

The Vocation Chalice Program

Each weekend at Mass, volunteer parishioners will accept the responsibility of praying for vocations at home with their family. They are provided with the Vocation Chalice and prayers to use as a focal point and reminder. The priest will call the family to the altar after communion to receive the Chalice set aside for this purpose.

The family takes the Chalice home and displays it in a prominent place for all members to see during the coming week. At a special time each day, the family will come together to pray for and concentrate on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, explaining and prompting especially any younger children to hear and think about God's call to them.

The format for these family gatherings can vary as you see fit.

Suggested Format:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Topic to be discussed
3. Family discussion
4. Vocation Prayer
5. Closing Prayer

Families should remember to pray for all the priests, seminarians, and religious the family personally knows from your parish and the Archdiocese.

Opening Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We are all gathered here at this time to pray for vocations. We believe that this is the duty and responsibility of all the Catholic community to foster and pray for vocations. As part of our commitment to this responsibility let us pray together.

All: Amen.

(Parents and leaders should begin each session with this short prayer, but any prayer can be added or substituted)



Discussion Sessions

"We've prayed about vocations now let's talk about vocations."

Topics suggested for discussion are included in the following six-day home guide. Family leaders are asked to begin discussions on these topics or to substitute other topics that may be more appropriate to include the whole family into vocation discussions.

Although the Vocation Chalice Program offers an organized time of prayer for religious vocations, such prayer should never be limited. Every time you pass by the Chalice, say a prayer for vocations and reflect on your own.

Prayer for Priestly & Religious Vocations

Jesus, Good and Gentle Shepherd, grant that the young men and women from our parish may have the grace and the courage to hear and answer your call to the priesthood and religious life. Give them the wisdom to realize that life is a gift. Let them realize their life is part of your plan. Call forth those you have chosen to spread the gospel message, and help them to freely respond to a life of service in the church. May the parents and families of our parish support and encourage our young men and women to search for, follow and answer the call of God in their lives. Amen



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, come and bless this family with Your presence. You know who we are, and who You are calling us to become. Continue to reveal to us the vocation to which you are calling us and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, overshadow us with your love and grace to give us the courage to respond with generous hearts to Your Will, whatever it may be. We ask you to strengthen those whom You are calling to serve the Church as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, especially those in this very family so that they will find themselves overjoyed to give their lives completely to You. With Mary, we ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day One

Opening: Gather the family together with the Chalice clearly in everyone's sight. Together pray and ask the Father to send His Holy Spirit to all.

Family Discussion: Open at a level that suits the youth and adults present. **Why do we have a blessed Chalice here in our home? What does God want us to do? What is a Vocation?**

Closing: Conclude with a special prayer for vocations in our home and parish.



Day Two

Opening: The family gathers again for the vocation prayer in sight of the chalice.

Family Discussion: How do I know what God is calling me to do? Will God make a lot of noise to tell me what he wants me to be? Will prayer help me to know what God wants?

Closing: Point out priests and religious in the parish by name to pray for them and thank God for them.