



VOCATIONS ARE BORN WITHIN THE CHURCH

Pope Francis made his appeal in his Message for the World Day of Vocations, which will be celebrated on Good Shepherd Sunday - April 17, 2016, with the theme "The Church, Mother of Vocations."



"Vocations are born within the Church," Pope Francis writes.

Recognizing and inspired by that fact, representatives from a dozen parishes around the Diocese gathered to share best practices for promoting vocations in their parishes - their local church. Led by Donna Rawson, Sr. Caryn Crook, OSF, John Falge, and Mike Kelly, participants shared ideas for promotion in three key areas:

- prayer
- awareness
- programming

The desire of the group of Parish Vocation Advocates was to share more stories both locally and from around the country. This newsletter is the fruit of that effort. Below, you will find a program from each key area and a clickable link to give you more information. Also significant is the Calendar of Events in the sidebar. Click the header or footer for a PDF with more details and contact people for each of these events.

As always, contact me, if I can help in any way.

Fr. Joe O'Connor
Office of Vocation Promotion



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17

*World Day of Prayer for
Vocations*

April 18

*#FishermansClub
(college-age discernment
group)*

April 26 & May 2

Holy Hours for Priests

May 28

*Transitional Deacon
Ordination*

June 3-5

*Women's Come and See
Getaway Weekend*

June 4

Priestly Ordination

June 26

Rite of Candidacy

Aug 4

Feast of St. John Vianney

Aug 5-7

*Camping Discernment
Retreat led by Sr. Caryn
Crook, OSF*

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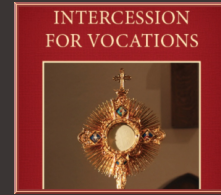
*click here for
full calendar &
details*



PRAYER

Prayer of the Faithful

Vianney Vocations leads the way in producing vocation promotion resources for parishes and schools. They have a great resource to aid in prayer for vocations in a special way for the upcoming World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 17th. Of course, these prayers can be added to the Universal Prayer/Intercessions at your parish any time of the year.



See more on their website: [Vianney Vocations](#)

AWARENESS

Survey Says...

In this interesting approach to vocations, the archdiocese of Philadelphia asked parishioners for names of people they felt would make a good priest. An impressive total of more than 400 names were provided to the diocese. Letters were then written and sent to these individuals informing them of the respect they have from their fellow parishioners in viewing them as a candidate for the priesthood, and asking if they have ever considered such a calling in their lives.



See more on their website: [Catholic Philly](#)

PROGRAMMING

Hiking with a Higher Purpose

The Serra Club's Venturing program is a co-ed program for Catholic high school students. Developed by the Boy Scouts of America, the program helps to develop and prepare students to become caring and responsible adults. However, the Venturing program adds Catholic-oriented elements into the program as well, encouraging all participants to discern their own vocations in life, whether that be a priest, nun, single life, or married vocation. Incorporating faith into life decisions is one of the program's main goals.



See more on their website: [Serra Club](#)