



Understanding the Universal Call to Holiness

Simple guide for couples preparing for baptism of their children, focusing on the Universal Call to Holiness and pathways to sainthood:

1. What is the Universal Call to Holiness?

- Every person is called by God to live a life of holiness. This means growing closer to God, living out His love in everyday actions, and striving to become more like Jesus. It's not just for priests or nuns; it's for everyone.

2. Why is it Important for Your Family?

- By understanding this call, you'll be better equipped to guide your child in their spiritual journey. Baptism initiates your child into this call, making them part of the Church community and starting their path toward holiness.

Pathways to Sainthood

1. Vocation

- **What is a Vocation?**
 - A vocation is a special way God calls each person to live out their universal call to holiness. For some, this is through marriage, for others through priesthood or consecrated life.
- **Your Vocation as Parents**
 - Your vocation is to love and support each other in your marriage and to raise your child in the faith. Your marriage is a path to holiness, and your role as parents involves nurturing your child's spiritual growth.

2. Vocation of Your Child

o Potential Callings

- Your child's vocation may be to the priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage. While you can't decide this for them, you can support them by:
- Encouraging their spiritual development.
- Modeling a faith-filled life.
- Praying for their future and their vocation.

Practical Steps for Parents

1. Faith Formation

- o Start teaching your child about God's love and the teachings of the Church from an early age. Attend Mass together, pray as a family, and participate in parish activities.

2. Support and Encourage

- o Support your child's interests and spiritual growth. Encourage them to explore their faith and ask questions about their future calling.

3. Pray Together

- o Regularly pray for your child's spiritual journey and their future vocation. Ask God to guide them and help them discover and follow their call.

4. Be Role Models

- o Live out your own call to holiness through your actions and relationships. Show your child how to live a life of faith and love.

By understanding the Universal Call to Holiness and the different pathways to sainthood, you'll be better prepared to support your child's spiritual journey and help them grow into the person God created them to be.