



## AVE MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

### VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Vocations Committee Mission Statement

To create an environment in order to promote, identify, and assist individuals in discerning their baptismal call to holiness, as is lived out, through the vocation of the priesthood, diaconate, religious (brothers and sisters), married, and single life. To support the clergy and religious through prayer and inspire the parish community in fulfilling its mission to foster vocations in the Church.

#### Vocations Committee Responsibilities, Goals, and Objectives:

As noted the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “**Vocation** is the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (1, 358, 1700). Christ calls the faithful to the perfection of holiness (825). The vocation of the laity consists in seeking the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will (898). Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation (873, 931).”

#### 1. Responsibilities of Vocations Committee Members:

##### a. Individual Responsibilities of Vocations Committee Members:

- (1) To pray daily for increased vocations;
- (2) To become aware of the various ministries of the Catholic Church, particularly the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life;

- (3) To offer support and encouragement to priests, deacons, seminarians, and religious within the parish;
- (4) To provide example through personal Christian family life as a means of encouraging vocations;
- (5) To accept and carry out assigned tasks and to report on the progress of work or tasks assigned. Tasks may include working with other parish committees, to include (but not limited to):
  - Parish Council
  - Liturgy Committee
  - Knights of Columbus
  - Spiritual Renewal Groups
  - Altar Servers
  - Scouting organizations
  - School/Teacher/Parent/Student Associations or Committees
  - Rosary Prayer Groups
  - Youth Groups/Organizations

b. Committee Activities, Goals, and Objectives:

- (1) To encourage parishioners to pray for, learn about, support, and recruit vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.
- (2) To provide opportunities to develop and promote vocation awareness through the various existing parish structures.
- (3) Sponsor a vocation discernment night for the parish youth; invite young people to have dinner with the parish priest to discuss vocations, etc.
- (4) Sponsor a Vocations Program, such as “Called by Name”. Identify persons in the parish who have potential vocations and ask them for approval to send their names, addresses, and contact telephone numbers to the diocese’s Vocation Director.
- (5) Encourage parish Prayer for Vocations.
- (6) Sponsor a parent night and discuss vocations and invite the diocesan vocation director and/or bishop.
- (7) Invite individual men and women to consider the priesthood, diaconate, and/or religious life.

- (8) Encourage the parish priests to preach on vocations; celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations; and Vocations Awareness Week; celebrate with the parish a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament (Eucharistic Adoration) for Vocations; etc.
- (9) Host a Vocations Fair and promote and publicize Vocations Retreats and other vocation office-related activities.
  - (a) Invite priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and/or religious in formation to speak about their vocations after parish Masses, retreats, missions, etc.
  - (b) Visit a seminary with interested men (and their parents) (coordinated with/through the pastor and diocese vocation director).
  - (c) Visit a religious community with interested men and women (and their parents) (coordinated with/through the pastor and diocese vocation director).
- (10) Work with the parish's children and youth minister, DRE, and school to develop special programs, presentations, or discussions on vocations.
- (11) Coordinate with the Parish Liturgist to incorporate Vocations in the Prayer of the Faithful and to have the assembly pray the parish's Prayer for Vocations, at least once a month.
- (12) Collaborate with the local Serra Club on vocation outreach opportunities.
- (13) Create an "Adopt a Seminarian Program" for parish groups/committees, individual parishioners, and families to "adopt" a seminarian to pray for.
- (14) Create a vocations corner in the parish (e.g., bulletin board, bulletin, etc). Keep the material up-to-date and current. Supply it with posters, prayers, and pertinent information related to vocations.
- (15) Celebrate ordination anniversaries, feast days, and birthdays of priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and people in religious formation who participate in parish activities.
- (16) Maintain a Vocations section on the parish's website, which include "contact information" for seminarians and religious life in the formation process, to enable parishioners to send them messages, cards, and/or letters of encouragement, thank you's, etc.

(SR: "Future Full of Hope: A National Strategy for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in the Dioceses and Archdioceses of the United States", USCCB Bishops' Committee on Vocations, @1996.)