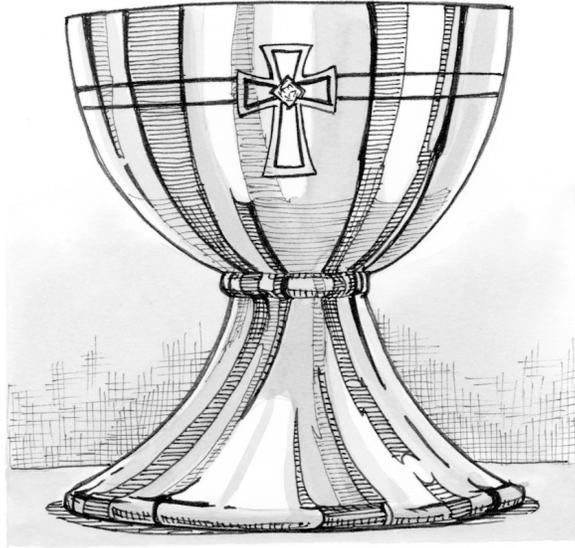
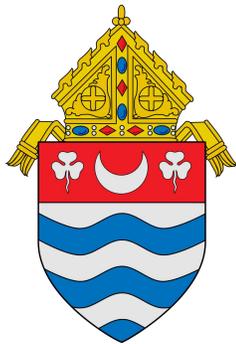


Vocation Prayer Chalice

Archdiocese of Newark



A parish prayer initiative including prayerful reflections and discussions on Vocations based on Sacred Scripture, St. John Paul II, St. Francis DeSales, and Pope Francis



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Archdiocese of Newark - Office of Vocations

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The Church, the People of God, is always in need of men and women eager to commit their lives to serving the Church in a very sacrificial way through the priesthood and consecrated life. For this to be accomplished we need to pray, both as individuals and as communities.

Pope Francis shared this in his homily on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 2013, *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*,

“Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.... This is why Jesus said: 'Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest,' that is, God the Father, 'to send out laborers into his harvest' (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.”

In an effort to provide opportunities to pray for vocations in our local parishes and communities, The Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark has updated and modified existing programs used around the country and designed one specifically for use in your parish or school. The Traveling Prayer Chalice is meant to be a means for participation in prayerful discussion about vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

The hope is that your parish will initiate this program and begin to foster a culture of vocations within your parish community. The program ideally begins at Sunday Mass, where a family, ministry leader, a class in the parish school or religious education program director would be handed the chalice and prayer program, which they then bring to their home, classroom, or ministry meetings. During that week, the individual, family, ministry team, etc. would pray through the program returning the following Sunday to "hand-off" the chalice and program to another person, ministry, class, etc. This program can run for as many weeks as you see fit for your parish.

The purpose is to reflect each week on the gift of understanding what it is God desires for us in our lives, with a particular emphasis toward an openness to priesthood or religious life. The following pages will use the family as that community of prayer being used as a catalyst for the support and increase of vocations to the priesthood or religious life. However, we encourage you to adapt this model for use in the variety of small Christian communities within your parish, i.e. the different ministry teams, faith formation classes, etc.

To echo Pope Francis, "Behind and before every vocation...is the strong and intense prayer of someone." We are asking you and the people of your parish to be that *someone*...

In Christ,

Rev. Matthew R. Dooley and the Vocations Office Team

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Archdiocese of Newark

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Vocation Prayer Chalice

Using the Prayer Chalice - Instructions

Purpose: To promote vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated life among the faithful. By charging communities and individuals with the responsibility to pray for vocations and to seek community participation, this program hopes to foster unity among parish groups and to encourage men and women to ask the question “Where is God calling me?”

How to set up the Program in your parish

1. Determine a timeframe to initiate and close the program, for example “National Vocation Awareness Week”, (Nov 6-12, 2016) or “World Day of Prayer for Vocations,” (May 7, 2017). The ideal would be to perhaps begin in November and conclude the initiative in May.

- Length will be determined by the parish community, suggested 3 mo. minimum

2. Promote the Program a few weeks ahead of time to the parish. Preach on the need for vocations in the Archdiocese (contact the Vocations Office for stats and ideas) and explain the program. Have families, ministry teams, classes, etc. sign up for specific weeks after Masses. Put blurbs in the bulletin, etc.

3. Create a Schedule and Calendar

4. Initiate the Program during Sunday Mass, preferably after communion or the end of Mass, where the first individual or family will receive the Chalice and Program. They will keep with them a chalice (or cross) for a period of one week. During the week this group/family/ministry will follow the suggested guidelines and prayers outlined in the program for prayer and reflection on the gift of vocation. The following Sunday, that group/family/ministry will hand the chalice to the next assigned group, who will follow the same suggested guidelines for prayer and reflection.

- How you present the Chalice and Program at Mass (prayers, blessing, etc.) is up to you.

- See the included sample ceremony page at the end of the program for ideas.

How to Pray the Vocation Chalice Program

Throughout your week of prayer, place the chalice/cross in a place of honor in your household or meeting space. If at home in that place around which the family gathers to be nourished body and soul. Each evening come together as a family to begin the following series of prayerful meditations.

- Begin with “Day 1: What is a vocation?” and each day, move through the subsequent meditations.
- Chose a member of the family/group to lead the opening prayer
- Read aloud the discussion for the day, and spend some time considering the questions that follow. (Note: These questions are suggested guidelines and discussion topics.)
- Close with reading aloud the conclusion, and finish with the closing prayer.

Although the Vocation Prayer Chalice or Cross offers an organized time of prayer for religious vocations, such prayer does not need be limited to this program. Pray, daily, that those who are preparing for or have committed themselves to the priesthood and consecrated life may persevere with enthusiasm and joy in their vocation. Pray for those in your family and parish community, that they will respond appropriately and generously to God’s call; and pray for yourself, that you may understand your vocation and pursue it with confidence.

****This is a consecrated chalice - set it in a place of honor and do not drink from it, except at Mass**

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 1

"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love." - Pope Francis

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life. Through Baptism, you invite us to share the gift of our lives in the service of others, give us the strength and grace we need to do so. We ask for the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. We pray especially for those in our Archdiocese who serve you as priests, religious brothers and sisters, and as deacons and lay ministers. Keep them close to you. Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women from within our communities, that they may accept Your invitation to serve. Amen.

Discussion: What is a Vocation?

We go to church and we hear, "Pray for vocations." We look at prayer cards that read, "Pray for vocations." We receive mailings that enclose the words, "Pray for vocations." It is easy to acknowledge, then, that *vocations* have a great importance to the Church. But do we know what we are praying for? What, exactly, *is* a vocation?

Vocation comes from the latin, *vocare*, meaning 'to call.' Every person has a vocation, a calling from God, a call to holiness. In his book, *Gift and Mystery*, Pope Saint John Paul II describes the meaning of the word "vocation":

"A vocation is a mystery of divine election: 'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide'(Jn15:16). 'And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was' (Heb 5:4). 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed a prophet to the nations' (Jer 1:5)"

Consider and discuss these questions:

What is a vocation?

Who calls a person to his or her vocation?

Why should we pray for vocations, and for people who have vocations?

Day 1 continued

Conclusion

A vocation is a special invitation from God to serve him in a specific way of living. Most people are called to the vocation of Marriage, a beautiful vocation, where a man and woman live out their call to holiness by leading each other and their children to Heaven. However, what is usually meant when people use the word “vocation” is a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life. Our Creator calls some individuals, in a very personal way, to follow and serve Christ and His Church by dedicating every aspect of their lives to them. As a priest this is done through administering the Sacraments, leading ministries, and being Spiritual Directors for those they serve.

For those in religious or consecrated life, this is done through a life of prayer, service, and community. This is a great responsibility and not an easy way of living. Therefore, these men and women who dedicate their lives completely to God need our prayers to give them the strength, courage, ability, and passion to live out their calling.

Closing Prayer

**Loving God,
you speak to us and nourish us through the life of this family.
In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so
that men and women will respond to your call
to service and leadership in the church.**

**We pray, especially, in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a
priest, sister or brother. May those who are opening their
hearts and minds to your call
be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service.
Amen.**

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 2

Opening Prayer:

O God,
You sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in Him.
We ask that you send us laborers for your harvest.
May your Holy Spirit inspire men and women within the Archdiocese of Newark
to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry.
May this same Spirit make known your will for us in our lives.
Amen.

Discussion: To Be Perfect in Our Vocation

“To be perfect in our vocation is nothing else than to fulfill the duties which our state of life obliges us to perform, and to accomplish them well, and only for the honor and love of God.”
-St. Francis DeSales

Born in France in 1567, St. Francis de Sales was the son of a French nobleman. While his father wanted him to become a lawyer, Francis realized that he had a vocation to the priesthood. Francis' father did not agree with his desire to become a priest and Francis struggled with fears and doubts. One day in church he prayed fervently before an image of our Lady, taking at the same time a vow of chastity. He was finally ordained a priest on May 13, 1593, and eventually became bishop of Geneva. St. Francis de Sales is not only noted for being a gifted preacher, but also for being an example of how ordinary lives can be shaped into a holy and sanctified life.

Consider and discuss these questions:

What do you think it means, “to be perfect in our vocation”?

How can I be perfect in mine?

What can keep others and us from being "perfect" in their vocation?

How can I take my life and transform it into one of holiness and sanctification?

Day 2 continued

Conclusion

We are all called to holiness; we all have a vocation. We all encounter temptations that try to prevent us from being perfect in our vocation. We all have the ability, with the aid of God's grace, to avoid and resist those temptations. These are all very important truths; however, they have a particular importance in the lives of Catholic priests.

These men are entrusted by Christ to the leadership of the Church, and therefore have a tremendous and honorable responsibility indeed to be perfect in their vocations and to sanctify their lives. However, they, like St. Francis de Sales and like all of us, encounter struggles and temptations that have the potential to keep them from increasing in holiness.

This is yet another reason why we pray for vocations! Like St. Francis de Sales, we are called to bring our prayers before Our Lady, asking her not only to pray for our holiness and our ability to be perfect in our vocation, but also for our priests. We need priests who, by their example, can lead us to holiness and encourage us to become perfect in our vocations.

Closing Prayer

O God our Father, You promised “I will appoint shepherds for My sheep who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing.” (Jer. 23: 4-5) Hear the prayers of Your flock. We beg You to call to the sacramental priesthood generous and holy men who will desire nothing more than to serve You in imitation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, our High Priest.

We ask your blessing on those who have responded to the call to the priesthood and are currently in the seminary within our Archdiocese. Bless these men in their studies and formation to the Priesthood, that one day God who began the good work in these men will bring it to fulfillment.

Please bless those who currently serve as priests in our parish. That they may serve Your people with mercy, kindness, and generosity.

Mary, Mother of priests, and example of the faithful, humble, and joyful acceptance of God's will, help all those who are called to the priesthood to open their ears and hearts to the gentle call of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 3

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come, follow me! Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to Your voice. Support our bishops, priests, and consecrated people in their mission. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are living their lives totally consecrated to Your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, SEND WORKERS TO YOUR HARVEST and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries, and people dedicated to living the joy of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say “Yes” to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

-Pope Saint John Paul II

Discussion: “Let it be done to me according to your word.”

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: “Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.” She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her: “Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end.”

Mary said to the to the angel, “How can this be since I have no relations with a man?” The angel answered her: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the child to be born will be called Son of God. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age; she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word.” With that the angel left her” (Luke 1: 26-38).

The story of the announcement of the birth of Jesus is one traditionally associated with the Feast of the Annunciation; however, the invitation of the Archangel Gabriel and the response of Mary have a great significance in each of our lives today.

Day 3 continued

Consider and discuss these questions:

How does God choose to reveal His Will for us in our lives?

What are some things we can do or change in our lives in order to find God's vocation for us more clearly?

How do we often react to God's Will? Is it something that we want? Are we 'troubled'? When God does call us, do we respond generously as Mary did?

Why should we respond generously to God's Will?

Conclusion

Although He may not appear in flashing billboards, call us on the phone, or send an angel to us from Heaven, God certainly calls us to Himself in so many ways. Each day He invites us to draw closer to Him. With the aid of prayer, God develops and shapes our hearts, preparing them to serve Him through the vocation He has willed for us. Some He calls to the vocation of the priesthood or the religious life. Perhaps he is calling some of us in this very family! If so, how will we respond?

No doubt, it is very easy to be frightened or "troubled" by this call, just as Mary was when God called her to be the Mother of Jesus. Such a sacrifice is, indeed, frightening, as it requires us to completely abandon ourselves, our wants and desires to the Lord. However, "nothing is impossible with God," and knowing this we can find great comfort and find the courage to say, as Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word."

We should continue to pray then, as we are aware of the possibility of God calling us to serve Him in the priesthood or religious life; we should pray that we and that others, too, will find the strength to respond to His loving call with the greatest generosity, no matter how frightening it may at first seem. No vocation is without sacrifice, but it is that same sacrifice that bears much fruit.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, come and bless this family with Your presence. You know who we are, and who You are calling us to become. Continue to reveal to us the vocation to which you are calling us and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, overshadow us with your love and grace to give us the courage to respond with generous hearts to Your Will, whatever it may be. We ask you to strengthen those whom You are calling to serve the Church as a priest, brother, or sister, especially those in this very family so that they will find themselves overjoyed to give their lives completely to You. With Mary, we ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 4

Opening Prayer

Lord,
In our lives, we have received many blessings from You and Your Church.
Please continue to pour out Your blessings on all Your people.
Let our prayers reach out especially to touch younger men and women.
Lord, the harvest is plenty, the laborers few.
I beg you, touch the hearts of the young.
Inspire them to serve as priests, sisters, and brothers within our
Archdiocese of Newark and throughout the world.
Amen.

Discussion: The Role of Siblings

A Reading from the Gospel of John (John 1:35-42)

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. As he watched Jesus walk by he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what he said, and followed Jesus. When Jesus turned around and noticed them following him he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi (which means Teacher), where do you stay?" "Come and see," he answered. So they went to see where he was lodged, and stayed with him that day. (It was about four in the afternoon.)

One of the two who had followed him after hearing John was Simon Peter's brother Andrew. The first thing he did was seek out his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah!" (This term means the Anointed.) He brought him to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John; your name shall be Cephas (which is rendered Peter)" (John 1: 35-42).

Consider these questions:

Jesus calls us to "come and see." What does He want us to see?

As He calls us, do we follow Him? What are some ways that we could follow Christ?

What does Andrew do upon discovering Jesus?

What can we do to help others, especially those in our family, by pointing the way to Christ?

Day 4 continued

Conclusion

Imagine yourself 2000 years ago. You are in a town called Bethany, and standing near the river Jordan. While you are with your friend, a man walks by. Immediately, a man wading in the river who has been well-known for baptizing, for preaching repentance, and proclaiming news of a Savior to come, points to this passing stranger, shouting: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!” Of course, you are overjoyed because perhaps, yes, perhaps the wait is over, and the Messiah has finally come. With a mixture of excitement and nervousness, you decide to follow him, and he invites you to “come and see.” What do you do after you follow this man who is the Messiah, the one who has been prophesized to be the Savior of the world? Where do you go? Who do you tell?

In the Gospel of John, we see Andrew in this situation. And, we are told that the first thing he did was seek out his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah!” What an amazing display of familial love and evangelization! In our own families, like Andrew, we are called to lead others to Christ. Brother and sisters, parents and children, all are given this great responsibility to point the way to Christ to one another. It should be our first priority within our family: to reveal Jesus to each other and, even more importantly, to bring one another to Jesus.

As we recognize Christ’s amazing presence in our lives, we should strive to point the way to Him for those in our family. Let us be inspired by the statement of the Pope St. John Paul II and understand the great importance of revealing Christ to those in our very family: The new evangelization must bring a fuller appreciation of the family as the primary and most vital foundation of society, the first school of social virtue and solidarity (cf. *Familiaris Consortio*, 42). As the family goes, so goes the nation!

Closing Prayer

**Loving God,
you speak to us and nourish us through the life of this family.
In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us
so that men and women, young and old, will respond to your call
to service and leadership in the church.**

**We pray for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister or brother.
May those who are opening their heads and minds to your call
be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service.
Amen.**

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 5

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,
You renew Your Church in every age by raising up priests, sisters, and brothers to be outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of your unchanging love.
Fill the hearts of young men and women with the spirit of courage and love, and enliven in them an awareness of their vocation that they will graciously answer your call.
Give to parents the grace they need to encourage vocations among their own children. Help them act out this grace through the holy example of their lives and through their prayer.
Raise, in a special way, worthy priests, brothers, and sisters.
May they be ardent but gentle servants of Your Gospel.
Give them as a gift to Your Church and keep them faithful in their dedication to You and Your people.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Discussion: Fostering and Encouraging One Another's Vocation

A Reading from the 1st Book of Samuel (1 Sam 3:1-9)

During the time young Samuel was a 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." He 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 he 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 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'".

Day 5 continued

Consider and discuss these questions:

Do we ever see God working in other people's lives?

How can we help those who we feel God is calling, especially to the priesthood or consecrated life?

When we understand that He is calling someone to a certain vocation, do we encourage him or her to follow God?

As God continues to call us to our vocation, where or to whom can we look for encouragement and direction?

What does this story tell us about the importance of the family in vocations?

Conclusion

The story of the revelation to Samuel is truly a beautiful one. It portrays the unmistakable importance of encouraging vocations among one another and the importance of LISTENING in prayer. Eli, Samuel's mentor, understands that God is calling the young man in a very special way. Therefore, he directs the youth, telling Samuel to reply eagerly to the Lord upon His call: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Just as the elder teacher recognizes and then encourages the young student's vocation, so, too, do we see this same necessary relationship in our own families today.

As the children of the family continue to grow in God and gradually discover their vocation, it is the parents' duty to foster that vocation out of love. By supporting their children in prayer and encouragement, parents take a beautiful and, certainly, an irreplaceable part in their children's lives by bringing them closer to God and His Will. Just as brothers and sisters can and should lead one another to Christ, so also are parents called to then encourage and direct their children as they embark on the journey of following Christ and discovering their vocation.

Closing Prayer

**O Gracious God,
we come before You just as Samuel once did, saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Lord, here we are! Reveal to us what You would have us do with our lives. Give us the ability to hear your voice and not only follow You as You call us to our vocation, but also to recognize the vocations of others, and encourage others who seek to follow You. Teach us to do your will, O Lord. And let your Holy Spirit guide us in all that we do. With Mary, we pray. Amen.**

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Day 6

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, [You] chose and called the apostles and entrusted to them their task of preaching the Gospel, feeding the faithful and celebrating divine worship, ensure that today, too, your Church may not lack numerous holy priests, who can bring to all the fruits of your death and resurrection....

**Most holy Virgin, who without hesitation offered yourself to the Almighty for the carrying out of his plan of salvation, pour trust into the hearts of young people so that there may always be zealous pastors who are able to guide the Christian people on the way of life, and consecrated souls who may know how to witness, in chastity, poverty, and obedience, to the freeing presence of your risen Son.
Amen.**

*Excerpts from the Message of the Holy Father for the 38th World Day of Prayer for Vocations
6 May 2001 – 4th Sunday of Easter*

Discussion: The Christian Family and Vocations

"Be close in your prayers to the family member who is preparing to be a priest. The goal of priesthood is very beautiful and not disappointing but not always easy to reach. There is need for tenacity, conviction, a spirit of sacrifice, great submissiveness to the Holy Spirit and the Church, so as to become, as St. Catherine of Siena said, "ministers of the blood." Fathers of souls, saints and sanctifiers.

So, these your sons need to be sustained by much, much prayer. Your prayers especially, dear mothers. Yes, like Mary Most Holy, Mother of Priests, you have a very special mission in preparing your sons for the priesthood. You ought to help them, like true Christian mothers, to discover new and boundless horizons: those of a love "which eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man"

-Pope St. John Paul II, Prayers and Devotions, "The Christian Family and the Priestly Vocation"

"Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.... This is why Jesus said: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest", that is, God the Father, "to send out labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit."

-Pope Francis, Regina Caeli Message, April 21, 2013

Day 6 continued

Consider and discuss these questions:

What does St. John Paul II stress as being the most important part of a family when it comes to vocations?

How can we apply his message to not only family members who are considering the priesthood, but to every member of our family?

What do you feel the role of the family is in vocations, especially to the priesthood and the consecrated life?

Through this week of prayer, what have you learned about vocations? What have you discovered about yourself? What have you learned about your family members? What have you learned about your family as a whole?

Conclusion

Pope St. John Paul II's message, "The Christian Family and the Priestly Vocation," stresses the relationship between the family and between vocations to the priesthood; however, his statement can also be applied to vocations to the consecrated life.

A priest or religious in a family can be a wonderful influence and a symbol of the sanctity of God's great love for that family. Just as important, however, is the family's influence on those considering a vocation to the priesthood and the consecrated life. "Much, much prayer," says the Holy Father, is needed to unify the family and to foster vocations among her members. As we conclude this week of prayer, we can understand then not only the meaning of a vocation, but also the *meaning of the family in a vocation*. A family centered in Christ and in prayer is imperative in the successful encouragement of religious vocations. May we continue to come together in prayer and in love, revealing Christ to one another and praying that we may each discover God's will for us.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Up until now you have been quietly preparing us to be your disciples.

Now the time of preparation is ending.

We seem to hear you say to us as once to Peter: "Will you also go away?"

You were saddened then by friends who failed you. But Peter did not fail.

"Lord," he said, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

We stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel, show us, Lord, where it is in Your vineyard that You want us to serve. Then give us strength to be faithful.

Mary, Mother and Model, help me to respond in generous love to the call of Your Divine Son.

Amen.

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Prayer for Vocations

Father,
You invite each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

We ask that you bless your Church
in the Archdiocese of Newark
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will faithfully serve your people
as Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and
as holy Married and Single people.

Inspire us to grow in our relationship with you and
open our hearts to accept your invitation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.



Vocation Prayer Chalice

Sample Ceremony

During Mass, have the Chalice displayed in a prominent place.

After communion while everyone is seated:

Presider: As a parish community, together let us pray for an increase of vocations within our Archdiocese.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the many faithful priests who serve with in the Archdiocese of Newark, please send us more good, holy men to consider the priesthood.

Thank you for the men and women who have courageously said yes to following you in the Religious and Consecrated Life, please encourage more people to consider giving their lives to you in this way.

Thank you for the many good and faithful men and women who selflessly give of themselves in marriage and as parents. Please help them to recognize the importance of their vocation and serve you through their family.

Will _____(insert family name)_____ please come forward to accept the Chalice and Program for this week.

Good and gracious God, we ask you to bless ____ (insert family name) _____. As this consecrated chalice is placed in a central place in their home, please listen to their prayers on behalf of our parish community and answer them according to your will.

May our efforts be pleasing to the Lord and may God answer our prayers through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Vocation Prayer Chalice

Helpful Tips

Sample Schedule of Events

- Week 1 - Preaching on Vocations and Announcement of Program
- Week 2 - Pulpit Announcement and Bulletin Announcement, Sign ups begin
- Week 3 - Initiate the Program, sign ups continue
- Week 4 - Second presentation to Family, note from Pastor in bulletin
- Week 5 - Third Presentation to Family
- Ongoing
 - Continue as needed
 - ask for a Vocations Coordinator to facilitate the program
 - list the families who sign up in the bulletin for current and upcoming week

Sample Bulletin Announcements

Starting (date), our parish will start praying for vocations with a "Vocations Prayer Chalice." Praying for vocations is a responsibility and privilege of the laity. The Prayer Chalice will be presented to a family at the conclusion of a Sunday Mass each week. The family will take the Chalice home and use it as a focal point while praying through a week-long program for vocations within the Archdiocese of Newark. In successive weeks, the Chalice will be passed to other families. More announcements to come.

Sample Announcement from the Pastor

Today, we as a parish, along with all of the parishes in the Archdiocese are being asked to become part of a new program called a Vocations Prayer Chalice. Each Sunday, a family, couple, or individual will be called forward at Mass to receive the Prayer Chalice and a prayer booklet to be used with it. In taking the Chalice, they commit themselves to pray each day during that week on behalf of our parish for vocations.

All of you are invited to participate in this program. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the Church after all Masses. We encourage you to sign up for one of the weeks and then attend the designated Mass that week to receive the Prayer Chalice and Program.

It is our hope that this experience being shared throughout the Archdiocese will encourage EACH of us to take seriously our vocation as a member of Christ's Church and help us all pray for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and religious life--something that we are in great need of.

We believe that the Spirit is calling forth men and women from this very parish community to these courageous and beautiful roles of service. Some of you sitting here today, may in fact be called to be priests or religious brothers or sisters. May our prayer help inspire our young men and women to be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit within them and to step forward in faith and with generous hearts to wherever the Spirit leads them.

Please consider being a part of this wonderful opportunity of prayer. Thank you.