



Fort Worth Serra Club

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
APRIL 21, 2024

TO: All Parishes, Catholic Schools, Catechists, Teachers,
FROM: VP Vocations Patty Bransford, phb76111@yahoo.com
DATE: March 18, 2024
RE: World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Dear Catechists and Teachers,

On this 61st anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also liturgically known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we are invited to pray for and promote all vocations. The purpose of this day – April 21, 2024 - is to help all of us respond to God's call and to support in prayer all those who are discerning how to best respond to the needs of today in the vocation God calls them to be.

It is a great opportunity to promote vocations among young people and to encourage our young church to begin today to pray for their future vocation.

The Office of Vocations for the Fort Worth Diocese and the Serra Club thank you for all you are doing to teach the Catholic faith to our young people and to inspire in them the desire to follow Christ more closely. In today's world, you often are the first ones to remind our youth that each of us has a unique call to help build God's Kingdom.

We ask that you take some time to talk to your young people about the call to priesthood, religious life and the holiness found in the vocations of marriage and single life.

Should your religion text series not have a chapter on vocations, please feel free throughout World Day of Prayer for Vocations to highlight the call to follow God in the way that best uses our gifts and talents. I have provided some links/resources below to help in that endeavor.

Above all else, please encourage our young people to pray daily, asking the Spirit to guide them in becoming followers of Jesus in all they do, both now and in the future. Thank you again for following your calling to be teachers of faith and love in Christ's Name.

In the joy of the Lord,

Fort Worth Serra Club
Patty Bransford

Children's Vocation Prayer to say in class with your students or print and post around the hall and classrooms.

I glorify You, God, in all that I do.

In mind, body, and spirit I give my best to You.

Help me to follow your will no matter the call: Sister, brother, or priest, I promise my all.

If you call me to marriage, I promise to love, and to teach my own children to seek grace from above.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Loving Father, thank you for making me .I trust that you want my happiness, and that you have a plan for my life. Open my heart to your plan, and through the Holy Spirit give my courage to follow your son Jesus wherever he leads me. I want to love you and give you glory and build up your kingdom. Jesus I trust in you. Amen

Bulletin Board

Every school and almost every classroom has a bulletin board or two where vital information or inspirational materials are displayed. These locations can get hundreds of 'views' during a typical week. Place materials here that promote holiness and bring vocation awareness to students.

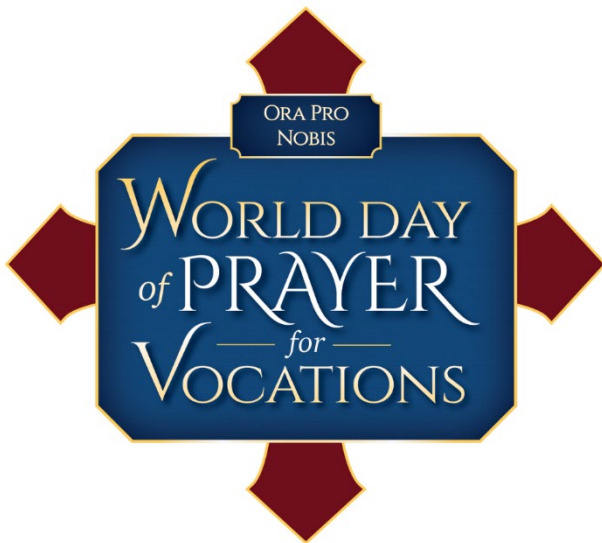
Ten Things You Can Do as a Catechist/Teacher

1. **Develop vocation-oriented projects.** Have students work on projects with vocation themes. This can be done through poster contests, creative writing, photography, interviews and a variety of other activities. This will also encourage student interaction with sisters, brothers and priests and lead to a deeper understanding of religious and priestly vocations.
2. **Encourage service.** Serving the Lord by loving our neighbor is an idea that is central to our faith. There are numerous ways that this service can be lived out. Have someone speak to your students about the opportunities to serve that exist in the parish. Service to others is one way that we can best imitate Jesus.
3. **Compose a vocation prayer.** Have the students write a prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life that they can say each day. When the class meets, pray together one of the prayers the children have written. If some are particularly good, share them with the Diocesan Office of Vocations.
4. **Discuss modern day heroes in the church.** Young people need to see that the church is alive, and that serving as a priest or religious is not something people only did in the past. Identify all the wonderful people serving in the church today. Let students dream about what it might be like in the future.
5. **Suggest reading material.** Create a reading list of spiritual books that students can read for class or on their own. Books that have short readings or prayers for each day will probably be the most appealing. Ask them to read about how a particular saint realized their vocation.
6. **Explore scripture.** The classroom setting is the perfect place to spend time reading and reflecting on the way vocation is presented in scripture. Consider the different ways those in scripture stories are called to their vocation and how they respond to that call.
7. **Provide a list of vocation websites.** The appeal of the internet to young people cannot be ignored. Providing them with the addresses of religious and vocation-oriented websites can create

an interest and keep them away from the more inappropriate sites. The Diocesan Office of Vocations will gladly share this information with you.

8. **Show support for seminarians.** Have an ongoing project in your class to “sponsor a seminarian.” Students will write letters and promise to pray for a particular seminarian. They can write their own prayer and make prayer cards. Attend the ordination ceremony on May 18 at St. Patrick Cathedral with your class.
9. **Invite a priest or religious speak to your class.** Having priests and religious share their stories about how they came to their particular vocation is a great way to spend a class period. Leave some time for discussion so that the students can air some of their thoughts and ask questions about religious and priestly vocations.
10. **Pray.** Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. Make a commitment to pray for this intention as a class. Also, consider praying for a particular priest or religious in your parish.

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Helpful Links

Diocese of Fort Worth Office of Vocations <https://fwdioc.org/vocations>

Serra Club Fort Worth Vocations Resources <https://serrafortworth.org/vocations-resources-for-parishes>

National Religious Vocation Conference Resources
<https://nrvc.net/292/publication/11357/article/15674-world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations>

World Day of Prayer for Vocations <https://worlddayofprayerforvocations.com/>