

## Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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### What is a Vocation?

In the simplest terms, "vocation" means a "call." So, in general terms your vocation is what God calls you to do with your life.

Everybody is called by God to know, love and serve him. The difference is how each one does this.

Individual vocations vary between being single, married, consecrated, religious or a priest. However, we usually use "Vocation" to mean a call to the consecrated, religious or priestly life. That is what we do on this website, but the principles and much of the advice are also applicable to the married and the single life. .

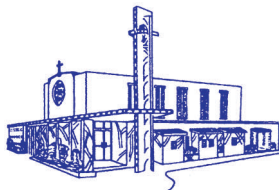
In the one life God gave you to live, you have one overriding purpose, to fulfill the will of God, because this is the key to your true destiny, eternal happiness.

God gives each one of us a particular mission in life. As we grow and life progresses, he makes it known to us, usually in indirect ways, more as an invitation than an imposition.

Discovering and ultimately following your vocation gives the greatest glory and praise to our Creator. It is what we were meant to do.

**"Take up your cross and follow me"**

*(Mark 8:34)*



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**CHURCH OF THE VISITACION**  
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## **“Pray to the owner of the harvest that He will send out workers to gather in His harvest.” (Mt: 9: 37-38)**

Our church and neighborhood have been blessed over the years with many such workers who have answered the call to gather in “His harvest.” It is the duty of the laity to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Every Sunday, one parish family who has volunteered for this ministry will be called forward at the 9:30 am Mass to receive the Vocation Cross and will commit themselves to pray for vocations, in the name of our parish, during the upcoming week.

They’ll pray for an increase in holy vocations, offering up prayers to the Lord for more men and women to generously respond to the call to the priesthood and consecrated life. They will also pray in thanksgiving for all those who generously share in Church ministry including our priests, deacons and religious sisters and brothers. Suggested prayers will be provided.

***For more information on how to participate, please contact Michael State at “mikestate1@yahoo.com” and/or 415 290-5747.***

### **What is a priest?**

A priest is a man who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which confers on him certain powers of Christ, principally the power to consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and the power to forgive sin in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. When he does these things he acts in the Person of Christ.

### **What is a diocesan priest?**

A diocesan priest is one who is called to serve souls in a particular diocese. The Bishop has been placed by Christ as the head of that diocese, and the diocesan priest serves in obedience to and collaboration with him, serving mostly in parishes. On a practical level you can say that the Church “runs” on diocesan priests serving in their parishes. They administer the sacraments, they are responsible for the instruction of their people, they are close to them in their lives and trials, they counsel, forgive and serve constantly, heroically, patiently.

### **What is religious life?**

The people who live religious life are called “Religious”. Religious seek to follow Christ more closely by publicly professing the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a recognized religious order, giving public witness of their consecration by wearing a religious habit, and they live in community.

There are religious orders or communities of men and of women. Women religious are nuns and male religious can be either priests or brothers. Religious communities often refer to themselves as “religious families”. Each has its own Founder and mission, and its own “family spirit” or spirituality. That is why if you are considering religious life it is necessary to get to know particular communities.

### **What is a religious priest?**

A religious priest is a member of a religious community who has received the Sacrament of Orders. He is under the authority of his own superiors, and he serves the local diocese through the works of his order or congregation located there. However he is not limited to serving in one diocese but can be assigned elsewhere by his superiors. Everywhere he serves he does so with the permission of the local bishop. Some religious priests serve in parishes, but the majority have more specialized apostolates, such as education, retreats, communications, etc.

### **What is lay consecrated life?**

Lay consecrated are people who consecrate themselves to God through promises of poverty, chastity and obedience, while still remaining lay people. They are usually associated with some group or Movement. As lay people they remain “in the world” and often exercise careers while giving a priority in their lives to prayer, witness and service.

### **What is a consecrated virgin?**

From the beginnings of the Church there have been those who felt the call to consecrate themselves exclusively to Christ in a private manner. In recent times there has been a revival of this vocation, by which a woman makes her private consecration in the presence of her bishop.

### **What is contemplative or monastic life?**

The contemplative dedicates much time to prayer each day, lives mostly in silence and also is dedicated to manual labor. There is a great tradition in the Church of both female and male monastic and contemplative life. Their hidden prayer and sacrifice is of major importance for the overall good of the Church.