



A special note:

- For more information on any of the other activities of the Vocations office, give us a call or return the reply card form below (both sides).
- If you know of someone that would like to receive this newsletter, please inform us.
- May these events and messages help you to hear God's call to follow Him.

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**Prayer for Vocations**

Lord, God, we praise and bless your holy name. We ask that you give the Church of New Ulm holy priests, dedicated women and men religious, selfless deacons and zealous missionaries. Inspire in the hearts of our youth a spirit of generosity to commit their lives to the message and ministry of Jesus, your son. We ask all this through Him who lives and reigns as Our Lord, forever and ever. Amen. Mary, mother of the Church, pray for us.

## A Message from Fr. Todd

The harvest is ready, laborers are few... This line, more than any other, captures the season. I see our farmers out in the fields, bringing in the harvest, God's gift to them and to us. They work hard lest the weather turn and the crops be lost. There is an urgency in the harvest. There is no less urgency in Jesus' plea. The harvest of souls is ready, and if some one does not reach them, they will be lost. Ask, beg, the Master of the Harvest to send laborers for the harvest. But we need to ask ourselves, too, how am I called to cooperate in the Fields of the Lord?

Just last month, we witnessed a great event in our Diocese as Bishop LeVoir was ordained. As I

participated in the Ordination (my first attendance at a Bishop's ordination, the realization of the Diocesan reality can into a sharper focus. As a priest, I only share in the ministry of the Bishop. My direction and activity comes from him, not only as a priest and pastor, but most especially as the Director of Vocations. It is a unique relationship that is not seen in any other setting. As the chief shepherd, the Bishop is more than the boss. I personally look forward to working with Bishop LeVoir and assisting him in calling forth laborers for the Lord as priests.

**Welcome Bishop John LeVoir:** In July, His Holiness Pope Benedict the XVI appointed Bishop-Elect John LeVoir as our fourth bishop of New Ulm. He was at that time the Pastor of St. Mary's and St. Michael's in Stillwater, MN, and is a native of Minneapolis. Bishop LeVoir was ordained on September 15, 2008, with about 2500 in attendance. It was a truly spectacular liturgy, attending by a good number of bishops and easily 150 priests from the Diocese of New Ulm, the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis and other dioceses. Archbishop Nienstedt was the principle Consecrator, with Bishop Peter Christensen of Superior and Bishop Fredrick Campbell of Columbus as co-consecrators. Please continue to keep Bishop LeVoir in your prayers.

**Operation Andrew Dinners:** As in past years, we are offering three Operation Andrew Dinners. These are events held to invite young men who are discerning to come to a supper with the Bishop, to pray together, and to hear a message about priesthood and discernment. The dates and locations are as follows, all beginning at 6 pm, ending around 8.

October 29, 2008 at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye

November 19, 2008 at Dawson/Madison/Appleton (TBA)

December 1, 2008 at St. Philips' in Litchfield

This year, we will have Bishop LeVoir share his thoughts and story with us, so it would be a great way to meet him. Also, we are working on a brief presentation on discernment – the practical steps of how to discern God's will. Please contact me or you pastor to RSVP or for more information.

**Prayer and Fasting:**

Please continue to offer prayers, abstinence from meat on Fridays, and fasting for vocations.

For more information on prayer, please fill out this form!>>>

Clip and Return to the Vocations Office:

I would like more information about:

\_\_\_\_\_ Upcoming Operation Andrew Dinners

\_\_\_\_\_ Trip to SJV/Seminary Visits

\_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Vocations Events/discernment materials

\_\_\_\_\_ A call to priesthood/religious life

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send this newsletter to the following people (Sheet enclosed)

## Vocations View

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## Speak, Lord, ...

### The Vocations Office...

The purpose of the Vocations Office of the Diocese of New Ulm is to provide vocations resources and raise vocations' awareness within the Diocese. If you want to talk to someone about how God is calling you to give your life to the Church, please contact us. Fill out the Reply card below (both sides) to receive more information on these opportunities or resources, or to no longer receive this newsletter.

## Seminary Visits:

As we did last year, the Catholic High Schools of the Diocese and the Vocations Office are arranging visits to St. John Vianney and various religious houses in the Cities. If interested, contact Fr. Craig and watch this newsletter, your bulletins, and the Prairie Catholic for more information.

## Vianney Visits:

The Seminarians and staff of St. John Vianney College Seminary will host a 'Vianney Visit' on November 20-22, 2008 and February 12-14, 2009. Any young men (High School Sophomore or older) who are interested are encouraged to attend. Fr. Todd Petersen and Fr. Craig Timmerman will make travel arrangements. St. John Vianney Seminary (SJV) is located on the beautiful campus of the University of St. Thomas. The Visit is intended for young men who are interested in learning more about the seminary or priesthood to see what SJV is about. In addition to meeting the men who are studying there and discerning their own calls to ordination, the guests will have an opportunity to attend Mass and pray, go to some of the UST classes, and tour the city of St. Paul. Past participants have enjoyed the visit, saying that it helped them to make a decision to answer God's call to further discernment.

**Website:** Watch our website ([www.ourmib.org](http://www.ourmib.org)) for revisions. If you have questions that you think the site should cover, email Fr. Todd. We apologize for our delays.

**Blogs:** Check out my blog at [frtodd.blogspot.com](http://frtodd.blogspot.com) or the blog set up for our seminarians at [www.ourmib.blogspot.com](http://www.ourmib.blogspot.com). On my blog, I provide a reflection on the Sunday readings, as well as commentary on vocations-themed news events or Catholic culture. You can also subscribe to have the articles emailed to you through Feedburner.

**Prayer Cards:** We have various vocations-themed prayer cards available in our office. Contact us for supplies!

## 10 Hints for Parents to Help Develop a Vocation

- 1. Develop your relationship with Christ and impart a desire for discipleship** in the lives of your children. Especially important would be participating in Eucharistic Adoration and even if possible daily Mass. Silence is necessary for growth (both your own and for your child), and in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we are profoundly touched by His loving embrace. In frequent reception of the Eucharist, we grow in grace and freedom.
- 2. Live your vocation to marriage out as fully as you can.** By responding to your vocation to marriage, asking for the fullness of grace that God offers, you will model to your children how to live and respond to God's grace.
- 3. Speak of the holy and influential priests and religious in your life.** Sharing these stories helps to show the impact a religious life can have.
- 4. Provide opportunities for your children to speak with priests and religious.** Invite them to your house, or let your children interact with them after Mass or at various functions. Your children will see them as human beings and begin to ask if God might be calling them, too.
- 5. Pray for your children's vocations,** that they may understand their call, and place them in the care of the Blessed Mother, through praying the rosary as a family. By placing your children's vocations to her maternal protection, she will lead them to Christ.
- 6. Speak of your children responding to whatever vocation they have,** showing your support of them without pushing them. Be aware that the vocation comes from God, and that their free response will lead them to lasting happiness. Parents walk a fine line between showing support and forcing a response. Let your children know you are pleased by their response to God's call.
- 7. Instill in your children a desire to serve and a proper understanding of stewardship.** This can be done through your 'open' service and stewardship. Let your children see your joy-filled gift of self, and help them to find opportunities to do likewise.
- 8. Inspire a heroic life of virtue** in your child by reading to them or with them about the lives of the saints and encouraging moral choices.
- 9. Help your child develop a wide range of activities** and discern what gives them joy and what their talents are. By knowing their talents and gifts, your child may be able to know what God desires. There are certain skills that are useful in any lifestyle and vocation, and by learning to place these in the service of God, your child will more readily be able to cultivate other 'specialized' gifts that will lead to discerning God's will.
- 10. Develop a sense of the sacred and transcendent** in your child. Great art, literature, and music can inspire us and teach us of the human condition.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove my Name from your Mailing list: \_\_\_\_\_