



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.

Speak, Lord, ...

A Message from Fr. Todd

Every New Year's Day brings us the joy of celebrating the Motherhood of Mary, on the eighth day of Christmas. It harkens to the feast of the Annunciation, in addition to the Immaculate conception, all feasts so interconnected. As members of the Diocese of New Ulm, we are placed under the patronage of the Blessed Mother, Mother of God. In the Gospel of St. Luke, he records the revelation of God's plan for the Blessed Virgin through the message of Gabriel. There must have been some wondering in her heart, and she pondered what the angel meant that she was full of grace. As the immaculately conceived, God had poured the fullness of His love and grace, and the salvation gained only by Christ's death and resurrection, onto her from those first moments of her life. She was to be the mother of the savior, and in saying yes, she was ultimately saying yes to

her very self. While she had committed herself to virginity, she was also to become a mother through the power of the Holy Spirit. She responds, as recorded, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word." In Latin, this phrase, "let it be done" is *Fiat*, in Greek, it is *genoito*, and in Hebrew, it would be *Amen*. This is a verb, and in Greek, it is reflexive, meaning that she will allow the action to occur, influencing her, and she will cooperate in such an action. She is the servant of the Lord, already saved by a singular act of grace, but in need of the Savior all the same. She accepts the vocation, the word of God given through the angel, and submits herself to Him. May our Amens do the same, following our Patroness!

Vianney Visits

The Spring Vianney Visit is February 11-13! As we have in the past, we will be arrange transportation to the Vianney Visits at St. John Vianney College Seminary, the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Fr. Todd. They are great ways to not only see the campus of the University of St. Thomas, but to experience the college seminary, meet the seminarians, and to especially speak with our own seminarians. If you are interested, contact Fr. Todd.

Operation Andrew Dinners

As in the past, the Office of Vocations hosted 3 Operation Andrew Dinners. The dates were October 28 at Sts. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe, November 11 at the Cathedral, and November 30 at Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer. All together, we had 59 youth attend these suppers. The evenings included a little talk from Deacon Zach Peterson, a priest (which varied in the dinners), and Bishop LeVoir. During this Year for Priests, it seemed especially fitting to have one from each Order speak!

Note Well: If you wish to not receive this news letter, let us know through the following form, or through email (to frtodd@mac.com):

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
 Vocations Events/Prayer/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

Diocese of New Ulm
1400 6th Street North
New Ulm, MN 56073

OFFICE PHONE:
507 359-2966

WEBSITE:
WWW.OURMIB.ORG

BLOG SITE:
FRTODD.BLOGSPOT.COM
OURMIB.BLOGSPOT.COM

E-MAIL:
FrTodd@Mac.com
FatherCraig@gmail.com

LOOK FOR US ON
FACEBOOK!

FR. TODD'S PHONE:
CELL: 507 227-2657

FR. CRAIG'S PHONE:
HOME: 507 223-7304

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.

Discernment Retreat with Bishop LeVoir and Seminarians

Last summer, we offered a day retreat regarding discernment. We will be offering a similar retreat again, so watch this Newsletter May edition for a date!

Website: Watch our website (www.ourmib.org) for revisions. Hopefully in the next months, we will be fully online. We apologize for our continuing delays.

Blogs: Check out Fr. Todd's blog at frtodd.blogspot.com or the blog set up for our seminarians at www.ourmib.blogspot.com. On Fr. Todd's blog, he provides a reflection based 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! We will be getting the Vocations Prayer cards reprinted, as well as the Mediations on Luminous Mysteries.

Vocations Posters: We will soon be releasing a new Vocations Poster. Keep an eye out!

Parents Guide For Vocations

A new Resource has been developed! A guidebook for parents, especially for those whose sons or daughters may be discerning a vocation, is in the final form. Much of what is on our upcoming website is incorporated into the booklet, and it also includes material written directly to parents, address questions and fears that they may have. Eventually, it is hoped that this document would be expanded, and printed in a more 'friendly' form such as a spiral bound book.

If you are interested in a copy (currently a computer document or photocopied), please contact him through email (frtodd@mac.com) - put "Parents' Guide" in the subject line!

Seminary/Mother House Visits:

As we did these last years, the Catholic High Schools of the Diocese and the Vocations Office are arranging visits to St. John Vianney and various religious houses (for the young women) in the Cities. Please keep the students in prayer. If you would be interested in visiting, contact us!

A Vocations Prayer:

Almighty and eternal God,
in your unfailing love you provide
ministers for your Church.

We pray for those whom you call
to serve the Church of New Ulm 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 the Christ,
we may announce glad tidings to the poor
proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free
and renew the face of the earth.

O God, Father of all Mercies,
Provider of a bountiful harvest,
send Your Graces upon those

You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor;
preserve and strengthen them in their life-long
service of you.

Open the hearts of Your children
that they may discern Your Holy Will;
inspire in them a love and desire
to surrender themselves to serving others
in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.

Teach all Your faithful
to follow their respective paths in life
guided by Your Divine Word and Truth.

Through the intercession
of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,
all the Angels, and Saints,
humbly hear our prayers
and grant Your Church's needs,
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A simple Bedtime Vocations Prayer:

Lord, where have I seen you present this day?
Lord, where have I served you this day?
Help me to see you tomorrow,
to serve you in everyone I meet,
to know your will for my life,
and to respond to your grace. Amen.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parish you attend: _____

Please remove my Name from your Mailing list: _____