

Adoration for

VOCATIONS

Adoration for Vocations Initiative

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

RESOURCE GUIDE

Holy Hour for Vocations

"I live, now not I; but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2:20

In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic Adoration is simply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic Celebration, which is itself the Church's supreme act of adoration. Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with Him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself. Indeed, only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 66

With these words, Our Holy Father clearly calls the faithful to pray before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. It is in this personal encounter with Jesus, itself a reflection of the encounter in the reception of Communion that gives the faithful the strength to pursue the life of holiness that is built by an embrace of virtue. It is also in this encounter with Jesus that we make our most urgent desires known to Him, for He sees into the depths of our hearts and leads us to a deeper unity with Himself. Therefore, we present this model of a "Holy Hour for Vocations" for use with your parish and/or school, as an opportunity for the faithful to gather before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament and not only to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but also to pray for the strength necessary to pursue a life of holiness. Encouragement is given to adapt this Eucharistic Holy Hour to the needs of your particular parish and/or school.

Some Basic Norms for Worship of the Blessed Sacrament Outside of Mass

- Adoration – prayer before the Blessed Sacrament either reserved in the tabernacle or exposed for veneration.
- Most common and typical form of adoration is prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle both individually and communally. This is a form of piety and is not governed by the liturgical law of the Church.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is a liturgical rite of the Church celebrated when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar either in the ciborium or in a monstrance. Church law requires sufficient numbers of participants, readings, prayers, hymns and periods of silence and reflection.

(Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass.)

- The ordinary minister for exposition is a priest or deacon. At the end of the period of adoration, before reposition, he blesses the people with the sacrament. In the absence of a priest or deacon, an instituted acolyte delegated by the bishop or pastor may publicly expose and later repose the Holy Eucharist for the adoration of the faithful. A minister other than a priest or deacon opens the tabernacle and places the ciborium on the altar or places the host in the monstrance. They do not give the blessing at the end of the period of adoration, but they do replace the Blessed Sacrament back in the tabernacle.
- The minister, if he is a priest or deacon, should vest in an alb, or a surplice over a cassock, and a stole. The priest or deacon should wear a white cope and humeral veil for the blessing with a monstrance. In the case of a ciborium, the humeral veil should be worn. A minister other than a priest or deacon should wear an alb or in the case of professed religious their designated habit.
- Public Adoration: Eucharistic processions within the neighborhood or city (not within the church building).
- Eucharistic Adoration flows from the Church's celebration of the Eucharist and leads back to the Mass. Adoration is a period of lingering with the Lord; a savoring of Christ's presence made manifest in the sacrifice of the Mass not unlike the desire of the apostles following the Transfiguration.
- The preference of the Church is to begin any period of Eucharistic Exposition with the celebration of the Mass.
- The same reverence is required of the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar – genuflection on one knee.

Suggestions for Adoration

For a parish without an adoration program

Organize the weekly holy hour for vocations in whatever format fits that parish and complies with the norms for Adoration. Some suggestions:

- Schedule an evening holy hour with benediction, gospel reading and reflection, rosary and silent time for personal reflection. (priest or deacon needed)
- Schedule a holy hour after daily mass reciting prayers for vocations as a community...then silent reflection (priest or deacon needed to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament)
- Schedule an evening holy hour and gear it towards our Youth - invite Life Teen, EDGE, CCE, School, their format and choice of prayers as long as it complies with the norms for Adoration. (Priest or deacon needed to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament)
- Plan an all-night vigil
- Begin or end the hour with the Invocation for Priesthood and Religious Life prayer
- Promote it through the parish using:
 - Bulletin Announcements
 - Personal Invitations
 - Homilist during mass
 - Presentations and invitations to all parishioners involved in other ministries
 - Flyers provided by the vocations office
- Record hours of adoration for that week in the register

For a parish with an existing adoration program

- Have a priest or deacon change out the monstrance to the archdiocesan traveling monstrance.
- Have available different Adoration for Vocations prayer booklets on hand
- Invite regular adorers to offer their hour for vocations
- Invite different ministry groups to come together in offering a Holy Hour for Vocations – Record their hours under their ministry
- Organize a Holy Hour geared towards our Youth – Invite Life Teen, Edge, CCE
- Promote it through the parish using:
 - Bulletin Announcements
 - Personal Invitations
 - Homilist during mass
 - Presentations and invitations to all parishioners involved in other ministries
 - Flyers provided by the vocations office
- Record the hours of adoration for that week in the register

Young Adult, Teen, and Youth Holy Hour

The Adoration Hour included in this packet is for your consideration and may be tailored to your community, as long as it meets the essential requirement and components of Guidelines for Exposition. The presider may want to spend a little time explaining what will happen and how the community should respond, since many young adults and teens have little experience with Adoration. The presider should also choose a reading and give a short reflection. Moments of silence should be embraced. If at all possible, invite the teens and young adults to prepare and lead the music. Include some of the songs that are well known and loved by the teens in the context of praise and worship such as:

Prepare the Way, Charlie Hall;

King of Glory, Third Day;

Rescue, Desperation Band;

Give us Clean Hands and

Here I am to Worship, Chris Tomlin.

This Adoration may be expanded into an XLT “Exalt” format by adding praise and worship music before and after the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Songs with repetitive phrases and choruses are good choices to maximize participation. Make it a fun event! Consider providing food such as pizza or ice cream after the Adoration. Advertise heavily and include your social time in the advertisement.

Pray for the young adults and teens of your parish to embrace this event and encourage them to pray for each other. May the Lord bless you for all your generous effort in reaching out to our young people!

Planning and Promoting the Program

Give yourself plenty of time to plan and promote!

1. Pray!

2. Begin with your Liturgist, or the person in charge of making decisions in this regard. Discuss the different ways to implement the Adoration for Vocations program. It will vary with each parish. Put a plan together that tells when, where and how the Adoration for Vocations will be carried out for that week.

3. If for whatever reason your parish is unable to have Exposition, do not let this stop you from partaking in this program. Your prayers are powerful and needed. Do your adoration without Exposition. We suggest you display the items provided – (the vocation cross, or framed posters of seminarians and religious in formation), the register will provide the visual aid needed to remind your parishioners their prayers are being united with the archdiocese in this program. Record your hours.

4. Talk to different organizational groups in the parish to enlist their support. Send out emails with the plan and schedule for the week the monstrance arrives. We want to encourage as many parishioners as possible to participate in the Adoration for Vocations Initiative, therefore we have listed committees and organizations that might consider coming together as a whole to spend an hour with Christ.

All Ministry Heads –make them aware of the program through emails and/or personal calls and ask them to promote this within their ministries.

School – possible visits during religion class depending on the time of Exposition

CCE – CCE teachers may plan a visit with their class depending on the time of Exposition

Youth Ministers - plan special adoration time geared for Teens

Hispanic Community – promote after Spanish Mass

Knights of Columbus

Catholic Daughters

ACTS Community –send out mass emails within the community

Altar Servers

RCIA – Leaders/Sponsors/Attendees

5. Daily Mass Attendees – Have someone explain the program after daily mass and invite them to attend.

Timeline

1. Two months prior to the reception of the Monstrance:

- Work on and finalize the action plan for when the monstrance arrives.

2. Four weeks prior to the reception of the Monstrance

- Communicate to all Ministry and Committee heads the Adoration for Vocations program. Get them on fire! Send out e-mails. Sample email:

Dear _____,

I am excited to tell you about a wonderful and new Adoration for Vocations initiative the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has put into motion. It is designed to unite all parishes in prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocation Initiative program is an opportunity to turn to humble prayer as we are so aware that we cannot do anything without Christ's help, direction and love. We as a community are asking Christ to help us bear the fruit that He intends to harvest through the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. John Paul II said to the clergy of the diocese of Rome on Feb. 14, 2002, "*vocations decline when the intensity of faith and spiritual fervor diminishes.*" At this year's annual EXPO, Cardinal DiNardo blessed five monstrances that travel weekly from parish to parish to unite us in prayer and increase the awareness of an ever need to storm heaven with prayers for abundant graces for those he calls to the priesthood and religious life. Each parish will have the opportunity to participate. Our parish is scheduled to receive the traveling monstrance the week of _____.

Bulletin Announcements

1st Bulletin Announcement (four weeks before monstrance arrives):

TRAVELING MONSTRANCE COMING TO OUR PARISH SOON!

An Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative

We are embarking upon a tremendous opportunity to unite the Body of Christ in a profound way within our archdiocese. Our parish is about to take part in an archdiocesan wide program that will unite the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in praying for vocations through the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will have for one week, one of 5 monstrances blessed by Cardinal DiNardo. These monstrances travel from parish to parish with the sole purpose of uniting us in prayer and bringing to fruition the abundant harvest Christ has promised through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite all of you to embrace this opportunity in spending time with Our Lord as we unite our efforts in praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

- Put up Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Poster somewhere visible in parish
- If Church has a power point screen, use poster image as power point before and after masses
- Include in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Sample Intercessory Prayer:

That through the Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative, all will be united in prayer for those being called to the priesthood and religious life. May it bring a tremendous fire of grace to our Archdiocese so that all those being called to shepherd God's people respond with open and generous hearts.

3. Three weeks prior to reception of monstrance:

2nd Bulletin Announcement: TRAVELING MONSTRANCE COMING TO OUR PARISH SOON!

An Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative

Our parish is soon to receive one of the five traveling monstrances that unites the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in praying for vocations through the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The monstrance will arrive (here mention date) and will be with us for one week. (Here mention the when, where and how the Exposition will take place). . We invite all of you to embrace this opportunity in spending time with Our Lord as we unite our efforts in praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In addition to:

- Continue as previous week
- Include in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Sample Intercessory Prayer:

That the Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative deepens and strengthens our faith as it unites us in praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life so that all those hearing the voice of God in their lives respond with open and generous hearts.

3. Two weeks before arrival of Monstrance

3rd Bulletin Announcement:

TRAVELING MONSTRANCE COMING TO OUR PARISH SOON!

An Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative

Our parish is scheduled to receive the Archdiocesan traveling monstrance (specify date) where Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations will take place. Christ will be present on the altar, waiting to speak to each of us! Our parish will have Exposition on the following dates and times (mention here the details of when, where and how the Exposition will take place.) All are invited. Mark your calendars and join us with all our brothers and sisters in the archdiocese to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his vineyard.

- Suggested Homily on the importance of Adoration and Adoration for Vocations
- Include in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Sample Intercessory Prayer:

That the Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative enable the faithful to worship more fully and fruitfully as we foster a deeper appreciation of the power of prayer through unity, and may God's grace open the hearts of those he's calling to the priesthood and religious life to respond generously to this call.

4. Weekend of the Arrival of the Monstrance

4th Bulletin Announcement:

TRAVELING MONSTRANCE ARRIVES AT PARISH!

An Archdiocesan Adoration for Vocations Initiative

The archdiocesan traveling monstrance for Adoration for Vocations has arrived! We invite everyone to join us in storming heaven with prayers for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please make every effort to be a part of this great initiative that unites our brothers and sisters in the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his vineyard. We will have

Exposition on the following dates and times (mention here the details of when, where and how the Exposition will take place.).

Pastor announces after all masses: The Archdiocesan traveling monstrance for Adoration for Vocations has arrived. Please check in the bulletin for the dates and times Exposition will take place. All are invited in joining the archdiocese in this great initiative in storming heaven with prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Adoration for **VOCATIONS**

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

PRAYERS BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to Pray for Vocations (General Public)

Procession

After all have assembled, a priest or deacon, wearing cope and humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles. A song may be sung. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded and a period of silent prayer follows.

Exposition Hymn

O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to us below!
Our foes press on from every side:
Your aid supply, your strength bestow.
To your great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O grant us endless length of days
When our true native land we see. Amen

*O salutaris hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur fer auxilium.
Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna Gloria:
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.*

Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed,

go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Additional suggested reading from Scripture:

Judith 8:9-14, 17-20 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Mark 14:3-9

Isaiah 6:1-10 Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13

John 21:15-23

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily may be given followed by a period of silence

A Litany for Vocations

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,

Pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Pray for us.

Holy Virgin of Virgins,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, leader of the heavenly host,

Pray for us.

St. Gabriel, messenger of God's divine plan,

Pray for us.

St. Raphael, companion of the journey,

Pray for us.

All you holy Angels and Archangels,

Pray for us.

St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests,

Pray for us.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of youth,

Pray for us.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, patron of vocations,

Pray for us.

St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians,

Pray for us.

St. John Berchmans, patron of altar servers,

Pray for us.

St. Maria Goretti, patron of teenagers,

Pray for us.

St. Francis De Sales, primary patron of the Archdiocese,

Pray for us.

All you holy men and women,

Pray for us.

Be merciful,

Spare us, O Lord.

Be merciful,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Through your mercy,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through Your kindness,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the fervent prayers and sacrifices of Your people,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,

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Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the sanctification of the family,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through parents being generously open to life,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness,

Send workers into your harvest, O Lord.

Through a renewed sense of fidelity to our Catholic Faith,

Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

That young people might seek to live the truth of Christ,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That young people might seek God's will for them in their lives,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That young people might hear the call to give their lives for the mission of the Church,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That all priests and religious might be renewed in the spirit of the new evangelization,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That Bishops might be strengthened to be courageous shepherds,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That we may always zealously pray for and promote vocations,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That those who are being called to be priests and religious might respond generously,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

The harvest is great but the laborers are few.

Beg the harvest Master to send out laborers for His harvest.

Let us pray: O God, Who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and Who by Baptism and Confirmation has called us to build up Your Holy Church, we earnestly implore You to choose among us, Your children, many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved by all. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for Vocations (Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza)

Loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfillment in his life when he said to you, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction

At the conclusion of the Prayer for Vocations, the presiding minister goes to the altar, genuflects, and then kneels. As he kneels, Tantum ergo or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung and he incenses the Blessed Sacrament.

Come adore this wondrous presence,

Bow to Christ the source of grace.

Here is kept the ancient promise

Of God's earthly dwelling place.

Sight is blind before God's glory,

Faith alone may see His face.

Glory be to God the Father,

Praise his coequal Son,

Adoration to the Spirit,

Bond of love, in Godhead one.

Blest be God by all creation

Joyously while ages run.

Tantum ergo Sacramentum

*Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori Genitoque
Laus et jubilation,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudation*
After the hymn is finished, he rises and sings or says:

Minister: You have given them bread from heaven.

Response: Having all sweetness within it.

Minister: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death.

May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen**

Priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Eucharist.

Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time. Amen.

Reposition

After the Divine Praises, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and brought to the place of reservation. A hymn is sung, and the presiding minister and the servers bow to the altar and leave.

Conclusion Hymn

(Holy God We Praise Thy Name or other suitable song may be sung)

Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee;
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign!
Hark, the loud celestial hymn;
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and Seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
<http://www.santafevocations.org/holyhour.html>

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to Pray for Vocations (YA, Teen, Youth)

Procession

After all have assembled, a priest or deacon, wearing cope and humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles. A song may be sung. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded and a period of silent prayer follows.

Exposition Hymn

O Salutaris Hostia

O saving Victim opening wide
The gate of heaven to all below,
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.
All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with thee.
Amen

Opening Prayer

Leader: God, + come to my assistance

All: Lord make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Leader: Almighty Father; cleanse our hearts from all vain, evil and distracting thoughts; enlighten our understanding and inflame our wills; that we may worthily, attentively and devoutly spend this time in the presence of Your divine Majesty; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reflection

Song: *You're Everything*, David Crowder Band

Prayer

Leader: In the quiet of our hearts, let us offer to God a prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

A period of silent reflection

Song: *Take My Life*, Third Day

Leader: O loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfillment in his life when he said: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

All: Amen.

A period of silent reflection

Song: *Give/Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus/With or Without You/Your Love oh Lord*, Third Day/U2

Litany for Vocations

Cantor: God, our Father, Creator who calls us to life:

All: Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Faithful Servant:

Have mercy on us.

God the Spirit, Life-Force of Courage:

Have mercy on us.

Mother Mary:

Pray for us.

St. Joseph:

Pray for us.

St. Peter:

Pray for us.

St. Paul:

Pray for us.

Ora pro nobis –

Ora pro nobis.

St. Martha:

Pray for us.

St. Benedict:

Pray for us.

St. Scholastica:

Pray for us.

St. Dominic:

Pray for us.

Ora pro nobis –

Ora pro nobis.

St. Francis:

Pray for us.

St. Ignatius:

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney:

Pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

Pray for us.

Ora pro nobis –

Ora pro nobis.

All holy men and women of God:

Pray for us.

Leader: Lord, give the gift of a generous heart to parents and those called to priesthood and religious life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Readings

Mark 1:16-20

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they left their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Other suggested readings:

Luke 5:1-11 Matthew 9:35-10:5

Homily may be given followed by a brief period of silence

Benediction

After the period of silence, the presiding minister goes to the altar, genuflects, and then kneels. As he kneels, Tantum ergo or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung and he incenses the Blessed Sacrament.

Tantum Ergo

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! The Sacred Host we hail;
Lo! O'er ancient forms departing
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying
Where the feeble senses fail.
To the Everlasting Father,
And the Son Who reigns on high,
With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from each eternally,
Be salvation, honor blessing,
Might and endless majesty!

After the hymn is finished, he rises and sings or says:

Leader: You gave them bread from heaven - Alleluia.

All: Containing in itself all sweetness - Alleluia

Leader: Let us pray. O God, under a marvelous sacrament You have left us the memorial of Your Passion; grant us, we beseech You, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within us the fruit of Your Redemption. Who lives and reigns, world without end.

All: Amen

Priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Eucharist.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred heart.
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

Reposition

After the Divine Praises, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and brought to the place of reservation. A hymn is sung, and the presiding minister and the servers bow to the altar and leave.

Closing Song: *Blessed Be Your Name*, Matt Redman

Rosary for Vocations

Joyful Mysteries

-1st Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation. Mary answers “Yes” to God’s call. Even though it was unexpected and the Archangel gives her only the details she needs to know at the present moment, she responds generously. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called to the priesthood or religious life that they, like Mary, may have the grace to respond whole-heartedly.

-2nd Joyful Mystery: The Visitation. Mary wastes no time in acting upon the grace of her vocation. Through her cooperation the plan of salvation is already unfolding. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called but are hesitating. May God’s grace hurry them forward to answer the call and thus begin to labor for the harvest.

-3rd Joyful Mystery: The Nativity. Our Savior comes to us in the midst of a family. How crucial is the role of the family! Let us offer this decade for all parents that they may provide an atmosphere of love and faith in the home. May parents thus help foster their children’s vocations.

-4th Joyful Mystery: The Presentation. Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple and dedicated Him to Almighty God. They knew their Son was a gift from God to be given back to Him. Let us offer this decade for the grace parents need to recognize the gift of their children and thus offer them to the divine plan of God. May His will determine every moment of their lives.

-5th Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple. This mystery tells of a very unplanned event in the life of Joseph and Mary. For days their hearts ached with sorrow until they found their

Son. Let us offer this decade for those parents who find it difficult to understand and thus support their child’s vocation as a priest or religious. May they be graced with the faith to support God’s will for their children and, like Joseph and Mary, to hold the mysterious ways of God in their hearts.

Luminous Mysteries

-1st Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus. The mystery of our Lord’s Baptism is the mystery of Jesus taking upon Himself the mission of the Messiah. Thus begins His public ministry. Let us offer this decade for those who are called to the priesthood and religious life, but are afraid to answer because of what others may say or think. Grant them courage, O Lord, to accept the mission you are giving them.

-2nd Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast of Cana. Through the intercession of Mary, Jesus transforms ordinary water into extraordinary wine. What incredible things God’s grace can do in our lives! Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but doubt that they have much to offer. May they trust in the power of God to bring all things to completion and say “yes” to His call.

-3rd Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom. Our Lord begins His public ministry by announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God. What joyous news this is for all humanity to hear! Let us offer this decade for an increase in vocations that there might be many more priests and religious who will proclaim this truth and bear witness to it with their lives.

-4th Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration. Jesus strengthened the faith of His Apostles by allowing His divinity to be momentarily perceived. He wished them to gain a supernatural perspective on His forthcoming Passion and Death. Let us offer this decade for all those who are being called as priests and religious that they may have the grace to recognize God’s call in the midst of life and courageously accept carrying the Cross.

-5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist. The gift of the Most Holy Eucharist is a mystery beyond our ability to fully comprehend. Our Lord’s abiding Presence in

the Blessed Sacrament, the saving mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass -- the world would suffer a great loss without these miracles. Jesus gives Himself in the Holy Eucharist through the ministry of His priests. Let us offer this decade for more priests for our archdiocese. May God call many more men to share in the Priesthood and may they respond generously.

Sorrowful Mysteries

-1st Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden. Jesus asked His Apostles to pray so that they “might not enter into temptation.” Our Lord knew they needed to pray in order to endure what would soon happen. Let us offer this decade for those men and women whom God is calling to be priests and religious, that they might have a deep and abiding life of prayer. Through the strength given to them through their spiritual life may they respond courageously to God’s call.

-2nd Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar. Our Lord’s suffering during the scourging was excruciating. For our sake Jesus offered Himself to obtain our salvation. Let us offer this decade for the grace that many young people might feel the desire in their hearts to offer themselves to God as priests and religious.

-3rd Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns. Jesus endured the terrible ridicule and mockery of the soldiers even to the point of accepting the painful crown of thorns. Let us offer this decade for those who have a calling to the priesthood or religious life, but find it difficult to say “yes” because of painful obstacles in their lives. May concern for human respect never stand in their way of following God’s will.

-4th Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross. On the way to Calvary, our Lord found comfort and assistance from a number of people: Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, His Mother, and Veronica. How much those acts of love must have meant to Jesus! Let us offer this decade for the grace to always support, with our prayers and sacrifices, those whom God is calling to become priests and religious. May God find us seriously engaged in this very important apostolate!

-5th Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus. At the foot of the Cross, there came into existence a new type of family. Before Jesus died He entrusted to the maternal care of Mary all of humanity, represented in the person of the “beloved disciple.” Through the New Covenant the notion of family is greatly enlarged, it takes on a different dimension. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but are hesitant because of fears of not being able to have a family and living a lonely life. Help them, O Lord, to see that in serving you as a priest or religious, their desires for family will indeed be completely fulfilled.

Glorious Mysteries

-1st Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection. Our Lord’s Resurrection brought tremendous joy to His sorrowful followers. Never were their lives to be the same again. Let us offer this decade for an increase in grace in the hearts of those who are being called to be priests and religious. May they experience the immense joy of giving God their entire lives and saying “yes” to His call. Help them to realize that their unselfish response to God will change their lives forever.

-2nd Glorious Mystery: The Ascension. Jesus ascended into Heaven, not to abandon us, but to be our hope. He continually intercedes for us before the throne of the Father and prepares a place for His faithful followers in the heavenly Kingdom. Let us offer this decade for an increase in the number of priests and religious to help us strive faithfully to attain heavenly homeland. May these men and women always recognize the irreplaceable mission they have in the plan of our salvation.

-3rd Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit

transformed the timid Apostles into bold witnesses for the Gospel. The Church was sent forth with courage and zeal! Let us offer this decade for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon all He has chosen to labor as priests and religious. May they respond boldly to the invitation to lay down their lives for Christ and His Church.

-4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary. The Second Vatican Council reminded us that Mary's role in salvation history did not end with her Assumption into Heaven. She continually intercedes for all of us, her children, as we journey through life. Let us offer this decade asking Mary's intercession. Through her prayers may the Church be granted an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

-5th Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary. This mystery brings before us the beauty of the faithfulness of Mary, the first disciple of the Lord. She who referred to herself as the "handmaid of the Lord" is now exalted far above even the Angels. The one who said "yes" to God in all things is now the Queen of heaven and earth. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called that they may always have the grace to understand that to serve God is to reign with Him. Whatever sacrifices need to be made in order to live the mission God gives us will pale in comparison to the glory He has reserved for His faithful servants.

<http://www.santafevocations.org/rosary.html>

Litany for Priests

For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI

Lord, give him the Heart of the Good Shepherd.

For the successors of the Apostles

Lord, give them fatherly concern for their priests.

For your Bishops chosen by the Holy Spirit

Lord, keep them close to your sheep.

For your Pastors

Lord, teach them to serve rather than to seek to be served.

For confessors and spiritual directors

Lord, make them docile instruments of your Spirit.

For those who announce Your Word

Lord, let them communicate your Spirit and Life.

For those who help the lay apostolate

Lord, encourage them to give witness.

For those who work with the youth

Lord, may they commit the youth to you.

For those who work among the poor

Lord, make them see and serve you in them.

For those who care for the sick

May they teach them the value of suffering, Lord.

For poor priests

Help them, Lord.

For sick priests

Heal them, Lord.

For elderly priests

Give them joyful hope, Lord.

For the sad and afflicted

Console them, Lord.

For anxious and troubled priests

Give them your peace, Lord.

For the ridiculed and persecuted

Defend their cause, Lord.

For lukewarm priests

Inflame them, Lord.

For the discouraged

Give them courage, Lord.

For those who aspire to the priesthood

Give them perseverance, Lord.

For all priests

Give them fidelity to you and your Church, Lord.

For all priests

Give them obedience and love for the Holy Father, Lord.

For all priests

Let them live in communion with their Bishop, Lord.

That all priests

Be one as you, Lord, and the Father are One.

That all priests

May promote the justice with which you, Lord, are just.

That all priests

Collaborate in the unity of the Presbyterate, Lord.

That all priests, filled with your presence

Live joyfully in celibacy, Lord.

To all priests

Grant them the fullness of your Spirit, Lord, and transform them into yourself.

Let us pray: Divine Heart of Jesus, Heart full of zeal

for the Glory of your Father, we pray for all your priests. By your Holy Spirit, fill them with faith, zeal and love. Amen.

The Litany for Priests, Venerable Concepción Cabrera de Armida, September 18, 1921.

Litany of St. John Vianney

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,

Pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Pray for us.

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, model of the priesthood,

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Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, glory of the diocesan priesthood,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, heroic in the practice of all virtues,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, humble of heart,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, lover of poverty,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, devoted to the conversion of sinners,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, mirror of purity,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, ardent lover of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament,

Pray for us..

St. John Vianney, most devoted son of the Virgin Mary,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, courageous shepherd of his flock, pray for us.

St. John Vianney, martyr of the confessional,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, exemplary in obedience,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, terror of the demons,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who was willing to suffer all things in order to sanctify his parish,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who loved God without limits,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who dedicated himself to the teaching of the Faith,

Pray for us..

St. John Vianney, who sanctified himself through heroic prayer and fasting,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who found his joy and strength in the daily celebration of the Holy Mass,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who was nourished by the Divine Office and the Rosary,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who persevered through all difficulties,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who models for us true priestly zeal and holiness,

Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, St. John Vianney,

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

“All-powerful, merciful God, You made St. John Vianney admirable in his pastoral zeal and his constant ardor for prayer and penance. Grant that we, following his example and imploring his intercession, may win the souls of our brethren for Christ and with them attain to everlasting glory. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”

Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”

http://www.cincinnati vocations.org/vocation_prayers.shtml#litanyjohn

Invocation for Priesthood and Religious Life

LEADER: Lord Jesus, your great love for us moved you to remain with us under the appearances of the Eucharistic Bread. We kneel before you and offer you our faith, love, gratitude and adoration, and we place in your hands all that we are and all that we have.

In union with your most beloved Mother, we have come here to accompany you and meet you, the Friend of our souls and the Light of our lives. The wonderful works of creation show us the extent of your power and the glory of your majesty. In the Eucharist we experience the joy of your humble presence, hidden in the sacrament but revealed to every believing heart.

We come to offer you our heartfelt prayer for the world, for all people, for your priests, and for all those who have consecrated their lives totally to you. Oh Lord and Master of the harvest, we especially implore you to send numerous and holy laborers to reap the harvest you, yourself, have sown in souls.

ALL: We need you, Lord.

LEADER: We need men who will give you their mouths to tell us about you, their feet to travel the world preaching your Gospel, their hands to bless us, their eyes to reflect the love with which you, our Father, look upon us.

We need you, Lord. The world and the Church need you. Humbly and earnestly, we ask you to send us priests, vessels of your saving power. Send us missionaries, consecrated men and women who will shine as light in the darkness of the world and be as salt to free us from the corruption of sin and evil.

ALL: Lord, send your laborers to your harvest.

LEADER: You took pity on the crowd that followed you for they were as sheep without a shepherd. Look upon us who strive to follow you today, and hear our prayer.

ALL: Send us shepherds after your own heart.

LEADER: The harvest is indeed great, and you bought it at the price of your Passion and Death. Do not let it go unharvested for want of laborers.

ALL: Lord, send laborers into your fields.

LEADER: The priest is another Christ. In him our faith recognizes and honors you, our Lord, walking alongside us through time. The priest is a man among men, yet chosen to celebrate the sublime mystery of the Eucharist, to perpetuate your love through the ages, to forgive sins in your name, to save in your name, and to consecrate mankind and all creation in the name of the Blessed Trinity.

ALL: Lord, send priests to your Church.

LEADER: Men and women who live the consecrated life leave everything in order to follow you alone, the Supreme Good, in perfect charity. They give their freedom out of love for you; they make you the exclusive center of their heart and love, and they follow you in poverty on the path of sacrifice. Great is their generosity and their consecrated life is a great gift to your Church.

ALL: Lord, send your Church vocations to the consecrated life.

LEADER: In the remotest corners of the world, at times in the midst of persecution and at great personal risk, your missionaries preach your Gospel to those who have not heard of you. They endure loneliness, fatigue and misunderstanding, yet they bear it all with love, so long as they can see your love take root in the hearts of those people to whom they reach out.

ALL: Lord, send men and women missionaries to your Church.

LEADER: Lord, we have total trust in your promise, “I will be with you until the end of time.” You are with us, and you never stop calling men and women to take your place at our side as we journey toward you. You continue to pronounce the words that have changed the story of so many lives: “Follow me.” Help those you call to be generous, not to close their hearts to your call, to answer it promptly like the prophet Isaiah: “Here am I, Lord, send me.”

ALL: Grant generosity, faith and courage to those whom you have called.

LEADER: Renew all your priests and those you have called to the consecrated life in their love for you and your Church. We pray for each and everyone of them: the fervent and the weary, those passionately in love with you and the struggling, and those whose hope has faded. May their lives radiate the virtues of purity, obedience, patience, charity, gentleness and understanding together with a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, humility and simplicity.

ALL: Grant us priests and consecrated souls after your own heart.

LEADER: Lord, inspire and help all those who serve you in seminaries and houses of formation. May their labors provide your Church with a new generation of saints, doctors, martyrs and apostles – a new host of witnesses on fire with zeal for the new evangelization.

ALL: Lord, send us holy priests and consecrated souls.

LEADER: We pray to you, Lord, for all those who dedicate their lives to promote vocations. May they be faithful to their call to be fishers of men, and never tire of casting their nets into the deep. Give them persevering love, and bless their efforts and prayer so that the Church will always have the vocations she needs to fulfill her mission.

ALL: Lord, bless your Church with new generations of priests and consecrated persons.

LEADER: The enemy of our souls knows the good that a single priest or consecrated vocation will do for the Church, and he continually tempts those you call, through fear, selfishness, and the desire for an easier life. They all have to overcome as well the atmosphere of the world and their own passions. We ask you to strengthen their souls and grant them the generosity and courage to reject firmly anything that could endanger their faithful answer to your call.

ALL: Lord, help those you call to be generous.

LEADER: The harvest is great. The laborers are few.

ALL: Lord, send laborers to your harvest.

LEADER: For young people who feel your call,

ALL: Grant them the love to be generous.

LEADER: For all those consecrated to you,

ALL: Increase their charity.

LEADER: For young people you call who are doubting,

ALL: Grant them the certainty that only faith and love can give.

LEADER: For those who feel your call at an early age,

ALL: Grant them supernatural wisdom.

LEADER: For seminarians and those in formation for the consecrated life,

ALL: Grant them perseverance.

LEADER: For consecrated souls and priests who are undergoing temptation,

ALL: Grant them fortitude and perseverance in their love.

LEADER: For zealous consecrated souls and priests,

ALL: Grant them even greater love.

LEADER: For consecrated souls and priests who have declined in their fervor,

ALL: Look with love on their original sacrifice, and in your mercy revive their initial love.

LEADER: For consecrated souls and priests experiencing desolation,

ALL: Be their consolation.

LEADER: For consecrated souls and priests experiencing loneliness,

ALL: Be their company.

LEADER: For missionary priests and consecrated souls,

ALL: Fill them with your zeal.

LEADER: For young priests and consecrated souls,

ALL: Move them strongly to seek your glory.

LEADER: For elderly priests and consecrated souls,

ALL: Sustain them in your service.

LEADER: For all deceased priests and consecrated souls,

ALL: Grant them a share in your glory.

LEADER: The harvest is great. The laborers are few.

ALL: Lord, send laborers into your harvest.

LEADER: For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: For the Shepherds of the Church,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: For our bishop, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: For those who most need your grace,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: For those who are far from you,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: For the particular needs of our local Church,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, eternal priest, never cease to send your Church new priests and consecrated men and women, shepherds after your own heart. We need your ministers. We need your envoys.

They are the instruments of your grace and love. They console us in your name; they nourish our hope, strengthen our faith, and intensify our love. We need them, Lord, because we need you, we need your love. Do not abandon us, Lord. Send laborers to the harvest of the world. Send fishers of men who will gather us up in the nets of your mercy. With humility and trust we implore you to send us shepherds after your own heart. The harvest is great. The laborers are few. Lord, send laborers to your harvest. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Vocation Action Network
www.MissionNetwork.com

Adoration for VOCATIONS

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Sacred Scripture for Reflection

Fishers of Men (Mark 1:14-22)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

I Am the Bread of Life (John 6: 26-69)

Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen (me), you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day." The Jews murmured about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike

your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many (of) his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

We Left Our Homes and Followed You (Luke 18:18-30)

An official asked him this question, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother.'" And he replied, "All of these I have observed from my youth." When Jesus heard this he said to him, "There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when he heard this he became quite sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him (now sad) and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard this said, "Then who can be saved?" And he said, "What is impossible for human beings is possible for God." Then Peter said, "We have given up our possessions and followed you." He said to them, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive (back) an overabundant return in this present age and eternal life in the age to come."

What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life? (Matthew 19:11-12, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Revelation 14: 1-5)

He answered, "Not all can accept [this] word, but only those to whom that is granted. Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it." I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

Then I looked and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing water or a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. They were singing (what seemed to be) a new hymn before the throne, before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn this hymn except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been ransomed from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women; they are virgins and these are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been ransomed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb. On their lips no deceit has been found; they are unblemished.

On This Rock I Will Build My Church (Matthew 16: 1-4, 13-27)

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He said to them in reply, "(In the evening you say, 'Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red'; and, in the morning, 'Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times.) An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will

be given it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away. When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah. From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.

Do This in Memory of Me (Luke 22: 8-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

He sent out Peter and John, instructing them, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." They asked him, "Where do you want us to make the preparations?" And he answered them, "When you go into the city, a man will meet you carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters and say to the master of the house, 'The teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' He will show you a large upper room that is furnished. Make the preparations there." Then they went off and found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it (again) until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you (that) from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.

I Will Not Leave You Orphans (Matthew 28: 16-20)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the

Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

You Did Not Choose Me, but I Choose You (John 15: 14-21, 16:33)

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another. "If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me. "...I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Forgiving Sins (John 20:19-31)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Feed My Sheep (John 21: 9-19)

When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

Called By God (Hebrews 5:1-10; 2 Timothy 1: 4-14)

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, as I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that I am confident lives also in you. For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us.

To learn more about the Priesthood or Religious Life in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, please contact:

Office of Vocations for Priesthood and Religious Life

1700 San Jacinto

Houston, Texas 77002

713.652.8239

www.houstonvocations.com