

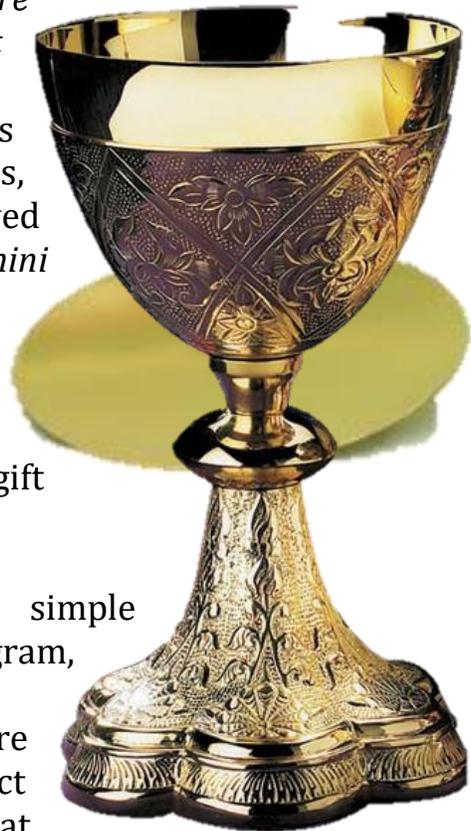
Dear Family of Sacred Heart Parish,

Thank you for participating in our parish-wide efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and the consecrated religious life. Your prayers are essential for raising up these vocations in our Church.

Remember the words of our Blessed Lord:

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

The chalice set in your possession was generously provided by the Knights of Columbus, Council #5280. On the lip of the chalice is engraved in Latin, *"Calicem salutaris accipiam et nomen Domini invocabo."* This comes from the Book of Psalms, and the English translation is, "I will take the chalice of salvation and I will call upon the name of the Lord." It is customary for priests to engrave this on their personal chalices, which are often a gift on their day of ordination.



In this booklet you will find some simple instructions for the Vocations Chalice program, together with some short daily prayers.

Please read through the instructions before starting. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Missy Jackson, the program's coordinator at 989-386-6975.

I thank you for your commitment to praying for vocations and for encouraging them among our youth this week and beyond.



In Christ,

Fr. J. Marcel Portelli

Parochial Administrator
Sacred Heart Parish-Gladwin
St. Athanasius Parish-Harrison

Instructions

The purpose of Vocations Chalice program is to encourage individuals, couples, and families to pray for vocations in general and more specifically to promote vocations from within their own families.

At Mass, you were presented with a chalice and its accompanying paten (the plate). They are offered to serve as tangible reminders of your commitment to pray together as a family for vocations during this week, and also a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer. Rather, we take home with us from Mass the joy, the gratitude, and the mission to share the love of Christ with others in our families, our schools, our government, and our workplaces.

These are not “dishes,” but *sacred vessels*, and like all sacred vessels used at Mass, they are consecrated. This means they are strictly reserved for sacred use, which is to hold the Body and Precious Blood of Jesus. Please do not drink out of the chalice or use it or the paten for any purpose other than as focal points for prayer. Please handle both with care, awe, and reverence.

A suggestion is to place them in a place of honor in your home, for example, on the fireplace mantle or in the center of your dining room table.

Ideally, your entire household would pray together once each day for vocations. In this booklet are recommended prayers and intentions for each day, but please feel free to adapt these prayers or use your own.

An especially good time to pray together might be just before meals, or you might pray a family rosary and include the prayer of the day as the intention to be offered. Another alternative would be to pray together the first thing in the morning before everyone goes off to work or school.

If you have children or grandchildren, you are encouraged to talk to them about vocations, about God’s plan for them to grow in holiness and happiness, and to answer any questions they might have. Feel free to let them see and hold the chalice and rosary—even young children if supervised.

On the following Sunday, at least 90 minutes before Mass, please call Missy Jackson at 989-386-6975 to meet her in church and return the carrying case and its contents to her. Next week’s family is counting on your timely return of the items. This prayer booklet is yours to keep.

If for some reason this won’t be possible, please call the rectory at 989-426-7154 to hand it off to the parish secretary earlier in the week during office hours. (The chalice and paten are blessed and are very valuable; please hand them off—never simply leave them at the door.)

Please retain this booklet for your continued prayers. Thank you again for your generous participation!

DAY 1 Sunday: Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Vocations

Intention: *With the Holy Father, we pray for an increase in priestly and religious vocations throughout the universal Church.*

O Father, raise up among Christian families numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life to keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of Your Son Jesus through the preaching of His word and the administration of the sacraments, with which You continually renew Your faithful.

Give us holy ministers of Your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world. Call ministers of Your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of Your mercy and forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of Your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Sustain the bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated brothers and sisters, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

DAY 2 Monday: Prayer to Know One's Vocation

Intention: *We pray for all of those who might not know their vocation in life. Through prayerful discernment and with God's help, may they come to know His will for their lives.*

Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have created me to know You, to love You, to serve You, and thereby to find and fulfill myself. I am happiest when I am doing Your will.

I know that other paths may lead me to You, but of them all, there is one especially by which You want me to follow You.

Loving God, is it I, Lord? Are You calling me to a vocation of ministry in the Church as priest, deacon, brother, or sister? Or if I am already living out my life's vocation, are You asking me to help call others to the ministry of leadership in the Church?

We need men and women to help lead us, Lord. We are Your people. Speak to me Lord. Open the minds and hearts of many men and women, starting with mine, to live Your Word and build Your Kingdom.

Speak to me Lord. Plant Your Word within me so that whatever You call me to be or do I may say "Yes, here I am, Lord."

Lord here I am! What would You like me to do with my life? Teach me to do Your will, Lord. And let the Holy Spirit be my guide.

(Pause for 60 seconds to listen to the Lord in Your mind and heart)

Since I will do what You want of me, I pray, send the Holy Spirit to me, into my mind to show me what You want of me; into my heart to give me the determination to do it; and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all my strength right to the end. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

DAY 3 Tuesday: Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church

Intention: *We pray that we might imitate Mary's humble obedience in following God's call.*

We turn to you, Mary, Mother of the Church. Hail, Mother of God; when asked by the angel Gabriel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded: "Let it be done unto me." Through your "yes," you have opened the door that makes Christ present in the world, in history, and in individual lives. In humble silence and in total availability, you welcomed the call of the Most High.

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed. Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform His first sign. Prompt us, too, us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son. Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation. Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Seat of Wisdom, inspire vocations in our time. Let the word of your divine Son be made flesh anew in the lives of those eager to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

DAY 4 Wednesday: Litany for Vocations

Intention: *We pray for an increase in vocations within the Diocese of Saginaw.*

[Prayer Leader] Lord, have mercy. [Response] Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy—*Christ, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us—*Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father of heaven—*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world—*Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit—*Have mercy on us.*

Our Lady, Mary of the Assumption—*Pray for us.*

St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church—*Pray for us.*

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus—*Pray for us.*

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests—*Pray for us.*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—*Pray for us.*

St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians—*Pray for us.*

St. Katherine Drexel—*Pray for us.*

St. Stephen, patron of deacons—*Pray for us.*

St. John Berchmans, patron of altar boys—*Pray for us.*

St. Junipero Serra—*Pray for us.*

Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney—*Pray for us.*

All you holy men and women—*Pray for us.*

Through Your mercy—*Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through our prayers and sacrifices—*Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through the power of the Mass—*Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through the holiness of families—*Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

[Prayer Leader] Let us pray: O God, who chose the apostles to make disciples of all nations, we earnestly implore You to choose from among us many who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

DAY 5 Thursday: Parents' Prayer for Vocations

Intention: *We pray that if it be God's will there might be vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life from Sacred Heart Parish and from our own family, and that they will be supported through our words and deeds of encouragement.*

Jesus, high priest and Redeemer, we beg You to call young men and women to Your service, as priests, deacons, and religious. May they be inspired by the lives of those now serving in our parish and diocese.

Give to parents the grace of generosity and trust toward You and their child so that their sons and daughters may be helped to choose their vocation in life with wisdom and freedom.

O God, You have called us to salvation and have sent Your Son to establish the Church for this purpose, and You have provided the sacred ministers. The harvest is ever ready but the laborers are scarce. Inspire our youth to follow Jesus by serving Your people. Amen.

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives despite the many distractions and temptations of the world. May parents genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocations of their children and help them to respond generously and accordingly.

Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister. May the example of Your life and that of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

**DAY 6 Friday: Prayer for Vocations to Women's Religious
Congregations**

Intention: *We pray for an increase in numbers of aspirants to the various communities of women religious who tirelessly serve the Church in a variety of contemplative and active apostolates.*

Most holy God, almighty Father,
Lord of earth and of heaven,
grant, we pray, the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit
upon young women of our time and of our nation.

In the footsteps of the Virgin Mary herself,
draw them powerfully to Your heart
so that they will become joyful Brides of Christ.

With the evangelical counsels of poverty,
chastity, and obedience, engrave in the hearts
of many young women the charisms needed
so desperately by Your Church today.

Send them to congregations
that will bring forth limitless fruit
in the hearts of men and women.

Grant to us, O Lord,
a flood of vocations to religious life,
for the glory of Your name
and the salvation of souls.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Your Son, Our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

DAY 7 Saturday: Prayer for Perseverance

Intention: *We pray for all of bishops and priests that they may have the strength to remain faithful to their vocations.*

The Holy Father—*Fill him with Your grace, Lord.*

Our bishop—*Give him Your gifts, Lord.*

Priests in seminary work—*Give them Your wisdom, Lord.*

Priests in ministry to the sick—*Give them fortitude, Lord.*

Priests who are ill—*Heal them, Lord.*

Priests in danger—*Deliver them, Lord.*

Priests who are weak—*Strengthen them, Lord.*

Priests who are tepid—*Reinvigorate them, Lord.*

Priests who are zealous—*Channel their energies, Lord.*

Priests who are unfaithful—*Grant them obedience, Lord.*

Priests who have lost their identity—*Restore their dignity of office, Lord.*

Priests who are sorrowful—*Console them, Lord.*

Priests who are anxious—*Give them peace, Lord.*

Priests who are elderly—*Sustain them, Lord.*

Priests who are young—*Impel them for Your glory, Lord.*

Priests who are lonely—*Accompany them, Lord.*

Priests who are preachers—*Enlighten them, Lord.*

Priests who direct souls—*Instruct them, Lord.*

Parish priests—*Give them prudence, Lord.*

Religious order priests—*Make them perfect as You are perfect, Lord.*

Missionary priests—*Protect them, Lord.*

Priests who have died—*Show them mercy, Lord.*

Heavenly Father, may all priests be concerned only with the salvation of souls. Through them, impart Your Spirit of wisdom, divine love, knowledge, and counsel to our Youth. May all priests inspire our youth to prayerfully discern the vocations of priesthood, diaconate, consecrated religious life, and Christian matrimony so as to labor in Your vineyard in service to You and to others. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Optional: the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet

Addendum

1. The preceding prayers were adapted in part from www.serraus.org and www.usccb.org. In a separate notebook, you might want to include any prayers, comments, intentions, or reflections generated as a result of your family prayer time.

2. Please submit a photo of your home chalice shrine to Fr. Marcel Portelli. He'd love to post it on the church bulletin board and print it in



the bulletin. Email your photos to him at frp4promultis@gmail.com or drop off a print in the parish office to his attention.

3. If you would like to send a note of encouragement, a greeting card, or a “goodie box” to our seminarians or women in formation, you may get their names and addresses by contacting the Diocese of Saginaw Vocations Office at 989-799-7910.

4. A collection of websites with helpful vocations and discernment resources for you and your family to explore:

Diocese of Saginaw www.saginaw.org	Serra International www.serraus.org
Guide to Religious Ministries www.religiousministries.com	Vocation Action www.vocation.com
Women's Religious Vocations www.cmswr.org	Vocations Placement www.vocationsplacement.org
Vocation Boom www.vocationboom.com	Vision Guide www.vocationnetwork.org
Test Your Call www.testYourcall.com	Knights of Columbus www.kofc.org