

(Your Parish Name)

VOCATION CROSS PRAYERS

(Give a short history of the Vocation Cross used in your parish. The following is the write up used by St. Lucy in Arborfield)

On November 27th, the first Sunday of Advent, and also the first Sunday when the new changes in the Missal was introduced, our parish initiated the Vocation Cross Program. These special crosses were made by Guy Hudon, from the wood, the numbers of the old stations of the cross were mounted upon. When the need for a special Vocation Cross arose, the wood that was used in conjunction with the stations of the cross seemed appropriate. The very wood that was used to remind us of the passion of our Lord, would be used in a different way to build our future church.

It is our desire that through these crosses and through the prayers that are prayed, God would bless our diocese with an abundance of holy and zealous priest, deacons, brothers and sisters. And that he would call many to a holy and stable married life. It is our hope that for the time this Vocation Cross in your home, you would erect a mini shrine, and offer many prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ.

This envelope should contain.

- 1) Three copies of the Our Lady of the Nativity "Parish Vocation Cross Prayer."
- 2) Names and addresses of the Priests and Seminarians for our diocese
- 3) Three copies of the K of C (Diocese) vocation prayer.

* Please be sure to return the Parish Vocation Cross and printed material, so It can be passed to the next family.

What should you do.

- 1) Spend time in prayer every day.
- 2) Talk to your children/grandchildren about what a vocation is.
- 3) Make a special effort to introduce your children/grandchildren to your parish priest and/or Fr. Jim Kaptein (The Vocations Director)
- 4) Encourage them to become priests or sisters.
- 5) Send a letter to each of the Seminarians encouraging them on their journey.
- * 6) Be sure to return the Vocation Cross so it can be passed on to the next family.

Some options for family prayer.

- 1) Be sure to say a prayer everyday,
even if it is as simple as the Lord's Prayer,
or included as part of your prayer before meals.
- 2) Pray a Rosary, for more vocations, asking Mary to intercede on our behalf.
- 3) Pray a Litany to the saints, asking each saint to intercede on our behalf.
- 4) Read a Scripture passage, and reflect on what it means to be sent by God.
- 5) Pray the enclosed prayer as group or as a family.

Please take time throughout the week to pray for an increase in vocations. God is calling people to be his special ministers; unfortunately not all those he calls are listening. Take the time to encourage your children, or grandchildren, to become priests or religious sisters. If at all possible make a point of introducing them to Fr. Jim and inviting him over for coffee or a meal.

Litany of the Saints

St. John Berchmans (Nov. 26)*	Pray for us	(Patron of Altar Servers)
St. Nicholas of Myra (Dec. 6)	Pray for us	(Patron of Children)
St. Joseph (March 19)	Pray for us	(Patron of the Church and Patron of married Couples)
(Archangel) Gabriel (Sept. 29)	Pray for us	(Patron of Clerics)
St. Alphonsus Liguori (Aug. 1)*		
and St. John Nepomucen (May 16)*	Pray for us	(Patrons of Confessors)
St. Jude (Oct. 28)	Pray for us	(Patron of Desperate situations)
St. Agnes (Jan 21)*	Pray for us	(Patron of Girls)
St. Monica (Aug. 27)*	Pray for us	(Patron of Mothers)
St. John Vianney (Aug 4)	Pray for us	(Patron of Parish Priests)
St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 25)*		
and St. John Chrysostom (Sept. 13)	Pray for us	(Patrons of Preachers)
St. Charles Borromeo (Nov. 4)	Pray for us	(Patron of Seminarians)
St. Martha (July 29)*		
and St. Zita (April 27)*	Pray for us	(Patrons of Servants)
St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 25)*		
and St. Thomas Aquinas (Jan. 28)	Pray for us	(Patrons of Students)
St. Gregory the Great (Sept. 3)		
and St. John Baptist de la Salle (April 7)	Pray for us	(Patron of Teachers)
St. Alphonsus Liguori (Aug. 1)*		
and St. Augustine (Aug. 28)	Pray for us	(Patrons of Theologians)
St. Alphonsus Ligouri (Aug. 1)*	Pray for us	(Patron of Vocations)
St. Aloysius Gonzaga (June 21)	Pray for us	(Patron of Youth)
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Pray for us	(Patron of Aboriginal People)
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Pray for us	(Patron of the Diocese)
Other Saints		
Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1)	Pray for us	
St. James (July 25)	Pray for us	
St. Peter (June 29)	Pray for us	
St. Lucy (December 13)	Pray for us	
	(Please include any other saints you wish to invoke)	



(Your Parish) Vocation Cross

Parish Logo

Please pray for Vocations



Scripture Readings

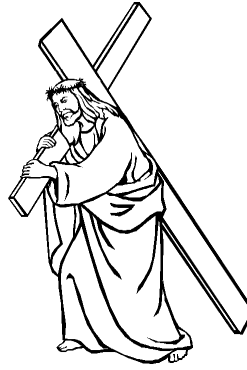
I Samuel 16:1-13	Isaiah 6:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-3	Jeremiah 1:4-9
Ezekiel 34:11-16	Acts 13:46-49	Acts 20:17-36	Romans 12:3-13 II
Corinthians 3:1-6	II Corinthians 4:1-7	II Corinthians 5:14-20	Ephesians 4:1-13
Colossians 1:24-29	II Timothy 1:13-2:3	II Timothy 4:1-5	I Peter 5:1-4
Matthew 9:35-38	Matthew 10:1-16	Matthew 16:13-19	Matthew 28:16-20
Mark 1:14-20	Mark 3:13-19	Mark 4:1-20	Mark 6:7-13
Mark 16:9-20	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 10:1-9	Luke 22:7-20
Luke 22:24-30	Luke 24:44-53	John Chapter 6	John 10:7-16

(Your Parish Name) Parish Vocation Cross

What should you do.

- Spend time in prayer every day.
- Talk to your children/grandchildren about what a vocation is.
- Make a special effort to introduce them to the parish priest.
- Encourage them to become priests or sisters.

* Be sure to return the Vocation Cross before the next Sunday mass, so it can be passed on to the next family.



Some options for family prayer.

- 1) Be sure to say a prayer every day, even if it is as simple as the Lord's Prayer, or included as part of your prayer before meals.
- 2) Pray a Rosary asking Mary to intercede on our behalf for more vocations.
- 3) Pray a Litany to the saints, asking each saint to intercede on our behalf.
- 4) Read a Scripture passage, and reflect on what it means to be sent by God.
- 5) Pray the enclosed prayer as a family.

A Prayer for Vocations

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

All: AMEN

Leader: O God, listen to our prayer as we gather to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As we look upon the cross, we remember the love of Jesus who calls us through baptism to follow him in service to our brothers and sisters.

PSALM 100

Leader: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence with joy!

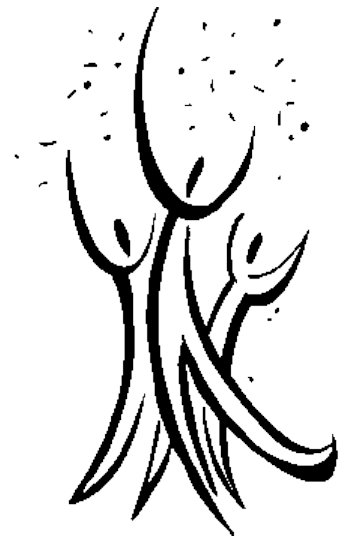
All: Serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence with joy.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong, our shepherd and we, the flock.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence with joy.

Leader: Enter the temple gates, the courtyard with thanks and praise; give thanks and bless God's name.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence with joy.



Leader: Indeed the Lord is good, God is lasting love, faithful from age to age.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence with joy.



Scripture Readings (If possible read from the Holy Bible, this or another suggested reading)

Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; pray, therefore, the Master of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Luke 10:1-3)

(Take a moment of silence to reflect on what it means to be called by the Master of the Harvest, to be laborers in his service.)

Petitions

Leader: Master of the Harvest, we pray in thanksgiving for the faithful witness of our diocesan priests, deacons, religious men/women and lay ministers dedicated to building the kingdom of God in our diocese. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Master of the harvest, we pray for the gift of vocations to the priesthood in our diocese. May those you are calling respond with generous hearts. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Master of the harvest, we pray that committed men and women will answer your call to service and love through vowed life in community. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Master of the harvest, we pray that all members of our faith community will share their gifts generously in the service of God's people. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Master of the harvest, we bring to you our needs and intentions, trusting in your great love for us (Take a moment to offer your own intentions). We pray to the Lord.

All: Our Father who art in heaven . . .
Hail Mary, full of grace . . .
Glory be to the Father and . . .



Leader: Almighty God, we are confident that you will send labourers into the vineyard of your Church. Help us to be open to your love in our lives, and help us to respond generously. Hear us and bless us through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

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