



VOCATION CORNER~ YEAR B

Vocation Corner First Sunday of Advent – B

A Vocation View: It's Advent; almost Christmas! A Season of dreams come true. Be on guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.

Prayer: That the hearts and minds of those called to serve the Lord as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will not be lacking in any spiritual gift, but will continue to be enriched in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW... we all have a “vocation”? The way we live our life is our vocation - Marriage, Priesthood, Religious life or the Single life! It is how YOU are meant to live and contribute to the Body of Christ! The important thing is to pray for discernment.



Vocation Corner Second Sunday of Advent – B

A Vocation View: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

Prayer: For all those especially chosen by Christ to "prepare the way of the Lord" in their hearts and the hearts of His people as priests, deacons, brothers and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IN THE MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT, Catholic men meet to prayer about their lives, listen for God's voice, and get serious about answering His call. The Project's handbook, "To Save a Thousand Souls" by Father Brett Brannen, is the ultimate guidebook for discerning a vocation to the Catholic priesthood. Buy the book and read it!



Vocation Corner Third Sunday of Advent – B

A Vocation View: There was a man _____ sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?

Prayer: That men and women called by the Lord to be messengers of His Word as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will zealously proclaim the good news of salvation, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW...”Brothers” live in Religious Communities. They take vows and promise to use their talents to serve God wherever the Community decides they are needed. Brothers are not ordained.



Vocation Corner Fourth Sunday of Advent – B

A Vocation View: Every person who has ever born a child, and every person who has freely vowed away this honour, helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?

Prayer: That the faithful response, “Behold, I come to do your will, O Lord,” will be voiced by each person discerning a call to serve Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: CELIBACY is a gift and a promise to love very deeply and to express that love for others without using those physical expressions proper to marriage. The lives of many men and women religious are rich and loving within the context of celibate love as are the lives of happily married couples.



Vocation Corner Christmas - A, B or C

A Vocation View: Christmas the promised fulfilled. God comes to dwell among His people. Before the Second Coming of Jesus, the world needs people like you to continue His work. Are you ready?

Prayer: That Catholic families will pray for, and nurture, the gift of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from among their children, we pray to the Lord.

Action: THE CALL TO VOCATION is a call to follow Jesus – which can be done via married life and the single life as well. Often people are reluctant to share their feelings regarding their call, a natural response. Prayers help here as well.



Vocation Corner Holy Family – B

A Vocation View: The Old Law said that every first born male shall be dedicated to the Lord. Is there a priest, deacon, brother, or sister from your family? Now is the time for families to encourage a vocation!

Prayer: That Catholic mothers and fathers will help their children grow, become strong in their faith and filled with the wisdom of God by fostering openness to vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among their families.

Action: HOW WOULD YOU REACT if your son said he wants to be a priest? 1). I would ask him if he's gone mad, and I would remind him that we must take into consideration what others might think. 2). I would ask him to give it considerable thought and to have a university degree first. 3). It would give me one of the greatest joys of my life, and I would support him fully.



Vocation Corner Epiphany - A, B or C

A Vocation View: Even gift bearing kings, accompanied by camels and servants, went to visit Jesus Christ. You, come and follow Him. Then take the Good News back to your people: Jesus is Lord of all.

Prayer: That our young people will learn to open the treasure of their unique vocation through prayer and Adoration of Christ the King, by their faithfulness to His call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW... “Nuns” are women religious who have professed solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and live a life of prayer and penance within cloistered communities? There is a difference between a “nun” and a “sister.”



Vocation Corner Baptism of Our Lord - A, B or C

A Vocation View: No one is humanly worthy to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother. No one is worthy to stoop and untie the sandal straps of Jesus. But He still calls us and favours us to do His work. Will you serve?

Prayer: That every parishioner will devote themselves and their families to praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially from our own parish, we pray to the Lord.

Action: A VOCATION must be nurtured for a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests, sisters and brothers by praying, listening, and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served. HOW will you work out your life response to God?

Vocation Corner First Sunday of Lent - B

A Vocation View: Lent: the springtime of the soul. A time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover your calling.



Prayer: That the generous lives of those who preach that the kingdom of God is at hand, will invite our young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW... “Sisters” are women religious who also have taken traditional religious vows but are engaged in active ministries among the public? They usually live in a convent.

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Second Sunday of Lent – B

A Vocation View: If you need an example of a person responding to a vocational call, look at Abraham - called in old age to leave his country, father a child, then asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Vocation is a risky response to a unique call from God.

Prayer: For all our priests, who bring us to the mountain of Christ at every Mass and feed us with His transforming love in the sacraments, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: THE EUCHARIST SHOULD BE THE HEART of every vocational journey: it is here that the love of God touches us in Christ's sacrifice, the perfect expression of love, and it is here that we learn ever anew how to live according to the 'high standard' of God's love. Scripture, prayer and the Eucharist are the precious treasure enabling us to grasp the beauty of a life spent fully in service of the Kingdom. *Pope Benedict XVI*

Vocation Corner

Third Sunday of Lent – B

A Vocation View: Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers. He was angry; He was zealous; He was authoritative. He was doing what He had to do, even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a vocation.

Prayer: That all those seeking to discover their vocations in Christ will take heart in the faith that He is the Lord our God and calls them to the glorious perfection of love, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IF YOU WANT TO BE A CHANNEL - you must first be a reservoir. Do some Spiritual reading, study the Scriptures attend daily Mass. These all help fill that reservoir! There a lot of great books in our Parish Library.

Vocation Corner

Fourth Sunday of Lent – B

A Vocation View: When we are 'born again' in baptism, we really become a new creation, fired with a new love, and aimed in a new direction - heaven. Let Jesus talk with you. Let Jesus challenge you.

Prayer: That God, who is rich in mercy, will bless those called by Jesus to serve Him and His Church as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, with faithfulness to their vocations, we pray to the Lord

Action: WE AS BAPTIZED Catholics believe God is at work in us. How we live our life is the goal of “discernment.” Discernment simply means good taste and judgment.

Vocation Corner

Fifth Sunday of Lent – B

A Vocation View: Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we first dry out and die to our selfish ways, we can never expect to be people who will 'lay down their lives for their friends.'

Prayer: That God’s name will be glorified, by the faithful love of those men and women being called by Christ to serve and follow Him as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.



Action: The consecrated life inspires and accompanies the spread of evangelization in the different parts of the world, where Institutes from abroad are gratefully welcomed and new ones are being founded, in a great variety of forms and expressions. Consequently, although in some parts of the world Institutes of Consecrated Life seem to be experiencing a period of difficulty, in other places they are prospering with remarkable vitality. This shows that the choice of total self-giving to God in Christ is in no way incompatible with any human culture or historical situation. *Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata, no. 2*

Vocation Corner Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) – B

A Vocation View: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is she who gives her life in the name of the Lord. Blessed are they who live their united life in the name of the Lord.

Prayer: That in imitation of Christ who emptied Himself for our salvation, more men and women will share in His passion for souls through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.



Action: RELIGIOUS ORDERS are receiving younger members and those who are more educated than those of previous years. In 2011, the average age of women professing perpetual vows was 39, 4 years younger than those surveyed the previous year. This was the first-year men were included in the survey and the average age of those entering Religious Orders was 42. When the participants were asked at what age they first considered a religious vocation, the average age was 19.

Vocation Corner Easter Sunday – B

A Vocation View: Christ has become our Paschal Sacrifice. Your ultimate purpose, to live and to breathe, is the eternal Jesus. Go forth to announce to the world - Christ, our hope, has risen, Alleluia!

Prayer: That more men and women will joyfully answer the call of the Lord to proclaim His life, death and resurrection as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: WHAT IS A SECULAR INSTITUTE? Single or married lay men and women, and also some priests, belong to secular institutes. They make a commitment to live the “evangelical counsels” of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Members do not necessarily live together as a Community. Their goal is to be a transforming Christ-like presence in society.



Vocation Corner Second Sunday of Easter – B

A Vocation View: Easter: resurrection and new life; to be begotten by God. A new life, achieved from a conquered tomb. This has been the meaning of life for people for thousands of years. Nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you..."

Prayer: For the holiness of all those sent in Jesus’ name as priests, deacons and consecrated religious to proclaim the victory over the world through faith in Him, we pray to the Lord.



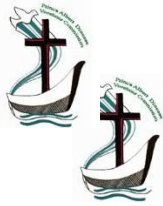
Action: From the very beginning of the church men and women have set about following Christ with greater freedom and imitating him more closely through the practice of the **evangelical counsels**, each in their own way leading a life dedicated to God. *Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life Perfectae Caritatis, no. 1*

Vocation Corner Third Sunday of Easter – B

A Vocation View: What could convince someone to turn to God? That God became man and is the sacrifice that takes our sins away. Let us pray - Lord Jesus, make Your word plain to us and set our hearts on fire with love when You speak. Enable us to respond to the call to be witnesses of Your love.

Prayer: For an increased awareness among our young people of the closeness of the Lord in their vocation discernment and their responsibility to recognize and follow Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW that the website, missioninscripture.org has reflections on our daily Scripture readings?



Vocation Corner **Fourth Sunday of Easter – B**

A Vocation View: This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs worthy leaders, Good Shepherds of the 21st Century, caring unselfishly for the needs of God's people. Please, pray for Vocations.

Prayer: For all those called to lay down their lives as priests, deacons, and in the consecrated life, that they will be faithful witnesses to the Good Shepherd in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Our religious charisms, our communities, our way of life, and our very vocations are precious gifts that come with tremendous responsibilities. How will we share this responsibility and provide leadership and loving service with and for God's people into the future?

Vocation Corner **Fifth Sunday of Easter – B**

A Vocation View: Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith? We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the Vine and the Branches One again. How about you?

Prayer: That Catholic mothers and fathers will abide in the Lord as branches on His vine, cultivating in their children the desire to love Him in truth and action, we pray to the Lord.

Action: CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be “when they grow up”: doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, carpenters. They may talk about these roles, but do they ever talk about being a priest, sister or brother? You are the hand of God — you can encourage your children to consider Church ministry.

Vocation Corner **Sixth Sunday of Easter – B**

A Vocation View: God's love for us has been revealed: "Love one another as I have loved you. The world is in need to see people who are striving to love others with all their hearts. What about you?

Prayer: For all those chosen by the Lord to go and bear fruit as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, that they will respond to His love with conviction in their vocations, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW that there are special seminaries for men entering the priesthood later in life, seminaries where students range from ages 25 to 60? Many of these men have thought about being a priest at one time or another but, for whatever reason, pushed the idea to the back of their minds. They're ordinary people, men who have been electricians, teachers, barbers, policemen, social workers, businessmen, farmers, dentists. Some are widowers, even grandfathers. Diverse though their backgrounds may be, they now share one aim in life: to become a priest and serve God's people. Could you be one of them?

Vocation Corner **Ascension – B**



A Vocation View: Jesus said to his disciples 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.' There are still dark aspects to our world and to our neighbourhood that need the Good News. Answer the call to 'Go and teach all people the Good News, and remember I am with you always, until the end of time.'

Prayer: For all men and women now discerning their vocation in Christ, that they will have confidence in Him, who calls them each as members of His body, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IN A WORLD dominated by individualism, secularism and relativism, it is good to be reminded that in the final analysis it is not what we have but who we are that counts! It is good to be grounded in faith to make decisions in the light of truth.

Vocation Corner Pentecost Sunday – B

A Vocation View: Be guided by the Holy Spirit, because with the Spirit comes, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. With God's help, come forward to proclaim to those who are searching for meaning in life. As the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Prayer: That through union with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose company the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, men and women will receive the grace to respond to Christ's call to follow Him as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IS JOY REALLY POSSIBLE? Many people ask themselves this question. The quest for joy can follow many paths, some even dangerous. How can we distinguish between the things that give real and lasting joy from those offering simply immediate and illusory pleasure? How can we find true joy in life, a joy that endures and does not forsake us at moments of difficulty?

Vocation Corner Trinity Sunday – B

A Vocation View: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When we go out to make disciples of all nations we have a lot to tell. God is Lord in heaven above and on earth below. Having received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, you are called to proclaim "Glory to the Father, to the Son and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was and who is to come." Alleluia!

Prayer: That the mystery of the love of the Blessed Trinity, manifest in the gift of Jesus Christ, will strengthen many men and women to respond to that love as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Jesus' core message—that we are one—is surely one of the great mysteries of existence. This truth is so hard to accept because our senses tell a different story: We are separate, different, and alone. If you need an image to help us realize what our senses cannot; picture the giant redwood trees of California: They only grow in groves. Moreover, each tree's roots extend and grasp the roots of the surrounding trees, forming a strong, interconnecting network that serves to nourish and sustain all of them equally. Remember the redwood trees and their invisible, interlocking roots as you discern your vocation. You are not alone and never will be on your chosen path to Christ.

Vocation Corner Corpus Christi – B

A Vocation View: Through the ministry of our ordained priests, we receive Holy Communion. Through the Body and Blood of Christ, we are made one body: to become Christ-like ... purified ... ready to serve. Pray for Vocations.

Prayer: For a growing trust in the presence of the Lord in His call among men and women being chosen to serve Him and His Church as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: THE GREATEST LOVE STORY of all time is contained in a tiny white host. *Ven. Archbishop Fulton J Sheen.*



Vocation Corner Second Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: A good Vocation prayer to say every day, from the time we are ten years old till we are ninety years old, is found in today's first Scripture Reading: 'Speak, Lord for your servant is listening.' Just try it with sincerity starting today.

Prayer: That like Samuel, all baptized Catholics will be faithful to their call to follow Christ, especially those chosen for the unique consecration of priesthood or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: SPIRITUAL EXERCISE and food (reading, daily prayer) are just as important to the spirit as physical exercise and food is to the body! Is your spirit being fed – or just your body?



Vocation Corner Third Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Even a great person like Jonah turned away, at first, from what God called him to do. It is never too late to hear the Lord say: 'Come, follow Me.'

Prayer: For a prompt and determined response on the part of all men and women called by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IT IS NOT UNCOMMON to feel scared if you think God may be calling you to religious life. You may feel unworthy, not good enough, not holy enough, afraid of being rejected. Books like: 'To Save a Thousand Souls' and 'Tuning in to God's Call' can help with these questions.



Vocation Corner Fourth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: People were spellbound by the teachings of Jesus. The Church needs bold teachers and preachers. Consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

Prayer: For those called to serve Jesus as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, that amazed at the authority with which He speaks His invitation, they will be faithful to His choice of them, we pray to the Lord.

Action: WHO CAN BE A DEACON? A Catholic man actively living his faith, from any ethnic or social background, married or celibate (unmarried), engaged in almost any field of work, at least 35 years old at time of ordination, who humbly seeks to discern his vocation in and with the Church.



Vocation Corner Fifth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: The afflicted Job in the Old Testament thinks that his life is like dust in the wind; his restlessness depicting the sorrow and sadness afflicting society today. Are we prepared for the task ahead? "To heal the broken-hearted, to bind up all their wounds." How do you choose to respond?

Prayer: That all Catholics will recognize that they are entrusted with the commission to pray for vocations and so beg the Holy Spirit to guide the deep searching of all who are discerning their vocations in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DID YOU KNOW... offering up one's suffering and trials is a wonderful form of prayer?



Vocation Corner Sixth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Today's Gospel says that: "Jesus was moved with pity, when He saw a leper." Are you moved with love or pity when you see the outcast of today's society? Who will come forward to minister Christ today?

Prayer: For a truer understanding that faithfulness to one's vocation in Christ is necessary in order to do all for the glory of God, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Because of our vows of chastity poverty, and obedience, consecrated religious have the freedom to work with others in caring for those on the margins of society, speaking on their behalf, yet at the same time, empowering them to recognize and utilize their God-given gifts and talents. *Sr. Sister Rosemary Finnegan, O.P., 2014 Diocese of Orlando interview*



Vocation Corner Seventh Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: In today's Gospel, people have difficulty believing that Jesus can forgive sins. Is God asking you to forgive the sins of His people as His ordained priest? Are you called to bring Good News to the poor? Say "yes" to God's call.

Prayer: That all those called to help the Lord make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert by proclaiming the Good News as priests, deacons and consecrated religious, will be faithful and joyful servants through their "Yes" to Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: AT WORLD YOUTH DAY 2012 Pope Benedict XVI reminded youth that "Joy is at the heart of Christian experience... The Church's vocation is to bring joy to the world, a joy that is authentic and enduring, the joy proclaimed by the angels to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born."



Vocation Corner Eighth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: With integrity and love, justice and tenderness, the Lord 'lures' His servants into His service. This service, under a new covenant, is blessed by the Spirit of God.

Prayer: That by their example of seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, priests, deacons, and consecrated life, will win many souls to Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: AN INTERESTING WEBSITE for anyone interested in religious life, or just looking for good Catholic information is anunslife.org, sponsored by the congregation of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), a Roman Catholic religious community based in Monroe, Michigan.



Vocation Corner Ninth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Make today a Sabbath day. Relax in God's presence and listen to God's voice. Don't be surprised to hear what your heart most needs.

Prayer: For confident trust in the Lord who He leads and guides all those discerning a call to serve Him and His people as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice "out there" calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice "in here" calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.



Vocation Corner Tenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: There is evil in this world. We are surrounded by constant reminders that all is not well in our cities, our schools, our government, our environment. Each of us must use the best means to bring about love in the world. Are you part of the problem or part of the solution? Choose love!

Prayer: That our young people will respond promptly to the call of the Lord to follow Him as priests, deacons or consecrated religious men and women, we pray to the Lord.

Action: WHEN PEOPLE wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because when there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice, there is no religion. *St. John Vianney*



Vocation Corner Eleventh Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: A vocation is like a mustard seed which, when planted in the heart, is like a childhood dream. Yet once we begin to believe that God is calling us, we begin to blossom into the dream of a lifetime. People will want to live in the shade of our loving response.

Prayer: That Catholic mother and fathers will foster vocation awareness among their children, knowing that they will be helping to reveal the Heavenly Father's love by their prayer, guidance and example, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN, remember to raise the call to Church ministry? The process of answering God's call begins in childhood. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, the attitudes assumed in childhood begin to influence the course of one's life. A vocation or a talent will not grow to fruition unless it is nurtured in childhood and adolescence by a parent.



Vocation Corner Twelfth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Wealth does not buy happiness: but neither does poverty. Depending upon the Lord can give us true security and happiness. We are looking for people to proclaim that even the wind and sea obey this man who brings calmness to life and direction to living.

Prayer: That Catholic mothers and fathers will teach their children to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with reverence and encourage them to discover their vocations in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IN A WORLD dominated by individualism, secularism and relativism, it is good to be reminded that in the final analysis it is not what we have but who we are that counts! It is good to be grounded in faith to make decisions in the light of truth.



Vocation Corner Thirteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Life can remind us of life eternal; death can remind us of death eternal. Each day we must choose to live or die, physically or spiritually. What we do daily either builds us up or tears us down. Pray for the proclaimers of life!

Prayer: For the faith to accept the healing power of Jesus, who wants to remove every obstacle to the response of men and women chosen to follow Him as priests, deacons, in consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: LAST THINGS FIRST - at various times in the year, the Church reminds us that there will be an end to our lives and that there will be an account of how we have lived. Do you live with those last things in mind?

Vocation Corner Fourteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: There is a great need today to stand up for what we believe in. The Spirit of the Lord is upon you, He has sent you to bring Good News to the poor.



Prayer: That all men and women will answer the Lord with humble obedience when they are called to serve Him and His people as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. *Saint Francis of Assisi*

Vocation Corner Fifteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: In today's First Reading, Amos says he did not choose to be a prophet. God selected him. Maybe God is asking you to reconsider what you are doing and do His work instead.

Prayer: That all those called to serve Christ and His Church in the priesthood and consecrated life will receive the graces and authority of their mission to the praise of God's glory, we pray to the Lord.

Action: For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be. *Thomas Merton*

Vocation Corner Sixteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: When the apostles were trying to reflect on their ministry, Jesus asked them to "come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place." Listening to God in quiet prayer is very important in vocational discernment. Listen to God's voice in an out-of-the-way place.

Prayer: For all the priests and religious men and women who serve our diocese, that, grateful for their calling, they will heed the Lord's invitation to pray in restful solitude with Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: In every age consecrated men and women must continue to be images of Christ the Lord, fostering through prayer a profound communion of mind with him. *Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata, no. 9*



Vocation Corner Seventeenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Today we are reminded by St Paul that there is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The challenge before us is to 'bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.' That is an essential part of our vocation: to lead a life worthy of these attributes.

Prayer: That the knowledge of our unity, one body and one spirit in Christ, will heighten each person's faithfulness to their vocation, and encourage those He is calling to strengthen His bond of peace as priests, deacons and consecrated religious, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Legend surrounds the brief life of Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (907-935), originally venerated because of his martyrdom but most remembered today because of a Christmas carol that celebrates him as a model of generosity. Separating fact from fiction may be difficult after 1,000 years, but your own record of generosity should be easier to tally. Will anyone sing praises of your generosity a millennium from now? A hundred years? Ten minutes after you are gone? If not, what can you do today to start building your own lasting legacy as a disciple of Christ?



Vocation Corner Eighteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst." 'Lord, send us priests after your own heart to give us the Food of everlasting life - Your Very Self in the Eucharist.' Consider a call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: That as every vocation bears with it a prophetic message, the Lord will send more priests, deacons and consecrated religious into the darkness of the world as shining lamps of truth, we pray to the Lord.



Action: The life of prayer and contemplation founded on the **Eucharistic** mystery is also at the heart of the vocation of consecrated people who have chosen the path of the *sequela Christi*, to give themselves to the Lord with an undivided heart in an ever more intimate relationship with him. By their unconditional attachment to Christ and to his Church, they have the special mission to reminding everyone of the universal vocation to holiness ... Consecrated men and women

proclaim that God alone can give fullness to human existence. *Pope Benedict XVI, 2006 Address to Canadian Bishops*



Vocation Corner Nineteenth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: To taste and see the goodness of the Lord means to be drawn closer to God. "Try, then, to imitate God as children of His that He loves, and follow Christ by loving as He loved you." Be a presence of God's love in the world today. Do what you can to bring to life God's love.

Prayer: That the grace of God the Father will draw more men and women to follow Jesus as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, who will feed His people with His word and the bread of eternal life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Clothing has a dual purpose: to protect the fragile body from harsh weather and to adorn and identify ourselves and what we are about: the business suit of an executive, the torn jeans of a teenager, the uniform of a soldier. So it makes sense that Saint Paul says we should "put on" virtue; we should wear compassion, kindness, patience, gentleness—colorful and obvious as our outfits.



Vocation Corner Twentieth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: John's Gospel reveals God's promise of the Word made flesh. This is revealed through the sacrifice made by Christ: "I am the living bread, come down from heaven ... the bread I give is my flesh for the life of the world ..." Do this in memory of Him.

Prayer: For all those now discerning their vocations in Christ, that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the living bread of His holy will for them, we pray to the Lord.

Action: THE GREATEST LOVE STORY of all time is contained in a tiny white host. *Ven. Archbishop Fulton J Sheen.*

Vocation Corner Twenty - first Sunday of the Year - B

A Vocation View: Jesus teaches us about life everlasting. "Your words Lord are spirit and life ..." It is this that gives us hope when we despair, a way of living when we stray from God's way. "The words I have spoken are spirit and they are life." It is God's words that we need to hear to lift our spirit and give life. Pray for vocations.

Prayer: That trusting Christ, the Word of eternal life, all men and women called to follow the Lord as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers will be faithful to His invitation, we pray to the Lord.



Action: How far are you willing to go in your own life in to bring Good News to others? Consider the example of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852), born in France, travelled all the way to St. Charles, Missouri to bring the Society of the Sacred Heart religious congregation to the U.S. Today the Society has 21 schools in the U.S. and is found in 44 countries around the world. Sacred Heart sisters focus on educating young women and emphasize in their curriculum the need for global awareness and building a more just world. You can carry on these efforts in your own neighborhood, parish, office, home, and see how far the Spirit moves you.

Vocation Corner Twenty - second Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Thank God our struggles of faith can be ultimately overcome through prayer, perseverance and love. 'Do what the word tells you.' Be doers of the word.

Prayer: For the willingness among our young people, by the grace from the Father of lights, of making a generous gift of their lives as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: There's a story told about a woman who prayed to the Virgin that one of her sons would become a priest. She had seven sons, but all of them married and raised families. Then she prayed that one of her grandsons would become a priest. She had many grandsons, but none chose that life. The woman continued her prayer. She was almost a 100 years old and near death when one of her grandsons, at the age of 33, decided to become a priest. She died a happy woman knowing her lifelong prayer was finally answered. The story is true, told by the priest himself. Prayer works; you just have to keep at it.

Vocation Corner Twenty - third Sunday of the Year – B



A Vocation View: Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom? Chosen to be rich in faith. So take heart, be not afraid, and consider your part in God's Kingdom.

Prayer: For a deeper dedication among Catholic families to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life among their children, believing that Christ opens ears to hear His call and hearts to answer Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be “when they grow up”: doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, and carpenters. They may talk about these roles, but do they ever talk about being a priest, sister or brother? You are the hand of God — you can encourage your children to consider Church ministry.

Vocation Corner Twenty - fourth Sunday of the Year – B



A Vocation View: We do not advertise an easy life. But then no life worth living is an easy life. Jesus said: “If you wish to come after me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow in my steps.” Pray for the gift of being able to accept your vocation

Prayer: That those called to give their lives for the sake of the Gospel as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, will glory in the cross of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: A painter and musician happened upon a spray-painted image of a cross on a walk along a Mexican road. He took a picture of what he saw: a haunting, rough, wild, desolate, but ultimately hopeful image of this universal Christian symbol. The man with the camera was simply out on a hike, but he has the discerning eye of an artist, so he sees things others might not. It is a talent cultivated over years of practice and a reminder to all of us to pay attention—for even the stones cry out the glory of God (cf. Luke: 19-40). Insights and sparks of enlightenment will come to us particularly through spiritual practice and prayer, and in those moments we will know above all else who we are and where we are being called.



Vocation Corner Twenty - fifth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: When Jesus says, "If you wish to rank first, you must be last one of all and the servant of all," many people could immediately turn and walk away. Are you willing to serve as Jesus did?

Prayer: For all those who welcome the call of the Lord to serve Him as priests deacons, and in the consecrated life, will be strengthened in their vocations as servants of all, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Dear brothers and sisters, in the finest traditions of the Church in this country, may you also be the first friend of the poor, the homeless, the stranger, the sick and all who suffer. Act as beacons of hope, casting the light of Christ upon the world, and encouraging young people to discover the beauty of a life given completely to the Lord and his Church. *Pope Benedict XVI, Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 2008*

Vocation Corner Twenty - sixth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Some people do not respond to God's call because they feel they are not worthy to do God's work. And they are not - nobody is! But still God calls. There is enough ministry for many more. Answer God's call.

Prayer: For the grace of prayerful determination on the part of all those discerning our Heavenly Father's will, especially those considering a vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: One thing I would like people to do in their discernment is to find a spiritual director who is compassionate to them and is willing to help them to find the community which is good for them. Don't forget to pray to God for his guidance. *Brother Tello Vu, T.O.R., 2014 Diocese of Orlando interview*

Vocation Corner Twenty - seventh Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: The Christian Vocation has expression through marriage, single life, priesthood and consecrated life. Our call to holiness is to answer God's call to build the Kingdom of God. 'Let the little children come to me; ... for it is too such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.'

Prayer: That men and women will receive their unique vocations in Christ at the hands of our Heavenly Father, confident of His wisdom and providence, in their response as His children, we pray to the Lord.

Action: PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES:

God of life and love,

You give us grace though married life.

Help us to see You reflected in one another.

Help us to know You, to serve You, to honor You

Through all the challenges and joys

Of this enduring partnership.

Make us forgiving friends and generous companions.

Help us guide each other toward You.

May our union be the wellspring of a deeper union with You.

Vocation Corner Twenty - eighth Sunday of the Year – B



A Vocation View: If we really believe in something, it does not seem to be a sacrifice to give up everything else to pursue that one dream. Jesus asks for total dedication, promising in return rewards that no one else can promise: "Go and sell everything you own ... then come; follow me."

Prayer: That those chosen to leave all and follow Jesus more closely in the priesthood or consecrated life will respond with the wisdom and understanding given by the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Invited to leave everything to follow Christ, you, consecrated men and women, no longer define your life by family, by profession, or by earthly interests, and you choose the Lord as your only identifying mark.

Thus you acquire a new family identity. *Homily of Pope John Paul II, Jubilee of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2000*

Vocation Corner Twenty - ninth Sunday of the Year – B



A Vocation View: Life's rewards are tied up in the spirit of service. Just as the Son of Man came to give His life, so too are we then called through our profession of faith to serve others. Lord, we pray, 'let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in You, to do your will.'

Prayer: For reverent boldness on the part of the faithful as they approach the throne of grace in prayer, asking the Lord of the Harvest for holy vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: When you go to church it may be hard to see beyond what the priests, deacons, lectors, cantors, and others are doing at the moment (unless of course you're one of those people!). Behind that hour of Mass, however, are many hours of meetings, practice, and personal preparation that go into leading worship. But the work everyone else in a faith community does—including yours—is just as important. Supporting yourself, and maybe a family, as well as all the other tasks of life, if you do them in a spirit of faith and generosity, go just as far in building the kingdom of God. And perhaps the most important thing you do is worship itself. The very origin of the word liturgy is the "public work and service" of the church.



Vocation Corner Thirtieth Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: 'Master grant that I may see'. The values we were blind to in our youth, now become clear. Blindness gives way to vision through faith in Jesus. As children of God, we are called to do good things, and to witness God's love.

Prayer: For all men and women now considering their vocation, that they will take heart in Jesus' call to serve Him as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life by our words of encouragement and prayers of support, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Since its origins consecrated life has been marked by its thirst for God: *quaerere Deum*. May your first and supreme desire therefore be to witness to the fact that God should be listened to and loved with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your might, before any other person or thing. *Pope Benedict XVI, in a 2005 message to religious in the Diocese of Rome*

Vocation Corner Thirty – first Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: The year is quickly ending. Years, like our lives, go by too quickly. Do you know yet that the purpose of life is to love God above all, and love of your neighbour as yourself? Tell others before it is too late.



Prayer: For the holiness of all those called to love Jesus with undivided hearts by living the Beatitudes as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: At last I have found my vocation: My vocation is love. *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

Vocation Corner Thirty – second Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: Honest, dedicated people. Jesus is looking for dedicated and humble people who will give the best they have in response to His call to service. Give what you've got when you are called.

Prayer: That those called to proclaim the Kingdom of God as priests, deacons and consecrated religious, will be generous in serving Christ by deepening their trust in God's providence, we pray to the Lord.

Action: "COMMUNITY" describes the life religious brothers and sisters choose. Community enables the individual to reach out to others with the strength and courage that comes from knowing, "I don't have to do it alone. Others stand with me in this. My abilities are complemented by their gifts, confidence, wisdom and vision." In community, sisters and brothers live out their vowed commitments, knowing that, though each member is unique, the binding force in life is each one's personal and communal relationship with Jesus.

Vocation Corner Thirty - third Sunday of the Year – B

A Vocation View: 'As I keep the Lord ever in my sight ... my heart rejoices, my soul is glad ... You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence.' Let our Vocation be, to be one with God - forever.

Prayer: That the Church will be continuously blessed with wise and holy priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, chosen by Christ to lead souls to the glory of Heaven, we pray to the Lord.

Action: SAINTS ARE MODELS FOR US – and there are many websites offering great information! Some of them are nccs-bsa.org/activities and usccb.org.



Vocation Corner Christ the King - B

A Vocation View: Christ is King ... the faithful Witness. He loved us ... and made us a line of priests, prophets and kings to serve His Father. Who are we to be called forth as the priests of tomorrow - prayerful men - leaders, ready to preach the Word of God?

Prayer: That Christ the King will draw all men and women to the truth of their vocations by listening to His voice in prayer and then actively following His call to the praise of His glory, we pray to the Lord.

Action: If you are what you should be, then you will set the world on fire.—*Saint Catherine of Siena*

