

# *How does/can a parish*

## **Pray for Priestly Vocations?**

How does/can a *parish Pray for Priestly Vocations*? Thank you for all your parish-based prayers for our single men and boys, that they listen to God's call to the seminary and priesthood. Jesus gave us our community of faith, the parish, to gather in worship and prayer. Ideas:

- Holy Mass is our greatest prayer. I ask that an intercession be included at *every Mass* in the diocese for Priestly Vocations, and for vocations to the religious life and matrimony.

- Holy Hours: some parishes have Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Consider dedicating one day a month or a week for more seminarians and priests. If a parish has certain hours of the week or month for Adoration, be sure to include prayers for Priestly Vocations. A parish may *begin* a weekly or monthly Holy Hour for this intention.

- Some parishes, for many years, have had a "traveling shrine/crucifix" for vocations, often with a notebook of prayers, for a family to take home for the week. The family returns the materials at a weekend Mass, and a different family picks up the materials. Consider adopting this wonderful prayer effort.

- Strengthen or begin a Vocation Prayer Group or Vocation Committee in the parish. Some parishes have had one for many years – what a blessing; thank you!

- Other councils, committees, youth groups, etc.: be sure to include a prayer for vocations at each meeting or gathering.

- We have CDs of the "Vocation Rosary" that our Vocation team developed a few years ago (track 1 in English, track 2 in Spanish). Call the chancery if you would like copies for the parish.

- Prayer support from folks in nursing homes, hospitals, or homes who often tell me "I feel like I cannot do anything for our Church anymore due to my illness/age." The Lord is calling you to a deeper prayer life, and participating in this Prayer for Priestly Vocations may be what He is asking of you now.

- I will begin visiting parishes, starting with the smallest, to have a Holy Hour on a Sunday evening to Pray for Priestly Vocations. Stay tuned ...

- Your ideas to assist the parish to participate in our Prayer for Priestly Vocations project?

- Future articles will focus on ways that a *family* can pray, and an *individual* can pray, for priestly vocations.

**"Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid'"** (Matthew 14:27). Let us gather as parishes to **Pray for Priestly Vocations**. Thank you for your dedication and

faithfulness. The Lord will bless us with many seminarians and future priests. Jesus loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

**+ Bishop John**