

Dear Teachers and School Children,

Thank you for sharing in our parish-wide efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Your prayers are essential for raising up vocations in our Church. Remember the words of our Lord: *“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest”* (Matthew 9: 37-38).

In this booklet, you will find some simple instructions for the Traveling Chalice program, together with some short daily prayers. Please read through the instructions before you get started. I thank you for your commitment to praying for vocations this week and in the days ahead.

**Father \_\_\_\_\_**

### ***Instructions***

The purpose of the Traveling Chalice program is to encourage people to pray for vocations and to promote vocations. At Mass, your classroom was presented with the chalice. This chalice is offered to help serve as a visible reminder of your commitment to pray together as a classroom for vocations during this week, and also a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer.

This chalice, like all those used at Mass, is consecrated (reserved for sacred use) to hold the Precious Blood of Jesus. Please do not drink out of it. We suggest that you place it in some highly visible place in the classroom where it is safe. We ask that your whole classroom pray *together* once each day for vocations if only it be the Lord’s Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, or the Glory Be. In this booklet, there is a recommended prayer and intention for each day, but please feel free to adapt these prayers to the age of your students. You might pray a rosary together and include vocations as the intention.

We encourage you to talk about vocations, about God’s plan for us to grow in holiness, and answer any questions. You should feel free to let the students see and hold the chalice, even young children if supervised, making sure they treat it respectfully, like all sacred objects. You might want to invite a seminarian, a priest, brother or sister to talk to the class about vocations.

**NOTE: Your Priest and school need to decide how to exchange the chalice. Some priests may want the chalice returned to them so they can present it to the next class and others may want to call students forward from the last class to hand it off to the next class at Mass.**

Thank you again for your generous participation!  
***One recommended prayer from Pope Benedict XVI***

***Prayer for Vocations***

***Intention:*** With the Holy Father, we pray for an increase in priestly and religious vocations throughout the universal Church.

O Father, raise up among Christians numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, to keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which you continually renew your faithful. Give us holy ministers of your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Call ministers of your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of your forgiveness. Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life. Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Monday: Prayer to Know One's Vocation***

***Intention:*** We pray for all of those who might not know their vocation in life. Through prayer and with God's help, may they come to know His will for their lives. Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You, and thereby to find and fulfill myself. I know that every path can lead me to You, but of them all, there is one especially by which You want me to come to You. Since I will do what You want of me, I pray, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what You want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all my strength right to the end. Amen.

***Optional Prayer for Younger Children:*** Hail Mary



of all nations, we earnestly implore You to choose among us many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved. **Amen.**

**Optional Prayer for younger Children:** Glory Be

**Thursday: Prayer for Our Church Members**

**Intention:** We pray that if it be God's will there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own Church and that they will be supported through our encouragement.

Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocation of their children and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Younger Children:** Our Father

**Friday: Prayer for all priest and religious that have served your church**

**Intention:** We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ Parish that it may grow in holiness and that from among its members there may be priests and religious to serve the Church. Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. To those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, give the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Younger Children:** Hail Mary

Program adapted from a program used in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati