



*“Love is the innate vocation  
of every human being.”*  
-Pope Saint John Paul II

## National Vocation Awareness Week 2020

November 1-7, 2020



### BEAMING WITH PRIDE

Matthew Broeren, C.S.Sp.’s mother, Jane Ann Broeren, proudly congratulates him after his Profession of Vows on July 22, 2019. Matt’s family and friends joined together in joyous celebration as he participated in this important rite in his journey of dedicating himself to living the Gospel as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritans.

### INSPIRATION FOR PARENTS

#### **FAMILIES: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF VOCATIONS**

Our parents are often our first teachers. From our first steps to our first words, they provide a foundation for a lifetime of learning and growing.

It’s no surprise that your child will look to you for advice when choosing a vocation, religious or otherwise, and your attitude will have a huge impact on their success.

Who might your child or grandchild become? A leader who solves a crisis? A researcher who discovers a life-saving cure? What about a priest or brother who serves the forgotten?

If your son or daughter should express interest in becoming a religious priest, brother, sister, or lay associate, they’ll be watching closely for your reaction.

As you have done since they were young, be their trusted guide as they build on the strong foundation you worked so hard to give them.





U.S. CHURCH STATISTICS

## Our Parishes Need Priests

# 9,199

FEWER PRIESTS SINCE 2000\*

# 3,363

PARISHES IN 2018 WITHOUT  
A RESIDENT PASTOR\*

# 477

AVG. ORDINATIONS PER YEAR  
THE LAST 20 YEARS\*

# ONE

EST. NUMBER OF PRIESTS EACH  
PARISH WOULD NEED TO PRODUCE  
EVERY 10 YEARS TO REVERSE THE  
PRIEST SHORTAGE

*\*Data from CARA: The Center for  
Applied Research in the Apostolate*

The growing clergy shortage means that priestly presence is waning in many Catholic institutions. More than ever, the Church needs lay people, especially families, to encourage the next generation of vocations.

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” - 3 John 4

### A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and Generous God,  
it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You.  
Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church  
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to  
shape its future.

Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's  
Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders  
from our families and friends who will serve Your  
people as Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Spiritans.

Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts  
to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord. Amen.



*“On this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say “yes” to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.”*

- Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for  
Vocations, 2020.