Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for sharing in our parish-wide efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Your prayers are essential for raising up vocations in our Church. Remember the words of our Lord: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

In this booklet, you will find some simple instructions for the Traveling Chalice program, together with some short daily prayers. Please read through the instructions before you get started.

I thank you for your commitment to praying for vocations this week and in the days ahead.

Father Christopher R. Armstrong
Instructions

The purpose of the Traveling Chalice program is to encourage families to pray for vocations and to promote vocations within their own family.

At Mass, your family was presented with the chalice of Father Goeckeler, the founding pastor of St. Antoninus. This chalice was given to him by our parish on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. It is the same chalice that was used at the Mass at which you received the chalice.

This chalice is offered to help serve as a visible reminder of your commitment to pray together as a family for vocations during this week, and also a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer. Rather, we take home with us from the Mass, the joy, the gratitude, and the mission to share the love of Christ with others in our families and our workplaces.

This chalice, like all those used at Mass, is consecrated (reserved for sacred use) to hold the Precious Blood of Jesus. Please do not drink out of it at home. We suggest that you place it in some highly visible place in the home, for example, on the mantel if you have a fireplace or in the center of your dining room table.

We ask that your whole household pray together once each day for vocations if only it be the Lord’s Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, or the Glory Be. In this booklet, there is a recommended prayer and intention for each day, but please feel free to adapt these prayers.

An especially good time to pray together might be just before meals or you might pray a family rosary together and include the prayer of the day as the intention to be offered; or pray together first thing in the morning before everyone goes off to work or school.

If you have children or grandchildren, we encourage you to talk to them about vocations, about God’s plan for them to grow in holiness, and answer any questions they might have. You should feel free to let them see and hold the chalice, even young children if supervised, making sure they treat it respectfully, like all sacred objects.

At the end of the week, please return this chalice to the rectory office on Friday by 3 PM. The office is open from 8:00 to 3:00. If for some reason that is not possible, please call the rectory at 922-5400. We need the chalice returned before 4:30 Mass Saturday for next week’s family. Thank you again for your generous participation!
**Sunday: Pope Benedict XVI’s Prayer for Vocations**

**Intention:** With the Holy Father, we pray for an increase in priestly and religious vocations throughout the universal Church.

O Father, raise up among Christians numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, to keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which you continually renew your faithful.

Give us holy ministers of your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world. Call ministers of your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of your forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Children:** Our Father

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**Monday: Prayer to Know One’s Vocation**

**Intention:** We pray for all of those who might not know their vocation in life. Through prayer and with God’s help, may they come to know His will for their lives.

Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You, and thereby to find and fulfill myself.

I know that every path can lead me to You, but of them all, there is one especially by which You want me to come to You.

Since I will do what You want of me, I pray, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what You want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all my strength right to the end. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Children:** Hail Mary
**Tuesday: Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church**

**Intention:** We pray that we might grow in our love and devotion to Mary.

We turn to you, Mary, Mother of the Church. Through your "yes," you have opened the door that makes Christ present in the world, in history, and in individual lives. In humble silence and in total availability, you welcomed the call of the Most High.

May there be many men and women in our day who respond to your Son's invitation: "Follow me!" Grant them courage to leave family, work, and earthly desires to follow Christ along the road that He walked. Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us and for an increase of priestly and religious vocations. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Children:** Hail Mary

**Wednesday: Litany for Vocations**

**Intention:** We pray for an increase in vocations within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.


Through your mercy, send workers into Your harvest, Lord. Through our prayers and sacrifices, send workers into Your harvest, Lord. Through the power of the Mass, send workers into Your harvest, Lord. Through the holiness of families, send workers into Your harvest, Lord.
[Prayer Leader] Let us pray: O God, who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, we earnestly implore You to choose among us many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved. Amen.

Optional Prayer for Children: Glory Be

Thursday: Prayer for Families

Intention: We pray that if it be God’s will there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own family and that they will be supported through our encouragement.

Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocation of their children and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Optional Prayer for Children: Our Father

Friday: Prayer on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Priesthood of Fr. Christopher Armstrong, Pastor of St. Antoninus

Intention: We pray for our parish of St. Antoninus that it may grow in holiness and that from among its members there may be priests and religious to serve the Church.

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. To those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, give the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Prayer for Children: Hail Mary
**Saturday: Prayer for Perseverance of Vocations**

**Intention:** We pray for all of the bishops, priests, deacons and religious that they may have the strength to remain faithful to their vocations. We pray in particular for all those in religious vocations who have served us.

O God, you have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind.

Grant that those whom he has chosen as ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

**Optional Prayer for Children:**  Glory Be

**Reflections, Comments, Prayers, Intentions**

(Optional) Please add any prayers, comments, intentions, or reflections you might want to add as a result of your family prayer time.

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**For More Information**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Vocation Office  
(513) 421-3131 • (800) 686-2724  
http://www.CincinnatiVocations.org