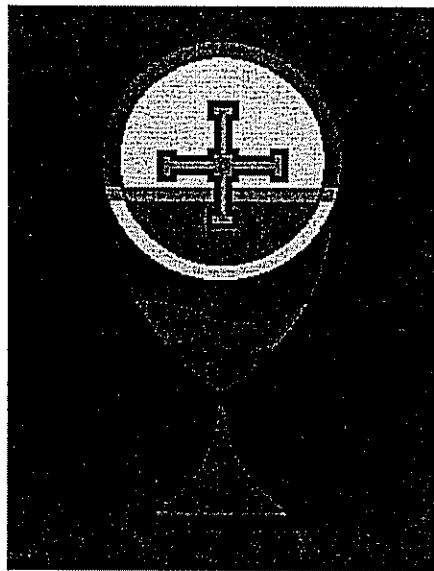


Elijah Cup

Praying for Vocations



*S*erra *A*tlanta

Supporting Vocations in the Archdiocese of Atlanta

About Serra

"Serra is the lay vocations arm of the Church."

Pope John Paul II

An Idea That Caught On

The year was 1934; the place was Seattle, WA; and four Catholic friends had an idea. They decided to meet regularly over a meal to discuss how their Christian values could be lived out in their professional lives. Soon more friends were joining them, and within several months, they had decided on an additional focus: the encouraging of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. They chose Padre Junipero Serra, the noted Spanish missionary, as patron.

This small group has grown into Serra International. Serrans today are still dedicated to spiritual growth, continuing Catholic adult education, warm fellowship and the encouragement of vocations. It was a great idea and it has become a tradition of commitment.

Objectives

To foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life, and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocation to service.

Serra Today

Serra is a voluntary organization of Catholic men and women of various ages, races and backgrounds. There are 683 clubs with more than 21,000 Serrans in 35 countries around the world. In 1986, Serra International voted to welcome women, as well as men, to membership in the organization. Women, as full-fledged members, are very important contributors to Serra.

Serra in Atlanta

Here in the Archdiocese of Atlanta there are nearly one hundred active Serrans in three Serra clubs - the North Metro Club, the Metro Club, and Greater Northeast Club.



Elijah & the Widow

1 Kings 17:8-15

After some time, however, the brook ran dry, because no rain had fallen in the land. So the LORD said to him: "Move on to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have designated a widow there to provide for you." He left and went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the entrance of the city, a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her, "Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink." She left to get it, and he called out after her, "Please bring along a bit of bread." "As the LORD, your God, lives," she answered, "I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die." "*Do not be afraid,*" Elijah said to her. "Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.

For the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'

She left and did as Elijah had said. She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well.

Praying For Vocations

The purpose of the Elijah Cup, a consecrated chalice, is to provide a focal point for prayer.

We are all aware of the need for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and to the religious life. But sometimes we forget just how powerful praying for an increase in vocations can be. If we pray with the faith of the widow of Zarephath, our cup will never run dry! We will always have priests to bring us Jesus in the Eucharist.

In 1 Kings 17, during a drought, Elijah tells the poor widow of Zarephath that if she makes him a small loaf of bread with the last of her flour and oil, her "*jar of flour will not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the Lord sends rain upon the earth.*" In faith, the widow baked the bread and fed Elijah. For the next year, the widow, her son, and Elijah ate bread made from the bowl of flour and jug of oil.

The 2nd Vatican Counsel instructs us that it is the job of the laity to pray for and raise up vocations, and this has been echoed by Pope John Paul II in many of his teachings.

The Elijah Cup

Each week at Sunday Mass the celebrant will use the Elijah Cup as the chalice or a precious blood cup. After purifying the Elijah Cup at the end of Communion, he calls a family, individual, or couple forward to receive the Elijah Cup. They receive a blessing and take the cup home, putting it in a place of honor.

Each day for a week, during prayer time (morning, bedtime or at meals), they pray for an increase and perseverance of vocations. The following Sunday they return the Elijah Cup with the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory.

A prayer journal also travels with the Elijah Cup. Each week the family, individual, or couple that has the cup enters a thought, prayer, or scripture verse. Over time, this diary becomes a spiritual journal for the parish.

Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women who he is calling in a very special way. We hope that those who bring the cup home will continue to pray for vocations daily.



One Family's Experience

The following remarks were made at Shepherd' Night by Bruce and Carol Kapteyn and their children - Cameron, Telia, and John. The Kapteyn's are members of St. Peter Chanel Mission in Roswell, GA. The Kapteyn's were among the first to bring the Elijah Cup to there home.

Bruce Kapteyn (Father)

Thank you Archbishop, Reverend Fathers, ladies and gentlemen. We appreciate the honor of Father Frank asking us to represent the many families of the mission of St. Peter Chanel who have participated in bringing the Elijah cup into their homes each week. He asked us to relate to you what being involved with the Elijah cup has meant to us.

Before I start, I am happy to report that the response from the mission of St. Peter Chanel has been overwhelming. Three families each week bring the Elijah cup home and each night pray that more men and women might enter into religious vocations. We also prayed for seminarians and especially for all religious in the archdiocese of Atlanta who devote their lives and love to the many Catholic families in the area.

For personal reflections and experiences on how the presence of the Elijah cup in our home has impacted us, I would like to introduce our family, who will each say a few words. First to speak will be Cameron, our youngest child who is 11, then our daughter Telia, 12, our oldest son John, 14 and lastly Carol, my wife.

Cameron Kapteyn (11 yrs. Old)

Because we had the Elijah Cup we prayed for religious vocations.

At first I prayed that others would have religious vocations, and then I realized that my brother, my sister, or I might have a religious vocation. I thought vocations were for other people but we are other people.

Because of the Elijah Cup I thought about priests and sisters and how they heard God's call.

Telia Kapteyn (12 yrs. Old)

The experience with the Elijah Cup was a wonderful one for my family and I. We placed the chalice on our family table to remind us of vocations, which is what it symbolizes. I never really had thought about or pondered over exactly how much religious people really mean to us, the Catholic Church.

Without Archbishops, Bishops, priests, sisters and deacons, there could be no Catholic Church. These people influence our lives in so many ways. They live their lives as true examples of the teachings of Jesus.

From when I was 5 or 6 until now, I can remember how these special people have influenced my life; Father Becher, Father Rock, Father Bob, and now Father Frank and Sister Patricia. These individuals have each made a very big impression on my life. The Elijah cup reminds us to pray for these people who often slip by unrecognized and without the support of our prayers.

I think you should bring the Elijah Cup to your parishes.

What the Elijah Cup symbolizes is the future of the Catholic Church.

John Kapteyn (14 yrs. Old)

Having a chalice that was actually used in the celebration of mass in our home was a powerful experience for my family and I. While reciting the prayer card I had a lot of things going through my head from religious vocations to my English test. It wasn't until after we had given the cup back to the church to be passed on to the next family that I thought about the true purpose of what the cup was in our home for. While saying the prayer the idea never really crossed my mind that I or someone I was close to might go to a seminary or convent; I only thought of asking God's help for that other person.

I realize that one of the main reasons the cup was in our home was to inspire prayer for wisdom of choice; to better understand God's plan for each and every one of us.

Carol (Mother)

When Father Frank asked if we would speak about this experience of the Elijah Cup in our home, we immediately said "yes". (It's tough to turn down Father Frank).

As Catholics, we have crucifixes in our home. They remind us daily of Christ's love. The Elijah Cup in our home is a holy object, normally reserved for the use of priests or Eucharistic ministers. Therefore, my vision for the Elijah cup in our home was that, of course, it would have a place of honor in our entry or mantle and it would be enshrined there during the week. We would bring the cup into the midst of our family only for fervent prayer as we gathered around it in the evening.

The Reality was, that the cup entered our home and stayed where guests feel the most comfortable, in the kitchen, our center of family life. The symbol of Christ's life and sacrifice joined us among the ringing phone, the basketball schedules, the daily news and the piles of homework that inevitably accumulate in a busy family. Through the comings and goings of our day we were always aware of it's holy presence among us, there on the kitchen counter. This was not my original vision of how it would be, but on reflection I realized that if Christ were in our home, he would have been there in the kitchen, with us, comfortably seated at the kitchen counter asking the children about their day at school. He would have told me to leave the dishes, forget the laundry, and come and listen to him. It was how he chose to live his life here on earth, with ordinary people in the midst of their everyday lives, teaching them to listen and pray.

The Elijah Cup is an extremely powerful symbol of the priesthood and religious life. Because of the uniqueness of the cup in our home it was a constant teacher and reminder of the need for prayer for religious vocations and for those who now serve us in the Church. The Elijah Cup inspired much prayer and discussion in our home. It was a wonderful experience.

Bruce Kapteyn (Father)

As you can tell, the Elijah cup's presence in our home has been a real, heart-felt blessing, certainly not a task. It has been our pleasure to participate, along with the other 25 families, who have brought the Elijah cup home over the past 2 months. We hope that others may also share what we have discovered; that the Elijah cup has raised our awareness of the need for prayer for all religious and the importance of praying for more people to enter religious life.

Our family is richer due to the Elijah cup. We will continue to pray for its intentions.

Thank you for your time this evening.... and thank you for your devotion to the Archdiocese.

Schedule of Events

Week 1

- Bulletin Announcement
- Identify Parish Coordinator

Week 2 - Sign-Up Sunday

- Bulletin Announcement
- Pulpit Announcement by Pastor
- Sign-Up

Week 3 – First Family Takes Elijah Cup Home

- First Presentation to Family
- Sign-Up Continues if Needed

Week 4

- Second Presentation to Family
- Note from Pastor in Bulletin

Week 5

- Third Presentation to Family
- Story in Parish Newsletter

Ongoing

- Presentation to Family
- Add Elijah Cup Coordinator to Parish List of Contacts/Ministers
- Place Coordinators name and phone number in the bulletin.
- List current week and next week schedule in the bulletin.

Requirements

Pastoral Support

- Parish Coordinator (named by Pastor)
- Chalice for each Mass (provided by Parish)
- Carrying Case for each Chalice (provided by Parish)
- Prayer Cards with Vocations Prayer (provided by Serra)
- Prayer Journal/Diary for Families (one diary provided by Serra)
- Sign-Up Sunday Presentation (facilitated by Serra)
- Bulletin Announcements

Sign-Up Sunday

Elijah Cup Talk

- 5 to 6 Minutes in length.
- Suggest talking after Communion.
- Key Points--
 - Thank you.
 - Brief Overview of Serra.
 - Invitation to Pray for Vocations.
 - Story of the Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath – *1 Kings 17:8-15*.
 - Importance and Power of Prayer.
 - The Responsibility of the Laity to Promote and Pray for Vocations.
 - How the Elijah Cup Works
 - Invitation to Sign-Up After Mass.
- Stress Elijah Cup is for Couples and Singles As Well As Families.

Sign-Up Table

- Located in a Prominent Place in Narthex or Outside Church.
- Display—
 - Elijah Cup (Chalice).
 - Carrying Case.
 - Prayer Journal.
 - Prayer Cards.
 - Reminder Card.
 - Parish Sign-Up Sheet.
 - Seminarian List.
 - Serra Information.

After Mass

- Be Proactive.
- Be positive.
- Encourage parishioners to sign up and participate.
- Stress no meetings or cost – Asking for prayer only.

Suggested Actions

For Mass

- Have the family, couple or individual who prayed with the Elijah Cup during the previous week present the gifts of bread and wine as well as the Elijah Cup at the Offertory.
- The celebrant should use the Elijah Cup as the chalice for consecration or as a precious blood cup during the Mass.
- After Communion, a precious blood minister should purify the Elijah Cup at the credence table, place it in its carrying case and give it to either the celebrant or an altar server.
- Just prior to the Final Blessing and the Dismissal, the celebrant calls the family, couple, or individual forward that will pray with the Elijah Cup during the upcoming week. He presents the cup (in its carrying case) to them and commissions them with a blessing to lift up the prayers for vocations of the community during the coming week.
- The family, couple, or individual returns to their seats.
- The following Sunday, the steps are repeated.

For Coordinator

- Should publish a schedule for their Mass.
- At the end of the week, remind the family with the Elijah Cup to return it at Mass on Sunday.
- Towards the end of the week, confirm that the family scheduled for the upcoming week will be at Mass.
- Add families, couple and individuals to the schedule as they express interest in participating.

Bulletin Announcements

Week Prior To Pulpit Announcement



Elijah Cup

Starting (date), our parish will start praying for vocations with the "Elijah Cup". Praying for vocations is a responsibility and privilege of the laity. The "Elijah Cup" is a chalice that will be presented to a family each Sunday at the conclusion of Mass. That family will take the "Elijah Cup" home and use it as a focal point while praying daily for an increase in religious vocations. In successive weeks, the "Elijah Cup" is passed to other families. Listen next week for more details from the pulpit.

Week Of Pulpit Announcement



Elijah Cup

Starting next week, our parish will start praying for vocations with the "Elijah Cup". Praying for vocations is a responsibility and privilege of the laity. The "Elijah Cup" is a chalice that will be presented to a family each Sunday at the conclusion of Mass. That family will take the "Elijah Cup" home and use it as a focal point while praying daily for an increase in religious vocations. In successive weeks, the "Elijah Cup" is passed to other families. Sign-up after Mass today.

Successive Weeks

Elijah Cup Schedule



Feb 20	9 am	Ted Stewart Family
	12 pm	Carol Jones
	5 pm	Jim Brandt Family
Feb 28	9 am	Wayne Murphy Family
	12 pm	George Thompson Family
	5 pm	Brian Smith

To participate in the Elijah Cup call (Coordinators Name) at (Phone Number).

Blessing

Receive the Elijah Cup. This chalice has been used for the celebration of the Holy Mass. It is a reminder to all of us for the need to pray for vocations for the priesthood, religious life, and permanent diaconate. As you place this chalice in your home, please pray for our Archbishop, the priest and religious of this Archdiocese, and for me, your unworthy servant.

Prayer Journal

A journal travels with the Elijah Cup. At the end of each week, the family, couple or individual praying for vocations makes a dated entry in the journal. The entry could be a prayer, scripture verse or thought as moved by the Spirit.

<p>Presented to (Parish) by the Serra Clubs of Atlanta</p>	<p>Bless the Church of (Parish) by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Priests, Deacons, Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Ministers.</p> <p>Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call.</p>
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Reminder Card

<p>Elijah Cup</p> <p><i>May You Have God's Peace.</i></p> <p>Please Remember That This Is A Consecrated Chalice. Set It In A Place Of Honor In Your Home. Do Not Drink From The Cup Except At Mass.</p> <p>Serra Clubs of Atlanta www.SerraAtlanta.org</p>

Prayers For Vocations

Gracious and loving God,
help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve your Church.
Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.
Open the hearts of many,
raise up faithful servants of the Gospel,
dedicated holy priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons,
who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.
Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance.
Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 in laborers for Your Church.
Fellow laborers with Christ to spend 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. Amen.

O God,
in the past you called men and women
to dedicate their lives to you through priesthood and religious life.
Today, stir up the grace of a religious vocation
in the hearts of many within our parish community.
Grant them the willingness and generosity
to place their lives completely in your hands
as priests, brothers and sisters.
Help me to support them
by my own fidelity to your call to holiness
through prayer and Christian service.
If you desire that one of my family or friends follow you in this way,
grant me the wisdom and insight to support and encourage that person
to listen to your voice and follow you without delay. Amen.

O loving and gracious God, Father of all,
You bless your people in every time and season
and provide for their needs through your providential care.
Your Church is continually in need of priests,
sisters and brothers to offer themselves
in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love.
Open the hearts of your sons and daughters
to listen to your call in their lives.

Give them the gift of understanding
to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church.
Give them the gift of courage to follow your call.
May they have the spirit of young Samuel
who found fulfillment in his life when he said to you,
"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following
in the footsteps of Christ your Son. Call from among us more men and women
who will serve you as priests and religious. By their way of life, may they provide
a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world. We ask
this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 that you grant us more priests and religious
to build up your Church within
the Archdiocese of Atlanta.
Inspire our young men and women
by the example of our priests and religious
to give themselves totally
to the work of Christ and His Church.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen!

O Lord, help me know your will for me.
Let your light shine in the depths of my heart,
that I may know
what you want me to do with my life.
Help me believe
that you have a special plan for me.
Lord, I know I pass through this life only once;
help me decide
how you want me to make a difference.
Like our Blessed Mother,
give me the wisdom to hear your voice
and the courage to answer your call.
Above all, give me peace of mind and heart.
I offer this prayer
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

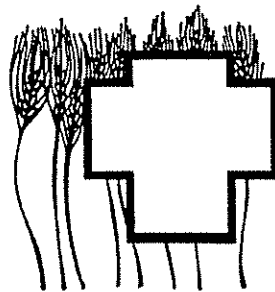
Prayer For The Perseverance Of Vocations

O God,
You have constituted Your only begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest
for the glory of Your Majesty and the salvation of mankind:
grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries
may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.



Parish Vocation Cross Program

Designed by the Diocese of Sacramento
Created by the Diocese of Oakland
Adapted by National Religious Vocation Conference



National Religious Vocation Conference
5420 S. Cornell Avenue, #105
Chicago, IL 60615
773-363-5454

Parish Vocation Cross

Packet Contents

Announcement

This page contains a brief explanation that introduces the parish to the Parish Vocation Cross Program

Explanation

This page should be distributed to all parishioners when the program is introduced. Then it could be made available (possibly near the sign up sheet) so that parishioners can easily find a reminder of the procedure.

Sending Forth

This page is for the presider of the liturgy after which the cross is being given.

Sign up Sheet

This page is used for parishioners to indicate their willingness to participate. It might be helpful to ask the parish secretary to call mid-week prior to remind parishioners of their commitment, especially if they sign up months in advance.

Prayers

These pages contain a short prayer service in four languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Since there are parts for a "leader" and for "all", several copies should be sent each week.

Note: All of these materials are reproducible. Feel free to adapt the materials to meet the needs of your parish.

You may wish to purchase an additional cross as a backup to insure that one is available at the time of the Sunday liturgy.

Parish Vocation Cross

Announcement Introducing the Parish Vocation Cross

Today we as a parish are being invited to become a part of a new program being initiated in many parishes throughout the country. It is called the parish vocation cross.

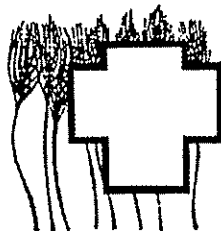
This is how the program will work:

Each Sunday a family, couple, or individual will be called forward at the _____ Mass to receive the vocation cross and a special prayer written to accompany it. In taking the cross they commit themselves to pray during the week in the name of our parish the vocation prayer in thanksgiving for all those generously sharing in Church ministry and in particular for the gift of sisters, brothers, priests and deacons.

All of you are invited to participate in this program. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. We encourage you to sign up for one of the weeks and then to attend the designated Mass that week to receive the cross.

It is our hope that this experience will encourage each of us to take seriously our vocation as a member of the Body of Christ and encourage ALL of us to pray for the gift of vocations to priesthood and religious life (not just the family with the cross for the week!).

We believe the Spirit is calling forth men and women from our faith community to these roles of service. May our prayer help inspire young women and men to be attentive to the movement of the Spirit within them and to step forward in faith and with generous hearts to wherever the Spirit leads them.



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Parish Vocation Cross

Explanation for Parishioners

On behalf of the parish community we thank you for your participation in the Parish Vocation Cross Program. Here are some details regarding your participation.

Receiving the Cross:

Be sure to attend the Mass at which the cross will be distributed.

After the closing prayer of the Mass you will be invited to come to the altar to receive the cross and the special vocation prayer. You may return to your place after you receive it.

Prayer during the week:

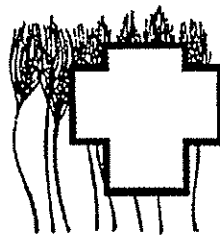
We encourage you to pray the Vocation Prayer with your family at a convenient time each day during the week. You might also use this as an opportunity to talk together about priests, sisters and brothers you have known and admire.

Returning the Cross:

It is very important that you return the cross on time so that the next participants will be able to receive it on schedule. Please return the vocation cross to the sacristy prior to the Mass designated as the one after which the vocation cross is given.

QUESTIONS? Please call the parish office.

THANK YOU AGAIN for this ministry of prayer in the name of our parish.



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Parish Vocation Cross

Sending Forth of Those Praying for Vocations at the Sunday Liturgy

(The family, parishioner who volunteered is asked to come forward to receive the Cross and suggested prayer.)

The family / parishioner volunteering to pray for vocations this week is asked to come forward.

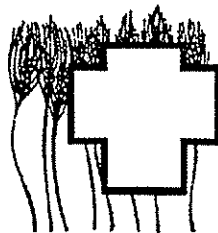
(pause)

We ask you to represent our parish this week in praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Receive the Vocation Cross. It is inscribed with the words, "Master of the harvest, hear our prayer", recalling the instruction Jesus gave when he said, "Pray to the Master of the harvest to send laborers for the harvest."

Thank you for your prayers this week; we hope that many of our fellow parishioners will also join in this prayer.

May our efforts be pleasing to the Lord and may God answer our prayer.



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Sign-up Sheet for Parish Vocation Cross

Parish: _____

DATE Week of:	NAME	PHONE

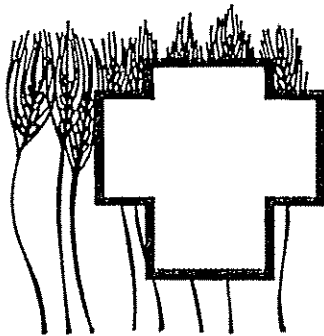
Please return the cross PRIOR to the _____ Mass.

Leader: Jesus, we ask You now for our own needs (your intentions may be prayed aloud). We pray to You, Jesus.

All: Jesus, hear our prayer.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

All: Almighty God, we know that You will send workers for Your church. Help us to be open to Your love in our lives. Help us to know how to serve You and others in big and small ways. We ask this through Jesus our Friend. Amen.



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A Prayer for Vocations

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Dear Jesus, we are praying that more people will answer Your call to become a sister, brother, priest, or deacon. When we see the cross, we remember You and Your love for us. When we help other people, we are serving You. When we serve You, we are an example of Your love. Help us to know how to love and serve You now and in the future.

Psalm 100

Leader: Sing joyfully to Jesus, everyone in the world!
Be glad to serve Jesus.
Be happy and sing to Him.

All: Jesus, Jesus, we love You.
And we want to serve you, too.

Leader: We know that the Lord is Jesus.
He made us and we belong to Him.
He is our Shepherd and we are His
sheep.

All: Jesus, Jesus, we love You.
And we want to serve you, too.

Leader: When you pray be thankful and
praise Jesus. Jesus is good and His
kindness will last forever.

All: Jesus, Jesus, we love You.
And we want to serve you, too.
When we grow up we might be
A sister, brother or priest, you see.
Jesus, Jesus, we love You.
And we want to serve you, too.

Reading: Luke 10:1 – 3

Leader: Jesus told seventy-two friends to go
visit the town He would visit later.
Jesus told them that there was a lot
to harvest but there was no one to
gather the harvest. Jesus told his
friends to ask the Master of the
Harvest to send workers to help
gather the harvest.

Leader: Let us take a moment of silence to think
about how we might be called to help
the Master of the Harvest.

Petitions:

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for the priests,
deacons, sisters, and brothers we
already know who love and serve You
and your people. We pray to You,
Jesus.

All: Thank you, Jesus.

Leader: Jesus, we pray for the men and women
who are trying to know how to respond
to your call to love and serve others.
We pray to You, Jesus.

All: Jesus, hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, we pray for our teachers and
parents who guide us toward You. We
pray to You, Jesus.

All: Jesus, hear our prayer.

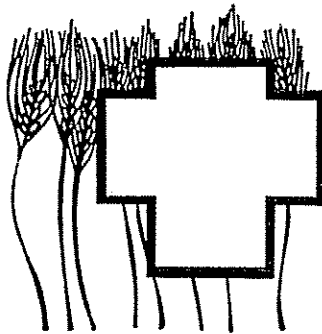
Leader: Jesus, we pray that we all use our
talents to serve You and each other.
We pray to You, Jesus.

All: Jesus, hear our prayer.

Todos: Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

Todos: Padre nuestro . . .

Todos: Señor todopoderoso, tenemos confianza que enviaras viñadores a tu iglesia. Ayudanos a tener apertura por tu amor en nuestras vidas y responder generosamente. Escuchanos y bendicenos en nombre de Jesús nuestro Señor. Amen.



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Chicago, IL 60615
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Oración para Vocaciones

Lider: En nombre del Padre, del hijo y del Espíritu Santo.

Todos: Amen

Lider: Señor, escucha nuestra oración al reunimos aquí para promover las vocaciones para el sacerdocio y la vida religiosa.

Al mirar la cruz, recordamos el amor de Jesús hacia nosotros y nos llama a través del bautismo al servir a nuestras hermanas y hermanos en la Iglesia.

Salmo 100

Lider: Cantad alegres a Dios,
habitantes de toda la tierra.
Servid a Jehová con alegría;
Venid ante su presencia con regocijo.

Todos: Servid a Jehová con alegría;
Venid ante su presencia con regocijo.

Lider: Reconoced que Jehová es Dios;
El nos hizo,
y no nosotros a nosotros mismos;
Pueblo suyo somos,
y ovejas de su prado.

Todos: Servid a Jehová con alegría;
Venid ante su presencia con regocijo.

Peticiones

Lider: Entrad por sus puertas con
accion de gracia,
Por sus atrios con alabanza;
Alabadle, bendecid su nombre.

Todos: Servid a Jehová con alegría;
Venid ante su presencia con regocijo.

Lider: Porque Jehová es bueno;
para siempre es su misericordia,
Y su verdad por todas las generaciones.

Todos: Servid a Jehová con alegría;
Venid ante su presencia con regocijo.

Lucas 10:1 – 3

Despues de estas cosas, designó el Señor
también a otros setenta, a quienes envió de
dos en dos delante de él a toda ciudad y lugar
adonde él había de ir.

Y les decia: La mies a la verdad es mucha,
mas los obreros pocos; por tanto, rogad al
Senor de la mies que envíe obreros a su mies.

Id; he aquí yo os envió como corderos en
medio de lobos.

Un momento de silencio

Lider: Señor, te damos gracias por los testigos fieles de
nuestra diocesis, los sacerdotes, los diaconos, y
las religiosas quienes se dedican a construir el
Reino de Dios. Te lo pedimos Señor.

Todos: Te lo pedimos Señor.

Lider: Señor, te oramos por las vocaciones de
sacerdocio en nuestra diocesis. Que aquellos
quienes tu llamas, respondan con corazón
generoso. Te lo pedimos Señor.

Todos: Te lo pedimos Señor.

Lider: Señor, te oramos para que llames a mujeres y
hombres de compromiso para que den sus vidas
en el servicio y amor en la Iglesia, en una vida de
comunidad. Te lo pedimos Señor.

Todos: Te lo pedimos Señor.

Lider: Señor, te oramos para que todos los miembros de
tu fiel comunidad compartan el regalo de la
generosidad para el servicio de tu gente. Te lo
pedimos Señor.

Todos: Te lo pedimos Señor.

Lider: Señor, te traemos nuestras necesidades e
intenciones, confiando en tu gran amor . . . (los
que quiran decir sus intenciones pueden hacerlo
en voz alta) Te lo pedimos Señor.

Lahat: Ama namin, sumasalangit Ka,
sambahin ang ngalan Mo,
mapasaamin ang kaharian Mo,
sundin ang loob Mo dito sa lupa para nang sa langit.
Bigyan Mo po kami
nang aming kakainin sa araw-araw,
at patawarin Mo kami sa aming pagkakasala
para nang pagpapatawad namin sa nagkakasala sa amin;
h'wag Mo po kaming ipahintulot
sa tukso at iadya Mo po kami sa dilang masasama. Amen.

Lahat: Makapangyarihang Diyos,
kami ay lubos na nananalig
na magpapadala Ka
ng mga manggagawa
sa ubasan ng iyong simbahan.
Tulungan Mo kaming maging bukas
ang aming mga buhay
sa iyong pagmamahal;
at tulungan Mo kaming tumugon
nang buong puso
sa iyong pagtawag.
Pakinggan Mo kami
at basbasan Mo kami
sa ngalan ni Kristo
na aming Panginoon.
Amen.

ISANG PANALANGIN PARA SA BOKASYON

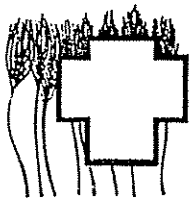
Namumuno: Sa ngalan ng Ama, ng Anak at ng Diyos Espiritu Santo.
Lahat: Amen.
Namumuno: O Diyos, Pakinggan mo ang aming sama-samang
panalangin ukol sa bokasyon ng pagpapari at buhay-
relihiyoso sa diocese ng _____. Habang
tinititigan namin ang Krus, naala-ala namin ang pag-ibig
ni Jesus, na Siyang tumatawag sa amin sa pamamagitan
ng Binyag upang sundan Siya sa paglilingkod sa ating
mga kapatid sa simbahan.

AWIT 100

Namumuno: Umawit sa kagalakan
ang lahat ng mga bansa!
Si Yahweh ay papurihan
paglingkuran Siyang kusa;
lumapit sa harap Niya
at umawit na may tuwa!

Lahat: Si Yahweh ay papurihan
paplingkuran Siyang kusa;
lumapit sa harap Niya
at umawit na may tuwa!

Namumuno: O si Yahweh ay ating Diyos!
Ito'y dapat na malaman,
tayo'y Kanya, Kanyang lahat,
tayong lahat na nilalang
lahat tayo'y bayan Niya,
kabilang sa kanyang katawan.



National Religious Vocation Conference
5420 S. Cornell Avenue, #105
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Lahat: Si Yahweh ay papurihan paglingkuran Siyang kusa; lumapit sa harap Niya at umawit na may tuwa!

Namumuno: Pumasok sa Kanyang templo na may pusong nagdiriwang umawit nagpupuri sa loob ng dakong banal; purihin ang ngalan Niya at Siya'y pasalamatan!

Lahat: Si Yahweh ay papurihan paglingkuran Siyang kusa; lumapit sa harap Niya at umawit na may tuwa!

Namumuno: Mabuti ang Panginoon pag-ibig Niya'y walang hanggan, Siya'y Diyos na mabuti laging tapat kailanman.

Lahat: Si Yahweh ay papurihan paglingkuran Siyang kusa; lumapit sa harap Niya at umawit na may tuwa!

Pagbasa: Lucas 10: 1-3

Pagkatapos ng mga bagay na ito, ang Panginoon ay humirang pa ng pitumput dalawa. Pinauna Kiya sila nang dala-dalawa sa bawa't bayan at pook na patutunguhan Niya. Sinabi Niya sa kanila: "Sagana ang aanihin subali't kakaunti ang mga manggagawa. Idalangin ninyo sa may-ari na magpadala siya ng mga manggagawa sa kanyang bukirin."

Tugon: Isang sandali ng katahimikan.

Mga Kahilingan

Namumuno: Panginoon ng anihan, nagpapasalamat kami sa tapat na pagsaksi ng ating mga pari sa ating diocese, kasama na ang mga dekonos, at lahat ng mga kapanalig natin na buong tapat na tumutulong sa paglikha at pagbubuo sa kaharian ng Diyos sa ating diocese ng _____.
Manalangin tayo sa Panginoon:

Lahat: Panginoon, pakinggan Mo ang aming mga panalangin.

Namumuno: Panginoon ng anihan, nananalangin kami para sa bokasyon ng pagpapari sa ating diocese. Harinawang ang iyong mga unatawag ay tumugon nang buong puso. Manalangin tayo sa Panginoon:

Lahat: Panginoon, pakinggan Mo ang aming mga panalangin.

Namumuno: Panginoon ng anihan, nananalangin kami na tawagin Mo ang mga babae't lalaking maghahandog ng kanilang buhay sa paglilingkod at pag-ibig sa simbahan sa pamamagitan nang inihandog na buhay sa kumunidad. Manalangin tayo sa Panginoon:

Lahat: Panginoon, pakinggan Mo ang aming mga panalangin.

Namumuno: Panginoon ng anihan, idinudulog namin ang aming mga pangangailangan at mga kahilingan. Nagtitiwala kami sa iyong dakilang pagmamahal sa amin.
(Ipanalangin nang malakas ang iyong mga kahilingan)
Manalangin tayo sa Panginoon:

Lahat: Panginoon, pakinggan Mo ang aming mga panalangin.

X : Chúng con cũng cầu nguyện cho mọi phần tử trong cộng đoàn đức tin của chúng con đây, biết chia sẻ một cách rộng rãi trong việc dâng cúng để phục vụ dân Chúa. Chúng con cầu xin Chúa .

Đ : Xin Chúa nhận lời chúng con .

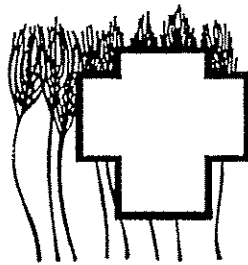
X : Chúng con cũng dâng cho Chúa những khẩn cầu theo ý nguyện riêng . . . Chúng con cầu xin Chúa .

Đ : Xin Chúa nhận lời chúng con.

Tất cả mọi người : Lạy Cha chúng con ở trên trời . . .

X : Lạy Thiên Chúa Toàn năng, chúng con tin tưởng Chúa sẽ sai con cái Chúa đến làm vườn nho giáo hội Chúa. Xin giúp chúng con biết mở rộng đời sống chúng con cho tình yêu thương Chúa và đáp lại một cách rộng rãi. Xin đón nhận lời cầu xin, cùng chúc lành cho chúng con, nhờ Đức Kitô , Chúa chúng con .

Đ : Amen .



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CẦU NGUYỆN CHO ƠN THIÊN TRIỆU

XƯỚNG : Nhân danh Cha và Con và Thánh Thần.

ĐÁP : Amen

X : Lạy Chúa, xin hãy lắng nghe lời chúng con cầu xin đang khi chúng con tụ họp nhau để cầu cho ơn thiên triệu linh mục và tu sĩ trong giáo phận _____ chúng con, vì khi nhìn lên Thánh Giá, chúng con nhớ lại lòng thương yêu của Chúa Giêsu. Người đã kêu gọi chúng con qua bí tích Thánh tẩy, mà theo chân Ngài đi phục vụ anh chị em trong giáo hội.

Thánh vịnh 100

X : Hãy tung hô Chúa, hỡi toàn thể địa cầu /
Phụng thờ Chúa với niềm hoan hỉ / Vào trước
nhân thánh Người giữa tiếng hò reo !

Đ : Phụng sự Chúa với niềm hoan hỉ / Vào trước
nhân thánh Người giữa tiếng hò reo .

- X : Hãy nhìn nhận Chúa là Thượng Đế / chính Người dựng nên ta / ta thuộc về Người / ta là dân Người / là đoàn chiên Người.
- Đ : Phụng sự Chúa với niềm hoan hỉ / Vào trước nhan thánh Người giữa tiếng hò reo .
- X : Hãy vào cửa thánh điện cất tiếng tạ ơn / tới khuôn viên đền vàng cất lời ca ngợi, tạ ơn Chúa và chúc tụng danh Người.
- Đ : Phụng sự Chúa với niềm hoan hỉ / Vào trước nhan thánh Người giữa tiếng hò reo .
- X : Bởi vì Chúa nhân hậu / muôn ngàn đời Chúa vẫn trọn tình thương / qua bao thế hệ / vẫn một niềm thành tín
- Đ : Phụng sự Chúa với niềm hoan hỉ / Vào trước nhan thánh Người giữa tiếng hò reo .

TIN MỪNG theo Thánh Luca (10: 1-3)

Sau đó, Chúa Giêsu chỉ định bảy mươi hai người khác và sai đi các nơi mà chính Người sẽ đến. Người báo các ông:

" Lúa chín đầy đồng mà thợ gặt lại ít. Vậy anh em hãy xin chủ mùa gặt sai thợ ra gặt lúa về.

(Thỉnh lộng trong giây lát)

LỜI NGUYỆN

- X : Lạy Chúa là chủ mùa gặt, chúng con cảm tạ Chúa về những chứng tá thành tín của các linh mục, phó tế, tu sĩ, cũng như các thừa tác viên, đã hy sinh hiến dâng đời sống hầu xây dựng Nước Chúa trong giáo phận Oakland chúng con. Chúng con nguyện xin Chúa.
- Đ : Xin Chúa nhận lời chúng con .
- X : Chúng con cầu xin cho việc dâng cúng nhằm giúp đỡ đời sống linh mục trong giáo phận. Ước gì những ai được Chúa kêu gọi, sẽ đáp lại tiếng Chúa bằng một tấm lòng quảng đại. Chúng con cầu xin Chúa.
- Đ : Xin Chúa nhận lời chúng con .
- X : Chúng con cũng cầu xin cho các anh chị em được Chúa kêu gọi, đã thực hiện dâng hiến đời mình để phục vụ và yêu quý hội thánh qua đời sống thể nguyện trong cộng đoàn chúng con. Chúng con cầu xin Chúa .

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. Amen.

Elden F. Curtiss,
Chair, Bishops' Committee on Vocations

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God of life and love, you share these gifts with me in powerful ways through my family and friends. Help me to find ways to share the gifts of your life and love in service to others as a minister of the church. Help me to discern how I can best respond to this challenge and give me courage to do your will. I ask this in union with the whole church and in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thomas J. Murphy,
Archbishop of Seattle

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, send your Spirit, that we may hear and recognize your voice in the deepest part of our beings. Give us the courage and strength to respond with the gift of our whole lives in witness to the person of Jesus Christ and the good news of the gospel. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear Lord, ours are the only hands that can do your work. Ours are the only feet with which you can go about the world. Ours are the only eyes through which your compassion can shine upon a troubled world. You have no body on earth but ours. Set our souls on fire to fulfill your ministry on earth. Amen.

Serra Club of Reno, Nevada

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Lord of the harvest, your word finds a home in our hearts, calls us to community and invites us to generous service to the human family. Bless with courage and spirit your priestly people, called to full participation in the one body of Christ. May many choose to respond in public service to your call offered in Jesus' name. Amen.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin,
Archbishop of Chicago

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God, source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through the gift of our life. May your grace encourage men and women to serve the church as priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, you gift us with life. Through baptism you have called us to new life. May we be a sign of your love in the world. We pray that you will continue to fill women and men with an abundance of courage to follow the path you set before them today. May those who feel compelled to serve as lay ministers, brothers, sisters and priests be blessed with passion and vision to make the world a better place. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving Father, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations, may our youth joyfully respond to your call to follow Jesus in the priestly or religious life. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear Lord, we invoke your help so more young men and women will be touched by your grace and become priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers in service to you. We ask this in Jesus' name and through the intercession of your Blessed Mother. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we pray as a community for the grace to encourage all who choose a religious vocation. For those who have already chosen a vocation, we pray that they may have the grace to keep and nourish that commitment. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, if it is your divine will, inspire many of our youth to say "Yes" to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Father, we pray that more young people will be generous in responding to your invitation to be priests, brothers and sisters. Teach them to follow in Jesus' footprints by bringing the light of the Holy Spirit to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Most Holy Virgin, certain of your intercession, we pray that the mysteries of the Risen Christ and of the Holy Spirit may enlighten many to become willing and generous servants of the church. We pray for our youth to whom the Lord addresses a special invitation of closer fellowship. May they refuse to be carried away by the things of this world, but open their hearts instead, to the friendly voice that calls them. May they feel capable of making a life-long commitment to Christ and to his church for the salvation of mankind. May they trust that divine grace will endow them with the power to make a total offering of themselves as they feel the attraction of priestly, religious and missionary life. We pray for the Christian families, that they may provide a favorable atmosphere for their youngsters and help them make the right choices. We beseech you that all priests and religious be an example to our youth by their availability and humble readiness to accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit. May they be able to extend to all the fruits of love and peace. Amen.

Pope John Paul II

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Mother, awaken among the young generation a willingness to serve God alone. Implore for us numerous vocations for the priesthood and the religious life. O Mother, confirm the faith of all our lay brothers and sisters that in every area of social, professional, cultural and political life that they may work according to the truth and the law which you Son has proclaimed to humanity in order to lead all to eternal salvation and, at the same time, to make life on earth more human, and more worth of man. Amen.

Pope John Paul II

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Holy Mother, hasten to raise good laborers to the church. Hasten with the same concern that prompted you to go to Elizabeth's house bringing Jesus and God's graces. Hasten to visit our community and enrich it with good and evangelical laborers that they may bring Jesus in the hearts of people and his kingdom on earth for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Hannibal Di Francia

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O most holy Virgin, we come to you to implore a great grace on behalf of the people of earth. We ask you for many and holy laborers of the gospel. You, O Mother, are the queen of the apostles, you obtained the grace of the ministries. Every vocation comes through your intercession. Obtain for your church and whole world numerous and chosen priests, apostolic and holy men, fervent, zealous and loving souls. Remember the command of your son Jesus when he said: "Pray the harvest master that he send workers to his harvest." Hear us, O Mother, for the greater glory of the heart of Jesus. Amen.

Blessed Hannibal Di Francia

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Creator God, life is your gift. Through baptism you invite us to share in service to others. Give us the courage and generosity to respond to your call. Bless those who serve you as priests, religious, deacons and lay ministers. Open the minds and hearts of men and women to accept your challenge to build the kingdom. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, guide all who are seeking you. May your Spirit direct all who are called to a religious vocation and strengthen those who have committed themselves to priesthood or religious life. Inspire men and women to serve your church, and keep us all in your grace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God, you will all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Send workers into your harvest that the gospel may be preached to every creature and your people, gathered together by the word of life and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love. Please grant this through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Students Encouraging Religious Vocations

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your son as priests, brothers and sisters. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so they may understand with you the joy and beauty that awaits when the Lord calls them. Make them witnesses the Lord's love. Enable them to inspire the church with their consecration. May your all powerful intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord's call. Repeat to them in the depths of their hearts what you said to the waiters at Cana: "Do whatever Jesus asks." Amen.

Pope John Paul II

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the harvest, send holy priests who are zealous cooperators of the episcopal order, that they may sanctify and lead their brothers and sisters in the faith that they proclaim. Send, Lord, deacons to your church who, as they teach, encourage and evangelize, in communion with bishops and priests, walk in your truth. Call to religious life numerous generous souls to offer their life in the service of the gospel and become living witnesses of holiness. Reawaken among lay people their commitment in life that, collaborating with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, they may share in the mission of evangelization. We pray, Lord, that you continue to bless and enrich your church with the gift of vocations. We pray that many may welcome your call and bring joy to your church by their generous faithful response. Amen.

Pope Paul VI

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, divine shepherd of souls, you called the apostles to be fishers of men. Move now the ardent and generous hearts of our youth and make them your followers and ministers. Let them share your thirst of universal redemption for which you renew your sacrifice on the altar every day. Lord Jesus, always interceding for us, extend our vision to the entire world where so many brothers and sisters silently pray for the light and warmth of love. By answering your call, may many generous souls continue your mission on earth, build your mystical body, the church, and become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Extend, O Lord, your loving call to many pure and generous young women, that they may grow in their desire for evangelical perfection and may dedicate themselves to the service of the church and those who desperately need their assistance and love. Amen.

Pope Paul VI

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, good shepherd, bless our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women religious, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world that you love and wish to save. We especially entrust our community to you; grant us the spirit of the first Christians, so that we may be a cenacle of prayer, in loving acceptance of the Holy Spirit. Assist our pastors and all who live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to your call and are preparing to receive holy orders or to profess the evangelical counsels. Look with love on so many well-disposed young people and call them to follow you. Help them to understand that in you alone can they attain complete fulfillment. To this end we call on the powerful intercession of Mary, mother and model of all vocations. We beseech you to sustain our faith with the certainty that God will grant what you have commanded us to ask. Amen.

Pope John Paul II

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Holy Spirit, you have traced the marvelous path of Mary's soul. Inspire in many young girls the desire to follow her example. Show them the beauty of a life totally consecrated to God, the incomparable joy of total offering to him. Make them experience your call and inspire in them the generosity of a response without reserve. Knock harder at the hearts of those who would not hear and add vigor to the courage of those who hesitate. Make them discover Christ who invites them to the intimacy of his love and the immense need the world has for hearts vowed to chastity. For the joy and service of your church, stir up numerous virgins, the living images of Mary. Holy Virgin, spread over the world the enthusiasm with which you have offered to God your heart and your life and cultivate in many hearts the aspiration to follow the path of religious perfection. We pray you, O Virgin of Virgins, may you always be surrounded with many consecrated women so you may share with them your joy of being united with Christ. Amen.

Rogationist Fathers

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Holy Spirit, you have formed the generous and pure soul of Mary, open the same path to many young women attracted by high ideals in life. Show them the beauty of a life consecrated to the Lord, the marvelous strength and the fruitfulness of total dedication. Let the call resound in the most profound depths of the awaiting heart. Make them welcome this urgent call as a marvelous gift. Reveal to them the admirable and meek face of Christ inviting them. Show them the immense need for souls rich in charity. For the good of the church, give rise to more virgins who reflect the face of grace of the first virgin. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, together with Mary your most holy mother, who stood beside you in the hour of your redeeming sacrifice, we pray that many youths may have the courage and the humility, the fidelity and the love to answer "Yes" to your invitation, just as Mary did when called to collaborate in the mission of redemption. Amen.

Pope John Paul II

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

With Mary, mother of the church, let us pray for an increase of vocations. You can solve the need of vocations in the church through prayer and personal commitment.

Harvest Prayer Association for Vocations

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Vocations grew out of the family. The family is the place where God dwells in a special way. It is a place of support and challenge, a place of love and acceptance. Within our family, we learn right relationship with our God, with others and with ourselves. Please pray for vocations encouraged by family members.

Rev. Jesse Cox, OP
Vocation Director, Dominican Fathers and
Brothers

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures, I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, so surrender myself into your hands. Without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my God.

Brother Charles de Foucauld

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear God, bless our family life and nurture us with your love and care. Help us to be attentive to the needs of one another. Guide us to reach beyond our home in the service of others. We ask you to open the hearts of our children to hear your voice, to know their true vocation, and to find true happiness in you. Amen.

Rev. Paul D. Theroux

Executive Director, Secretariat for Vocations
and Priestly Formation
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Serra Vocations Chalice

A 1991 article featuring the Traveling Vocations Chalice program in St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines, IA, prompted Serrans in the North Minneapolis Serra Club to adopt and spread the program. Chalices from that club have circulated in Port Angeles, WA, and parts of California. Below is a description of the program as used by the Serra Club of Columbine, CO.

By Very Rev. Edward Hoffmann and Dick Ducey

When parish families pray for vocations over a Serra vocation chalice and make it part of their family meal time for a week, they increase their family's awareness of the need for vocations and their role in it. At the same time, the parish benefits because the family is more involved in raising the awareness level of all members of the parish by their example. Serra Clubs also benefit because it is an effective vocations program, club members are involved, and potential members are highlighted.

Preparations for the Program

- The local Serra Club works jointly with the parish to begin and maintain the program.
- A Serran chairs the Vocation Chalice Committee to work with the parish secretary to identify families in the parish. Include a variety of old and young, large and small families; single parent and extended families.
- Publicize the program in the bulletin, especially the need for volunteer families, and have the program announced at all Mass on a weekend.
- After each Mass, have Serrans at the exits to collect names from families that will volunteer to take the chalice into their homes.

Contact the Families

- The Serran chair contacts the families and schedule a convenient week for them to participate in the program.
- A member of the committee writes a confirmation letter indicating the time and date of the Mass when the family will receive the chalice, the dates of the week and instructions on how to conduct the program, and the time and date of the Mass when

the family will return the chalice to the parish for the next chalice family. Send the Serran Prayer for Vocations with the letter.

The Chalice

- Identify or donate a chalice that both the parish and the Serra Club will be proud of. The chalice may be placed on a wooden base which would carry an engraved plate on one side with the name of the Serra Club and the Serra emblem, and the other side with the name of the parish and the inscription, "Promote and Affirm Vocations."

Presentation at Mass

- The family is called up after communion and the priest presents the family with the chalice and encourages them in their prayers for vocations. The family returns to their seats.
- The family processes out at the end of Mass with the priest.

Family Prays Over Chalice

- The family takes the chalice to their home and puts it in a place of honor, generally the kitchen table where it can be noticed by all during the week.
- Every night at the start of the family meal, the Serra Prayer for Vocations or other suitable vocation prayers are shared by the members of the family. The family may spend some time talking about vocations, the need for spiritual leaders in the Church, the involvement of their family, the ways that they can affirm the priests, sisters and brothers in their vocations and other related topics.

Returning the Chalice

- The host family returns to the appointed Mass the following Sunday and brings the chalice to the altar in the procession of the gifts before the Offertory.
- The priest thanks the host family for their week and welcomes the new family with the chalice.

Father Hoffmann is the pastor of Church of the Risen Christ and Dick Ducey is the chair of the Vocation Chalice Committee of the Serra Club of Columbine, Denver, CO.

Chalice Program Vocations through Prayer

By Nancy C. Ward



Father James Orosco of St. Patrick Parish presents a chalice to Patti Pondrom. The family Chalice Program encourages families to pray for vocations. Pictured, from left to right, are Sam Pondrom, Joe Pondrom, Mike Pondrom and Bob Pondrom.

After supper, Patti and Joe Pondrom gathered their three teenage sons around the dining room table for prayer. In the center of the table is a ceramic chalice, a symbol of the priesthood, which has been entrusted to them for this week. Joe begins, "O Divine sus..." Patti and the young men Mike, Bob and Sam chimed in, "Who has taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He send forth laborers to His harvest, be pleased to raise up in the Church, and in particular in the Diocese of Dallas, many holy priests and religious to work according to the intentions of Your Heart and to procure by their ministry the salvation of souls and the glory of Your Father. And if it should please You, O Lord, to choose one such from our family kneeling before You at this moment, we would thank You with all our hearts on this earth and for all eternity Amen."

The scene is repeated in other homes in the parish of St. Patrick's in Dallas. Six

families have chalices this week, but hundreds have already had their turn and are continuing the prayer for vocations each night. The Family Chalice for Vocations program is one of several innovative projects brought about by the parish Vocations Committee since January 1996. Parishioner John Wilk presented the idea to pastor Msgr. Richard Johnson after he saw a similar committee at work in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Msgr. Johnson designated Father James Orosco as Spiritual Moderator of the Committee. Fr. Orosco insists that the involvement of

the priests in the vocation awareness program is the secret to success. He also emphasized that this program is run by the vocations committee of lay people who are not involved with other organizations which promote vocations. This local effort compliments what Serrans and others are doing nationwide.

John said, "From our first meeting on Jan. 12, 1996, a fire was ignited at St. Patrick's Parish. At the end of our first meeting we entrusted

our Parish Vocations Committee to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Vocations." The Committee is made up of young single adults as well as couples, most with young children in the religious education program or parochial school. They are not intensely involved in other organizations.

At the initial meeting, the committee members reflected on how priests and nuns affected them during their school years, and at sacramental high points such as Matrimony and Baptism. As they con-

sidered their current relationships with parish priests, they asked themselves, "With our gifts, talents and creativity to create an interest and awareness at St. Patrick's of the importance of vocations?" They committed one evening every other month to work as a group. The fruit of this initial commitment is reflected in their mission statement: "To create an environment within the St. Patrick Parish Family which encourages individuals to hear, to discern and to respond to God's call to the priesthood and religious life. We will accomplish this mission through prayer and supportive programs."

They saw the significance of Pope John Paul II statement: "We recognize that the initiative for every vocation rests with God, not ourselves. Hence the importance of prayer. One of the principal means for promoting vocations is prayer." Believing that promoting prayer within the family is fundamental to the success of the vocations program, their first project was the Family Prayer for Vocations. Fr. Orosco rewrote an older prayer and committee members had it printed on adhesive-backed paper. They had a peel-and-stick party one Saturday to paste the printed prayers in the front cover of the parish hymnals. Beginning the day after Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 1996, the prayer was introduced by the celebrant of each weekend mass who led the parishioners in reciting the prayer aloud. In April the prayer was incorporated into every weekend mass and continued at the end of the two daily masses.

In September, Vocation prayer cards were handed out by the ushers and Fr. Orosco's homily encouraged the parishioners to pray as a family or household. Late in October, he explained the Family Chalice for Vocations program. He reflected that just as wedding rings are precious to a married couple as symbols of their loving covenant, so is the personal chalice of a priest with which he celebrates the daily Eucharist as a symbol of his commitment. As a symbol of the priesthood, an empty ceramic chalice would be entrusted to a family group at the close of each of

the six weekend masses beginning Dec. 1. As a centerpiece for daily prayer, the chalice reminds the family or household to pray together daily for more people to respond to vocations and for those now in religious vocations. After one week, the family returns the chalice to the Sacristy for use by the next family. Committee members envisioned the chalice program to continue through Lent, perhaps resuming in Advent. They never expected their prayers would be answered so generously.

Fr. Orosco feels the parish priests need to be absolutely convinced of the importance of the vocations program. They must implement it and continually encourage their parishioners. He was so convinced and so encouraged that initially 741 families signed up for the program — enough for more than two years of Sunday masses — and the list is growing.

The Piazza family was one of the first families chosen to receive the Family Chalice. They placed it with their Advent wreath and chose names of seminarians and priests to pray for each night from the Prayer for Vocations calendar, which accompanied the chalice. Coys McConathy also used the chalice with her Advent wreath. She said, "Even though I live alone, it was such a blessing to have the chalice in my home and to pray for vocations, especially for my nine grandchildren."

When Tom and Mary Brandt and their children, ages 1, 3, 5 and 7, had the chalice in their home, Tom said, "It really made an impression on our children — they remember the experience more than they would a lecture. The children went up to the altar with us to receive the chalice from the priest. We were told in public that we were a special family chosen that week to pray for vocations. The prayer will probably stay on our list of nightly prayers forever!" Seven-year-old Nicolas said, "It's a real honor to have that at our house." His mother added, "Having the chalice was a unifying thing to bring us within the church, a strong symbol with a connection to the mass and to the other families who had the chalice last week or will have it next week. I was worried that

we wouldn't get it back in one piece!"

Lloyd Monroe and his wife, Carole, signed up for a turn with the Family Chalice for Vocations even though their children are grown. "We were very excited when St. Patrick Parish implemented this program because we recognize the importance of supporting new vocations. With the shortage of priests and religious a major concern for all Catholics these days, prayer is a strong way of asking the Lord for help. Public prayer in church each Sunday gets more people involved and maintains high awareness of this effort," Lloyd said. "Presenting the chalice to a family at every Mass each Sunday really makes it a personal thing. We've had the chalice in our home and it inspired us to pray every evening that week. I still have the Prayer for Vocations Calendar on my refrigerator — as a reminder to cover this particular group in prayer," Carole added.

Margaret Fulkerson said her 2½ year old son really likes the Prayer for Vocations. One evening her and her husband Erik invited her sister and brother-in-law to pray the prayer with them. The visiting couple became interested in the idea for their parish. Another family reported that, after several weeks of praying for family vocations, one of their young children asked, "Where are we going on our religious vacation?"

Teresa Sabine said her family saw there prayer as an investment in the parish. When a newly ordained priest was assigned to St. Patrick's, her children felt they had participated in bringing him to their parish.

Carole and Ron Baker used the chalice to teach their four children the importance of a special time for special prayers. Carole said, "It made us stop and make a special prayer time, reflect on specific prayer requests. It added a sense of reverence to our home."

So now 3,000 people are praying for vocations at the weekend masses. Another 100 or so pray the prayer at daily masses along with hundreds of children at the two parochial school masses each week. Each class takes a turn having a chalice and

ying for vocations in the classrooms. Hundreds more pray for vocations in their family prayers, having experienced grace of gathering around a chalice in their homes. When Lent came, rather than ending the program, it was in full bloom. This on-going emphasis on praying for vocations was strengthened by meditations specifically for vocations. The special Lenten Stations of the Cross booklets from the Rogationists Fathers were used throughout Lent.

Along with the fall fundraiser Pizza for Priests, children's tour of the seminary and quarterly newsletter, the Family Alliance program elevates the priority of vocations into the daily parish life at St. Patrick's. These elements, integrated with personal encouragement of young people who serve as altar servers, readers, musicians or ushers by good role models in the religious community, are a winning combination. Intense involvement of the parish priests makes it all work. Msgr. Johnson said, "The children are hearing this Prayer for Vocations at every Mass and every day at home now. I will not only be disappointed if our efforts don't produce num-

bers — I will be surprised."

Fr. Michael Duca, Rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in the Diocese of Dallas, said, "The chalice brings vocations into the home. The family must think about where the priests come from." He said that two things make a difference in the success of the program: "One is faithfulness to the chalice program and the prayer for vocations. It must be woven into the life of the parish. Two that people really believe prayer makes a difference. They have that faith that sees truly where we find answers, where we find meaning in life. They really believe being a priest is a meaningful vocation, in which very important things happen in a very simple way." ■

about the author . . .



NANCY WARD is an active member for the Vocations Committee at St. Patrick's Church in Dallas, Texas.

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Serra:

"the Vocations arm of the church"
Pope John Paul II



Objective:

to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood of the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service and to develop appreciation for the ministerial priesthood and of all religious vocations in the Catholic Church, and to further Catholicism by encouraging its members, in fellowship, through education, to fulfill their Christian vocations to service

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Jesus, Good and Gentle Shepherd, grant that the men and women from our community may have the grace and the courage to hear and answer your call to priesthood and religious life.

Give them the wisdom to realize that life is a gift.

Let them realize their life is part of YOUR plan.

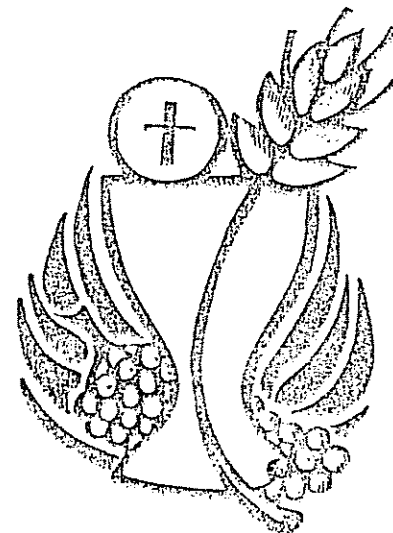
Call forth those you have chosen to spread the gospel message, and help them to freely respond to a life of service in the church.

May the parents and families of our parish support and encourage our young men and women to search for, follow and answer the call of God in their lives.

AMEN

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE
(337) 261-5690

THE
VOCATION
CHALLENGE



DESCRIPTION OF THE VOCATION CHALICE

As part of the Diocesan Vocations Awareness Program, we have instituted what we call "The Vocation Chalice."

Each week at Mass, a family will accept the responsibility of praying for vocations. They are provided with the prayers and a Chalice to use as a focal point and reminder. The family is called up to the altar after communion to receive a Chalice, which has been set aside for this purpose.

The chairman of the Parish Vocation Committee is responsible for signing families for each week and informing Father as to what Mass the family of the week will be present. A notice may be placed in the bulletin informing the Parish who will be receiving the Chalice the following week.

You may also have a small book to accompany The Vocation Chalice. The families are encouraged to write in the book thoughts, prayers, or anything they would like to have recorded.

"THROUGH PRAYER AND
COUNSEL, SHOW ME LORD,
WHAT IT IS IN YOUR VINEYARD
YOU WANT ME TO DO?"

PRIEST: In the name of the Father,
and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

PRIEST: Receive this Chalice, symbolic
of the Priesthood. It will be your solemn
duty to hold this Chalice with respect, to
pray for vocations, and to encourage those
who have been called to follow Christ as
Priests, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters.
Are you willing to accept this responsibility?

ALL: We are.

PRIEST: Then take this Chalice and
return it next week filled with your prayers.

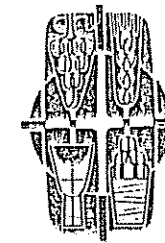
PRAYERS BEFORE DINNER

LEADER: In the name of the
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

LEADER: We are all gathered here
this morning/evening to pray for
vocations. We recognize that this
is the responsibility of all the
Christian Community to pray for
and foster vocations. As part of our
commitment to this responsibility, let
us pray together.

ALL: AMEN



TO BE READ BY ANY/ALL THE CHILDREN PRESENT

Lord, Jesus, up to now, you have been
quietly preparing me to be your disciple.
Now the time of preparation is ending.
I seem to hear you say to me as once you
said 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 alone have the words of
everlasting life." I stand with Peter.
Through prayer and counsel, show me
Lord, what it is in your vineyard you want
me to do? Then give me strength to be
faithful.

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

ALL: AMEN

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven...

ALL: Hail Mary, Full of Grace...

ALL: Glory be to the Father...

NOW GRACE FOLLOWS BEFORE MEALS

The Elijah Cup Devotion
A Sacred Vessel Dedicated to Prayer for Religious Vocations

Serra Club of the Diocese of Biloxi, MS

The purpose of the Elijah Cup a consecrated chalice is to focus on and provide an awareness of prayer in the classroom and home for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life. A project sponsored by the Serra Club of Biloxi a lay catholic organization brings to the classroom and/or home prayer devotion that appeals to the children and parents alike. The Elijah Cup is so named after the prophet Elijah who visited a poor widow and her son who had little or no food. God in all His boundless wisdom blessed her with an abundance of prosperity and food accordingly to the writings of 1 Kings 17:8-15. The Serra Club seeks an abundance of religious vocations so has taken this event to pray for priestly and religious vocation awareness in our schools and homes and asks for your help in spreading this prayer devotion.

The devotion is simple to implement. During a school week day Eucharistic Celebration or Sunday Mass the celebrant will use the Elijah Cup as the precious blood cup. After communion and purifying, the chalice designated as the Elijah Cup, the priest will call a classroom teacher, student, or family to receive the Elijah Cup. They will receive a blessing with instructions to place the Chalice in a place of honor in the classroom and/or family home.

Each day for a designated time usually a week they are to pray for an increase and perseverance of religious vocations. The following week the sacred vessel is returned with gifts at the offertory and the process is repeated with another classroom or family for the following week. In addition to daily prayer the devotion could be further enhanced by displaying a spiritual bouquet furnished by the Serra Club, which would allow each child to list the number of Hail Mary's, Our Father's or Masses and Communion offered up for vocations. At the end of the school year each school in the Diocese would total up the prayers and the school would present this to the Bishop in the form of a spiritual bouquet.

The goal would be to have each Catholic elementary and high school in the Diocese have an Elijah Cup. This project would be implemented in each school for an open period one year or longer and evaluated after that to be continued or amended. Parishes with and without schools could also implement the devotion through family participation and pastor approval. The Serra Club would assist in every way possible in implementing this devotion throughout the Diocese.

There is a real and present need for priests in the Diocese of Biloxi. We have over 70,000 Catholics in 58 parishes and only 45 Diocesan Priests. Today, half are age 60 or older, in ten years; only 7 priests will be under the age of 60. Here in the Biloxi Diocese we are blessed to have 13 seminarians but over the next 10 years, we need 50 or more priests. We need to pray for more vocations and the Serra Club encourages the Elijah Cup devotion and the spiritual bouquet as a way of increasing religious vocations with our prayers so the children in our classroom today and/or parish families will have a priest to celebrate Mass for them and their family's of tomorrow.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God Almighty, we thank you for calling each of us into deeper life through Jesus. We thank you for the love we are called to bear one another and for the power you give us to love with your Spirit of love. Teach us to respect the many ways your Spirit is manifested and the many gifts needed to bring Christ's life in us to its fullness. Never let us forget that the greatest among us is the one who serves with joy and humility, using your gifts for the common good. We ask this in the name of your son through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

National Coalition for Church Vocations

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

In the Spirit, we pray for vocations, remembering the words of Pope John Paul II: "A vocation is a grace and a gift of God in Jesus Christ. This awareness of the divine gift gives our vocation its deep meaning, in the perspective of our whole life." Open our life to this gift. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear God, you gift us with life. Through baptism you have called us to new life. May we be a sign of your love in the world. We pray that you will continue to fill women and men with an abundance of courage to follow the path you set before them today. May those who feel compelled to serve as lay ministers, brothers, sisters, deacons and priests be blessed with passion and vision to make the world a better place. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

National Coalition for Church Vocations

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

Creator God, you give us life and entrust us to families where we learn about your love and care. As we share our family life, help us feel your presence so that faith will make a difference in our lives and we, in turn, will make a difference in our world and in the lives of others. Amen.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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. Amen.

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,
Chair, Bishops' Committee on Vocations

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. Amen.

National Coalition for Church Vocations

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. Amen.

Diocese of Marquette

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. Amen.

Diocese of St. Augustine

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. Amen.

Archdiocese of Hartford

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. Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit Vocations Office

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord God, you know me. You know when I sit and when I stand. You have me always in your heart. I thank you for this, Lord. You know the path for my life and what will make me happy. Show it to me, Lord. Bless me, guide me and be my Lord, so that whatever road I choose, I may choose it for your glory. Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit Vocations Office

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

You gave me life in baptism, Lord. Help me to share this joy of living with others. I want to do it now by caring and sharing like Jesus did. Show me how to do it later when I grow up. Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit Vocations Office

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 touch 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. Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit Vocations Office

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. Amen.

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. Amen.

Serra International

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, you have constituted your only begotten son supreme and eternal priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

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. Amen.

Roger M. Mahoney,
Archbishop of Los Angeles

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, our God, you established the church as a sign of your continuing presence in the world. We ask you to raise up the faithful ministers to your church in the priesthood and religious life, so that the message of faith, justice and love contained in the gospel may be brought into the hearts of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John R. Quinn,
Archbishop of San Francisco

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord God, you call us to new life through our baptism, which challenges us to be ministers in your church today. Give all your baptized people the faith and courage to respond to this challenge. Call forth men and women to live out a vocation of Christian service in marriage and the single life. Be present to all those who serve you and the church as ministers of charity, word and sacrament as lay ministers, deacons, religious and priests. Inspire men and women to respond to your call to serve as ministers in your church. Call forth in a special way candidates for priesthood who will celebrate Eucharist with us and be pastors for your people. Deepen the commitment of all to collaborate with one another and with your grace. Help me, Lord, and all people, to hear your call and respond. Amen.