

VOCATIONS



Having Fr. Pat Woods here this weekend speaking about vocations gives us the opportunity to reflect on, and give thanks for, the rich variety of ways through which men and women live out their Christian Vocations in today's world.

Our paths may be different, but we are all called by God to journey together through life, sharing our time, talents and resources, and "choosing to make a difference" as we try to make our part of the world a better place.

There are a number of vocational choices for adults. We can choose to be married, or be single, or be a priest or sister. We must discern which vocation will be the best choice for us, so that we can develop our personalities and gifts to our fullest potential. God has a dream for each one of us that we will grow to be fully alive, so that we can share life, and generate life around us, and make our part of the world a better place. This is our vocation.

Priestly, diaconal, and religious vocations should be a constant concern in our hearts as God's people. Our Christian community shares the responsibility of fostering vocations. Families with a lively spirit of faith, love and reverence contribute greatly to this work to encourage young people to think seriously about their future vocation.

Recognizing the Call

As in the past, God is calling people today. Throughout history, many have been called. They have lived exemplary lives and have extended the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. There are many heroic stories in every age. Yet, today it is harder than in the past to discover God's call. There are so many valuable ways that you can choose to live your life. There are so many distractions that make it hard to hear God's voice. Discerning a vocation is a challenge, no doubt about it. It can be especially tough today because others, even parents and friends, may not be encouraging or supportive. In this world, many are hungry to find greater meaning in life, eager to discover some purpose for their life. But God is calling you.

Five Moments of Discernment

1. **Suggestion: seek out your dominant interest and pursue it.** The decision making process is a complicated matter. There are many "layers" of decisions that must be looked at. At the same time there are clues, "signs" that are present to us.
2. **Suggestion: follow the leads that are present.** There is very often uncertainty in the discernment process. At any one point in time we only see partial glimpses, not the whole picture, therefore uncertainty exists.

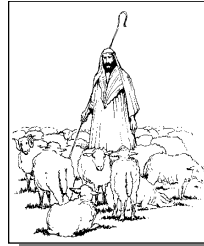
***You shall love the Lord your God,
and your neighbour as yourself."***

(Mt 22.37a; 39)

**Do you want to love your and serve neighbour
as a priest? Are you discerning the priesthood?**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE
PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.**

INTERESTED IN THE PRIESTHOOD?



But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how can they believe unless they have heard of him?
And how can they hear unless there is someone to preach?

-Romans 11: 14

Contact Fr. Pat Woods at the Office of Vocations

705-674-2727 X-250 or pwoods@diocesecentre.com

and check out www.beapriest.ca

'We know where to look for priestly vocations ... we must look within the Church and among ourselves. In the pews of our parish is where the next generation of priests can be found.'

3. **Suggestion: trust what is deepest in your heart.** In discernment your decision will always meet a certain amount of inner resistance. Resistance is a good sign. There is always risk when a person makes significant decisions in his life. A person must have sufficient love in his heart to take a significant risk.
4. **Suggestion: reflect on what is the source of love in your heart, where it is leading you,** and how deeply it is present. When discerning your vocation, the road ahead will always remain a bit foggy. You probably will not know with absolute certainty what lies ahead. The future will always remain a bit hidden. Mystery and the unknown are part of everyone's future.
5. **Suggestion: take one step at a time.** don't try to "figure out" in exact detail your entire future.

Prayer for Vocations

*Lord Jesus,
you call each one of us by name
and ask us to follow you.*

*Bless your church
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve your people as Priests, Deacons,
Sisters or Pastoral Workers.*

*Inspire us as we grow to know you,
and open our hearts to hear your call.*

We ask this in Your name

Amen.

**Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood
and Religious Life.**

**Check out the new Office of Vocations website:
www.beapriest.ca**