 and 1,365,537 in 2010 (almost 9%). However, the number of active diocesan and religious priests has fallen 74% from 1,262 to 460; the number of religious men has decreased 52%, 157 to 75; and religious women has also seen a significant loss of 73%, 4,584 religious women in 1965 to 1,245 in 2010.

## Challenge – Bringing Vocation Awareness to our Young People

By our baptism, we are all called to holiness and to follow God, according to His will and plan for each one of us. Who will be a guiding voice with our young people to help them hear and answer God’s call in their lives, especially the call to the priesthood or religious life?

---

<sup>1</sup> CARA stands for the *Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate* at Georgetown University. CARA, Vol. 16. No. 2, Fall 2010.

Priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, by the nature of their calling have been formed and educated about Church vocations and have historically been in an excellent position to identify, nurture and encourage young people who may also be called by God to become priests and religious Sisters and Brothers. However, that is no longer the case as well. Whereas, the family remains the “seedbed of vocations”; lay catechists and teachers in our Catholic parishes and schools must now “fill” the void left by the shortage of religious and become “co-vocation directors” for our youth. If they themselves have not been properly “catechized” in vocations education, it will be difficult to step out in the role of mentor, inviter or leader.

It is important for the vibrancy of our Church that all Catholic educators, whether DRE, Principal, catechist, youth or young adult minister assist and act in a dynamic way to help create a culture of vocations in the parish, classroom and campus settings to encourage our youth to hear and answer God’s call.

### Discipleship

Jesus commanded his followers to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19

For those who have been baptized in the faith, being a disciple of Christ is not an option, it becomes a way of life. The center of a Christian life is discipleship and we have the responsibility to teach our young people what it means to be a disciple:

As Disciples of Christ, we are called first to love:

“I give you a new commandment; love one another. As I have loved you, so you should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35.

As Disciples of Jesus we are also called to be obedient:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:14

As Disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to serve:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

After Jesus washed the feet of His disciples he said: “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” John 13:15

If discipleship is taught and lived, our young people will have open hearts and minds to

follow Christ's call in their lives. They will learn best by the examples of those adults in their lives who reflect a true discipleship of Jesus Christ in living out their vocation.

## Invitation

Jesus' invitation to us to become His disciples is also an exhortation for us to invite others to follow Him. Pope Benedict XVI writes:

*It is a challenging and uplifting invitation that Jesus addresses to those to whom he says: "Follow me!" He invites them to become his friends, to listen attentively to his word and to live with him. He teaches them complete commitment to God and to the extension of his kingdom in accordance with the law of the Gospel: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). He invites them to leave behind their own narrow agenda and their notions of self-fulfillment in order to immerse themselves in another will, the will of God, and to be guided by it."*

All disciples of Christ have a responsibility to identify those among them who may have a special calling to follow Christ, to be open to the will of God and to consider a calling into the priesthood or religious life. Though the call is from God, and is placed in the heart of the faithful, it takes the community of believers to assist those so called to hear and respond.



## Direction

- Become educated in the language of vocations by becoming familiar with terminology.
- Use materials provided by the AOD for vocations education at **least** twice annually
  - National Vocation Awareness Week (*January*)
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations (*April*)
- Plant a seed of invitation by identifying a young man or woman who has the qualities of a future priest or religious brother or sister to consider that God may be calling them to that vocation and encourage attendance at a discernment event sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations, parish, high school or religious order.



## Inspiration

*Particularly in these times, when the voice of the Lord seems to be drowned out by "other voices" and his invitation to follow him by the gift of one's own life may seem too difficult, every Christian community, every member of the Church, needs consciously to feel responsibility for promoting vocations. It is important to encourage and support those who show clear signs of a call to priestly life and religious consecration, and to enable them to feel the warmth of the whole community as they respond "yes" to God and the Church.*

Pope Benedict XVI, 2011 Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations



## Resources



### Online

- [www.detroitpriest.com](http://www.detroitpriest.com) (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) (USCCB Vocations)
- <http://cara.georgetown.edu> (Center for Applied Research- Apostolate)
- [www.vocation-network.org](http://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)

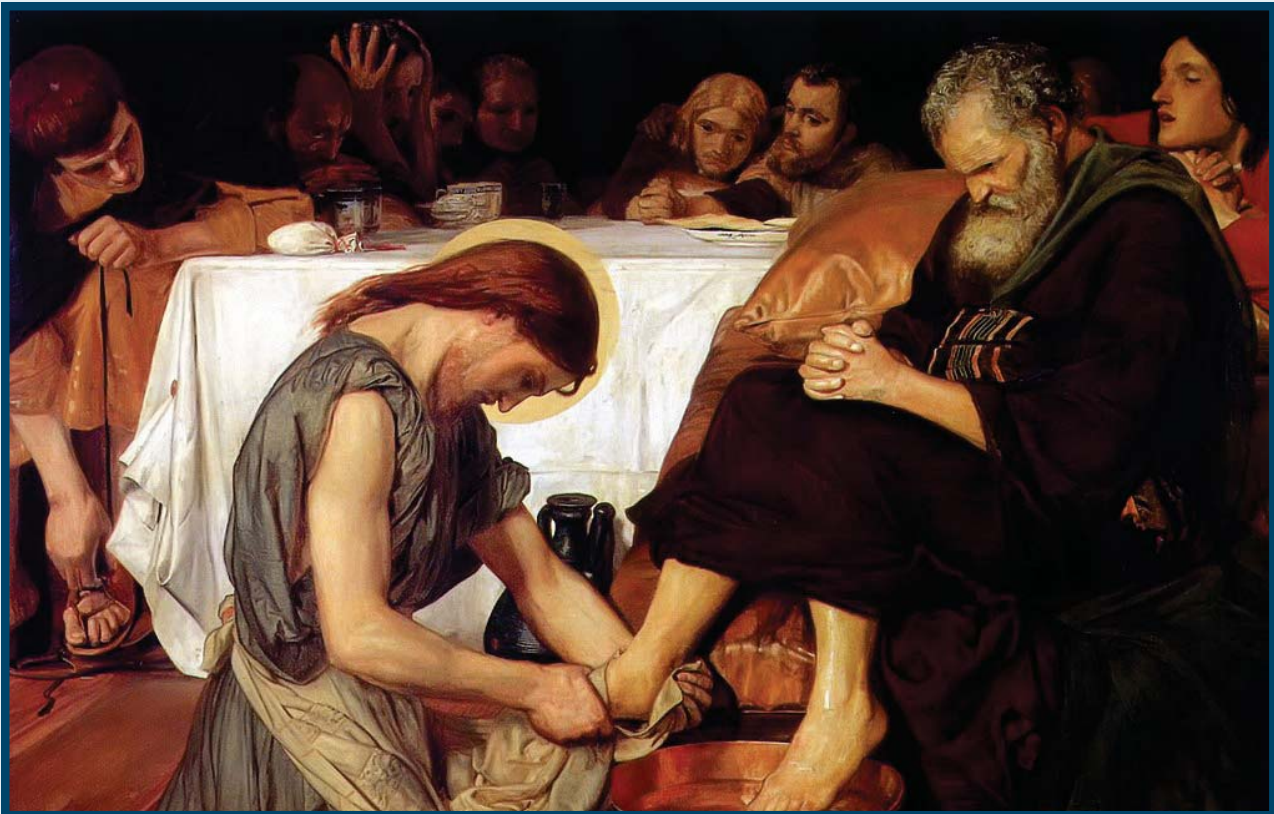


## Literature

- *Vocations Resource Guide* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- *Let the Children Come* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations – lesson plans for vocations, grades K-8)
- *Be Not Afraid* – (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations – vocation activities for youth and young adult ministries)
- *Lend your Own Voice to Christ: A Helpful Guide for Priests*, by Fr. Thomas Richter, NCDVD, 2010
- *To Save a Thousand Souls: Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood*, by Fr. Brett Brannen. Vianney Vocations, 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.
- (See a more complete listing in the Resources section)



## Chapter III: Pastoral Staff





# Education

## Connection with parishioners

Outside of the parish priest, the lay ecclesial minister and parish staff, have the most regular interaction with the people of a parish. As a result of this privileged access, you have the unique opportunity and challenge to play a crucial role in the promotion of helping a young person to remember ‘what is a vocation...what is mine?’ Each and every time you interact with a ‘discerner’ (any non-committed child of God), whether it is in the church on a Sunday morning, or in the office on a Tuesday afternoon, you have the ability to ‘plant the seed’ on behalf of the Master of the Harvest. Reminding the people of your parish that they are first and foremost a child of God, and better yet, modeling for them what it means to be a child of God, will no doubt leave a lasting impression on their still impressionable hearts and minds. Never underestimate your holy presence and the effect it can have upon a person who is still discerning their vocation, or needs to be reminded of the need to discern in the first place.

## Part of the ‘Team’

Just like any team that hopes to achieve any success on the ‘field of battle’, the Pastors and Pastoral Staff of the parishes that comprise the Archdiocese of Detroit, need to see themselves as part of one ‘team’. This obviously applies to all things ‘parish’ or ‘faith’, but most especially when it comes to vocation. Think for a moment how much input our young people receive from the ‘social media’ culture we all presently live in. Everyday of their lives they are bombarded with consistent messages, whether it be from advertising, entertainment, friends, or pop-culture, that say little about living a God-centered life. This ‘team of voices’ is winning the attention of our youth...in dramatic fashion. If we hope to posit an alternative voice, one that will lead them closer to Christ, closer to their true vocation in life, we’ll need to see ourselves working together, as a team. It is not just the responsibility of the priest or the parent, the teacher or the youth minister, the parish secretary or the pastoral associate – it is the responsibility of everyone who claims to be a ‘new creation’ through water and the Holy Spirit.

## Parish Programming

If you were to take all of the programs in a given year that exist at the average parish of 1,500 families, a conservative estimate would put the number of programs between 50-60. (Examples of programs would include: toddler, youth, young adult, single, engaged, married, parent, adult faith formation, catechesis, senior, etc) While these programs are all necessary and vital to the life of any healthy parish, the question needs to be asked....do any of these programs speak specifically to the issue of vocational awareness, regardless of the age group? A best guess would say little, if any. Herein lies an area that calls for the full attention of pastoral staff personnel. Many of the programs are generated through your ideas, your leadership, and your initiative. It is possible, perhaps even crucial to our future, for some programming to involve topics such as:

“What does it mean to have a vocation?”

“Where is God calling me as a teenager?”

“How can I model vocational awareness as a parent or grandparent?”

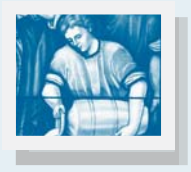
“How am I called as a child of God to be holy?”

“What is the Priesthood?” What is Religious Life?”

Everyone can agree that parish programming should be reflective of the needs of the Church...is not knowing who you are as a child of God a need? Is not being open to where the Lord might be calling you to serve Him a need? Are not Priests and Religious serving the Church, celebrating the sacraments a need? When it comes to programming, it is not one thing, it is everything!

## Invitation

Each year the men who are ordained to the priesthood in the United States are sent a survey by the CARA Institute. A variety of questions are asked of the newly ordained priests, ranging from their birth order in their family, country of birth, former employment, age at ordination, etc. The one question that is always of most interest is, “What was the most important factor in you discerning a call to the priesthood?” Consistently the answer is – “I was invited” While parish priest and parent always rank the highest in this category, the role of teacher/catechist and minister is always present. Never underestimate the power of your invitation. All the facts indicate that it is one that is well received and rarely ignored. If we want to see holier parishioners, holier couples, holier families, holier priests and religious, it is a simple formula to follow....invite, invite, invite!



## Inspiration

*Every moment in the life of the Church community - catechesis, formation meetings, liturgical prayer, pilgrimages - can be a precious opportunity for awakening in the People of God, and in particular in children and young people, a sense of belonging to the Church and of responsibility for answering the call to priesthood and to religious life by a free and informed decision. - Pope Benedict XVI*



# Chapter IV: People of God





# Education

*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)*

## 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 for me” Gal 2:20.

## What is a vocation – do I have one?

Vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare* which means “to call.” 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, especially in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

- A petition for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life should be included regularly at Mass.
    - Participate or begin the Traveling Chalice or Cross vocation 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.
    - Form or join 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



### Online

- [www.detroitpriest.com](http://www.detroitpriest.com) (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) (USCCB Vocations)

- <http://cara.georgetown.edu> (Center for Applied Research- Apostolate)

### **Websites for families**

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



### **Literature**

- *Vocation Committee Handbook* (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- *Vocations Resource 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 – vocation activities for youth and young adult ministries)



# Chapter V: Resources

**OFFICE OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Home | Priesthood | Discernment | Seminary | Questions | Resources | Contact

**2011-2012 Discernment Retreats**  
Come discern a call to the Diocesan Priesthood at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

**Recent News**  
**National Vocation Awareness Week**  
National Vocation Awareness Week is January 9-14, 2012. Click Here to Download some ideas on how to celebrate this week and promote vocations in your parish, school or home. [Read more...](#)  
**High School Vocation Events**  
...at high school students – we have a number of ... Check out the link below to ...



## AOD Office of Priestly Vocations Materials

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



## Websites/Social Media

- [www.detroitpriest.com](http://www.detroitpriest.com) (AOD Office of Priestly Vocations)
- [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) (USCCB Vocations)
- [www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/AODOfficeofPriestlyVocations) (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](http://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.
- [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) USCCB materials on vocations:

### **Websites for the Family**

- *Catholic Families*: [www.catholicfamilies.org](http://www.catholicfamilies.org)

CatholicFamilies.org is committed to the traditional faith of the Catholic Church.

- *Domestic Church*: [www.domestic-church.com](http://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](http://www.homefaith.com)

Published by the Claretians, this website is devoted to nurturing spirituality in Catholic families.

- *Apostolate for Family Consecration*: [www.familyland.org](http://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 Pope John Paul II.

- *Mass times when on vacation*: [www.masstimes.org](http://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](http://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](http://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/Addresses

- *Optatam Totius* - (available on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))

- *Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Young People and Seminarians*. Saint Joseph Seminary, Yonkers, New York. April 19, 2008.

- *Pastores Dabo Vobis* - (available on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))

- *Presbyterorum Ordinis* - (available on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))



## Books/Articles

- *Sacred Scripture*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Gift and Mystery: On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination*, Pope John Paul II
- *Letters to My Brother Priests (1979-2005)*, Pope John Paul II
- *Authenticity, A Biblical Theology of Discernment*, Fr. Thomas Dubay S.M.
- *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism*, Douglas Brinkly and Julie Fenster
- *Christ: The Ideal of the Priest*, Blessed Columba Marmion
- *The Priest in Union with Christ*, Fr. Reginald Garrigou-LaGrange O.P.
- *Theology of the Priesthood*, Fr. Jean Galot S.J.
- *Our Priests: Who They Are and What They Do*, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk
- *The Case for Clerical Celibacy: Its Historical Development & Theological Foundations*, Alfons Maria Cardinal Stickler
- *Confessions*, St. Augustine
- *The Duties and Dignity of the Priest*, St. Alphonsus Liguori
- *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, St. Ignatius of Loyola
- *Priests for the Third Millennium*, Archbishop Timothy Dolan
- *Intro to the Devout Life*, St. Francis DeSales
- *Fire Within*, Fr. Thomas Dubay
- *Witness to Hope*, George Weigel
- *The Story of a Soul*, St. Therese
- *The Imitation of Christ*, Thomas a Kempis
- *"...And You are Christ's": The Charism of Virginity and the Celibate Life*, Fr. Thomas Dubay
- *Your Parish Priest: A Man of Mystery*, Dermot R. Brennan

- *Reclaiming Our Priestly Character*, Father David L. Toups
- *The Priest Is Not His Own*, Fulton J. Sheen
- *Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977*, Pope Benedict XVI
- *A Priest Forever: The Life of Father Eugene Hamilton*, Benedict J. Groeschel
- *To Whom Shall We Go?*, Archbishop Timothy Dolan
- *The Cure D'Ars Today: St John Vianney*, George W. Rutler
- *Called To Be Holy*, Archbishop Timothy Dolan
- *Unchanging Heart of the Priesthood*, Thomas Acklin
- *Priestly Celibacy Today*, Thomas McGovern
- *About Being a Priest*, Federico Suarez
- *The Joy of Priesthood*, Stephen J. Rossetti
- *Behold Your Mother: Priests Speak about Mary*, Stephen Rossetti
- *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI
- *The Diary of a Country Priest: A Novel*, Georges Bernanos
- *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*, George Weigel
- *Salt of the Earth: The Church at the End of the Millennium: An Interview With Peter Seewald*, Pope Benedict XVI
- *Letter to Priests*, Pope John Paul II - (available on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))
- *Address to the Clergy*, Pope Benedict XVI - (available on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))
- *The Men He Intended: Claiming our Vocation as Priests of Jesus Christ*, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. - (available on <http://www.catholicculture.org/>)
- *The Difference God Makes*, Francis Cardinal George, OMI
- *To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood*, Fr. Brett Brannen
- *Why Priests are Happy?*, Msgr. Stephen Rossetti
- *"Lend your Own Voice to Christ: A Helpful Guide for Priests,"* Fr. Thomas Richter
- *"Is Jesus calling you to the Catholic Priesthood?"*, Fr. Thomas Richter





## Chapter VI: Appendices



# Appendices Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| A. Sample Vocation Talk: .....                               | 6   |
| B. Points to consider in preaching about Vocations .....     | 39  |
| C. How do I go about this Vocation Awareness ministry? ..... | 40  |
| D. Vicariate Vocation Mass, Planning Suggestions .....       | 41  |
| E. A Holy Hour for Vocations .....                           | 42  |
| F. A Survey about Vocation Education and Awareness .....     | 46  |
| G. Prayers for Vocations .....                               | 50  |
| H. Scriptural Passages on Vocations .....                    | 54  |
| I. Elementary School Lesson Plans/Activities .....           | 56  |
| J. 'Do Not Be Afraid' High School Lesson Plans .....         | 116 |
| K. Parish Vocation Committee Guide .....                     | 132 |



## Sample Vocation Talk

*“In order to foster vocations, therefore, it is important that pastoral activity be attentive to the mystery of the Church as communion; because whoever lives in an ecclesial community that is harmonious, co-responsible and conscientious, certainly learns more easily to discern the call of the Lord. The care of vocations, therefore, demands constant ‘education’ for listening to the voice of God. That is what Eli did, when he helped the young Samuel to understand what God was asking of him and to put it immediately into action. (Cf. 1 Sam 3:9)” [Pope Benedict XVI, Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 29, 2007]*

Begin by asking the children/adults>> raise your hand if you have a vocation.

Vocation= from Latin, ‘vocare’ - to call. A vocation is a calling from the Lord. The true answer to the question is: WE ALL HAVE A VOCATION! We are called by God to live a life of holiness. To do something significant with our gift of life.

Your vocation began on the day of baptism (‘you are now a new creation, you are clothed in Christ’ - baptismal prayer)

God is calling each and every one of us to lives of faith.

We need to always remember who we are: children of God, not children of the world.

A vocation is a life-time commitment to live out our baptismal call/promises as a child of God.

That means we act differently, talk differently, and treat others differently. We try to be a model of Christ for others.

### Difference between a vocation and a job:

**Job**= we use our gifts and talents in a job or profession, and we may do much good through the work/trade, but it does not define who we are. Ultimately, one day we will retire from our jobs, but we never retire from our vocation in Christ.

**Vocation**= something that is always a part of our lives, inherent to our identity, an indelible mark on our soul.

What are the types of vocations we are called by God to live?

**Marriage**- the majority of people will be called to live a life of marriage with another person. We will ‘fall in love’ with them. All of our time, energy and focus will be on making that relationship, the marriage, one built on love, compassion and mutual respect. Our vocation becomes loving the spouse, and eventually, if we are blessed, extending that same love to our children. They will then become our most important and primary concern in life. Every action and decision should be a reflection of this call. As we hear at baptism, “The parents are the primary teachers of their children in the ways of faith.” They must be the best of teachers, showing their children what faith means by what they say and do.”

**Single Life**- some people never ‘fall in love’ with any one particular person, or to full-time service in the Church as a

Priest or Consecrated Religious Sister or Brother, but they are still beloved children of God. A single vocation is still called to love the Lord, as are married and priestly vocations. A single vocation allows the person to be available to serve in many capacities, in the Church, their family, and society.

**Priesthood or Consecrated Religious Life**- some may be called to the Priesthood or Consecrated Religious Life. Is God calling you to use your gifts and talents – your blessings, not just for the benefit of one person (spouse) or persons (children), but rather for all of God’s people? Have you ‘fallen in love’ with serving the people of God with all your heart, soul, and mind? It may seem impossible or too abstract for us, but God has called men and women for thousands of years to give of themselves fully to service in the Church as a person intent on being *in persona Christi*- the person of Christ.

The Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life is one, just like marriage, that is founded upon love. God is calling many to this way of life, but we are having trouble hearing that calling through all the noise and distractions of our world. Have the courage to follow the words of Christ, made famous by Pope John Paul II on the day of his election to the papacy, “Be not Afraid.”

To be a Priest or Consecrated Religious is a ‘supernatural’ calling, in the sense that it is ‘counter-cultural’. It is natural to be attracted to another person, and perhaps one day, ‘fall in love with them.’ It becomes a ‘supernatural’ experience to fall in love with the Lord and decide to devote your entire life to serving and loving Him. One is not better than the other, but they are different.

What I would like for you today to consider is: Could God be calling you to be a Priest or Consecrated Religious Sister or Brother? Could God be calling you, like Pope John Paul II, or Mother Theresa, or your pastor, to live a life in service to Him in this way?

The great thing about this ‘consideration’ is that NO ONE knows you are doing it. Next time you are at Mass, imagine yourself behind the altar leading the people in prayer. Next time you have a conversation with a Sister or Brother, imagine yourself living in this way, serving God’s people as a teacher, minister, counselor, worker of Christ.

We will never get this message from the world. You’ll be hard pressed to see a TV program, movie, magazine, or product that is concerned with where God is calling you to live your life. They are concerned about one thing--- making money, being profitable. But God wants so much more from you. You are capable of so much more. You are a child of God---could God be asking you to live this ‘supernatural’ way of life? You might just be surprised at the answer!

*“At the center of every Christian community is the Eucharist, the source and summit of the life of the Church. Whoever places himself at the service of the Gospel, if he lives the Eucharist, makes progress in love of God and neighbor and thus contributes to building the Church as communion. We can affirm that the ‘Eucharistic love’ motivates and founds the vocational activity of the whole Church, because, as I wrote in Deus Caritas Est, vocations to the priesthood and to other ministries and services flourish within the people of God wherever there are those whom Christ can be seen through His word, in the Sacraments and especially in the Eucharist.” [Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day Message]*

## Some Common Questions

### Vows for Consecrated Religious Priests/Sisters/Brothers:

Celibacy

Obedience

Poverty

### Promises for Diocesan Priests:

Obedience

Celibacy

Why can't women be priests or priests get married?

What does a priest get paid?

What can I do if I am interested in the Priesthood or Consecrated Religious Life?

What is a seminary?

Do priests ever wonder about marriage?

What does it mean to live in a community?

Why do Priests and Religious wear different clothes?

What is the difference between a Religious Order and a Diocesan Priest?

How do I know which diocese to join?

How did you know God was calling you?

What do you like best about being a priest/sister?

## Points to consider in preaching about Vocations

### 1. Root Your Homily in the Scriptures for the Day

There are plenty of Scripture texts that lend themselves well to preaching about vocations. The themes of call and response, community, discipleship, self-giving and mission are regular features in the cycle of readings for the church year. When any homily is preached, its focus should always be the Word which has been given for the day. When you make a pastoral decision to focus on an invitation to priesthood and religious life, it is appropriate to do so when the Liturgy of the Word lends itself to that focus. Two very appropriate days are the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when the church in the United States begins its observation of **National Vocation Awareness Week**, and the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, which is also observed as **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**.

### 2. Use Contemporary Images

When choosing images and stories for a vocation homily, ask yourself, "Will a seventeen-year old parishioner relate to this story?" Examples like Pope John Paul II, Mother Theresa, Dorothy Day, and other heroic Christians will probably strike a chord with young people because they have most likely heard of them outside of their church experience.

### 3. Focus on Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life – Be Direct

Perhaps you have noticed that often young men and women who make a choice for priesthood or religious life are already involved in some level of parish ministry, whether as paid professionals or as volunteers. When preaching on vocations to priesthood and religious life, remember that your congregation includes these young adults who are already dedicated to serving God as lectors, music ministers, and catechists. Without implying that lay ministry is a lesser form of service, be direct in your invitation to consider the lifestyle of a vowed or ordained minister.

### 4. Tell Your Story

"Young people have immense curiosity about the lives of people who appear to have discovered sense, meaning, and a measure of fulfillment" (Michael Hunt, CSP). Share a concrete moment from your story so your listeners might make a connection with your discernment, vocation, joy, and sense of mission.

### 5. Give a Bold, Personal Invitation

The number one reason young people say they haven't considered vowed or ordained ministry is that no one had ever asked them. Ask your listeners directly to consider the possibility of a church vocation. Be courageous.

*"Today, I'm asking the young people in our parish to think about what it would be like to serve the People of God as a priest, brother, or sister."*

### 6. Ask Parents and Grandparents

Enlist the help of parents and grandparents in the vocation effort of the church. Pope John Paul II clearly points out that vocations begin at home.

*"Parents and Grandparents, please talk with your children and grandchildren about the possibility of serving in a religious vocation. We owe it to them to offer them the possibility "*

## How do I go about this Vocation Awareness ministry? \*

### People Need An Invitation

This is a crucial part of vocation work and many young people have been lost to the ministry because it was not done. It is the missing link in vocation work. A Knights of Columbus study, done among young people some years ago by Fr. Andrew Greeley, found that nine out of ten young men who expressed some interest in the priesthood had never been encouraged by anybody, and as a result did not choose a priestly vocation. Year after year, the men who are newly ordained priests state that a personal invitation was the most effective tool in helping them to discern a priestly vocation.

### Who are you looking for?

There are many single Catholics around who are prayerful, generous and involved in the parish. Assuming they have normal health and average intelligence, these are the kind of people who would make good priests and religious. But they often need a personal invitation from somebody to begin seriously considering a special call from God.

### Where will you find them?

You will find them on the lists of volunteers that make up the membership of your parish organizations and programs. Take a close look at the following groups in particular, making sure to include all ethnic communities in your parish.

#### • Liturgical Ministers

Look through the list of Altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and cantors. According to the 2010 CARA study of the newly ordained, 80% responded that they were altar servers, 60% responded that they had served regularly as lectors and

Eucharistic ministers. These statistics suggest that close proximity to the Eucharist fosters in a person the desire to consider a church vocation.

#### • Religious Education Teachers

Check your catechism teachers. The CARA study states that 50% of the newly ordained who responded to the survey were regular catechists at their parishes. These are the people who have already responded to the call to spread the faith to others. Full-time ministry could be the next step.

#### • Parish Organizations and Groups

Check through membership lists in the following groups: Boy Scouts, charismatic groups, cursillo and other retreat participants, parish council and other parish committee members, hospital workers, RCIA team, scripture study participants, youth ministry team, choir, social justice activists. There may be other groups in your parish not on this list.

\* Adapted from the Diocese of Manchester

## Vicariate Vocation Mass, Planning Suggestions

### List of things to do:

**Parish Calendar**

**Letter of Invitation to Vicariate Priests**

**Media:** Vicariate Newsletter  
Article for Parish Bulletins  
Michigan Catholic  
Article in local paper  
Bulletin for Schools  
Posters for placement in parishes  
Flyers for posting in parishes

**Contacts:** Pastor/parish priest/chaplain  
DREs for Religious Ed.  
Principals at schools  
Campus minister

**Liturgy:** Readings for the Mass: Vocations or Readings of the day; Suggest that presider make a suggestion  
Homily geared for vocations;  
Prayers of the Faithful – Vocation  
Ministers: Lectors; Ushers; Gift Bearers; Alter Servers

**Planning:** Contact Vocation Committee Representatives from the Vicariate  
Knights of Columbus  
Vicariate Representatives – Vicar

**Invite:** Priests: all clergy from vicariate, including senior  
Find out who will be concelebrating  
Deacons from vicariate  
All religious who reside or work at parishes  
Seminarians from Vicariate  
Religious Communities to set up displays at reception

**Music:** Youth/Young Adult Musicians  
Youth Choir  
Catholic High School Choir close to your area  
Parish Music Ministers

## A Holy Hour for Vocations

**(Presiding Minister's Edition)**

### **Procession**

After all have assembled, a priest or deacon, wearing cope and humereil veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar in a monstrance, a song may be sung. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles.

The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded and a period of silent prayer follows.

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament  
have left us a memorial of your Passion,  
grant us, we pray,  
so as to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood  
that we may always experience in ourselves  
the fruits of your redemption.  
Who live and reign with God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

After a period of silent prayer, the Liturgy of the Word begins.

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **First Reading**

A reading from the first Book of Samuel **3:1-10**

*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*

During the time young Samuel was minister to the Lord under Eli,  
a revelation of the Lord was uncommon and vision infrequent.  
One day Eli was asleep in his usual place.  
His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see.  
The lamp of God was not yet extinguished,  
and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord  
where the ark of God was.

The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am."  
Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me."  
"I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep."  
So he went back to sleep.  
Again the Lord called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli.

"Here I am," he said. "You called me."  
But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord,  
because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet.  
The Lord called to Samuel again, for the third time.  
Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me."  
Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth.  
So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply,  
'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"  
When Samuel went to sleep in his place,  
the Lord came and revealed his presence,  
calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"  
Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 16 1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11

**R.** You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you."  
O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup.  
you it is who hold fast to my lot.

**R.** You are my inheritance, O Lord

I bless the Lord who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart extorts me.  
I set the Lord ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**R.** You are my inheritance, O Lord

You will show me the path of life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**R.** You are my inheritance, O Lord.

After a period of silent prayer:

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

I chose you from the world, go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord.  
**Jn 15:16**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (1:35-42)

John was standing with two of his disciples,  
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God."

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.  
Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,  
"What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher),  
"where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come, and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying,  
and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,  
was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,  
"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ.  
Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,  
"You are Simon son of John;  
you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

## **Homily**

### **Intercessions**

**Presiding Minister:** God chooses those whom He wills, let us pray the Lord to send forth workers into his vineyard:

That families will strive to make their homes places where children can hear God call them by name, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

That young men and women will listen to the Holy Spirit in their hearts and respond to the call from deep within, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

For all those you call to married life and all single people in their daily lives and commitments, that God will bless and strengthen them, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

For parents and teachers, that they may have the courage and faith to speak God's Word in their words and actions, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

For those in religious formation, that they may grow in their faith and continue to discern God's call, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

For those men studying for the priesthood, that they will continue to form themselves in the image of Christ, we pray to the Lord

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer

**Presiding Minister:**

Gracious God, You have showered us with many blessings. We are grateful for all that you have given us. Bless our Archdiocese with many who are eager to serve as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and lay ministers in the Church.

Show our young people the way of life to which you are calling them.

Remind them that they will find greatest fulfillment by pursuing the path you have laid before them.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Litany of Saints for Detroit**

Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

Response:

|                          |                      |               |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| (Pray for us)            | St. Elizabeth,       | St. Luke      | St. Robert,      |
| Holy Mary Mother of God, | St. Fabian,          | St. Mark,     | St. Sabina,      |
| St. Anne,                | St. Florian,         | St. Martha,   | St. Scholastica, |
| St. Augustine,           | St. Frances Cabrini, | St. Matthew,  | St. Stephen,     |
| St. Barbara,             | St. Gerald,          | St. Matthias, | St. Suzanne,     |
| St. Bartholomew,         | St. Gregory,         | St. Michael,  | St. Thomas       |
| St. Basil,               | St. Hedwig,          | St. Nicholas, | St. Theresa,     |
| St. Catherine,           | St. Isaac Jogues,    | St. Owen,     | St. Theodore,    |
| St. Clare,               | St. Isidore,         | St. Patrick,  | St. Thecla,      |
| St. Cornelius,           | St. John,            | St. Paul,     | St. Teresa       |
| St. Cyprian,             | St. Joseph,          | St. Peter,    | St. Timothy,     |
| St. Damian,              | St. Kenneth,         | St. Pius X,   | St. Veronica,    |
| St. Daniel,              | St. Kiernan,         | St. Raymond,  | St. William      |
| St. Edmund,              | St. Lawrence,        | St. Rene,     |                  |
| St. Edward,              | St. Leo,             | St. Rita,     |                  |

After a brief period of silence, the presiding minister continues:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you gave us the Eucharist  
as the memorial of your suffering and death.  
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood  
help us to experience the salvation you won for us  
and the peace of the kingdom  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## A Survey about Vocation Education and Awareness \*

Survey can be used with Parish Vocation Committees and Pastoral Councils

**Please indicate on the scale shown the degree to which the concept discussed is presently being implemented in your parish.**

### **Level one: Perception**

Assisting people to come to a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the church, vocation, and ministry.

1. Vocations grow in a parish environment in which many people minister and are aware of themselves as ministers. In our parish do we promote an awareness and understanding that each person is called, each has a vocation rooted in baptism?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

2. Perceiving a vocation depends partly on a person's awareness that Christ's call to service extends beyond the boundaries of family and parish.

Does our parish have ways to extend our ministry to other areas of church and society; to the poor and oppressed, near by and far away?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

3. We live in a time of tremendous challenge in our church and world, in which both face many difficulties and injustices.

Does our parish believe that in the midst of real challenge there is reason for hope and a need to invite people to minister among us?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

### **Level Two: Education**

Increasing people's understanding of the lifestyle of priests, sisters and brothers.

Helping them understand that vocation is experienced when a person searches for God's call in life.

4. Parents exercise a crucial role in creating in their children a world-view in which service to God and people is a high value.

Do we educate parents about their role in vocation promotion and provide them with a positive and updated image of the lifestyle of priests and religious?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

5. People need to know how God calls a person.

Do we share our own vocation stories as a means of sensitizing others to God's call in their own lives?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

6. People who are considering a direction in life want to know that they are needed.

Do we stress the increasing need for priests, brothers, and sisters in today's church?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

7. Has our parish made use of any materials or support provided by the Diocesan Vocations Office for parish, school religious education programs, or youth ministry?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### **Level Three: *Invitation***

Reaching out to those who search for direction in life with an invitation to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

8. Young people learn by doing. Do we make a special effort to invite young people to serve in ministry?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

9. For people to be able to consider a future in ministry, they need exposure to role models and information.

Do we provide opportunities for people to experience priests, sisters and brothers?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

10. When we recognize in a person in our parish the qualities necessary for the lifestyle of a sister, brother, or priest, do we invite them to consider that option for their future?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

11. Have we invited persons to attend "Come & See Weekends," information discernment programs or seminars sponsored by the vocation office, religious communities and the diocesan seminaries?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

12. Have we, as a staff, submitted to the diocese and religious communities who serve here, the names of men and women who might be suited for vowed or ordained ministry?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

**Level Four: *Community Involvement***

Involving parish people in the work of promoting vocations and creating a healthy climate for hearing and responding to God's call.

13. Do we ask special groups in our parish to work for vocations - Knights of Columbus, for example?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

14. Those who minister to young people have a special opportunity to promote vocation awareness.

Do we encourage or sponsor workshops and in-service training to sensitize religious education teachers and other educators to the needs of young people in the area of vocation discernment?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5

15. Does our parish have a functioning vocations committee to involve people in the ministry of vocation promotion?

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ maximum  
0 1 2 3 4 5



## Prayers for Vocations

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear God, you have created us in your own image and have given us so many gifts. We ask you to bless us all, so that we may know best how to love you and each other with those gifts. We pray especially for those young men and women who are searching for ways to serve you in love. May they be open to all that you may ask. We pray for those who study for the priesthood and religious life, that their preparations may bring to the church happy and holy priests and religious men and women.

We ask this, through Christ the Good Shepherd.

*Archdiocese of Detroit*

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, I am older now. Time weighs heavy on my hands. They are too weak to labor now. Let my prayers be your hands, reaching out to inspire younger men and women. Lord, the harvest is ripe, the laborers few. I beg you, touch the hearts of the young. Make them want to serve as lay ministers, priests, sisters, deacons and brothers.

*Archdiocese of Detroit*

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Thank you, Lord, for all your great and wonderful gifts. Help us to live each day with joy and humility. Keep us totally dedicated to serving you. Teach us to recognize the many ways you make your Spirit known. Then help each of us to accept your gift, then grace to answer your call to form, strengthen and expand the Body of Christ. Amen.

*Diocese of Lexington*

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Generous God, you call us by name and ask us to follow you. Help us grow in the love and service of our church. Give us the energy and spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless the church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our family and friends who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons and lay ministers. Inspire us to open our hearts and hear your call.

*Diocese of Austin*

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, help us follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in willingly giving ourselves in service to your church. Stir up the grace of priestly and religious vocations in the hearts of many within our community and send your Spirit to guide and strengthen them in answering your call. Amen.

*Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson,*

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, you are the creator of the universe. You have gifted me with life. You call me to be a light to the world through baptism. Help me to brighten our world by sharing my gifts in the service of others and respecting all creation. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*National Coalition for Church Vocations*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Loving and merciful God, you call us into being and commission us to serve your people. We pray that our lives might make a difference and that our service might give you praise. Strengthen us, we pray, to be instruments of peace and justice in our church and in our world. May the desire to ministry as priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and lay ministers. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

*National Coalition for Church Vocations*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord God, you so loved the world that you sent your only son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in him. I join him in his prayer for laborers in your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue his mission in the world. May this same Spirit make known to me your will in my regard. Where you lead, I will follow. Let it be done to me according to your word. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

*Diocese of St. Augustine*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the savior of the world. Please manifest in your church the Spirit whom you also abundantly bestowed on your apostles. Call very many to priesthood and religious life. May zeal for your glory and for the salvation of the world inflame those you have chosen. May they be saints in your likeness. May our Holy Spirit strengthen them. May they be priests and religious according to your own heart.

*Diocese of Marquette*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Jesus, we ask you to bless our parish and all those living their commitment to you as married couples, singles, sisters, priests, deacons and brothers. We pray that our young people may know their vocation and respond with enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. Increase the faith life of our parish and strengthen our family life. Bless our parish with many vocations. Grant, Lord, that faithfully sharing your mission in this life, we may come together to share your eternal life in heaven.

*Archdiocese of Hartford*

## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Loving Father, you call each of us by name and ask us to follow you. Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as priests, sisters, brothers and permanent deacons.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

*Serra International*

## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Blessed Junipero Serra and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your church, fellow laborers to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

*Serra International*

## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Good and gracious God, you have called us through baptism to discipleship with your son, Jesus Christ, and have sent us to bring the good news of salvation to all peoples. We pray you to grant us more priests and religious to build up your church here within our country. Inspire young men and women by the example of Blessed Junipero Serra to give themselves totally to the work of Christ and His church.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

*Cardinal Roger M. Mahoney*

## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Almighty God, your son Jesus told us to pray for vocations since the harvest is great and the laborers are few. Help all of us who center our Catholic lives in word and sacrament to be active promoters of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The ministry of identifying and nurturing vocations belongs to each member of each family in our parish families. May we all accept this mission from Jesus with the determination that comes from faith.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

*Bishop Elden F. Curtiss*



## Scriptural Passages on Vocations

### Old Testament

#### Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

#### Exodus 3:10-12, 4:1, 10-12

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'" But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

#### Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

#### Jeremiah 1:4-8

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

### New Testament

#### Calling of the Apostles (Mark 3:13-19)

And he went up on the mountain, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons: Simon whom he surnamed Peter; James the son of Zeb'edee and John the brother of James, whom he surnamed Bo-aner'ges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Then he went home

#### Requirements to follow Jesus (Luke 9:57-62)

As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

#### The Cross (Matthew 16:24-28)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."

#### Few Chosen (Matthew 22:1-14)

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

#### All Things (Romans 8:26-31)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?