

St. Michael & Sacred Heart Vocation Ministry

*"The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few."
Therefore, ask the master of the harvest to send labourers for his harvest."*

As Christ called his apostles to "Come follow me ...I will make you fishers of men" so too Christ calls us through Baptism to cultivate vocations in our parish for the future of his church.

Vocations are the result of the Christian community actively engaged in prayer so "the owner of the harvest... will send out workers to gather his harvest." When we put our faith and hope in the Lord and follow these with action, great are the results.

St. Michael & Sacred Heart Parish Vocation Ministry is committed to fulfilling Jesus' request to pray to the Father, with the goal of promoting vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, Religious Life, Married Life and Single Life.

Throughout this past year the Vocation Ministry Team has been focused on creating a Culture of Vocations in our Parish Community. One program we want to continue to expand is the Vocation Chalice Program. Below we present some questions and answers which help explain the program, and hopefully will make everyone more comfortable in bringing the chalice into their home.

Vocation Chalice Questions and Answers

*How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?
I will take the Chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord..."
(Psalm 116:12-13)*

What is the Vocation Chalice?

The main idea is that the Vocation Chalice, travels from home to home on a weekly basis. Parishioners are invited to sign up on the registration chart at the entrance of the church. Simply write in your name and the mass time for the Sunday you would like to receive the chalice.

Purpose of the Vocation Chalice Program

The purpose of the Chalice Program is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The consecrated Chalice is a tangible reminder of this special intention for the Church. The Second Vatican Council highlights the responsibility of the laity to pray for and support vocations. This urgent call has been strongly affirmed both St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

How does the Vocation Chalice Program work?

At the end of Mass, the family/individual is called by the priest to come forward to receive the chalice case and a blessing. This case contains a blessed chalice, a DVD on Vocations and a Prayer Booklet. The booklet contains suggested prayers, readings and intentions for each day. Participants are free to adapt the prayer or

to use their own. Participants are asked to pray together or on their own each day for vocations if only it be the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, or Glory Be.

At the end of the week, the chalice and resources are returned to the parish office so it can be presented to another family or individual at the Sunday Mass.

Why is the Chalice presented at Mass?

The Vocation Chalice is presented at Mass as a visible reminder to all parishioners that Mass does not end with the closing prayer, and that we take the joy, the gratitude and the mission to share the love of Christ to our families, our friends, the workplace and to the community.

What do we do when we bring the chalice home?

After bringing the chalice home it is placed in a prominent location in the home so it becomes a visible reminder of our commitment to pray together as a family, a couple or a single person for vocations to the Priesthood, Religious, Married, Single and Consecrated Life. During the home prayer the chalice can be displayed on a table as a focal point, and after the prayers, returned to its place of honour.

Why use a Chalice to encourage vocations?

The vocation chalice, like other religious objects, such as a crucifix, or a rosary has been blessed. These sacred objects are designed to help us to focus and to achieve a prayerful mind set and lead us into prayer and contemplation.

The chalice is used specifically, as a visual reminder of the importance of Christ's body and blood which is central to our faith and the role of the priest at Mass. Bringing the chalice into our homes reminds us that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer.

A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a very special way.

We invite all parishioners, family, couple, or single to bring the vocation chalice home and to pray daily for vocations.

Testimonies

"Bringing the chalice in our home has made our family realize that without vocations to the Priesthood we have no Priests, without Priests we have no Eucharist, without the Eucharist we have no church."

"The vocation chalice has helped us to realize that marriage is not only a sacrament, but that it is also a vocation. It has helped our children learn that there are many vocations in life and that in each of us there is a vocation in which we can serve God."

"Bringing the chalice into our home has been a blessing. We hope that more families join in the vocation chalice program."

Let us continue to pray each day that we have the wisdom and open heart to recognize and follow the vocation that each of us has been called to.