

BEATITUDES FOR NURTURING CHURCH VOCATIONS IN THE FAMILY

Blessed are the children of parents who...

1. Witness love for their spouse, their children, their neighbor, and the world.
2. Talk freely about the presence of God in the joys and sorrows of their lives.
3. Remind their children that they are loved by God and have been given gifts to serve others.
4. Lead their family in prayer.
5. Speak positively about priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons.
6. Participate in the lay ministries and activities of their parish and community.
7. Invite a deacon, brother, sister or priest to their home.
8. Encourage their children to consider priesthood and religious life, as well as marriage.

*Adapted from National Religious
Vocation Conference*

PARENTS' PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious and loving God you have blessed us with the privilege of becoming Parents.

We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility.

We pray that we will be open to your spirit who is our source of strength as we witness to our children your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life.

We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our children to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others.

We pray, Heavenly Father, that our children will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained or consecrated life.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The fertile soil of vocations "FAMILY"



A guide for parents to nurture VOCATIONS

“Vocations come from families. When we think about the need for new priests and religious, we must think about which families are being called to share their children with the Church. This can be scary or daunting. The families of those called to priesthood and religious life are asked to sacrifice as well, but it is a beautiful and noble sacrifice. Dear parents, grandparents, and godparents, remember that God has your child in His heart. His will for your children is a gift and a joy – even if it is difficult. Answering that call is a blessing for the family as well, who get to see the Church and the movement of the Holy Spirit in a new and beautiful way. The faithfulness of a family who shares their child with the Church is a blessing that yields holy priests and religious women and men to serve God’s people. Thank you for your faithfulness in your service to God and to your children.”

Fr. Jonathan Felux

Director of Vocations and Seminarians

This pamphlet has been designed to give you some ideas to assist you in accomplishing your mission. These are only suggestions and hopefully will prove to be an aid to you as you continue in fulfilling your vocational call to marriage and parenthood.

FROM THE EARLIEST YEARS TO THE PRIMARY LEVEL:

- ◆ Help them to realize that prayer is a time to speak and listen to a loving God; let them see you pray.
- ◆ Show evidence of God’s love for your child, other people, and the beauty of creation.
- ◆ Pray as a family at meals and at bedtime, when you travel or have special needs.
- ◆ Read stories and talk about Jesus calling His Apostles to follow Him.
- ◆ Read and talk about Mary’s “yes” to God.
- ◆ Give your children an age appropriate bible and a book about the saints when they first receive the sacraments.
- ◆ Make a commitment for your child to receive religious education.

FROM INTERMEDIATE TO JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL:

- ◆ Talk about using talents to serve others.
- ◆ Pray as a family for vocations.
- ◆ Provide literature or media about people who have responded to God’s call to serve Him.
- ◆ Talk about the various roles the ministers in your parish provide.
- ◆ Engage in open and healthy conversations with your children about their hopes and dreams.
- ◆ Encourage them to participate in and contribute to parish and diocesan activities.
- ◆ Continue to keep family prayer as part of your daily life; invite your children to offer prayers.

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO YOUNG ADULT LEVEL:

- ◆ Encourage your high school student to pray, reflect and seek God’s desire for their lives.
- ◆ Discuss all options for your child’s future, including a life of service in Church ministry.
- ◆ Be honest and fair when you talk about vocations to the Church; there are sacrifices in every choice we make, just as there are also many rewards.
- ◆ Encourage your teens and young adults to participate in service projects offered by the parish or the archdiocese.
- ◆ If your teen or young adult has indicated an interest in the priesthood or religious life, encourage them to attend a Discernment Weekend, or to visit one of the many Religious Orders in the archdiocese. Ask your parish priest to bring them to an “Andrew Dinner” or similar activity. Help them to find a mentor, perhaps your parish priest or a religious in a community nearby. Have them contact the Vocation Office for assistance or visit the website for information. www.archsa.org/vocations
- ◆ If they are away at school, encourage them to get involved with the campus ministry.
- ◆ Continue to pray for your children daily, especially during these years when they are making important decisions about their future.
- ◆ Have the confidence that God knows what is best and that His love and guidance will never fail you or your child.



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