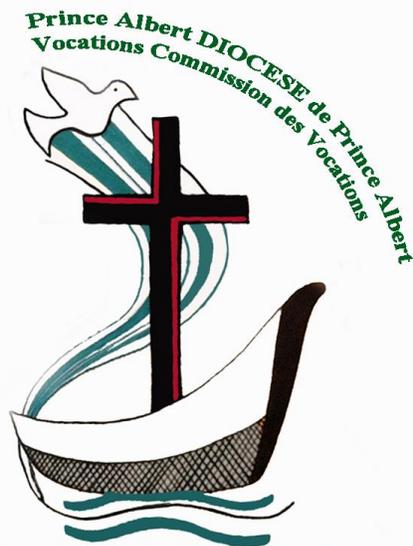


# Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert



**Fr. Jim Kaptein**  
**Vocations Director**

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Each night before you go to bed, pray to God and be thankful for what you've accomplished today.

## THE VOCATIONS COMMISSION BY FR. JIM KAPTEIN

Do you ever wonder who puts these Vocations Newsletters together? As with many Ministries there is a commission tasked with promoting and developing that particular ministry. The Vocations Commission, with 12 members, is tasked with promoting Vocations in the diocese. We meet 5 times a year, put out three newsletters a year, and promote and participate in as many activities as we can. At the last DPC we began promoting the "Adopt a Seminarian Program." We have four seminarians, and "assigned" a different seminarian to deaneries 1, 2, 3, & 4. Each deanery/parish was asked to pray for that seminarian and write him, encouraging him in his vocation. (Deanery 5 & 6 were asked to pray for and encourage those studying to become Permanent Deacons.) From my own personal experience, seminarians get very few letters, or notes of encouragement. This Christmas each of the seminarians delightedly reported that they received at least a dozen cards each, thanking them for answering the call of God, and encouraging them on their journey. To those parishes and parishioners who sent a card, I say thank you. To those parishes and parishioners who did not send a card, perhaps Easter might present a possibility. Your pastor should know the seminarian/deacon aspirant that you are praying for.

*Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Jesus says in Matthew 9:38 "to beg the master of the harvest to send laborers into the vineyard." If we want more priests, sisters and brothers, we all need to ask.*

Other Projects of the Vocations Commission include:

- 1) Sending out special blessings that can be used on Mother's day, Father's Day, etc, to bless those who have chosen to follow the call God has given to them.
- 2) Developing different prayers.
  - a) A Vocations Rosary that focuses on Vocations rather than a particular mystery. which can be prayed before or after Mass in May or October.
  - b) A Stations of the Cross that focuses on Vocations as you meditate the 14 stations; that can be used in a parish setting.
  - c) A weekly Vocations Corner for your bulletin, which corresponds to the scripture readings, which includes a prayer for Vocations that can be used in the Intercession at Mass.
- 3) Participating in an annual Career fair for over 2500 students, to expose them to the possibility that God is calling them. Many of these young people have never heard of the word "vocation" before.
- 4) This Past Fall we finally completed a Diocesan Vocations Poster, which was given to every parish. This was a bit challenging because we wanted a permanent poster that would not change every time a new seminarian joined the ranks. Many of you told us we did a very good job. I believe one is hanging in each parish.
- 5) Fr. Jim Kaptein, the Vocation Director has offered to do a pulpit exchange with your pastor, for the weekend, to come to your parish and speak about Vocations.
- 6) Encouraging deaneries to have a deanery wide clergy/religious appreciation event. Deaneries 5 and 6 held two absolutely fabulous nights where the clergy/religious of that deanery were honored. Deanery 2 is in its planning stage. A challenge is being given to deanery 1, 3 and four to organize such an event.
- 7) Our oldest program is a Vocations Cross Program, which was started over 18 years ago. A special cross is prepared by the parish and given out weekly, monthly, or seasonally (Lent/Easter, Advent/Christmas) and a parishioner is asked to pray for Vocations throughout the entire week.
- 8) Lastly we encourage all of you to invite your pastor for a meal. Only a handful of the priests are good cooks, and the rest of us love a good home cooked meal.

It should be noted that the Vocations Commission sent out a questionnaire in regards to its many programs/opportunities. The results were all over the map. We believe that there seems to be a communication breakdown somewhere along the line. Presently we have a very hardworking clergy, we need to pray for them, and pray for those, who sometime in the future, will be replacing them. If you would like information on any of these programs please do not hesitate to contact either Fr. Jim Kaptein (Vocation Director for the Diocese) at St. Mark's Parish in Prince Albert, or email the Vocations office at [vocations@padiocese.ca](mailto:vocations@padiocese.ca).

In early January, I attended a meeting where the results of the latest Bishops Appeal were revealed. To say the least I was blown away by the generosity of the people in our diocese. The Bishop's Appeal makes possible many of the programs in our diocese, touching on vocations and the need for priests, sisters, deacons and brothers in our diocese. I would like to thank you, not only for your financial generosity, but also for the many prayers you offer for our priests, sisters, deacons and brothers, seminarians and permanent deacon aspirants in our diocese. Keep storming heaven with your prayers!!!

Fr. Jim Kaptein  
Vocation Director

### Parish Vocation Night

Wondering about how to promote vocations in your parish? It's good to begin by promoting a culture of vocations, a parish should always be asking the question, "How do we respond to God's call?" It is good then to listen to some stories of those who have answered God's call; ordinary men who have responded to God's call in the priesthood. The Archdiocese of Edmonton has made some wonderful videos about some of their priests, and how they responded to God's call. The Vocation Commission is suggesting that a parish host a Vocations Night and watch some or all of these videos for inspiration. The evening could also include all or some of the following:

- Prayer or Rosary for vocations
- Question and Answer about how individuals in your parish (past and present) have responded to their vocation. Marriage, Priesthood, Single Life, Religious Life, Missionaries, etc.
- Some questions could be: How did we know we were supposed to be married, etc?  
How can we help young people in our church hear God's call?
- Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) – Reading scripture stories about how God's people responded to His call in the bible
  - o READ: 1 Samuel 3
  - o READ: Jeremiah 1:4-9
  - o READ: Luke 1:26-38
  - o READ: Acts 16:14-15 "The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly"

**You will find the Archdiocese of Edmonton Vocation Videos here. You will need internet access, a computer, a projector, and good speakers.**

<https://www.padiocese.ca/vocations-commission>

If you are interested in hosting a Vocations Night in your parish and have any questions or require any assistance, please contact the Vocations Commission.

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or

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*Teach* young people how to pray. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Unless we teach our youth how to pray, they will never hear God calling them into a deeper relationship with Him and into the discipleship of the Church."

**(Quiz) What Vocation Are You Called To: Single, Married, or Religious Life?**

Every baptized person is called to live out a vocation as either a single, married, consecrated or ordained person in order to grow in holiness here on earth and lead to our eternal happiness. This type of vocation is more than your job or your career, it is your calling from God and your means to love and serve Him to the fullest.

**Your vocation deserves much thought, care, and consideration.** It is something you should pray about and contemplate in front of the Eucharist. We have created a quiz in order to help you in your discernment process.

Take the quiz at <https://catholic-link.org/what-vocation-are-you-called-to-single-married-or-religious-life-quiz/>

**WORLD DAY  
of PRAYER  
for  
VOICATIONS**

3:00-5:00  
**Sacred Heart Cathedral**  
Prince Albert

**APRIL 22, 2018**  
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

WWW.WORLDDAYOFPRAYERFORVOICATIONS.COM

Come any time between 3-5:00 to help pray for vocations around the world and especially in our Diocese during ***Eucharist Adoration.***  
Followed by fellowship and snacks.

The sheep follow the Good Shepherd because they recognize his voice. (cf John 10:4)

**Prayer to Discern a Vocation**

Lord, there are so many things in my life  
that I do not understand,  
so many questions about the future  
that I need to ask.

What is Your plan for me?

What is the work You want me to do?

All I really know is that You love me.

Show me the road You want me to walk –  
to fulfillment, to happiness, to holiness.

And if You are calling me to  
priesthood or to the religious life,  
give me the strength to say “yes”  
and the grace to begin even now  
to prepare myself for the challenge  
of a life spent in Your service and  
in the care of Your people.

I ask You this in Jesus’ Name.

Amen.

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