

What can your parish do? for National Vocations Awareness Week

- Make vocations the theme of R.E. classes. Write or email for lesson plans.
- Beginning in January and perhaps continuing throughout the year, include in the weekly bulletin a reflection from *Vocation Views* booklet that was distributed in November.
- Create a vocations bulletin board/parish hall display celebrating those in church vocations who have served the parish in years past. Use photos, articles, accolades.
- *Make sure the diocesan vocations poster is displayed prominently. Write for more copies, if needed.
- Invite priests, religious to visit R.E. classes to speak and answer questions
- Invite priests, religious to join young adult group or campus ministry group for a coffee hour.
- *Hold a contest in which young people design posters or bumper stickers promoting vocations on their terms.
- *Include special petitions for vocations in the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Sign up with the Office of Vocations (vvanderheijden@richmonddiocese.org) to have a seminarian preach at Masses and visit R.E. classes.
- Include bulletin inserts from Catholic Update. Go to <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU.asp> to order.
- *Offer a Holy Hour for Vocations. Write for a sample liturgy.
- *Include in Sunday's Mass a Rite of Recommitment for all who are living their vocation to participate. Perhaps arrange for specific people to stand before the congregation to represent each vocation. Include all of the following as possible: priest, sister, brother, married couple, single person, lay minister. Write for a suggested rite.

- *Encourage individuals and prayer groups to pray privately for vocations. Make available resources to guide them. Suggestions for prayer services are available in the NCCV resource *A Future Full of Hope* reviewed in a previous mailing. Also, the Rogationist Fathers have many resources to order including "Praying the Rosary for Vocations" and "the Way of the Cross" for vocations. These resources are published in English and Spanish. magazinvoc@aol.com
- Invite families to create cards in support of our diocesan seminarians and priests. Announce for several weeks before the scheduled Mass that cards will be collected in stamped envelopes and sent en masse. At the scheduled liturgy, invite congregation to put their cards in special collection baskets and have the cards brought forward with the other gifts.

Please note, most of these ideas are appropriate for any time, and could be developed into events/programs that are implemented at several times over the course of the year.

Please contact us at the Office for Vocations with any questions, comments, or requests for help in obtaining any resources mentioned above:

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