

Vocation Corner ~ Year C



Vocation Corner ~ First Sunday of Advent – C

A Vocation View: Make your decision to follow Jesus during this Advent Season. Delaying until "one" of these days is "none" of these days. Follow now.

Prayer: That all those now discerning their vocations will be alert and responsive to the invitation of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: What opportunity is life offering me, right now, for doing what makes me come joyfully alive?

Vocation Corner ~ Second Sunday of Advent – C

A Vocation View: Who, today, is willing to make ready the way of the Lord, to clear Him a straight path? Prayed that you would.

Prayer: That the Lord, who is beginning the good work of choosing from among us men and women to follow Him as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, will bring it to completion through our prayers and sacrifices, we pray to the Lord.

Action: In a recent survey of a broad spectrum of Catholics, more than 70 percent of the survey participants have invited someone to consider religious life. Ideally the promotion of vocations is the responsibility of the entire church, not only of the clergy or religious themselves.

Pope Francis promulgated the Year of Consecrated Life to raise the church's awareness about the importance of this unique vocation within the communion of vocation we all share as baptized Christians. What a gift and blessing for the entire church!

Vocation Corner ~ Third Sunday of Advent – C

A Vocation View: Have you ever asked: "What ought I do?" Simply, tell the Good News to people. Nothing else matters.

Prayer: For men and women called by the Lord to be messengers of salvation as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, that Christ's peace will guard their hearts and minds as they proclaim the good news of salvation, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.

Evangelii Gaudium, "The Joy of the Gospel" (127)

Vocation Corner Fourth Sunday of Advent – C

A Vocation View: Can you honestly pray: "I have come to do your will, O God"? Blessed are you who trust that the Lord's words to you would be fulfilled.

Prayer: That the faithful respond, "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, sister or brother, we pray to the Lord.

Action: A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the person who is called must serve God in the way and in the places to which almighty God has called him. *Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)*

Vocation Corner ~ Christmas - A, B, C

A Vocation View: Christmas comes but once a year. But you can be Christ to others the remaining 364 days. In fact, He is counting on you.

Prayer: That like Mary, who pondered the mystery of Jesus' birth, Catholic families will pray for and treasure vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among their children, we pray to the Lord.

Action: There are many priests, seminarians and consecrated persons here today; be close to them and support them! And if, in the depths of your hearts, you feel the same call to the priesthood or consecrated life, do not be afraid to follow Christ on the royal road of the Cross! *Pope John Paul II, 2002 World Youth Day*

Vocation Corner ~Feast of the Holy Family – C

A Vocation View: Unless your family loves you, nothing else makes sense. In your family your vocation can grow in wisdom, age and grace.

Prayer: For all Catholic families, that they will esteem the grace of each child's vocation and prayerfully encourage their children to consider being a priest, religious sister or brother, we pray to the Lord.

Action: THE LOVING ENVIRONMENT of a family draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realize that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word, and the love He offers His people

Vocation Corner ~Mary, Mother of God. Octave Day of Christmas – C

A Vocation View: A new year...the Lord bless you and keep you. A new vocation...tell others that the Lord blesses and keeps them!

Prayer: That Mary, the Mother of God and of vocations will nurture, guide and protect all those called to the priesthood, diaconate and the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: GOOD EXAMPLE is the most efficacious apostolate. You must be as lighted lanterns and shine like brilliant chandeliers among men. By your good example and your words, animate others to know and love God.
St. Mary Joseph Rossello

Vocation Corner ~Epiphany of our Lord – C

A Vocation View: Many adults never grow up. They continue to traipse across the earth looking for a shining star. Tell them who lights up your life.

Prayer: That all those called to share the promise of the Gospel of Christ Jesus through their vocations as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, will do so with humble confidence in the commission of God's grace which has been given to them, 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 ~Baptism of our Lord – C

A Vocation View: "You are my beloved child," says the Lord! Continue your Baptismal call by baptizing others in the Holy Spirit and fire.

Prayer: That during this week, all Catholics will deepen their responsibility to foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among our young people, through prayer and by inviting them to consider that call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: A STUDY of Catholic young people in the United States and Canada showed that 75% feel they were never encouraged to pursue the religious life.

Vocation Corner ~First Sunday of Lent – C

A Vocation View: The world tempts us to grab all we can. Even food becomes more when it is given than when it is taken. Follow Jesus: be a giver.

Prayer: For all men and women being chosen by Christ to follow Him as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that they will persevere in the face of temptations against faithfulness to their call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: We have to come alive ourselves and make current and vigorous in our lives today the heroic qualities we remember in long-dead saints.

Vocation Corner ~Second Sunday of Lent – C

A Vocation View: After the transfiguration, Peter, John and James wanted to stay up the mountain. But Jesus said, "Move," with the knowledge that ships are safe in harbors, but not meant to stay in harbors.

Prayer: That all our priests, who bring us to the mountain of Christ at every Mass, and feed us with His transforming love in the sacraments, will be strengthened in their life and mission, we pray to the Lord.

Action: MISSIONS - You can learn more about the Pontifical Mission Societies, including the Society for the Propagation for the Faith, at onefamilyinmission.org.

Vocation Corner ~Third Sunday of Lent – C

A Vocation View: Each Lent should bring us closer to our God. There is no failure, except that of no longer trying. You can still follow Jesus more closely.

Prayer: That like Moses, our young people will enter more deeply into conversation with the Lord in prayer as they seek to discover their vocations in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Every vocation to consecrated life is born in contemplation, from moments of intense communion and from a deep relationship of friendship with Christ, from the beauty and light which was seen shining on his face. *Starting Afresh from Christ: A Renewed Commitment to Consecrated Life in the Third Millennium, no. 9*

Vocation Corner ~Fourth Sunday of Lent – C

A Vocation View: Jesus came to forgive. Since people continue to sin, we need people who will continue to forgive in Jesus' way. How about you?

Prayer: For the faithful response of all persons now being called to seek out those who are lost and bring them back to life in Christ by serving Him and His Church as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord

Action: A PERSON receives “a call” not just for his own benefit but also for the benefit of others, for the welfare and comfort of many.

Vocation Corner ~Fifth Sunday of Lent – C

A Vocation View: Lent is six weeks of being serious about forgiveness and knowing we are loved. Who will step forward to tell of God's great love for us?

Prayer: That priests, deacons, sisters and brothers who, for the sake of Christ have suffered the loss of all things, will flourish in their vocations and bring many souls to the knowledge of salvation, we pray to the Lord.

Action: There is no identity—and consequently joy of life—without an active and unwavering sense of belonging to God’s faithful people. . . Go out and give your people what was entrusted to you, for your people will make you feel and taste who you are, what your name is, what your identity is, and they will make you rejoice in that hundredfold which the Lord has promised to those who serve him. *Pope Francis, Holy Chrism Mass, Holy Thursday homily, 2014*

Vocation Corner ~Palm Sunday – C

A Vocation View: When Jesus comes into your life, grab something and wave it. Show your joy, your happiness; your dream is fulfilled. Tell others: Jesus is here!

Prayer: For all those being called to share in the passion of Christ as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, that they will echo His Eternal Word of mercy in their own faithfulness to the Father’s will, 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 ~Easter Sunday – C

A Vocation View: We're no longer nobodies. Jesus rose from the dead. He promises to take us to heaven too. Our Ultimate Vocation: Union with God!

Prayer: That the Risen Lord, made known to us through apostolic witness, will grace many men and women to answer the call to proclaim His life, death and resurrection as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Already dedicated to him through Baptism, the person who surrenders themselves to the God they love above all else thereby consecrates themselves more intimately to God's service and to the good of the church. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 931*

Vocation Corner ~Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) – C

A Vocation View: You've got an incredible message to make credible. It is not like selling used cars! It is proclaiming eternal life, forgiveness and Great Love!

Prayer: That the gift of Christ's peace will remain with all priests, deacons and those in the consecrated life who, sent in His name, proclaim the victory over the world through faith in Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: WHATEVER STATE OF LIFE God calls us to, we bring with us an assortment of experiences, interests and gifts – however small they seem to us. We are called to put our lives at the service of the LORD and our neighbor, wherever we find ourselves. Where and how is God calling you to spread His Good News – His Love?

Vocation Corner ~Fourth Sunday of Easter (World Day of Prayer for Vocations) – C

A Vocation View: On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray!

Prayer: For grace of confidence in prayer for all those discerning their vocation as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that they will be faithful to the voice of the Good Shepherd, we pray to the Lord.

Action: By your prayer and intercession, you are the advocates of all who seek God, who are journeying towards God. You bear witness to a hope which, against every form of hopelessness, silent or spoken, points to the fidelity and the loving concern of God. Hence you are on the side of those who are crushed by misfortune and cannot break free of their burdens. You bear witness to that Love which gives itself for humanity and thus conquered death. *Pope Benedict XVI, with priests, religious, and seminarians in Austria, 2007*

Vocation Corner ~Fifth Sunday of Easter – C

A Vocation View: Can you imagine a country running on Jesus' one law of "love one another"? No wars. No hunger. No thirst. No jealousy. Only loving followers of Jesus.

Prayer: That the coming of the new heaven and new earth will be hastened through the holy lives and faithful witness of all those called to serve the Lord as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Saint Thérèse of Lisieux lived in a Carmelite convent with her older sister Pauline. Pauline was with Thérèse throughout her brief life, illness, and death at the tender age of 24. It is no accident that Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs. Having a spiritual companion, as Thérèse did, can be of great help and comfort on the sometimes difficult spiritual journey. Cultivate spiritual friendships in your own life.

Vocation Corner ~Sixth Sunday of Easter – C

A Vocation View: It is not that talents add up to a vocation; but rather a Vocation brings talents. The Spirit of God lives within you!

Prayer: That men and women discerning their vocation will not let their hearts be troubled or afraid, but rather will find comfort and guidance in the Holy Spirit

Action: "THE SECRET OF A VOCATION," Pope Benedict XVI told youth, "lies in the capacity and in the joy of distinguishing [God's] voice, of listening to and following His voice. But to do this, it is necessary to accustom our heart to recognize the Lord, to hear Him like a person who is near me and who loves me." Moments of "interior silence in the day-to-day routine" are essential, he said. "But once one has learned to hear this voice and to generously follow it, "one fears nothing, he or she knows and feels that God is with him or her, and that He is a Friend, Father, and Brother."

Vocation Corner ~Pentecost Sunday – C

A Vocation View: Like sun through a stained glass window, the Spirit of God can shine in your life to rouse the best in another. Come, follow Him.

Prayer: That one with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose company the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, those now discerning their vocations will grow in their ability to recognize the Lord's call and respond with generous hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Action: MYSTERIOUSLY the Holy Spirit distributes charisms to build up the church. Charisms are free gifts given to individuals (as part of the body of Christ) helping the church carry out its mission. "There are different gifts but the same Spirit, there are different ministries but the same LORD; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corith 12 4-7

Vocation Corner ~Trinity Sunday – C

A Vocation View: Human beings establish lasting loving bonds. But the Trinity shows us perfect love: you, God and neighbour. There's nothing more than love.

Prayer: That those chosen to share the mercy of God as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers will be faithful to the Spirit of Truth who has called them and guides them, we pray to the Lord.

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

Vocation Corner ~Corpus Christi – C

A Vocation View: Food usually becomes more when it is given than when it is taken - The more Jesus is given, the more we share Him, the more He increases.

Prayer: That the power of the Body and Blood of Christ will encourage those being called to the priesthood, diaconate or the consecrated life to respond with confidence and joy, 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 ~Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: There was a wedding between God and us: "to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse." God is faithful and true. Let us do the same.

Prayer: That all those especially chosen by Christ for the unique paths of holiness as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, will heed our Blessed Mother's counsel to do whatever He tells them in loving obedience, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Consecrated men and women of today have the duty to be witnesses of the transfiguring presence of God in a world that is evermore disoriented and confused, a world where toning down has substituted sharp and distinctive colors....Belonging to the Lord: this is the mission of the men and women who have chosen to follow Christ—chaste, poor and obedient—so that the world may believe and be saved. To belong completely to Christ so as to become a permanent confession of faith, an unequivocal proclamation of truth that frees us from the seduction of the false idols that deceive the world. *Pope Benedict XVI, 2006 Address to superiors general of institutes of consecrated life and Societies of apostolic life*

Vocation Corner ~Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: The word of God becomes the flesh of God when YOU live it in your life. Believe what you read; live what you believe. Be the face of Christ for others.

Prayer: For all men and women called by Jesus to teach the Gospel as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that the joy of the Lord will remain their strength during their discernment, formation and mission, we pray to the Lord.

Action: The Christian faithful have an obligation to foster vocations to the priesthood and the religious life by living faithfully the call to holiness, by holding vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in esteem, and by encouraging young men and women to consider the possibility of a call from God to the ordained or consecrated states.

Vocation Corner ~Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: The Lord says: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I dedicated you." Always listen to an Old Friend.

Prayer: For those called to celibacy for the sake of the kingdom as priests, sisters and brothers, that they will be encouraged to follow the Lord, faithful to His choice of them, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Since the call of the first disciples, some followers of Jesus have sought a different way to live their faith. In the early church groups of widows gathered to dedicate themselves to prayer and good works. Others craved solitary prayer, so they fled to the desert to commune with God and guide others in the pursuit of holiness. Monasteries, cloisters, and religious houses eventually came into being, and religious life as we know it began to take shape. Reflect on your call.

Vocation Corner ~Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: God does not ask you to be successful: God asks you to be faithful. Put your vocation ahead of your career.

Prayer: That all those called to follow Jesus in the priesthood or consecrated life will allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen them each day in their vocation and mission, 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.

Vocation Corner ~Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Try not to pray for an easy life; rather, pray to be a strong person. Strong in trust, hope, care, love. Follow the Master.

Prayer: That the Holy Spirit who scrutinizes everything, will assist all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life in discovering the truth of God's call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: All of us without exception, both individually and in society, have a life-long obligation to strive after heavenly values. . . . The traditional as well as the contemporary Christian approach to life is to strive with all zeal for evangelical perfection, and at the same time to contribute toward the material good of humanity. *Pope John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11, 1962*

Vocation Corner ~Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: If you love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you, realize that God has already working in you.

Prayer: For all those called to be perfected through the vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, that their lives of service in charity will bear lasting fruit, we pray to the Lord.

Action: The gospel is the basis of community life. By living in community, we proclaim the love of Jesus Christ. Living in community implies relationships. It means relating to one another as truly sisters and putting into practice what Jesus taught us: "Love one another as I have loved you." *Sister Mary Edward Urban, O.S.F. of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, Whitehall Franciscan Newsletter*

Vocation Corner ~Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Since each person speaks from his heart's abundance, let Jesus form your heart and your life. Follow Him willingly.

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

Action: A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the person who is called must serve God in the way and in the places to which almighty God has called him. *Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)*

Vocation Corner ~Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: The centurion had enough faith to call on the Lord. You also have enough faith. Call on the Lord...Listen for his response.

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: FAITH AND PRAYER do not resolve problems, but enable one to address them with a new light and strength, in a way fitting to man, and also more serenely and effectively. *Pope Benedict XVI Pray to hear God's call.*

Vocation Corner ~Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Jesus raised the young man of Naim and gave him back to his mother. The Lord still raises men and women and gives them to the Church as: Priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Is the Lord calling you or someone you know?

Prayer: That men and women will hear the call to proclaim the gospel “not of human origin” through their vocation.

Action: VOCATION DIRECTORS, whether of a diocese or religious order, are the interface between the congregations and the world. They also need your prayers and perhaps your help. Feel free to suggest a name to your pastor of someone you believe may be interested in pursuing a religious vocation.

Vocation Corner ~Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time-C

A Vocation View: Jesus forgave the woman who had sinned much because she also loved much. He forgives you, because He loves you. Will you repay His love by answering His call?

Prayer: That all mothers and fathers, who are especially called to manifest the love of the Blessed Trinity in their families and the world, will encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life among their children, we pray to the Lord.

Action: PARENTS... don't be afraid to encourage service in your children. Mothers are often the main influence in a man's discernment to the priesthood.

Vocation Corner ~Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

A Vocation View: Jesus said that anyone who wants to follow Him must deny themselves and daily take up their cross. He calls us to our greatest happiness, if we answer His call He will give us the graces to carry that cross joyfully.

Prayer: That men and women will answer the call of their vocations, denying themselves, taking up their crosses, and following Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: When one renounces everything to follow Christ, when one gives to him all that one holds most dear, braving every sacrifice as did the divine Teacher, the consecrated person who follows in Christ's footsteps necessarily also becomes "a sign of contradiction" because his/her way of thinking and living is often in opposition to the logic of the world. *Pope Benedict XVI, 2007 World Day of Consecrated Life*

Vocation Corner ~Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

A Vocation View: Can you imagine Jesus, facing His fate in the Garden of Gethsemane, deciding, "No, I'll not go through with this?" No, vocation means perseverance.

Prayer: That men and women called to proclaim the kingdom of God by their lives of service as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, will have the determination to overcome every obstacle to their response through prayer and the practice of virtue, we pray to the Lord.

Action: It can take time to find one's calling and be confirmed in it. Saint Paul of the Cross wanted to redirect his life to bring others the message of God's love expressed in Christ's Passion, but he had to wait more than two decades before the church officially gave him permission to found the religious order now known as the Passionists.

Vocation Corner ~Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Jesus says: "The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the harvest-master to send workers to the harvest. Pray for Vocations.

Prayer: For an increase in our dedication to keep the Lord of the Harvest's command to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the consecrated life, and for the holiness of all those now serving the people of our diocese in these vocations, we pray to the Lord.

Action: WHAT WILL YOU DO with your life? What are your plans? Have you ever thought of committing yourself totally to Christ? Do you think there can be anything greater than to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus? *Pope John Paul II*

Vocation Corner ~Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

A Vocation View: Treating others with compassion is a mark of a follower of Jesus, whether known as The Good Samaritan, Mother, Father, Priest, Sister, Deacon or Brother.

Prayer: That all those now discerning their vocation will be attentive in prayer and active in their response to Jesus the Eternal Word who calls them, we pray to the Lord

Action: ALL TOO OFTEN WE forget to express appreciation to those in service-oriented jobs, including priests, sisters and brothers. We forget because we think, "It's their job to help." Priests and religious aren't superhuman. They need genuine support from those they serve. Let them know how you feel.

Vocation Corner ~Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: How enjoyable to sit and talk with a friend. How vocational to sit and talk with your friend Jesus. Take time just to be with Jesus.

Prayer: That like Mary of Bethany, all the priests, deacons and men and women in the consecrated life will listen to the Lord in the silence of prayer, faithful to their choice of that better part, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.
Saint Augustine

Vocation Corner ~Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: God knows what we want before we ask. God knows who we are before we discern. God invites us to pray: to ask and to discern.

Prayer: That with every "Our Father" we will be mindful of His generous goodness and ask that the Holy Spirit be given to all those discerning their vocation in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Action: "IF PRAYING ALIENATED YOU, took you away from your real life, beware: it would not be true prayer," Pope Benedict XVI said. "On the contrary, dialogue with God is the guarantee of truth, of truthfulness with oneself and with others and, therefore, of liberty."

Vocation Corner ~Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Another sign of Vocation is that your heart is more intent on things of heaven rather than on things of earth. God is not just everything: he is the only thing.

Prayer: For a deepening conviction that each of us makes His merciful love manifest through every vocation faithfully lived in Christ, to the glory of God and the salvation of His people, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IN A WORLD where human frailty is acutely felt, they (religious men and women) remind us of God and bring Christ's redemptive love to all they meet. Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis

Vocation Corner ~Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Where is your treasure? There is your heart! Have you considered that God's will is your treasure for you? Come, follow Him!

Prayer: That those who have been given so much in their vocations as priests, deacons and consecrated men and women will imitate the Lord's generosity as they live that gift, we pray to the Lord.

Action: You owe it to all of us to get on with what you're good at. *W.H. Auden*

Vocation Corner ~Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Jesus wants his followers to light a fire on the earth. His followers, as His fire, are bright, blazing, consuming, enlightening and warm.

Prayer: For all those who experience opposition in the discernment of their vocations, that they will be blessed with the grace of perseverance and encouragement, we pray to the Lord.

Action: There has never been a time in Christian history when someone, somewhere, has not died rather than compromise with the powers of oppression, tyranny, and unbelief. *Rev. Dr. Anthony Harvey, sub-dean of Westminster Abbey in London, at the 1998 dedication of statues of 20th-century Christian martyrs*

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Whom the Lord loves, He disciplines. The best way to lead others through the narrow gate is to be formed and disciplined as a leader. Then you can go through the narrow gate, yourself.

Prayer: That all those striving to enter heaven through the narrow gate of celibacy for the sake of Christ's kingdom will find strength and peace in their freely chosen discipline, 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.

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Jesus keeps saying, "Let go. Come, follow me." If your pride is holding you back, or if you're looking for exaltation, let go. Come, follow His way.

Prayer: For a deeper sense of gratitude for the profoundly beautiful mystery celebrated at every Mass and for all our priests, who humbly make Christ present by the power of the Holy Spirit through the grace of ordination, we pray to the Lord.

Action: At the heart of the church is vocation. The earliest idea of what is today called "church" starts with the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is only found twice in the gospels, both times in Matthew, and means those who have been "called out." Jesus "calls out" all who follow him to share in his ministry in different ways. Reflect on your call!

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Jesus says clearly; "Anyone who does not take up the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." You and Jesus can carry your cross together. Then, you can follow!

Prayer: For the faithful response of all those being called by Christ to take up their cross and follow Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, we pray to the Lord.

Action: IF WE LET CHRIST REIGN IN OUR SOUL, we will not become authoritarian. Rather we will serve everyone. How I like that word, service! To serve my king and, through him, all those who have been redeemed by his blood. I really wish we Christians knew how to serve, for only by serving can we know and love Christ and make him known and loved. St Josemaria Escriva

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: We are like the lost sheep when we have not found our place in life. Are you part of the herd, lost from the herd, or a leader of the herd?

Prayer: For the holiness of all those called to be examples to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life as priests, deacons and consecrated men and women, we pray to the Lord.

Action: A GOOD WAY TO SERVE our parish is to become part of our Parish Vocation Committee, to help generate an atmosphere that is positively directed toward ministry and church vocations. The committee welcomes more members! Pray for vocations!

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Do you think it is the Lord who is motivating you to make lots of money, to use people, to grab for power, to attend to the needs of others?

Prayer: For all those especially dedicated to making supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving on behalf of God's people, that they will be strengthened in their vocations as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Sin isn't the absence of love; love is already there. Rather it's the failure to choose to take advantage of opportunities to love. Review your day and see where you did not bother to love. Then take the trouble to do it tomorrow.

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Courage! Courage when you follow the Lord. Remember, people may not be convinced, even if one should rise from the dead - Live, in order to convince others of resurrection and life.

Prayer: That the pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness will mark the lives of all those discerning our Heavenly Father's will, especially those considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: In the midst of a turbulent, often chaotic life we are called to reach out, with courageous honesty to our innermost self, with relentless care to our fellow human beings and with increasing prayer to our God. *Henri J. Nouwen*

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Oh, that today you would hear His voice! Listening brings faith; faith brings hope; hope brings trust; trust brings courage to follow the Lord.

Prayer: That by the power of the Holy Spirit, every Catholic called to the priesthood and consecrated life will guard the treasure of their unique vocation in Christ and fan into flame their love for Him, we pray to the Lord.

Action: LIFE is not merely summarized by “what are you willing to die for”, ask yourself “what am I willing to LIVE for?”

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: If faith can move mountains, it can remove hardness of heart. Faith does move mountains, so faith does remove hardness of heart. Pray for those who have hardened their heart to the call of God.

Prayer: For an increase in gratitude among God’s people for the mercy shown them through the holy vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in their midst, and that more men and women will faithfully respond to His call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Say a word of gratitude to the saintly folks around you today—the moms and dads balancing family and work, the parish priests comforting those who mourn, the deacons ministering to the sick in hospitals, the religious sisters and brothers teaching and advocating for the poor, the spiritual writers offering enrichment to hungry souls--and everyone else in between.

Vocation Corner ~Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Even as a child you knew the importance of asking often for something you really wanted. Now again, in an adult way, ask God to show you His will. But, be ready to do it!

Prayer: For perseverance in sincere prayer on the part of the faithful, asking the Lord of the Harvest for holy vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: What is known in vocation circles as the “process of discernment” is simply the time we pilgrims here on earth take to identify our strengths and gifts and determine how they may best be put to use in joyful service of the church and the world as we “journey onwards towards our heavenly homeland.”

Vocation Corner ~Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: If you exalt yourself, what do you leave for God to give you? Rather, listen to God's voice. Doing His will is all you need to do.

Prayer: That all men and women, chosen to fight the good fight of proclaiming faith in Jesus Christ as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, will find encouragement in our prayers and support, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.

Vocation Corner ~Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: Do whatever is necessary to see Jesus: climb a tree, make a retreat, confess your sins, read His life story, help an enemy, say a prayer. He will stay with you today.

Prayer: That the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in all those chosen to follow Him as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life, and that they in turn will be glorified for their faithfulness to His call, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Religious orders are not formed for the purpose of gathering together perfect people but those who have the courage to aim at perfection. *Saint Francis de Sales*

Vocation Corner ~Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: As the Church-year comes to a close, may the Lord Jesus strengthen your heart for every good work and word. May you live your vocation!

Prayer: That those who live in celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, will be blessed on earth for their witness to the resurrection of the body in the life to come, we pray to the Lord.

Action: 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.

Vocation Corner ~Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

A Vocation View: You know that at the end of earth-time, every thing will be stubble. Be sure there is a monument to your earth-love in heaven. Listen to Jesus.

Prayer: That prayer, hard work and generous service will prepare many young men and women to answer the Lord's call to follow Him as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: May the world of our time . . . be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected and discouraged . . . but from ministers of the gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ. *Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi, no. 1*

Vocation Corner ~Feast of Christ the King – C

A Vocation View: Who will work for Jesus, the King of Peace, Hope and Honour, the King of Love, Truth and Justice? Who is dedicated and enthusiastic enough to proclaim his Good News? It must be YOU!

Prayer: That Christ the King, who has brought peace through the blood of His cross, will choose many men and women from our midst to preach redemption by the forgiveness of sins as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. . . . In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. . . . They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good. *Pope John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11, 1962*

Special Dates

Vocation Corner ~February 2 - Presentation of the Lord - Year A, B or C

A Vocation View: Like Simeon and the prophetess Anna, who served God day and night in His temple, will you dare bear radical witness to Christ Jesus as His priest, consecrated brother or sister?

Prayer: That those called to plow the Lord's vineyard with the sword of His Word and Spirit will respond with generosity in serving Him as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Religious life ought to promote growth in the church by way of attraction. The church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! . . . It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up. *Pope Francis, meeting with the Union of Superiors General, November 29, 2013*

Vocation Corner ~March 19 – Joseph, Husband of Mary

A Vocation View: Joseph was appointed by God to nurture Jesus. We are all called to nurture those around us. Let us be sure to nurture their vocation

Prayer: For a deeper faith, hope and love among all Christians in Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life and especially among those He is calling to do the works that He does as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious, we pray to the Lord.

Action: We are not called upon to do all the good that is possible, but only that which we can do.

Mother Theodore Guerin

Vocation Corner ~March 25 – Annunciation of the Lord

A Vocation View: “Greetings favored on! The Lord is with you.” Word’s spoken to when she started her vocation. Words spoken to each of us when God calls us.

Prayer: That all baptized Catholics will recognize their responsibility to discover their vocation in Christ and follow Him, especially those chosen for the unique calling to the priesthood or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: “IT IS REALLY GOD HIMSELF, the ‘LORD of the harvest’, who chooses his laborers. His call is always undeserved and unexpected. We are called to cooperate with his providence, and to use the powerful tool which he has placed in our hands: prayer. Jesus said ‘Pray the LORD of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest!’”

Vocation Corner ~June 24 - Birth of John the Baptist – Year A, B or C

A Vocation View: Have you done enough converting to be serious about following Jesus? Like John, "...go before the Lord to prepare his way."

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 sisters, we pray to the Lord.

Action: God calls you to make definitive choices, and He has a plan for each of you: To discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfilment. *Pope Francis, 2013 World Youth Day*

Vocation Corner ~June 29 - Peter and Paul - Year A, B or C

A Vocation View: Jesus commanded Peter: "feed my lambs ... feed my sheep." May many young men heed the call of Christ Jesus to do the same as priests of the New Covenant. Let us pray the Lord to send labourers to His harvest.

Prayer: For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and for a deeper gratitude for the priests and religious now serving our diocese by proclaiming the kingdom of heaven among us, we pray to the Lord.

Action: It is not what you are, nor what you have been, that God looks at with his merciful eyes, but what you would wish to be. *The Cloud of Unknowing*

Vocation Corner ~August 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord

A Vocation View: “This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him.” For a few moments Jesus appeared in all his glory. We enter into that same glory when we answer the call to follow him.

Prayer: That like the man born blind, we will allow Jesus to open our eyes and hearts to His will and bring more men and women to respond to His call to serve Him and His Church as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Action: DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE: Do not be afraid of Christ. He takes nothing away, and He gives you everything. When we give ourselves to Him, we receive a hundredfold in return. *Pope Benedict XVI*

Vocation Corner ~August 15 - Assumption - - Year A, B or C

A Vocation View: A woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Hers is the most beautiful story of vocation, when Mary said, "Let it be done unto me according to thy will." Can you make the same choice?

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: Did you know that the word vocation is related to the term “vocal cords” and means “a calling”? More precisely it means spending your life doing what your innermost heart feels called to do. To follow a vocation means living your own unique life. That’s of course what all of us would like to accomplish, but how shall we do it?

Vocation Corner ~September 14 - Triumph of the Cross - A, B or C

A Vocation View: We do not promote 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 your very self, take up your cross and follow me." Pray for the gift of being able to accept your vocation.

Prayer: That the call to serve Christ and His Church in the priesthood and consecrated life will fall on the rich soil of hearts prepared by prayer, hard work, and generous service to others, we pray to the Lord.

Action: We assume the apostles must have been solid, holy people because Jesus handpicked them to be part of his inner circle of friends and disciples. But the gospels present quite a different picture. These were ordinary people who weren’t always clear about Jesus’ message, who occasionally turned their back on Jesus even when he was most in need, and who struggled with their own faith. The apostles’ relationship with Jesus as well as their faith was a work in progress that ultimately brought them closer to God. Like the apostles, we, too, encounter struggles in our relationship with Jesus and our faith. Allow your struggles and missteps to become another positive step in getting to know God more deeply.

Vocation Corner ~November 1 - Feast of All Saints – A, B or C

A Vocation View: Sainthood: a vocation fulfilled. Whatever journey you take, whichever path you follow, be sure your "career" leads you to sainthood, the greatest and ultimate Vocation.

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: HOLINESS is a challenge for all of us, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners — and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint

Vocation Corner ~November 2 - All Souls - A, B and C

A Vocation View: We pray for the souls gone before us, priests, religious and lay - those who have taken their vocation of Christian service seriously. May the Lord's merciful love purify them completely, that they may look upon the face of God and rejoice forever. A Vocation dwells within us, with the powerful possibility to transform our own lives and make us saints.

Prayer: For a growing conviction among our young people that they are loved by our Heavenly Father and that Jesus will manifest Himself to them through their vocations, we pray to the Lord.

Action: CHRIST SPOKE of the talents each one of us has, talents which must not be buried. Our calling is to take those talents, develop them fully, and then use them in establishing His kingdom on earth. Are you using your talents to fulfill your vocation to service? Take some time today to reflect on how you might use your special talents in the service of the Kingdom.

Vocation Corner ~November 9 - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica - A, B and C

A Vocation View: The Lateran Basilica, the Cathedral of Rome, is a symbol of the unity of the Church. We are called to be apostles of unity, ourselves living in, and calling others to, communion with Christ in His Body, the Church. May we seek out opportunities to proclaim this message.

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: So it is that in accordance with the Divine Plan a wonderful variety of religious communities has grown up which has made it easier for the church . . . to be equipped for every good work and ready for the work of the ministry—the building up of the Body of Christ. *Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life Perfectae Caritatis, no. 1*

***Vocation Corner* ~December 8 – Immaculate Conception:**

A Vocation View: The Angel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid.” Sometimes it can be scary when we learn what God is calling us to, but we need to hear those same words, “Do not be afraid.”

Prayer: For all those called to priesthood and consecrated life, that they will have no fear in responding to Jesus as He calls them to trust in Him and His choice of them, we pray to the Lord.

Action: Sometimes we need a little help seeing clearly. Various devices aid our focus, from eyeglasses and contact lenses to microscopes and telescopes. Sometimes seeing clearly means shifting our perspective, too. Take the example of Saint Gertrude (the only female saint to earn the title “the Great”), correcting her vision came about by changing the direction she was facing. A brilliant young Benedictine sister, she excelled in the study of philosophy and literature. Then she received a vision of Jesus, urging her to trade in her pursuit of the humanities for divinity studies. Gertrude’s heart was ignited with a new flame, and she became a profound mystic.