

Prayers for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

For Those Who Have Been Called:

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve our parish as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth. Amen



For Those Who are Discerning:

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me. Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place by serving as a lay minister, sister, priest, brother or deacon. Amen.

For Openness to Vocations

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Diocese of Evansville. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence. Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith. Amen.



Prayer Day

Holy Hour on the
10th Day of Each Month

What is a Vocation?

A vocation is a calling from God. It is our own unique way of responding to God's invitation to happiness. God wants us to be happy and fulfilled and at peace.

There are four possible vocations:

1. Married Life
2. Single Life
3. Religious Life
4. Ordained Life

Spend your Holy Hour at church or at home. We suggest you divide your Holy Hour into two 30 minute periods of time. Spend 30 minutes to focus on the different vocations and 30 minutes on praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Take sufficient time to reflect on the purpose of each period of time.

Start your Holy Hour with our *Vocation Day Prayer* written especially for our parishes by our seminarians at Bishop Brute' College Seminary.

Vocation Day of Prayer

Almighty Father,
You call each of us to serve you in our own way. May the grace you offer open our hearts to your plan, and may we be obedient to your call. Following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and with the help of her prayers, guide our lives according to your will as we follow the path you have laid out for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Marriage and Family

Focus: In family life, children learn from their parents how to love and follow Christ. Marriage is a vocation which encourages generosity and openness to the will of God in all Vocations.

Single Life

Focus: For many people, as it was with Jesus, the single life is their true calling. It enables them to use their gifts and talents freely for the service of God's Kingdom.

Priesthood

Focus: As a representative of Christ, the Head, priests gather the community and keep it united. He leads the community in prayer, especially the sacraments, and helps to form the community he serves as a body of true disciples, dedicated to the teaching and work of Christ.

Diaconate

Focus: Deacons remind all of us that humble service is a true hallmark of someone who professes to follow Jesus. They are ordained members of the Church and have a proper liturgical role. But more importantly, they are asked to give witness through married life, through their presence in the work place and through involvement in the civic community.

Religious Sisters

Focus: God calls some women in the Church to consecrate themselves to the Kingdom of God in a vowed way. They carry out this calling by embracing community life and renouncing material possessions, and by engaging in apostolic works or contemplative prayer.

Religious Brothers

Focus: Brothers are men who accept a way of life similar to women called to religious life. They belong to communities like the Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, or Marianists.

Lay Ministers

Focus: God calls all Christians to find appropriate ways to live out their baptism. Some lay persons feel the desire, and the gifts, to devote themselves to significant roles of leadership and ministry in the life of the Church. Many parishes today depend on the service of catechetical leaders, pastoral associates, etc.