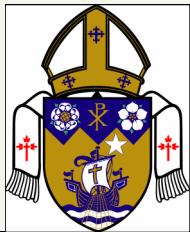


# VIANNEY NEWSLETTER

## Vocations office

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver



### VOCATIONS DIRECTOR'S CORNER

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- How to foster vocations
- What can a priest do for young people discerning their vocations
- A culture of vocations
- Spiritual life vs. material goods



Reverend and dear Fathers,

It is with great joy that we have entered into a new liturgical year and the beginning of the use of the new English translation of the Roman Missal in the Dioceses in Canada. This is a particularly exciting time for us in building a culture of vocations in our Archdiocese.

The Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, once said "Today we have lost the habit of planting seeds. We just like to go for the harvest." Certainly, there is no harvest where we have not sown seeds.

We all know that the need for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our Archdiocese is important and urgent. I would appreciate it so much if you could use our Vocations Initiatives:

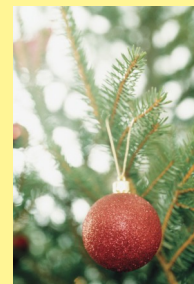
- Adoration for Vocations with the Vocations Monstrance during your parish 40 hours devotion.
- Mite Box Program for schools and PREP
- Archbishop's Altar Servers Award Program
- Live-In Program at Christ the King Seminary in Mission
- Vocations Pilgrimage
- Inviting young men in your parish who you think would be suitable candidates to discern their vocations to the priesthood or religious life.

At Christmas, a time of giving, teach young people to give their lives for the benefit of many. All of these are the ways we sow the seeds with hope and prayer that we will have a good harvest for our Archdiocese.

**I wish you a prayerful Advent, a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with God's blessings!**

*Yours in the vineyard of the Lord,*

**Fr. Joseph P. Nguyen**



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**Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with you.**

## A D O R A T I O N   F O R   V O C A T I O N S   S C H E D U L E

The Vocations Monstrance is visiting every parish during its 40 Hours Devotion. Since dates of the 40 hours Devotion overlap in several parishes, the Vocations Monstrance can't be in the parish for all days of Adoration. Please check your dates carefully.

### January 2012

St. Monica: 4-5

Holy Family: 6-7

Our Lady of Fatima, Van.: 10-12

St. Patrick's, Van.: 13-14

Holy Name: 17-18

Corpus Christi: 19-20

St. Paul's: 24-25

Immaculate Concep. Van.: 26-27

Immaculate Heart of Mary: 28



### February 2012

Sts. Peter and Paul: 1-3

St. Bernadette: 7-8

St. Helen's: 9

St. Michael's: 10

OL of Perpetual Help: 13-14

OL of Sorrows: 15-16

St. Joseph's, Squamish: 17-18

Sts. Joachim and Ann: 19-21



## I N V I T A T I O N

I want to share with you a true story about a bishop newly appointed to a Midwestern diocese. In one of his first decisions, the bishops announced that each time he arrived at a parish for the Sacrament of Confirmation, after having supper with the deanery priests, he wanted the pastor to have five young men of high school or college age in the parlor waiting for him. He wanted to personally invite five young men from every parish in the diocese to consider becoming a priest.



His request was well received by pastors for the first month or so, and then one evening the bishop arrived at a small country parish. After a very nice supper and conversation, the bishop said to the pastor, "Ok, where shall I meet with the five young men from your parish? I only need about 15 minutes." The pastor said, "I'm sorry bishop, but we don't have any young men in this parish who want to be priests."

The bishop gently reminded the pastor that the young men need not want to be priests. They needed only to be young, healthy Catholic men from the parish. But the pastor, clearly annoyed, said, "Well, I'm sorry. But we don't have anyone tonight."

The bishop came right back at him, "Well, I'm sorry too, because we are not going to have a Confirmation until you get me five young men from the parish to speak with for 15 minutes! That is not too much to ask."

The pastor griped and groaned, but he went to his office quickly and made three phone calls. Within 30 minutes, there were five young men sitting in the parlor. The truth was that, before making those calls, the pastor had not even tried. The bishop spoke to the five men and then he went over to the church and celebrated Confirmation. The bishop eventually ordained three of those five men priests for the diocese!

*Why are so many priests so reluctant to talk about their vocation to priesthood and to invite young men in their parishes to consider it?*

Father Thomas Richter, vocation director for the Diocese of Bismarck, has written an excellent booklet entitled *Lend Your Own Voice to Christ*. In this booklet he mentions three facts that have been confirmed by surveys again and again:

**Fact 1:** The main reason many young people do not consider the priesthood is because they have never been personally asked.

**Fact 2:** Many men first consider the priesthood precisely because a priest encouraged them to consider it. More than 80% of the newly ordained priests report that it was a priest who first invited them to consider the priesthood.

**Fact 3:** The great majority of priests today do not encourage men to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Only about 30% of priests actively invite men to consider the priesthood.



**"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us....Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."**

*- Pope Benedict XVI*

### **Tips how to approach young men:**

*You are a fine altar server (reader at Mass) and you have an exceptional faith. Maybe God is calling you to the priesthood. Will you pray and ask God if he wants you to be a priest?"*

*"John, you are a fine, Catholic man and I see something in you that shows a deep faith. Perhaps you are called to be one of the priests we are praying for? What do you think?"*

**What do you have to lose? The worst thing that can happen is that they say: NO. But the best thing that can happen is that they say: YES.**

Pray for a young man before you talk to him. Let the Lord guide you when you invite him to consider the priesthood.

### **Resources:**

- Booklet **Lend Your Own Voice to Christ** is available at Vocations Office. Call 604.443.3254.
- Brochure **Be a Priest for Vancouver** is available at Vocations Office or to print on the website: <http://www.rcav.org/vocations/>
- Booklet **How to pray for Vocations** is available at Vocations Office or to print on the website: <http://www.rcav.org/vocations/>



## STUDY ABOUT THE PRIESTS

**Ninety percent of priests say they are happy.** One priest who has studied them say a feeling of inner peace, a positive view of celibacy, and a good relationship with God contributes to their happiness.

**Msgr. Stephen Rossetti**, clinical associate professor of pastoral studies and associate dean for seminary and ministerial programs at Catholic University of America, presented his findings Oct. 5 at a symposium on the priesthood held at Catholic University in D.C.

Other studies corroborate his findings on priests' happiness. ***A 2006 National Opinion Research Center survey of 27,000 Americans reported clergy enjoy the highest level of job satisfaction in America.***

Msgr. Rossetti said that secular thinking often equates religion with unhappiness and a denial of one's humanity. However, his study shows that true happiness is found in a lively faith that includes an awareness of God's personal love.

**He said the happiness of priests is a challenge to secular thinking and can be the most effective instrument of evangelization.**

Close friendships with fellow clergy and members of the laity also correlated with higher levels of clergy happiness, he found. Happy priests frequently have a good relationship with their local bishop.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta expanded on priests' relationship with their bishop in his own remarks at the symposium. A bishop's encouragement plays an important role in sustaining a priest, and a priest's successes in parish life are sources of joy for a bishop.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, Catholic University's chancellor, encouraged the priests in attendance to celebrate their identity and to find joy in their vocation.

University president John Garvey welcomed the symposium attendees, many of whom were alumni of the university's theological college.

Without priests, he said, "the practice of our faith would wither and die."

Garvey said priests play an important role in the lives of Catholic University students and he plans to increase the number of priests living in residence halls on campus.

***Msgr. Rosetti further discusses his findings in his book "Why Priests are Happy: A Study of the Psychological and Spiritual Health of Priests."***

Christ was born in the first century,  
yet he belongs to all centuries.

He was born a Jew,  
yet He belongs to all races.

He was born in Bethlehem,  
yet He belongs to all countries.



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