



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. Craig

How do you make discernment REAL? We know where to start when discerning 'what to wear?' - I open my closet. Or 'what to eat?' - I open the fridge. Or 'where to go to escape the snow and blizzards?' - I open Expedia.com. But when discernment is about something as huge and unknown as 'the rest of my life', it can be very hard to even know where to start.

Actually, the answer is much simpler than we think. If I am thinking about a certain career, I find a college that has that major and I go tour it. I see if I like the campus, the professors and students there. This makes my discernment REAL. I see it. I walk around it. I talk to students there. Of course, this doesn't mean I'll GO to that college - only if I like it. Well - let's take the same thing in terms of

vocation. If I am considering the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood, what should I do? First, talk to a good priest. Ask him about his life. Tell him what you are thinking and feeling. By watching him, you can see if you might like this life. Secondly, just like visiting a college, visit the seminary! This is where the 'major' for priesthood begins. Talk to the seminarians. See it. Walk around it. Stay overnight. This makes your discernment REAL. Of course, this doesn't mean you'll GO there yet - only if it feels right. Kinda like touring a college. Going on the Vianney Visit is not is not life threatening, and actually is quite fun, really. I love showing off our seminarians. They are some of the best guys I've ever met. Go visit. Take discernment out of your head - and make it REAL.

### Vianney Visits:

The Seminarians and staff of St. John Vianney College Seminary will host a 'Vianney Visit' on February 12-14, 2009. Any young men (High School Sophomore or older) who are interested are encouraged to attend. Fr. Todd Petersen 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.

### 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.

**Note Well: If you wish to not receive this news letter, let us know through the following form, or through email.:**

### 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:

- Trip to SJV/Seminary Visits  
 Prayer Resources  
 Other Vocations Events/discernment materials  
 A call to priesthood/religious life  
 Upcoming Operation Andrew Dinners  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remove from mailing list**

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

## Vocations View

### OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

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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.

### Website:

Watch our website (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 or the blog set up for our seminarians at 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!

## Operation Andrew Dinners:

This year, the Office of Vocations hosted 3 Operation Andrew Dinners. Altogether, 83 young men attended the dinners (one parish had their entire RE boys attend)! Bishop LeVoir shared his own story of being called to be our Bishop, and Butch Hendrickson gave a reflection on discernment as well as ended with a beautiful prayer song on asking the Lord to let us know Him. We were privileged to have a married couple attend one of the dinners. After 68 years of marriage, they are great witnesses of that Sacrament! Please watch your bulletins, the Prairie Catholic, or this newsletter for the event this coming Fall.



Every human being has a vocation, and it must be discerned with PRAYER:

Pray, attend Mass, and receive  
Reconciliation  
Reflection on Scripture/Church teaching  
Ask trusted people for their  
advice/guidance  
Your gifts and talents listed  
Entrust these gifts, and yourself, to God  
Respond to God's will

**The next time you think you  
have an excuse why God can't  
use you, remember the following  
people:**

Noah was drunk.  
Abraham was too old,  
Isaac was a daydreamer.  
Jacob was a liar,  
Leah was ugly.  
Joseph was abused,  
Moses was a murderer (like David and Paul).  
Deborah was a woman,  
Gideon was afraid,  
Samson had long hair.  
Rahab was a prostitute,  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young,  
David pretended to be mad. had an affair &  
ran away from his own son,  
Elijah was suicidal.  
Isaiah preached naked,  
Jonah ran away from God,  
Naomi was a widow,  
Job was bankrupt,  
John the Baptist ate locusts,  
Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered.  
John was self-righteous,  
the disciples fell asleep while praying,  
Martha worried about everything.  
Mary was so Jesus minded she was no  
earthly good,  
Mary Magdalene was demon-possessed,  
the boy with the fish and five rolls of bread  
was too unknown (and still is),  
the Samaritan woman was divorced - more  
than once,  
Zacchaeus was too small,  
Paul was too religious.  
Timothy had a stomach ulcer.  
And Lazarus was dead.

*Author Unknown*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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