

Vocation Awareness Week – November 4-10, 2018

Suggested bulletin announcement:

National Vocation Awareness Week (November 4-10, 2018) is an opportunity for all parishes to raise awareness that we all have a unique purpose, given to us by God our creator and we must all seek after that vocation with great zeal. In particular, we want to pray for all those discerning the priesthood, permanent diaconate, consecrated life, sacrament of marriage and dedicated single life. May our parishes and families be places of support, formation and prayer for those seeking to follow God's call in their lives.

Day 1 What is a vocation?

Suggested video: <https://youtu.be/ihnzFH2L818>

Today let us pray & reflect on what is the meaning of vocation.

- Vocation means 'calling' and as Christians we know that God has a plan and purpose for all of us and calls us in many and various ways, such as to dedicated single life, the sacrament of marriage, priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. It is important to remember that God will not force you to do anything; He has a plan for each of us to be happy, to know our vocation, and if we follow this plan, it will lead us to be saints with Him in Heaven.

Prayer: Today let us pray for our young people in our diocese and especially in our community here at _____ parish / school, that the Holy Spirit will fill them with wisdom, courage, and a desire to know God's unique plan for each of them.

Father, you invite each one of us by name and ask us to follow you. We ask that you bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will faithfully serve your people as priests, religious, deacons, married and single people. Inspire us to grow in our relationship with you and open our hearts to accept your invitation, we ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Day 2 What is a consecrated life vocation?

Suggested consecrated life video: <https://youtu.be/j8nnIgo2PfY>

Today let us pray and reflect on consecrated religious

- **Consecrated Religious Brother:** A member of a men's religious order who is not in Holy Orders but engages in the work of the order. Members typically take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. **Consecrated**

Religious Sister: A member of a religious order or congregation of women devoted to active service or prayer and contemplation. Members typically take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. **Religious Priest:** Those who belong to a religious order such as the Franciscans, Basilians or Michaelites. They live according to the rules of the community and under the jurisdiction of their superiors in the community.

Prayer: Today let us pray for the full appreciation of the gift of ministry within the Church, and for all youth to be open to hearing the call to consecrated religious brothers, sisters and priestly life.

Heavenly Father, in your wisdom you have called certain women and men to a life of special consecration so that in prayerful observance of a lifestyle of poverty, chastity and obedience, they might be witnesses to us of your love. Give them, Lord, the grace of joy and perseverance in their holy vocation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Day 3 What is the vocation to the sacrament of marriage?

Suggested video: <https://youtu.be/47LaozR2NCs>

Today let us pray & reflect on the vocation of marriage

- In the vocation of marriage, a man and a woman promise before God to love and honor each other for the rest of their lives with the same love that God has for them. Married people are called by God to become saints, help their spouse to become holy, teach their children to love God, and be witnesses of the Christian faith in the world.

Prayer: Let us pray for couples preparing for marriage as well as all married couples, may your personal witness to Christ be shared in your daily living within your marriage and family.

Merciful Father, you created us in your image and to love like you. Give our young men and women the grace to be open to the call to love in family life as husbands and wives. Grant to those who find their vocation in Christian marriage the grace to persevere in it joyfully and faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 4 What is the vocation to dedicated single life?

Suggested video: <https://youtu.be/78xMjMfaJq8>

Today let us pray & reflect on the vocation to dedicated single life

- Dedicated single life is living in the world without being married, ordained as a priest, or deacon, or joining a religious community: it can be either a stage of life that a person will live until God calls them to another vocation, or a permanent vocation for those who remain single their whole lives. Single people enjoy a special freedom to serve God and others with their whole hearts.

Prayer: Let us pray for all who are living their life in service to the Lord in the vocation of dedicated single life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you know the heart of each person and nothing is hidden from you. Bless those who seek to serve you in the single state of life. Give them courage to embrace their vocation to love and serve you. May their witness bring happiness and hope to all those they meet. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 5 What is the vocation to the priesthood?

Suggested video: https://youtu.be/xsD_esQ0J6E

Today let us pray & reflect on the vocation to the priesthood

- A priest is a man chosen by Christ from among His disciples and called to guide the Church, celebrate the sacraments and build up the people of God. Those whom God calls to the priesthood imitate Christ in a special way by complete dedication of themselves to the Church.

Prayer: Let pray for all priests of our diocese that they will recognize, and invite to the priesthood, men of their parishes and schools who have the calling for priestly service.

Heavenly Father, bless your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests. Give to those you have called the special graces that their lives require to fulfill your will, as they serve Your people and bring glory and honour to You, we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Day 6 What is the vocation to the permanent diaconate ?

Suggested video: https://youtu.be/2OG_3ObO8Y4

Today let us pray & reflect on the vocation of a Deacon.

- Deacons are men, either married or single, who are called to a special vocation of service and charity in the world. Deacons serve the Church by assisting the bishop and priests in outreach to the poor and marginalized and also in preaching, baptizing and witnessing of marriages.

Prayer: Let us keep in our prayers all deacons who are currently in formation and those preparing for ordination, and those discerning this vocation, may they come to the Lord as humble servants to pass on what they have promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, you took to yourself a body and soul like ours to teach us the glory of self-sacrifice and service. Mercifully instill in our hearts the desire to dedicate our lives to You. Give us Deacons to stand at the altar and to speak the words of the Gospel, minister charity to all and assist the sick, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.