

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 17, 2016

Pray for Vocations

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. At the hour our baptism we were given by God the great vocation to be a Christian, to walk in the light of our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta often spoke and wrote about the essential vocation of the Christian which is to love as Jesus loved: to love, even to the point of giving up one's own life. Thus, our vocation as Christians is to give witness to the love, mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ.

This vocation to love is made manifest in the Church in a variety of ways. Most people are called to be married and give witness to Jesus by loving their spouse and their children. Other men and women are called to serve Christ and His Church as priests, brothers or sisters. Some people remain single to fulfill a particular work in the Church that Christ has called them to do.

The Church needs all of these vocations to thrive and bring the Good News of Salvation to the world. Each of these vocations is a holy way of living out our common calling by Christ to walk in His light and in His truth. May all of us pray for those called to the holy vocations of marriage, the priesthood and the religious life for our diocese and the whole Church today and everyday of our lives.

A Prayer for Vocations

O Father, raise up among Christians abundant and holy vocations to the priesthood, who keep the faith alive and guard the blessed memory of Your Son Jesus, through the preaching of His word with which You continually renew Your faithful.

Grant us holy ministers of Your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Call ministers of Your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of Your forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy the numerous inspirations of the Spirit of Your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Sustain the bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

--Pope Benedict XVI

