

## **THE VOCATION CROSS PRAYER CIRCLE**

Many families have precious keepsakes that remind them of their past and also of their future. Over the past few years it has become common once again for religious symbols to be part of our Catholic homes. These precious symbols are reminders of who we are as Catholics and what we are called to be. The Vocation Cross Prayer Circle could be a wonderful instrument of prayer and devotion for our parish families. The Cross reminds each host family that it is their responsibility to pray for and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Vocation Cross is to be used in the same fashion as the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima. A family is asked to host the Vocation Cross for one week. Each evening as the family gathers for their family prayer at the convenient time, the Cross would be placed at the center of the table to be used as a reminder of their commitment to pray for vocations. Each parish can have its own cross - and it would travel from host family to host family. In this way at least one family is praying for the intention of an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This special intention would be focused for a generous response to the call to priesthood and religious life from your parish.

### Order of Prayer

1. All make the Sign of the Cross.
2. A reading from Holy Scripture is proclaimed by a member of the family.
3. Intercessions are prayed, and each family member may add their own intentions.
4. A closing prayer is said.
5. The Vocation Cross is then passed to each member of the family as a sign of the oneness of our prayer.

Every parish strives to strengthen its bonds by mutually sharing hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. This Vocation Cross Prayer Circle will become a parish tradition as we focus our parish prayer and family prayer on interceding for vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish families. The Vocation Cross will travel from home to home as a sign of our total parish commitment to praying for vocations.

## **Order of Prayer Vocation Cross**

**Leader:** In every age men and women are called from the community to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. For the needs of our own age that men and women from our parish will respond to God's call to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray:

**All:**       **In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Holy Scripture read by Leader:**

The harvest indeed is great, but laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest. (Luke 10:2)

### **Petitions led by Leader**

*Response: Send laborers into the harvest, Lord.*

- That priests and religious brothers and sisters will grow in the spirit of Jesus, we pray:
- For those who serve our parish as priests and religious, we pray:
- That men and women from this parish will hear God's call and find the grace and the courage to answer, we pray:
- For our own family intentions....

### **Vocation Prayer**

**All:** Lord, Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of our souls, you know your sheep and know how to reach our hearts, Open the minds and hearts of those young people who search for and await a word of truth for their lives. You who are the Word of the Father, the Word which creates and saves, the Word which enlightens and sustains, conquer with your Spirit the resistance and delays of indecisive hearts; Arouse in those whom you call the courage of love's answer: "Here I am, send me!"