

World Day of Prayer for Vocations Sunday

By the Diocesan Vocations Team

This week the Church celebrates a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As Christians, we all share a common vocation — to be followers of Jesus Christ. Each of us is called to act as Jesus in word and deed in our own daily life. Some choose to follow the call in the married life, others have a vocation to the single life, and still others to the religious life or the priesthood. Each of these vocations is important and necessary to the life of the Church. Each person is called by God and uniquely suited to a particular vocation. Our responsibility is to listen to the call within us and actively respond by making the choice.

On this Day of Prayer, let us pray that each of us may be faithful to our vocation. Let us also ask God's blessing on those who are in the process of making that decision. On this day the Church specifically asks that we pray for an increase in vocations to the religious life and priesthood. We hope that the information below will be helpful to you in your reflection, prayer and decision-making.

Prayer for Vocations

Father, help us to respond generously to the inspirations of your Spirit. Give to your Church for the world today, true disciples who will serve as priests, sisters and brothers, to draw all to God, to bring the Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to obtain new sight for the blind. We trust in your love and mercy, through Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Religious Communities of Women

Women religious dedicate their lives to God through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. As members of a religious congregation they live a life rooted in prayer, strengthened by community, and committed to loving service to others through a variety of ministries.

There are ten congregations of women religious represented in the Diocese of Rochester:

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Discalced Carmelites, Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, Filippini Sisters, Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of the Cenacle, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Sisters of St. Joseph.

Religious Communities of Men

A vowed religious man commits himself to God through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. He lives his life usually with other men of his own congregation in a local community. Each local community prays, takes meals and acts much like a family unit. There are both ordained religious men (priests) and non-ordained religious men (brothers). He can be involved in a variety of ministries.

There are 12 religious communities of priests and brothers represented in the diocese of Rochester. They are Basilian Fathers, Benedictines, Capuchin Fathers, Carmelite Fathers, Christian Brothers, Cistercians, Discalced Carmelite Fathers and Brothers, Franciscan Friars, Holy Cross Priests and Brothers, Redemptorist Fathers, Society of the Divine Word, and the Society of Jesus.

Diocesan Priesthood:

Priestly ministers proclaim the Word, celebrate liturgy and witness through pastoral service. Diocesan priests are generally ordained to serve in a particular diocese. Under obedience to the bishop, they usually live in a parish and function as celebrants of the sacraments. They strive to serve the needs of the people in their parish communities in whatever ways they are able.

Ministries:

Priests, Sisters and Brothers strive to serve the needs of the people of God. Because these needs are many and varied, the actual forms of ministry must also be varied. Some of the ministries presently being accomplished by the priests, Sisters and Brothers of the diocese of Rochester are: education, prayer, health care, pastoral ministry, administration, counseling, youth ministry, social services human development, prison ministry and spiritual direction/retreats.

If you have any questions about any of the above or if you would like more information on any of this, please contact Father Thomas Valenti, Diocesan Office of Vocations, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, (716) 328-3210.

This article was prepared by the diocesan Vocations Team of the Diocese of Rochester: Father Thomas Valenti, director; Sister Kathleen Weider, SSI; Sister Kathleen O'Connell, RSM; and Brother William Clifford, CSC.

