

**Resources** **for Priests/Parishes**

**Sunday 7 May 2017 · Good Shepherd Sunday**

**& World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

**Holy Father Urges Adoration for Vocations**

“There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian

mission apart from constant contemplative prayer . .

above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship

with the Lord in Eucharist adoration, the privileged

place for our encounter with God.” (*Pope Francis’*

*Letter for 2017 World Day of Prayer for Vocations*)

Consider holding a special Holy Hour for Vocations in

your parish.

**Preaching on Vocations to Specific Audiences**

It can be effective to address the “audience within the

audience” during your homily. Here are some ideas:

**To children:** God has a plan for your life! Boys —

don’t be afraid if He calls you to be a priest! Girls —

don’t be afraid if He calls you to religious life! After

all, Jesus wants us to be happy, so trust His call!

**To teens and young adults:** If you are not praying, you

cannot hear God’s call—simple as that. Likewise, if you

haven’t investigated all the various vocations, how can

you truly discern? Don’t just assume marriage is your

vocation.

**To parents & grandparents:** Let your kids (and grand-

kids know how proud of them you would be if they

became a priest or a sister. Let them know these are

viable and acceptable options for their life.

**Homily Ideas** **| Sunday 7 May**

**First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36—41**

Summary: Peter preaches to the crowd on Pente-

cost, exhorting them to be baptized and receive the

Holy Spirit.

When Peter addresses the crowd “they were cut the heart.” Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to us through a moment of clar-ity deep in our heart. Many men who have been called to the priesthood or women called to reli-gious life have had this experience — during Mass, on a retreat, or at a youth event. The question is, how do you respond? Will you be like those in the crowd that day, who responded wholeheartedly to the call?

**Gospel: John 10:1—10**

Summary: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Those

who hear his voice follow him.

: To hear the Shepherd’s voice

requires quiet and prayer. Pope Saint John Paul II

said, “Young people, if they can be taught to pray,

can be trusted to know what to do with God’s call.”

Preach about prayer, methods of prayer, and the

importance of listening for God’s voice especially

when discerning the big decisions in life. All deci-

sions, especially our vocational calling, must be

discerned in the context of prayer. God has a spe-

cific vocation in mind for each of us and the only

way we can know God’s will is via prayer.

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

become priests. Let us pray to the Lord.

 For those in our parish called to profess vows of

 On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we

Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

 That the example of religious sisters and broth-

salvation for the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

 For all Catholics in the process of discerning

wisdom and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

 That God will call men from our own parish to

**Realistic Ways Priests Can Encourage Vocations**

From Fr. Brett Brannen, author of *To Save a Thousand*

*Souls: A Guide to Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priest-*

*hood*

• Every Thursday, the day Jesus instituted the Priesthood

at the Last Supper, I offer the votive Mass for priestly

vocations found in the Roman Missal. The people pray

with me specifically on that day for more priests.

• In my first parish, we used young men (18 to 25 or so) as

the Lord.

**For the Parish Bulletin PaBulletin:**

sacristans for the weekend Masses. Not only did this

greatly contribute to help with the liturgies, but it exposed

them to learning all about the Mass and gave them time

with the preists and all the lay ministers.

• When I visit a classroom to talk about vocations, I ask

the children, since they know one another so well, to tell

me who in their class they think would make a good

priest, brother, or sister. Amazingly, they always point to

one or two classmates. Rather than embarrass theose

students, I compliment them and invite them to pray

about this possibility.

• I will often ask a young man, “Do you want to be a

priest?” If he says no, I follow with: “If God asked you

to become a priest, would you do it then?” Almost eve-

ryone says yes. Then I tell the young man to pray and

ask the Lord: “Help me to want what you want for me.”

out the week.

• Encourage your children, grandchildren, or oth-

priest or religious brother or sister.

• Pray a rosary for more young men and women

 That teachers and youth ministers will encour-

 That parent will encourage their children to

• Pray for the priests who have ministered to you

Let us pray to the Lord.

 For the deceased clergy and religious who have

**2017 World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

Today the Church throughout the world prays for

throughout your life, both living and dead.

• Keep our priests in your prayers through-

pray that God will supply holy shepherds for the

ers will show for the Church as the sacrament of

their vocation, that the Holy Spirit give them

poverty, chastity, and obedience. Let us pray to

the Lord.

age children and teens to respond to God’s call

to be priests and religious. Let us pray to the

Lord.

consider the priesthood and consecrated life.

vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the

Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and reli-

gious life?

er young people to consider a vocation as a

in our diocese to respond to God’s call

served our parish, that the Good Shepherd will

welcome them with open arms. Let us pray to