

## Vocations

**Vision:** Given that “the duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently” and that “this duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and, in a special way, priests, particularly pastors”, (Canon 233 §1); the vision of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be to create a vocations friendly environment at every level so that those who are called by God, especially vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life, may hear and respond.

### **Definition of Vocation:**

The word “vocation” comes from the Latin *vocare* which means “a calling.” The people of God, have received “new life “ through the Sacrament of Baptism; and as baptized members of the family of God, are imbued with a vocation, a calling to live a life of holiness, and to follow God according to His will and purpose. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines vocation as:

- *... the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (§§ 1, 358, 1700).*
- *The vocation of the laity consists in seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will (§ 898).*
- *Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. §§ 873; 931).*

**Goal 1:** To properly educate, direct and inspire the faithful of their duty and responsibility to foster vocations at home, in the parish, vicariate and the region by the implementation of a Pastoral Plan for Vocations

**Goal 2:** To create Parish Vocation Committees in every parish of the Archdiocese of Detroit to assist in the mission of fostering vocations.

**Goal 3:** To give priority to fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life at every level of the archdiocese.

### **TO RESPOND TO THIS VISION AND MEET THESE GOALS**

#### **It is recommended that Families and Individuals will:**

1. Become better educated to the meaning of vocation and to be open to following God's will for their lives.
2. Pray for an increase in Church vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life.
3. Participate in vocation awareness events or programs offered at the parish, vicariate, regional or archdiocesan level.

#### **It is recommended that the Parishes will:**

1. Through the Pastor's leadership and example provide an environment that is supportive, and encouraging of Church vocations.

2. Study and implement *Do Whatever He Tells You*, a Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations.
3. Form a Vocation Committee
4. Start a campaign of prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
5. Consider hosting a Holy Hour or Mass for vocations at least once during the year.
6. Send representatives to attend vocations events at the vicariate, regional or archdiocesan level.
7. Identify those among them who may have a special calling to follow Christ into the priesthood and religious life and invite them to attend a discernment event or program.
8. Ensure a vocations component is included in the school and religious education curriculum and provide materials for vocation awareness to students and families.
9. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and religious communities present in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

**It is recommended that the Region/Vicariate will:**

1. Collaborate with the Director of Priestly Vocations and the Vocation Regional Coordinators in support of vocation initiatives.
2. Host a vocations event at least once a year and encourage every parish in that region or vicariate to participate in the planning.
3. If more efficient; form a vicariate vocation committee to assist with the mission of fostering vocations.
4. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and communities of religious present in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

**It is recommended that the Archdiocese will:**

1. Encourage pastors and pastoral councils to implement the Pastoral Plan for Vocations.
2. In collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, provide materials to parishes to promote vocational awareness.
3. Promote vocation endeavors sponsored by the Office of Priestly Vocations and communities of religious present in the Archdiocese of Detroit by whatever communication means are available.
4. Through the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools in collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, ensure that vocational awareness is part of the curriculum of the schools, religious education programs and adult faith formation programs.

**It is recommended that the Archbishop will:**

1. In compliance with Canon 385, the Archbishop “will as much as possible”...“foster vocations to different ministries and to consecrated life, with special care shown for priestly and missionary vocations.”
2. Direct pastors to study and implement *Do Whatever He Tells You*, the Pastoral Plan for Vocational Awareness, provided by the Office of Priestly Vocations.
3. Direct the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools, in collaboration with the Office of Priestly Vocations, to actively support vocation endeavors in the archdiocese by whatever means is available.
4. Direct a campaign of prayer throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit for an increase in Church Vocations, especially during National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day for Consecrated Life; World Day of Prayer for Vocations; and whenever a Discernment Overnight or Weekend is occurring.