



## Led by the Spirit for Mission

It is Holy Thursday. The night Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood. Let us keep our parish priests in prayer today in a special way.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked that the Vocation Promotion efforts this Spring follow this wonderful theme of "Led by the Spirit for Mission." On May 7th, the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The readings at Mass remind us of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Jesus has left us great leaders in the Church. Please advocate for them - in a special way with your prayers before Our Heavenly Father. May they continue to be inspired by the Spirit for Mission.

This spring is also a great time for our local church. The Diocese of Syracuse prepares to celebrate the Deacon Ordination of Matthew Rawson and the Priesthood Ordination of Matthew Lyons. Check the Calendar for those dates, and perhaps find a way to incorporate them in your weekend mass intercessions.

The articles and ideas in this quarter's newsletter were submitted by Mike Kelly who is Parish Vocation Advocate at Holy Family in Fairmount. Click here for a "newsletter extra" - an interview in anticipation of this summer's priesthood ordination.

Let's keep sharing the good ideas!

Thank you for your generous assistance in this urgent ministry!

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

Fr. Joe O'Connor  
Office of Vocation Promotion

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7  
*World Day of  
Prayer for Vocations*

May 10  
*Sisters of St. Joseph  
workshop for pastors  
"handling vocation  
inquiries  
from young women"*

May 19  
*Knights of Columbus  
Bishop's Burse Dinner*

May 20 - 10am  
*Ordination as Deacon  
Matthew Rawson  
St. James, Syracuse*

May 24  
*Dinner with Deacon Lyons  
in anticipation of  
Ordination*

June 3 - 10am  
*Ordination to Priesthood  
Matthew Lyons  
Holy Cross, DeWitt*

August 9 - 5pm  
*Bishop's Vocation Picnic  
St. Joseph, Lafayette*

August 13 - 5pm  
*Men In Black Softball Game  
Glendale Park, Endicott*



God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the suffering poor are served with love, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here is another good one.)

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. You know each of us and you call us by name to serve in faith. Help us respond generously to your voice. Give courage and guidance to those you call to the priesthood and the diaconate, to religious life and lay ministry, so they may respond wholeheartedly and serve devotedly.

## AWARENESS

### *Led by the Spirit for Mission*



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE 54th WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS  
(to be celebrated on May 7, 2017)

There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.

I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest.

[Click here to read more](#)

### *A Day in the Life*

Franciscan Spirit magazine is published only three times a year, but is always worth waiting for. Edited in the offices of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Syracuse, it won the National Catholic Press Award for general excellence in 2014, among other honors.

The winter 2017 issue is especially interesting, with a cover story about "A Day in the Life of a Franciscan Sister" and other articles and columns that include encouraging words aimed at young women who are in discernment about vocations to the religious or consecrated life.

Sister Caryn Cook, [cookc@snk.org](mailto:cookc@snk.org), who leads the order's vocations office, describes her days on the job as "wonderful... filled with prayer, love, joy and service to people in need - those in poverty, who are sick and who have lost their spirit."

Another Franciscan profiled in the magazine, Sister Rosemary Benson of Williamsville, is 85 now, but still going strong for God with a ministry that consists of spending four or five hours of prayers, daily. Often, she is joined by several other elderly nuns. "I love to pray," said Sister Rosemary. "It is such a beautiful thing."

Amen, Sister.

## PROGRAMMING

### *What's a pastor to do??? ..when a young woman asks about Religious Vocations*



Annual surveys of women entering Religious Life have continually turned up an interesting fact - 30% of them turned first to their parish priests for advice about becoming a woman religious.

In order to equip the priests of the Diocese of Syracuse, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will host a workshop at Christ the King Retreat House on May 10.

In anticipation of the event, the Vocation Office produced a video.

[Check it out here](#)

STAY IN TOUCH

