



VOCATIONS CRUCIFIX PROGRAM



If you think the Lord may be calling you to explore the possibility of becoming a priest or consecrated religious, or if you would like information on the Diocese of Arlington Men's or Women's Discernment Groups, please contact:

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Vocations Crucifix Program

The Vocations Crucifix program is a wonderful means of fostering prayer and devotion among our parish families, the seed beds of vocations. The Crucifix reminds each host family that they share in the responsibility to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

The purpose of the Vocations Crucifix is to provide a focal point for prayer. Every vocation is a call to deeper holiness and springs from the redemptive act of Jesus Christ. It is a personal participation of the love He continues to pour out upon us through the Eucharist. The sacrificial love manifest in the cross of Christ is the essence of every gift of self—both in married life and virginity for the sake of the Kingdom. Jesus teaches very convincingly that the latter is more closely aligned to Him and the eternal life He came to give us. He also tells us to beg the Lord of the harvest for just such as these, to follow Him in love and in service to His Bride, the Church.

Awareness of the need for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life is increasing. And so should our prayer. It is a responsibility we all share. Sometimes we forget just how powerful praying for vocations can be. Remember that God is indeed still calling. The vocations are right here among us in our families...in the young people in the pews of our parish. Pray for their faithful response to Him as He invites them to follow and love Him in these holy vocations.

Note: This guide is a suggested structure for prayer; feel free to pray in the way most suited to your family.



Prayer for Vocation Guidance

Holy Mary, Mother of God, I place myself under your special patronage. Help me to clearly and realistically discern the vocation to which God is calling me. My only desire is to do His will. But it is difficult sometimes to know what His will is.

Help me act prudently, listening to the opinions of others, but without letting others decide for me. I place all my fears and anxieties about the future into your hands. Please, intercede for me that I may be able to surrender my will and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, so as to enter the vocation which will draw me into union with Our Lord. Amen.



Vocation Prayer by the Servant of God John Paul II

Mary, humble servant of God Most High,
The Son to Whom you gave birth has made
You the servant of humanity.

Your life was a humble and generous service.
You were servant of the Word when the angel
Announced to you the divine plan of salvation.

You were servant of the Son, giving him life
And remaining open to his mystery.

You were servant of Redemption,

standing courageously at the foot of the Cross,
Close to the Suffering Servant and Lamb,
Who was sacrificing himself for love of us.

You were servant of the Church on the day of Pentecost
and with your intercession you continue
to generate her in every believer,
even in these our troubled and difficult times.

Let the young people of the third millennium look
to you, young daughter of Israel,

who have known the agitation of a young heart
When faced with the plan of the Eternal God.

Make them able to accept the invitation of your Son
to give their lives wholly for the glory of God.

Make them understand that to serve God
satisfies the heart and that only in the
service of God and of his kingdom
do we realize ourselves in accordance
with the divine plan, and life becomes
a hymn of glory to the Most Holy Trinity.

Amen.

Family Prayer for Vocations

O God, You desire all persons to be truly happy. Please, stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many within our parish families. Grant to them, through the hands of your immaculate Mother, the willingness and generosity to give themselves, their life, their time and talents, to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His Holy Church. May more young men and women go from this parish as priests, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic Faith to all others so that soon they, too, may know You better and love You more and serving You, be truly happy forever. Amen.



Vocation Prayer for Parents

O Lord, we give you thanks for the sons and daughters you have given us in life. Help us as parents to be good examples of Faith, Hope, and Love in their formative years. May we be a guiding light in helping our children follow you, Lord.

Help us to encourage each of our children to discover and be faithful to their unique vocation, whatever You call them to be. And if You should choose one of our own to be a priest, sister brother or deacon, make us grateful and supportive of their faithfulness to You in loving service to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Lord Jesus Christ, open our hearts and minds to the gift of Your presence within us which we received in baptism. May the Holy Spirit prepare us to receive Your call to holiness and help us to respond to You with joy. Give us generous hearts and choose many more among us to serve You and Your kingdom as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons. Amen.

†

Heavenly Father, You sent your Eternal Word to dwell among us through the fiat of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By faith, that same Word indwells every baptized soul. We beg You to choose from among us many men and women to hear and answer the Eternal Word's call to follow Him as priests, brothers and sisters, to serve your holy people in consecrated love and faithfulness. Amen.

†

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, please offer to the Lord of the Harvest our hunger for the Eucharist and our need for holy faithful priests to call down Your Son from Heaven. His great desire is to share Himself with us in the Bread of Life that we might return love for Love. May His will be done in us all, the children of His handmaid. Amen.

†

O Mary, virgin and mother, draw close to your heart all those who are discerning the vocation to which your Son Jesus is inviting them. Help them realize the presence of the Word within them and teach them to listen to Him in the silence of prayer, that they may respond with faithfulness and love. Amen

†

Veni Creator Spiritu! Lord Jesus, Your deepest desire is for all to be made one in You. Pour forth Your Holy Spirit. Give knowledge and ascent to all whom You are calling to serve You and Your Church as priests and consecrated religious, for every faithful YES channels immense graces towards this unity in Your glory. Amen.