

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL **PETITIONS**

- During National Vocation Awareness Week, we ask the Holy Spirit to renew the Church with more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We pray to the Lord.
- For Catholic educators, that they can inspire students to remain open to God's call for their lives. We pray to the Lord.
- That young men from our parish will respond to the Church's tremendous need for priests. We pray to the Lord.
- That young men and women in our parish will seriously consider making vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in religious life. We pray to the Lord.
- That Christian parents, as they live their own vocations to marriage, will encourage their children to consider a priestly or religious vocation. We pray to the Lord.
- For the priests and religious who have served our parish and have passed from this life, especially <names>, that the Lord grant them eternal happiness. We pray to the Lord.



The Best Vocation Program

Over the last decade, the effectiveness of **Discernment Groups** has been proven time and again. Men thrive when they have camaraderie and support, especially as they discuss the priesthood. Will you consider a discernment group in your parish? Free materials at melchizedekproject.com



Download social media graphics at
vianneyvocations.com/nvaw

FOR NOV 5TH BULLETIN **BULLETIN BLURBS**

Today begins Vocation Awareness Week

Did you know that in our country, compared to 60 years ago, there are 20,000 fewer priests and 129,000 fewer religious sisters? At the same time, the Catholic population has grown steadily. During Vocation Awareness Week, please pray that young people in today's society will hear and respond to God's call. And do your part to encourage them to consider the priesthood and consecrated life.

One Vocation Leads to Another

"Let us not forget that Christian marriage is a vocation to holiness in the full sense of the word, and that the example of holy parents is the first condition favorable for the flowering of priestly and religious vocations." – Pope Benedict XV

Your Unique Mission

Why does it matter that people discover their God-given vocations? Because the Church relies on the unique contribution of every soul. As St. John Henry Newman famously reflected: "God has created me to do some special service; God has committed some work to me *which has not been committed to another*. I HAVE A MISSION."



VOCATION RESOURCES **FOR PRIESTS**

IDEAS FOR VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK: **NOVEMBER 5-11, 2023**

READINGS FOR NOV 5, 2023

PREACH ON VOCATIONS

First Reading: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

The prophet sharply reproaches the priests and leaders of the Israelites for their laxity and indifference toward God their Creator.

The vocation angle: The "obedience of faith" is not just believing certain religious ideas are true, but shaping our entire lives in accordance with those truths. This gets very practical when applied to our vocations. If I give my whole life to God, what exactly does He want me to do? And if I am called to leadership in the Church, will I respond faithfully?

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

St. Paul tenderly recalls his hard work in Thessalonica, and rejoices in the people's response.

The vocation angle: St. Paul loved the Thessalonians "as a nursing mother cares for her children." Celibate priests, sisters, and brothers do not live loveless lives! Rather, like parents, they are filled with love toward their spiritual children, rejoicing when they grow into maturity in Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

The Pharisees preach but do not practice, lording over those they lead. Jesus calls us instead to humble service: "The greatest among you must be your servant."

The vocation angle: In the Christian life, there are different calls, but not different classes. The Father assigns differing roles, but has the same love for each of His children. Thus the question is not, "How can I rise above?" but "Who can I humbly serve?" In the best marriages, spouses put each other first. The best priests make parishioners their priority. The holiest nuns and brothers "do small tasks with great love." The key to discovering one's vocation is casting aside the quest for status and focusing on *service*. After all, one of the titles of the Pope himself is "the Servant of the Servants of God."



BUILD A TEAM TO PROMOTE VOCATIONS

Inside this brochure, there is a huge range of options for celebrating Vocation Awareness Week. The good news is that *you don't have to do it all*. In a couple of hours, you can delegate all but the preaching! Recruit the help of:

- Parish Administrative Assistant
- Director of Faith Formation
- School Principal (if applicable)
- Youth Minister
- Young Adult Leaders
- Social Media helpers
- Serrans & other parishioners

The long-term benefit to engaging staff and volunteers is that you train others to be "vocation-minded" throughout the year, not just the first week of November.



ONLINE VOCATION RESOURCES

vianneyvocations.com/nvaw



VianneyVocations.com • 877-585-1551



A PARISH GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 5-11, 2023

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



TEACHING VOCATIONS TO CATHOLIC YOUTH

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & FAITH FORMATION

Number one recommendation for 2023: ask your DRE and principal to make Vocations Awareness Week a priority! There are hundreds of ways to do this, but here are three specific ideas:

Classroom Consecration - in every classroom, every day, ask a student to lead a simple prayer: "Lord, please call at least one student in this class to become a priest, sister, or brother." Then pray the Memorare together.

Vocations Crucifix - designate a special "vocations crucifix" to travel to a different classroom each week. Find a kit and children's vocation prayers at serrastore.org.

Vocation Curriculum - if your diocese subscribes to this online curriculum supplement, remind teachers and catechists to use it! Login at vocationlessons.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

How often should youth ministers talk about vocations? Pretty frequently! The topic should arise naturally during many gatherings, but a good rule of thumb is to have at least two meetings per year focused on vocations. Suggest **Vocation Nights** to your youth minister, an online guide with five vocation-themed meetings for teens.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Catholic young adult groups have the most short-term promise of producing new vocations. Usually participants are faithful men and women who are relatively open to God's will for their lives. They are often craving a higher level of discourse. For example, many would welcome a meeting focused on the art of Ignatian discernment.

To offer a higher level of support to those who are struggling with chastity, consider starting an Augustine Way Group, a new program that combines psychology & theology to help participants to break free of unhealthy sexual habits and find new freedom in Christ. augway.org



FIND LINKS TO ALL THESE RESOURCES: VIANNEYVOCATIONS.COM/NVAW

CATHOLIC FAMILIES

Catholic families who prioritize their faith are the wellspring of future vocations! Encourage moms and dads to speak with their children about the possibility of priesthood and religious life.

HOMESCHOOL GROUPS

Homeschool groups are typically very open to a visit from the pastor and a brief talk on vocations.

INVITE & ENCOURAGE

Encourage vocations by giving young men one of Serra's new "invitation coins" engraved with the question: "Have you considered becoming a priest?" This hefty coin offers a substantial, permanent reminder to consider God's call. There's also a similar coin to give to girls. Makes a great gift for altar servers.



INSPIRING VOCATIONS AT MASS

HOMILY ON VOCATIONS

Start your homily with, "I love being a priest" and share some of your most poignant memories. Consider a very direct invitation, preaching to "the audience within the audience," for example, to all teenagers or young adults.



VOCATIONS BULLETIN

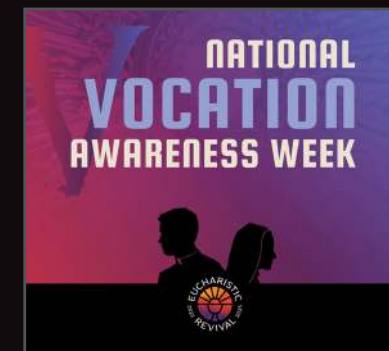
Spread the joy with the all-new 2023 vocations bulletin! Help parishioners understand the "vocations landscape," particularly how the Church is supporting young people considering priesthood or consecrated life. Digital version also available.

CHURCH DISPLAYS

Make it obvious to anyone coming through the doors that the parish is focusing on vocations.

VOCATION HANDOUTS

Plan ahead to hand out prayer cards, brochures, or kids' vocation worksheets. Make it your aim to spark that important family conversation: "If one day God calls you to be a priest..."



VOCATION INFO ONLINE

Free content is available for:

PARISH WEBSITE

Find photos and text to create a page on your parish website focused on vocations, with content for parents too.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Great graphics for each day of Vocations Awareness Week.

VIDEO

Great new animated video about religious life on YouTube: *The Unsolvable Problem*.



D180 ONLINE

Men who want to do a deep-dive into discerning the priesthood can sign up at Discernment180.com. Users create a rule of life with concrete actions and receive one text a day with spiritual readings. It's a powerful tool for a structured six-month discernment period.

