

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 3, 2019—VOCATION ISSUE

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: ROM 11:29-36/LK 14:12-14

TUESDAY: ROM 12:5-16B/LKK 14:15-24

WEDNESDAY: ROM 13:8-10/LK 14:25-33

THURSDAY: ROM 14:7-12/LK 15:1-10

FRIDAY: ROM 15:14-21/LK 16:1-8

SATURDAY: EZ 47:1-2,8-9,12/I COR 3:9C-11,16-17/JN 2:13-22

SUNDAY: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-2 MC7:1-2,9-14/2 THES 9:16-3,5/LK 20:27-38

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: RICHARD SHOEMAKER

TUESDAY: SI RICHARD FEDERSPIEL

WEDNESDAY: SPECIAL INTENTION

THURSDAY: LEO & MARJORIE SANDEROTH

FRIDAY: POOR SOULS

VIGIL: ANNABELLE BOHAN

7:30: JOHN & KATHY LESTER

10:00: RICHARD SHOEMAKER

NOON: FOR THE PARISH

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

For the suffering Poor Souls in Purgatory: Marvin Anthrop. (Deerr, McDowell & Schneider families). (Boo-Boo Kingma, Msgr Arthur Segó, Sandy Wilhott). (Owen, Yantis, Davies & Wann families). Robert W. Bennett. (deceased Davit & Narouzzo families). (Burnell, Anna & Henry Totten, Robert Stump, Victor & Dorothy Ringle). (Mary McCorkhill, Donna Coolman, Rita Easterwood). (Claude & Anna King, Robert & Mary Bloyd). Ann Hubertz.

*"Zacchaeus, come down quickly,
for today I must stay at your house."*



From my earliest days I was always taken with wonder regarding most anything and everything. Easily amused I found joy in the simplest of things and truly expected life to remain as intriguing and satisfying as ever. Combined with this was the influence of religion provided by my grandmother. Each Sunday, dressed in what passed for my finest, we would take the short journey to church. Overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the place and the colors and sounds I was captivated. Other, less heavenly things caught my attention as well. My grandmother wore a fox fur with head intact and I loved poking about its face to awaken it during the sermon. Of course, it never did and I was reminded to keep my attention when it should be. When she died in 1963 unexpectedly my church attendance ceased and I did not proceed with the baptismal ceremony as was the custom in that tradition. It would not be until 1967 when, invited by a friend would attend a church again. This time it happened to be the Catholic mass. There were so many things about that experience that I would later come to recognize as signs that truly, like Zacchaeus, I was visited by Jesus. Only this time I was in HIS HOUSE! As I use this time to reflect on the subject of vocation, National Vocation Week is November 3-9, I am overwhelmed by what God does in the lives of people. My journey through in faith would lead me to join the Church and to respond to what I believed at the time was a call to serve my Lord as a priest. My experience with the local pastor, Fr. Charles Muller, confirmed many things and fortunately Fr. was most supportive if not entirely forthcoming about what to expect as a priest. I don't imagine he could have been too revelatory since my focus it seemed at the time was lacking in a certain amount of maturity where realism is concerned. I would find out later what some of the more difficult parts of being a priest were all about. Seminary, family encouragement, academic stress, looming decisions all became a part of this journey. Many times it was just plain frightening, never was it boring! Ordination day actually arrived, I had strep throat and a fever of 103. The marble floor of the cathedral never felt so good as I sought just to lay there for however long it took. Called to stand, profess loyalty and obedience to Christ and the Church, anointed, dressed in priestly garments, it was both moving and numbing. What on earth was happening? Perhaps it was the effects of the fever, but whatever it was I not the same anymore. Ministry began as it had been previously. I left the high school where I taught as a deacon on Friday and returned Monday morning as a priest. Assignments changed and their challenges with them, people had come and gone but one thing always remained and that was Christ reminding me what had happened on that day in March of 1979. I don't think you can "pitch" a vocation like a salesman. There were things about Fr. Muller and his life which I admired and wouldn't mind emulating but it's so much more than that. It had to be the ongoing companionship of Jesus from the moment I was "plucked from the tree" and invited to dine with him that made all the difference. In the end every "vocation" that is, every calling by God must contain its own uniqueness while, at the same time, offering the constant presence of the one calling to assure not just a right decision but the confidence needed to do what is expected and to strive to do it well. After 40 years I still feel the same way I did on ordination day (minus the poor health). I feel as if things are just beginning all over again and with Jesus.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

WASHINGTON – The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, November 3-9, 2019. During this week, dioceses across the U.S. lead the effort in parishes and schools to uphold and encourage the fostering of vocations among the faithful and to pray for those currently discerning a call to marriage, ordained ministry, or consecrated life.

In his message for the 2019 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that unlike a secular career, a vocation is a gift born from God's own initiative: "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God into our freedom; it is not a 'cage' or burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be a part of a great undertaking."

Whereas choosing a career requires much "doing" – such as the accomplishment of various tasks and goals – vocational discernment requires much "being." At its core, vocational discernment is a process of self-discovery. Assisted by divine grace, each person is invited by the Lord to receive the gift of a specific vocation whereby they manifest God's love in a particular way to the outside world. In the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony, the husband and wife image the Trinity by their communion of love that produces new life; in ordained ministry, priests and deacons are called to minister in the person of Christ, the High Priest and Servant; and in consecrated life, each member is called to bear Christ's love through a particular charism.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., of Newark, and Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, echoed Pope Francis's definition of vocation as a gift. "Discerning a vocation is not the same as completing a checklist. It is a process of learning how to receive the greatest gift God could offer us – the gift of living in accordance with our true identity as a son or daughter of God." For those currently discerning a vocation, Cardinal Tobin suggested that one always stay close to the Blessed Mother. "Entrust your vocation to Mary, the Mother of all Vocations. She will always direct you to her Son and intercede for you along the path the Lord has for you."

Observance of Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the celebration. In 1997, the celebration was moved to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and in 2014, the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations moved the ob-

VOCATION A CALLING FROM GOD

God calls each of us to a particular vocation in life. The Catholic Church defines both particular vocations as states of life including marriage, religious life, and priesthood, as well as a general vocation of all baptized believers.

Many Callings

A person can have many different callings in life. For instance a person can have a calling to marriage, to fatherhood, and to a certain occupation. In the Catholic worldview everything we do should be ordered toward discerning and responding to the will of God, the ultimate good in an imperfect world. Ordering our lives toward God's desire is the way in which we get to heaven. We do this in many ways. The following list is not exhaustive:

Discerning our primary vocation (marriage, priesthood, religious life, etc.)

Discerning our particular vocation (whom to marry, etc.)

Following God's will for our relationships

Avoiding sin and seeking to examine our conscience to discern where we are falling short and where we are responding to grace

Seeking to understand how God wants us to respond to circumstances in the world around us

Marriage

A vocation of **marriage** is God's call for us to make a union with a person of the opposite sex to help each other grow in holiness and love for God. One of the major goals of marriage is to get our spouses to heaven. When you hear about vocations, it is usually associated with priesthood and the religious life, but marriage seems to be the vocation of the majority of people. Living a married life can be just as much a response to God's call as becoming a priest, monk, or sister.

*Speak, Lord,
your servant is listening.*
1 Samuel 3:9

One of the gifts and callings of marriage is to share in God's creative work (bearing children) if physically able. By becoming mothers and fathers God entrusts us to raise children by modeling the love of God for us to our children. A family is the first community a child knows, and parents who strive to do the best for their children model the love of God to their children.

Religious Life

Religious life is a call to join a community for love of God and building up of the Kingdom of God. A sister, brother, monk, or nun serves God and his people in a unique way through prayer and service.

Sisters and brothers are members of religious orders who do work in the world. They may run soup kitchens, teach, serve as missionaries, or fulfill many other needed tasks in the world and in the Church. Monks and nuns typically stay in monasteries and convents. Their primary ministry is through prayer. While it may seem that they don't do enough to help the Church, their prayer is vital in empowering the Church to fulfill its mission.

Men in religious life can also be ordained as priests.

Priesthood

A call to **ordained priesthood**, whether in a diocese or in a religious community, is a calling to serve God and his people. What distinguishes priesthood most especially is that the priest performs the sacraments. In this way, he brings Christ to the Church in a way different than any other person can.

Although priests have a special role in the Church, this does not mean that they are "better" Catholics than everyone else. Laypeople are called to holiness just as much as priests and religious are. However, the priest still plays a unique and important role, and his role should not be underestimated.

In the Roman Catholic Church, most priests are celibate. This allows them to serve God without the distractions of marriage and family. In the Eastern Catholic Churches, married men can be ordained (although no priest is allowed to marry after ordination). Both are equally valid traditions and ways of living priesthood.

Single Life

There is some controversy over whether single life should be considered a vocation. Unlike married people, people in religious life, and priesthood, single people do not take vows. Traditional vocations have a permanent character. Those who have taken vows to marriage or religious or priestly vocations have committed to something, and they should be dedicated to that vocation. In contrast, many single people hope to leave the single state, and they are free to do so. Single life is characterized by a radical openness to where God might call a person in the future.

Although single life does not share the characteristics of the other vocations, God still may call people to be single. Some men and women may discover that their single state is a blessing from God. They may discern that God is calling them to live as single people for the rest of their lives, and that God is calling them to serve the Church in the freedom that characterizes single life.

A lesser known vocation is consecrated virginity, in which a woman is consecrated to the Church and to Jesus as someone who will remain single for the rest of her life. Like a sister or nun, she makes a commitment to her vocation. Unlike a sister or nun, she lives in the world, has a regular job, and provides for herself without the support of a religious order. This vocation is rapidly growing in the Church today.

Living Our Vocations

In any of these states of life God calls us to build up society in a manner that reflects the love of God. This is our general vocation as Christians. Even through work God wants us to build his kingdom. God calls us to meaningful work that brings value to humanity; work that does not exploit people for personal gain. In your occupation, ask yourself each day how your work will bring glory to God and help people rather than take advantage of others for personal profit.

Each vocation requires some sacrifice to die to self in the service of others. Perhaps this is the true meaning of vocation. Through serving others we act as God to others and we become more and more like Christ each day. While we might sin and fall short of what God desires for us, God still calls us to faithfully live our vocations in the hope that we will be with God in heaven some day.

How do I know if God is calling me to be a priest, or get married, or whatever?

Some people hear the call to religious life when they are in first grade. Others seem to receive the call after they have spent a decade in a professional career. Each calling is a bit different. But whether you hope to get married, be ordained, or live a life offered to God through religious vows, all are ways of serving God. Some people also serve God in the single life. We can know what God is calling us to if we learn to listen to him.

Here are several things you can do to listen to him.

Set a daily prayer time and stick to it. To hear God's calling, you must listen. To listen to God, we must learn to pray. To learn to pray, we must make time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how. Listening to him involves patience and obedience, so be still in your prayer time and allow God to speak in the silence of your heart. This takes practice, but like any good relationship, your relationship with God will deepen according to how much effort you put into it. Sin damages this relationship, so work toward holiness.

Though we may not associate chastity with discernment, it is an essential virtue if we hope to hear our calling. When a young man or woman is indulging in sexual sin, the mind seems to be filled with such dull and heavy thoughts that he or she can hardly recognize the voice of God.

Also, it is wise to find a holy priest who can act as your spiritual director.

He probably has been listening to God's voice since before you were born, so you can benefit from his sanctity. Also speak about your vocation with people whose holiness and joy you admire.

Pope John Paul II advises: "In the first place I say this: you must never think that you are alone in deciding your future! And second: when deciding your future, you must not decide for yourself alone!" "Confidently open your most intimate aspirations to the love of Christ who waits for you in the Eucharist. You will receive the answer to all your worries and you will see with joy that the consistency of your life which he asks of you is the door to fulfill the noblest dreams of your youth." "The search and discovery of God's will for you is a deep and fascinating endeavor. Every vocation, every path to which Christ calls us, ultimately leads to fulfillment and happiness, because it leads to God, to sharing in God's own life."

If you are considering the priesthood, it is beneficial to spend some time on a good discernment retreat, if one is available. One other method of discernment is to reflect on your life: look at what doors the Lord has opened or shut in your life, and look at what talents he has given you and what desires he has placed in your heart. Often we complicate the discernment process more than we need to, and we lose our peace. Whatever vocation God calls you to, this will be the place where you will have the most joy. Each vocation will have plenty of suffering as well, but all vocations are ways that we can become holy.

Some guys assume, "I think women are beautiful, so God must not want me to be a priest." But this is not sincere discernment. I know of a mother superior of nuns who gave some surprising advice to a group of young men who were discerning the priesthood. She lovingly said to the seminarians, "If you have no desire to be a father and a husband, we don't want you here. Good-bye." In other words, in order to be a good priest, a man must long to become a father and a spouse. If those urges are not within his heart, how can he become a spiritual father? How can he give himself fully for his bride, the Church? When a man becomes a priest, he is not annihilating those desires. He is fulfilling them in a different way. Instead of giving himself to a woman in order to bring children into this world, he gives himself to the Church in order to bring us into eternal life.

During this time of discernment, be patient. Often God does not want us to know his will regarding the future. That may sound strange, but we grow in the times where he seems silent. His will is our holiness, and trusting in him during this time of uncertainty may be all he is calling you to right now. In the meantime I recommend that you pray one Hail Mary each day for your vocation. During your prayer time, be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who speaks with consistency. During the 2002 World Youth Day in Canada, Pope John Paul II exclaimed, "[I]f, 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!"

May Our Lady guide you to hear the voice of her Son and give you the courage to respond generously. In the words of Pope John Paul II: "My desire is for the young people of the entire world to come closer to Mary. She is the bearer of an indelible youthfulness and beauty that never wanes. May young people have increasing confidence in her and may they entrust the life just opening before them to her."

Papal Writings on the Priesthood

Pope Benedict XVI: The Priest - the Believer

The priest must be a believer, one who converses with God. If this is not the case, then all his activities are futile. The most lofty and important thing a priest can do for people is first of all being what he is: a believer. Through faith he lets God, the other, come into the world. And if the other is not at work, our work will never be enough; When people sense that one is there who believes, who lives with God and from God, hope becomes a reality for them as well. Through the faith of the priest, doors open up all around for people: it is really possible to believe, even today. All human believing is a believing-with, and for this reason the one who believes before us is so important. In many ways this person is more exposed in his faith than the others, since their faith depends on his and since, at any given time, he has to withstand the hard-ships of faith for them....

There is a mutual given-and-take in faith in which priests and lay people become mediators of the nearness of God for one another. The priest must also nurture the humility of such receiving in himself

The first "task" a priest has to do is to be a believer and to become one ever anew and ever more. Faith is never simply there automatically; it must be lived. It leads us into conversation with God which involves speaking and listening to the same degree. Faith and prayer belong together; they cannot be separated. The time spent by a priest on prayer and listening to Scripture is never time lost to pastoral care or time withheld from others. People sense whether the work and words of their pastor spring from prayer fabricated at his desk.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, from *A New Song for the Lord*, tr. by Martha M Matesich, NY: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1996.

Pope Benedict XVI on the Priesthood

[Letter Proclaiming a Year for Priests on The 150th Anniversary of the "Dies Natalis" of the Curé of Ars](#)

A wonderful reflection on Saint John Mary Vianney and the priesthood given June 16, 2009.

[Homily at the Mass for the Conclusion of the Year for Priests on June 11, 2010](#)

[Homily at the Mass Opening the Year for Priests on June 19, 2009](#)

General Audiences given during the Year for Priests

[Why a Year for Priests? June 24, 2009](#)

[On the Priest's Mission as Teacher, April 4, 2010](#)

[On the Priest's Mission to Sanctify, May 5, 2010](#)

[On the Priest's Mission to Govern, May 26, 2010](#)

[Chrism Mass Homily on Holy Thursday, March 20, 2008](#)

The essence of priesthood is service. All priests are encouraged to renew their "yes" to the call of God.

[Chrism Mass Homily on Holy Thursday, April 13, 2006](#)

The Lord makes us priests His friends. We should recommit ourselves to this friendship every day.

["If You Abide in Christ, You Will Bear Much Fruit"](#)

Address to seminarians attending World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany, on August 19, 2005.

[On the Nature of Priesthood](#)

Speech given by Cardinal Ratzinger on October 1, 1990 at the opening of the Synod of Bishops on priestly formation. LINK TO: <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/diocese/vocations/papal-writings-on-the-priesthood>

O Lord Jesus Christ, the great High Priest, who dost call chosen souls to offer Thee in sacrifice and to assist Thee in saving souls, I beseech Thee to grant me this high grace though I am most unworthy of it; make me carefully to prepare my heart to receive it and to keep myself pure and lowly that Thou mayest call me to serve Thee at Thine altar.

Amen.

O Mary, Mother of God and my dear mother too, obtain for me this grace from the Sacred Heart of thy dear Son.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Parishioners are invited to come and pray the **Holy Souls Rosary** on Nov.9 in Bennett Hall in the conference room at 9:15 am. (enter the south end of building). Hope to see you there.

Franciscan Health Lafayette is Seeking Gift Shop Volunteers

Franciscan Health Lafayette is seeking volunteers to work in the gift shops. The gift shops are frequented by patient families, hospital staff and community members and rely on the support of volunteers. All profits are donated to the hospital. Volunteers work in a great environment guided by Franciscan Mission and Values. Shifts are 4-5 hours with days, evenings and weekends available. Please contact Volunteer Services at 765-502-4249 for more information.



NOVEMBER 9, 2019
5:30-7:30 P.M.
MEMORIAL HALL



NOVEMBER 16/17
MEMORIAL HALL
SATURDAY: 5:30-6:30PM
SUNDAY: 8:00-NOON

Our Mission

The Archdiocese for the Military Services was created by Pope John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces. This includes more than 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 153 V.A. Medical Centers, and federal employees serving outside the boundaries of the USA in 134 countries. Numerically, the AMS is responsible for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children. Our annual second collection will be taken the weekend of November 9/10.



Central Catholic presents



on November 7th, 9th, & 10th

"Come listen to a story about a man name Jed...."

Central Catholic's Drama Department would like to invite you to its fall play *The Beverly Hillbillies* by David Rogers, based on the television program by Paul Henning. Please support the performing arts at CC and laugh along with Jed, Elly May, Jethro, and Granny as they attempt to bring some hillbilly culture to Beverly Hills. You won't want to miss this hilarious and silly performance. Show times are Thursday and Saturday, November 7th and 9th at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, November 10th at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. **"Y'all come back now, y'hear?"**

SUNDAY OFFERING:

\$9355.00

"FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS"

ST. AUGUSTINE