

The 2017-2018 Playbook:

A practical guide to promoting vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

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VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
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ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
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Deanery and Task Force Vocation Coordinators for the Vocation Office for Archdiocesan Priesthood

Deanery/Area	Priest Coordinator	Deanery/Area	Priest Coordinator
1 Delaware County	Rev. Stephen DeLacy St. Charles Borromeo Seminary 100 E. Wynnewood Rd. Wynnewood, PA 19096	9 Center City	<i>Vacant</i>
2 Delaware County	Rev. Alexander R. Gibbs St. Mary Magdalen Rectory 2400 N. Providence Rd. Media, PA 19063	10 Bucks County	Rev. Jason E. Buck St. Andrew Rectory 81 Swamp Rd Newton, PA 18940
3 Chester County	Rev. Thomas J. Gardner St. Maximilian Kolbe Rectory 15 E. Pleasant Grove Rd. West Chester, PA 19382	11 Bucks County	<i>Vacant</i>
4 Chester County	Rev. Anthony Rossi St. Joseph Rectory 460 Manor Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335	12 Philadelphia North	Rev. Mark Cavara St. Anselm Rectory 12670 Dunks Ferry Rd Philadelphia, PA 19154
5 Montgomery County	Rev. Christopher C. Moriconi St. Eleanor Rectory 647 Locust St. Collegeville, PA 19426	African American	Rev. Richard Owens, OFM Cap Office for Black Catholics 222 N. 17 th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103
6 Philadelphia North	Rev. Sean Bransfield St. Matthias Rectory 128 Bryn Mawr Ave Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	Hispanic	Rev. Thomas Viviano St. Charles Borromeo Seminary 100 E. Wynnewood Rd Wynnewood, PA 19096
7 Montgomery County	Rev. Anthony R. Hangholt St. Philip Neri Rectory 437 Ridge Pk Lafayette Hill, PA 19444	Migrants & Refugees	Rev. Quan M. Trinh St. Alphonsus Rectory 33 Conwell Dr Maple Glen, PA 19002
8 Philadelphia South	Rev. Michael J. Reilly St. Richard Rectory 3010 South 18 th St Philadelphia, PA 19145	Migrants & Refugees	Rev. Livinus C. Ugochukwa St. Martin of Tours Rectory 5450 Roosevelt Blvd Philadelphia, PA 19124

Websites helpful for Vocation Promotion

In addition to www.HeedTheCall.org:

www.scs.edu: St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

This website gives information about St. Charles Borromeo Seminary which includes priestly formation, diaconal formation, and theological studies for all.

www.usccb.org/vocations: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

This website provides resources in English and Spanish to promote priestly and religious vocations for educators, leaders, and parents.

www.ncdvd.org: The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors

This organization provides resources used to promote diocesan priestly vocations.

www.vianneyvocations.com: Vianney Vocations

This website is a great source for materials and assistance to develop activities designed to promote vocations for everyone in the family and community.

www.vocationboom.com: Vocation Boom

This website provides resources for discerners, parents and teachers to help them to promote vocations.

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September, 2017



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Dear Promoters of Priestly Vocations,

I thank all of you for the good work that goes in fostering vocations. I believe that we are going in the right direction in our efforts to foster vocations effectively. We thank God for the gift of the two men ordained to the priesthood this past year. We must never grow weary of asking our Lord to send more ‘laborers for the vineyard’. May we be inspired to redouble our efforts in fostering priestly vocations. Priests are very important for the life of the Church to be health and effective.

This playbook is designed to be used as a practical guide of concrete actions that can be taken to foster vocations. I challenge you to use the full extent of your influence in your parishes, schools, and communities to encourage participation in all of the programs. For some this will be simply praying, for others it will mean inviting family members and friends, and for others it will be calling the young men that you work with to directly invite them to consider participating in these events.

I ask each of you to stay connected to the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood through our social media, by liking our pages, sharing our posts, and encouraging others to like and share our pages. A list of our social media pages is provided below:

<https://www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest/>

www.youtube.com/c/HeedtheCall

www.instagram.com/phillypriest

www.instagram.com/qvphilly

www.twitter.com/philly_priest

www.twitter.com/qvphilly

Finally, it is very important that we see that vocations are the culmination of much activity on the part of the Church. Vocations tend to come from faithful families and dynamic parishes or ministries that have worked to bring the person to discipleship. Vocations are “downstream” from effective discipleship formation. If we are lacking vocations, which we are, this should trigger the question, “Why are we not being effective in forming disciples?” I have two concerns regarding this. One, that at the moment we have a too watered-down vision of what a disciple is; and two, in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia we generally lack an effective process of bringing someone into full discipleship.

Archbishop Chaput, in an article he wrote on August 12, 2016 gives a great definition of what it means to be a disciple,

“Note that by ‘Catholic,’ I mean people who take their faith seriously; people who actually believe what the Catholic faith holds to be true; people who place it first in their loyalty, thoughts and actions; people who submit their lives to Jesus Christ, to Scripture and to the guidance of the community of belief we know as the Church.”

In general, I do not think our processes of formation in the Church of Philadelphia are effective enough to bring our people to “submit their lives to Jesus.” If we were successful at this, we would then have plenty of vocations. The first step to solving the problem of vocations is first to solve the problem of discipleship formation.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy



Behold the new logo of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood. This logo is based on the face of Seminarian Jose Serrano, who died of cancer in 2013. No doubt, Jose is praying for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, especially for vocations.

In relief, are select images of Philadelphia’s Skyline: from left to right, the BNY Mellon Center, the statue of William Penn, the dome of City Hall, and the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. This is meant to show that we are serving the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The image of the “smiling priest” conveys the joyfulness that comes with the priesthood. This is the result of the priest’s distinct role, having the honor of participating in the Mysteries of God. And finally, the roman collar is a powerful symbol of the priesthood, revealing the priest as a servant of God and His people. It is a reminder that a priest has made the promises of celibacy and obedience to be dedicated to Our Lord, Jesus in laying down his life for others.

For a booklet describing Jose’s journey and prayer cards, contact the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood at 610-667-5778.

Heed the Call: Jose Serrano Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10R_-_rl5iA&t=66s



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

2017-2018 VOCATION OFFICE PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Registration Information

We encourage our Archdiocesan Priests, Deacons, School Ministers, Youth Ministers and other parish representatives to bring men and/or refer them to come to our vocation programs and events. We do request groups and individuals register for all of our programs and events so that the appropriate commendations can be made. To register for an event, please contact Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org or call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778. Online registration is generally also available for our larger events. When reservations for a particular event require payment, forms and check (made payable to "Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood") should be mailed to:

Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Rd.
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Registration fees are non-refundable but may be transferable to a future event if the office is notified early enough.

Event Cancellation

If St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is **CLOSED** due to inclement weather, the scheduled Vocation program(s) for that day and/or evening is automatically cancelled. Notification of this closure will be posted on the Seminary website (www.scs.edu), the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood website (www.HeedTheCall.org) and on social media.

Vocation Awareness Week 2017

November 5-11



National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW), initiated in 1976, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

Pope Francis, in his November 2013 apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, underlined the continued need to build a culture of vocations. “The fraternal life and fervor of the community can awaken in the young a desire to consecrate themselves completely to God and to preaching of the Gospel. This is particularly true if such a living community prays insistently for vocations and courageously proposes to its young people the path of special consecration,” Pope Francis wrote.

“A culture of vocations is one that provides the necessary support for others to hear and respond to God’s call in their lives,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. “With God’s grace, we help build that culture through fervent prayer, the witness of our lives and the encouragement we extend to those discerning a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life.”

The Vocation Office has planned daily activities for this weeklong celebration of vocations for schools, families, parishes and communities. These events are previewed in the following pages and all flyers and resources associated with Vocation Awareness Week are detailed on the website at <http://heedthecall.org/upcoming-events>.

Vocation Awareness Week



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"If you are what you should be you will set the world ABLAZE!"

- St. Catherine of Siena

Join the Vocation Office in creating a culture of vocations in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Check out our events surrounding Vocation Awareness Week and get involved, but not just you—your parish, youth group, PREP program, and other parish organizations.

Call our office (610) 667-5778 or visit our website www.HeedtheCall.org to register for any of our events and for more information and resources including downloadable vocation lesson plans.

Nov	Friday 3	<p>Close of 40 Hours & Eucharistic Procession</p> <p>7:00PM St. Charles Borromeo Seminary</p> 	Saturday 4	<p>Heed Your Call Wine & Cheese Fundraiser</p> <p>4:00PM-7:00PM Begins with Mass at the Seminary</p> 	Sunday 5	<p>Youth Ministry Nite</p> <p>4:00PM—Seminary Tour 5:00PM—Evening Prayer & Dinner 6:30PM—Workshop</p>
	Monday 6	<p><i>Please pray a Rosary for Vocations in Philly!</i></p> 	Tuesday 7	<p>Newly Ordained Priests Mass & Luncheon 10:00AM—1:00PM Cathedral SS Peter & Paul</p> <p>Virtual Meet our Seminarians 5:00PM or 7:00PM for Parish PREP Program 4th-6th Grade</p>	Wednesday 8	<p><i>Pray a personal Holy Hour for Vocations!</i></p> 
Thursday 9	<p>Virtual Meet our Seminarians 9:00AM for 5th & 6th Grade</p> <p>Seminary Visit for Regina Schools & Homeschool 10:00AM—1:00PM</p> <p>Virtual Meet our Seminarians 1:00PM for 7th & 8th Grade</p>	Friday 10	<p>Young Adult Movie Social Hitchcock's I Confess</p> <p>7:00PM—10:00PM St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Vianney Auditorium</p> 	Saturday 11	<p>Hispanic Outreach Day 9:00AM—1:00PM St. Patrick, Norristown</p>	
Sunday 12	<p>Basketball Outreach 7:00PM St. Anselm, Philadelphia</p>	<p>For more information about any of these activities please call the Vocation Office (610) 667-5778 or visit: www.HeedtheCall.org</p>				

Sunday, November 5

4:00 to 8:00 PM

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood PA



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Youth Ministry Nite

High School Youth Ministry Programs

Seminary Tour
Evening Prayer
Dinner with the Seminarians
Vocation Scavenger Hunt

All students must attend with a group

Adult chaperone requirements apply

\$5.00 suggested donation per person

Register online by **October 27th** at
www.heedthecall.org/event/YouthMinistry

Questions? Contact Sue Matour at 610-667-5778 or
phillyvocations@gmail.com



Have a Computer?

IF SO, THEN JOIN US FOR.....

Meet the Seminarians: An Online Event

Webinar Dates & Times:

PREP Programs:

Tuesday, November 7th
5:00PM or 7:00PM for Grades 4 to 6

Catholic Grade Schools:

Thursday, November 9th
9:00AM - Grades 5 and 6
1:00PM - Grades 7 and 8



Celebrate Vocation Awareness Week by having your students interact virtually with the Philadelphia Seminarians.

Learn about the life of a Seminarian, his vocation story, and ask questions!

Register Today at:

Heedthecall.org/event/Webinars

Technical Requirements are provided on the Registration Page



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Questions?

Contact Sue Matour at
smatour@archphila.org OR
610-667-5778

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Vocation Awareness Day

10:00 AM WELCOME & PRESENTATION

10:30 AM SEMINARY TOURS

11:30 AM MASS

12:15 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM DEPARTURE

Home School & Regina School
Communities

To register, visit

<https://heedthecall.org/event/awareness>

All students and staff are invited to attend.
Archdiocesan chaperone requirements apply.

Questions?

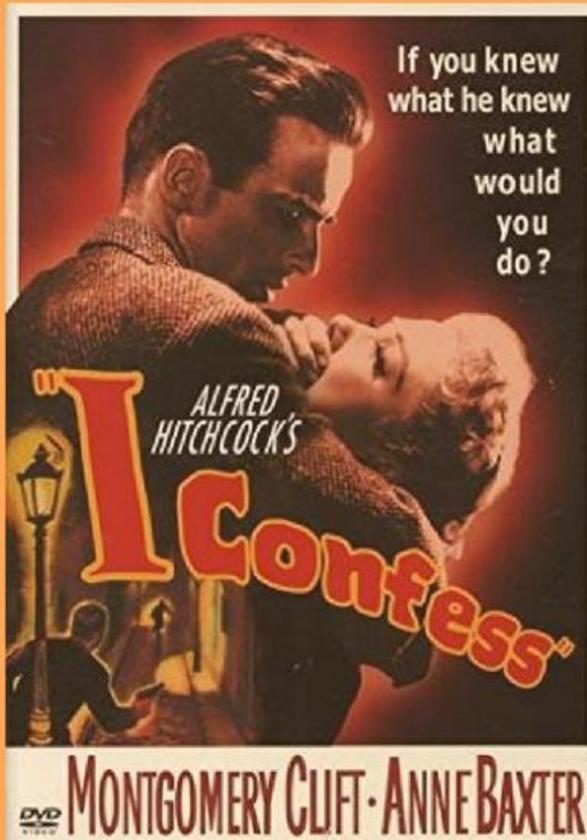
Contact Fr. DeLacy at

610-667-5778 or

fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.



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YOUNG ADULT MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 10
7 TO 10 PM

Vianney Auditorium
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Road,
Wynnewood

Food and Drink Available

Free Will Donations Accepted



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Register by November 1 at
www.heedthecall/event/Movie

Come & See Discernment Weekends

A Come & See Weekend is the perfect opportunity for high school men and above who are considering a vocation to come to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and to explore the possibility of their own call to the priesthood. This retreat is ideal for a man who is actively pursuing a call to the priesthood, as well as a good opportunity for a man to explore the possibility of a call to the priesthood.



The weekend typically begins on Friday evening and ends at mid-day on Sunday and includes Eucharistic Adoration, reflections on the priesthood, and vocation stories from seminarians, as well as Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminary community.

Please invite men to consider a call to the priesthood by attending one of these retreats. *We ask that discerners call or email Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org at least one week before the weekend they are signing up for so that a room can be reserved and the kitchen staff notified. Men will have a single room at the seminary with linens, pillow & towel.*

2017-2018 Weekends for High School Men:

Fri., October 27 – Sun., October 29, 2017
(Includes Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Washington DC)

Sat., December 9 – Sun., December 10, 2017
(Ends following Seminary Christmas Concert)

Fri., January 26 – Sun., January 28, 2018

All high school students must have their parent/guardian complete a permission form for the weekend regardless of their age

Hispanic Come & See Weekend

Fri., April 20 – Sun., April 22, 2018

If a man has graduated high school but is under 18 years old they should plan to attend the high school weekend

2017-2018 Weekends for Post-High School Men:

Fri., December 1 - Sun., December 3, 2017

Fri., February 23 - Sun., February 25, 2018

Fri., March 23 - Sun., March 25, 2018

If a man has graduated high school but is under 18 years old, they should plan to attend the high school weekend

Vietnamese Come & See Day

Sat., November 18, 2017

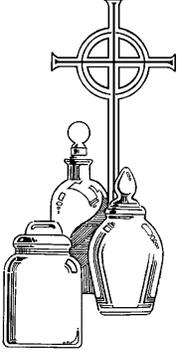
A one-day opportunity for the Vietnamese community to gather for prayer, fellowship, and to visit the Seminary.

Suggested Packing List:

- Clothes - Casual clothing for the weekend
- Suit & Tie for Mass
- Gym clothes for gym/outdoor sports
- Personal Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- Bible & Rosary
- To Save A Thousand Souls (*one will be provided if you do not own one*)

Holy Thursday Chrism Mass

**Thursday, March 29, 2018 – 8:00AM
10:00AM Chrism Mass**



Men of all ages are invited to attend the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. Join Fr. DeLacy at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center prior to the Mass for Brunch & Devotions.

You will have reserved seating for the Mass!

*We ask that discerners contact the
Vocation Office at least 2 weeks prior to
the Chrism Mass to register:*

(610) 667-5778; smatour@archphila.org.

Ordination Overnights

Each year, discerners are invited to join the Vocation Office for the Ordinations. We invite our high school discerners to stay overnight at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary the night before the Transitional Diaconate Ordination and join us for the Ordination Mass in St. Martin's Chapel. Similarly, our post-high school discerners are invited to stay overnight at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary the night before the Priestly Ordination, and then carpool to the Cathedral for the Priestly Ordination Mass.



Please invite men to consider joining us for these ordinations. If you have a discerner who is unable to attend the overnight but would like to attend either of the Ordination Masses, please contact our office so see if we have extra tickets. *We ask that discerners call or email Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org at least one week before the weekend they are signing up for so that a room can be reserved and the kitchen staff notified. Men will have a single room at the seminary with linens, pillow & towel.*

2017-2018 Ordination Overnights:

Friday, May 11-Saturday, May 12, 2018 (High School Discerners)

Friday, May 18-Saturday, May 19, 2018 (Post-High School Discerners)

See the Come & See Weekend Details for a Suggested Overnight Packing List



Quo Vadis Days

"Quo Vadis" means "Where are you going". Each summer the Vocation Office facilitates a Quo Vadis camp for high school-aged young men (incoming freshmen to graduated seniors) who desire to grow in faithful discipleship and personal holiness to be better able to discover their own vocation invitation from our Lord, whatever that might be.

The Quo Vadis Days are a 4-day, 3-night camp run by the Vocation Director, Archdiocesan Priests & Deacons, invited speakers and the Philadelphia Seminarians.

Dynamic talks, small group discussions, meaningful prayer experience, including Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic Adoration, with a dynamically fun environment including a ropes course, swimming in a pool and a lake, basketball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and more.

The high school men attending this retreat will have a life changing encounter with Christ while having the time of their life. In 2017 the Philadelphia Quo Vadis camp had over 110 participants, and hopes to continue to grow this program to impact young men from many diverse ethnic backgrounds throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Dates for 2018:

**Monday, June 25th to Thursday, June 29th
Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville PA**

Registration Cost Per Camper: \$25.00 prior to April 1st; \$40.00 thereafter

(Donations accepted to help offset actual cost of camp of \$300 per participant)

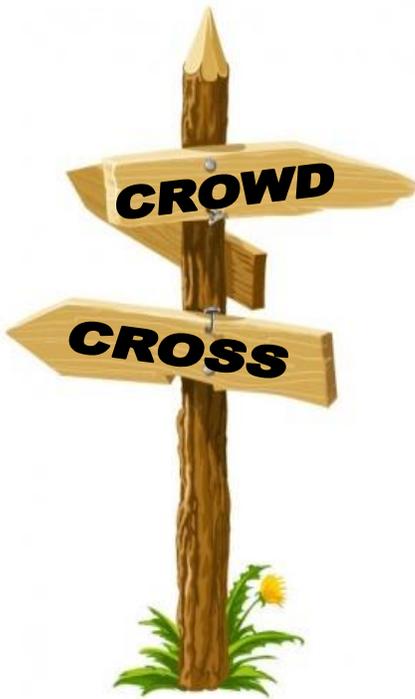
Please invite high school-aged young men to attend this retreat! Flyers, promotional materials and registration forms will be available at www.heedthecall.org by late Fall 2017

Check out our Quo Vadis Promotional Videos!

[Quo Vadis Promo \(4mins\)](#)

[Quo Vadis Promo \(1.5mins\)](#)

Seminarian Visits / Junior Retreats



Each year, the Vocation Office in conjunction with the Philadelphia Seminarians, coordinates grade schools visits and Junior Retreats for high schools. At the grade schools, seminarians visit to give vocation presentations. For the Junior Retreats, the seminarians partner with the vocation directresses of various religious communities in the Archdiocese to facilitate the retreats. This affords an opportunity for the junior classes to hear the general concept of vocations and then explore the possibility of having a particular call to the priesthood or religious life. The students are encouraged to open their hearts to whatever vocation the Lord has planned for them and they have an opportunity to enter into prayer about their vocations.

For grade school retreats, seminarians are available for morning and/or afternoon classroom visits or assemblies. Junior Retreats are held on Thursdays and are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Schools can request a half-day or full-day retreat. To schedule a school visit or a Junior Retreat please call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org) as soon as possible!

The dates for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

Fall of 2017

October 12th, 19th & 26th

November 9th & 30th

Spring of 2018

February 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

March 1st, 8th & 15th

April 12th & 19th

April 26th – Snow Make-up Day

Nights @ Overbrook

The Vocation Office hosts weekday visits to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Conventionally, high school young men have visited St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for these events but we are hopeful many of our priests, deacons, and youth ministers, as well as school ministers and Parish Vocation Coordinators (PVCs), will take advantage of this opportunity to bring a group to the Seminary.

These visits, traditionally called “Tuesday at Overbrook”, typically include:

- Tour of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Activities
- Evening Prayer with the Seminary Community
- Dinner in the Refectory (*ie, Cafeteria*)
- Vocation talks and discussion led by current Seminarians

Dates Available (Events begin at 4:00PM and end by 8:00PM)

We have scheduled these events on Tuesdays and numerous groups can visit on a given night. Please contact Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org) in the Vocation Office to reserve your space!. Please call Fr. DeLacy at (610) 667-5778 to discuss alternate dates.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Information to share:

[History of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary](#)

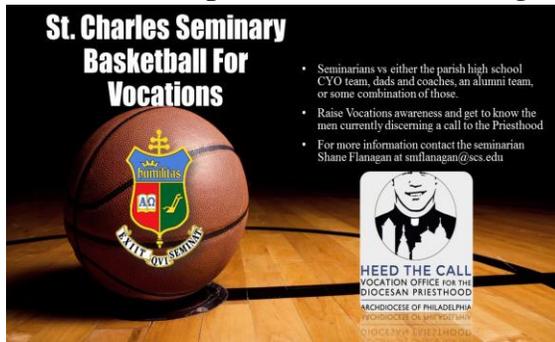
[Vocation Video of one of our Current Seminarians](#)

Continue to check the www.heedthecall.org website for more resources!



Basketball Outreach

The Seminarian Basketball Outreach Team is available to come and play your CYO high school players and/or your CYO coaches! These games are always a lot of fun not only for those who play, but for the entire community. Invite families and parishioners of all ages to come watch! During game intermission, the seminarians present a dynamic program where they share their vocation stories and some general information about growing in a relationship with Christ.



The Seminarian Basketball Outreach team is available on select Friday evenings and Saturday mornings from December to March. *To schedule an event for your parish or region, please contact Seminarian, Shane Flanagan, at smflanagan@scs.edu or contact Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.* Your group is also welcome to schedule a game at the Seminary if more convenient.

Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)

Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.) is a one-day event for boys in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Young men from across the Archdiocese are invited to gather for a summer day of fun, food and formation with the Philadelphian Seminarians. The day includes great music, food, sports, games, powerful prayer, and Mass.

This event is held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary during the summer months and is a great opportunity for junior high young men to visit the seminary! The cost for this event is \$15.00 and includes lunch, t-shirt, and activities.



Please consider inviting the middle school boys in your parish and/or school to this event. Registration material will be available on the Heedthecall.org web site in early 2018.

Saints A.L.I.V.E. - Anointed! Living in Virtue Everyday

Saints A.L.I.V.E is a one-day confirmation retreat for those in 5th-6th grade as well as a youth rally for 7th -8th grade. Parish DREs and/or Youth Ministers are responsible for setting up transportation to and from the event and providing chaperones for their group. Each event incorporates the following:



- Dynamic talks centered around our relationship with Christ
- Hands-on activities which illustrate how we can live out the gifts of the Spirit after confirmation in our daily lives
- Live “Praise & Worship” music
- Interaction with High School leaders
- **NEW THIS YEAR!!!** Parent Presentation by Dr. Mariette Danilo, Director of Education for the Saint John Vianney Center
- Vigil Mass

The theme for the 2017-2018 Saints A.L.I.V.E. retreats is *Set the World Ablaze!* For the 2017-2018 year, retreats will be held from Noon to 5:00PM on the following dates/locations:

Saturday, October 14, 2017 - Archbishop Wood High School

Saturday, February 10, 2018 – Pope John Paul II High School

Registration for these retreats is made through the parish DRE or Youth Minister. The cost for the 2017-2018 Saints A.L.I.V.E events is \$12 per person (Students only) which includes lunch and supplies. Parishes may purchase the optional Saints A.L.I.V.E. T-shirt directly through the vendor.

If you have questions about Saints A.L.I.V.E. or would like more information please call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org)

Hispanic Family Day

Members of the Hispanic Community are invited to gather for an afternoon at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for Mass, activities, food, and fellowship.

This event will be held on **Sunday, September 17, 2017; Mass will begin at 12PM.** *To register for this event, contact the Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820.*



Hispanic Vocation Days



For the second year, the Vocation Office is partnering with the Hispanic Vocation Task Force to provide Hispanic Vocation Days at two locations:

St. Patrick, Norristown – November 11, 2017
St. Martin of Tours – February 3, 2018

Middle school and high school-aged young men and their parents are invited to gather for faith-based activities, food, fellowship, and Eucharistic Adoration. *For more information regarding these events, contact the Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820.*

Cassock Classic Ultimate Frisbee Tournament



Young adult groups and college/university ministries are invited to participate in a one-day Ultimate Frisbee Tournament organized by the seminarians and held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Now in its fifth year, this event is a great opportunity for young adults (male & female) to mingle with their peers throughout the Archdiocese and beyond.

**The 2018 Cassock Classic will be held
Saturday, April 21st, from 9:00AM-6:00PM**

The Cassock Classic includes:

- Mass
- Frisbee Tournament*
- Lunch
- Fellowship
- Faith Formation Talk
- Awards
- Evening Prayer

Competitive and non-competitive players welcome

*Registration material can be downloaded from the www.heedthecall.org website in early 2018. Please be sure to register your team no later than Friday, March 30th to ensure that your T-shirts can be ordered in time. **Questions?** Call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org)*

Forged by the Fire



Forged by the Fire is a new movement sponsored by the Vocation Office for men's evangelization, discipleship and fellowship for men in their 20s and 30s. Consisting of a series of three weekend retreats aimed at forming men in the Catholic faith, the annual retreat series culminates with an evangelization project.

Attendance at all three weekend retreats, held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, is required. The dates for 2017-2018 are:

September 8-10, 2017

October 13-15, 2017

November 17-19, 2017

The cost per retreat is \$50 for room, board, and supplies. If you know of a faith-filled, young adult man who would like to grow in holiness and be a part of this new movement, *please call Fr. Stephen DeLacy, Vocation Director at (610) 667-5778 or email him at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.*

Fuel the Flame – A Vocation Promotion Event with Mike Patin



Set the World Ablaze! Help impact the future of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia! Join Mike Patin, national speaker for an engaging, entertaining, and vibrant evening of conversation and strategies. Spend the evening with other Parish and Deanery Vocation Coordinators (PVCs and DVCs), seminarians, priests, clergy, deacons, and lay leaders to learn how to create and foster a culture of vocations in our families, parishes, schools, and communities. To watch a promotional video by Mike Patin for this event, [click here](#).

This event will be held at 7:00PM at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, October 30, 2017. To register online for this event, visit www.heedthecall.org/event/fueltheflame or contact Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

Solemn Evening Prayer and Close of Forty Hours



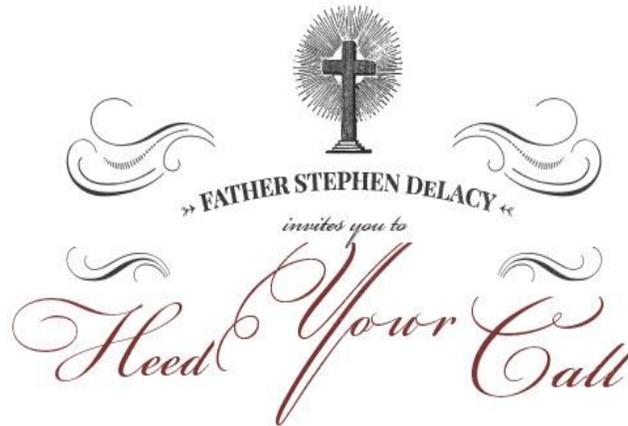
All are invited to join the Seminary Community for the Close of Forty Hours which includes Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Procession and a Reception.

This event will be held on **Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:00PM.**

For more information, contact the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or Fr. DeLacy at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.

Heed Your Call Benefit

In order to provide the number and type of vocational and discernment opportunities that are profiled in this Playbook, the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood relies on the generosity of our friends and supporters. No donation is too small and all monies are directly applied to the programs and events aimed at helping men become better disciples of Jesus Christ and to answer His call.



This annual benefit will be held at St. Charles Seminary on **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, the Feast of our Patron, St. Charles Borromeo. The evening begins with Mass at 4:30PM during which we thank Almighty God for the gift of His son, Jesus Christ, and receive Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist. Following Mass, all are invited to gather in the historic Eakins Room for wine, hors d'oeuvres and a brief program of music and vocation stories by some of our Philadelphia seminarians and newly ordained clergy.

To request an invitation for yourself or someone else, please contact Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org or visit <http://heedthecall.org/event/heedyourcall>

St. Andrew Dinner

(Annually per Deanery)

Coordinated by the Vocation Coordinator of the Deanery:

- The Vocation Coordinator and/or Dean will find a date and a Host Pastor and determine the age limit for participants at the Dinner (e.g. 18+, or 14+)
- The Host Pastor will:
 - Provide the meal (the number attending provided by the Priest or Parish Vocation Coordinators)
 - Provide the space for evening prayer and the meal
- All priests in the Deanery will be expected to invite men to this event
 - The men invited should be good candidates for the priesthood
 - Encourage priests to invite current seminarians from their parishes
 - Remind priests that they should not be alone with any minor at any time.
- Ensure that the Liturgy of the Hours is provided.
- Solicit one or two priests to give their vocation story(s).
- Solicit one or two priests to share ‘the day in the life of a priest’.
- Provide for a discussion and/or Q&A session
- Be welcoming and inviting to ensure that everyone is having a good time.
- Communicate what the next step would be for men discerning.

Suggested Schedule:

5:00PM	Evening Prayer
5:15PM	Dinner
6:00PM	Vocation Story(s)
6:20PM	Day in the Life of a Priest
6:30PM	Discussion
7:00PM	Depart



For More Information about a Saint Andrew’s Dinner in your area contact the Deanery Vocation Coordinator (DVC) for your Deanery.

Bring Vocations to Your Parish



Schedule the Vocation Director:

Our Vocation Director, Fr. Stephen DeLacy is available to visit your parish. Please consider inviting Father to:

- Preach at weekend Masses
- 40 Hours
- Parish Mission
- Speak to Youth Group
- Speak at Theology on Tap/Young Adults Event
- Sacramental Retreats / Parent Talks

Father DeLacy is currently offering talks on the following topics:

Friendship
Freedom from Shame
Sacrament of Reconciliation
The Eucharist
The Mass
Discernment
Prayer...The Our Father
The Blessed Mother

To schedule Father to come out to your parish or event please call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Father DeLacy (fr.sdelacy@archphila.org)

Schedule a Seminarian:

Seminarian availability is limited!!! The Vocation Office is happy to work with your parish to facilitate having a seminarian visit your parish.

Seminarians could possibly present to in one of the following ways:

- Speak to CCD/PREP Program
- Speak to the grade school
- Speak to the Youth Group
- Give their Vocation Stories after the Prayer after Holy Communion at Sunday Mass.

If you have questions or need more information please contact the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org)

Key Leaders

I'm a Pastor. What should I be doing?

Parish priests are the most significant vocation promoters for the priesthood.

The strongest candidates who come through the Vocation Office each have a close relationship with a priest who guides him through the process and is willing to advocate for him when necessary.

Below are some concrete steps that you could take to foster priestly vocation.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations before each Mass
- First and foremost, invite men to consider if God is calling them to the priesthood
- Use your leadership to make every aspect of the parish engaged in fostering priestly Vocations. Please see how the other leadership roles can foster vocations.
- Consider starting a Parish Vocation Committee
- Bring men to the St. Andrew Dinner held at the Deanery level
- Invite men (High School age and above) to the Come and See Weekends
- Bring men to Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite High School Guys to the Quo Vadis Camp
- Refer men, College age and above, to Father DeLacy for Forged by the Fire
- Organize an event where men get to know you as a person and what your life is like.
- Make it known that you will be happy to speak to guys about what God is doing in their lives.

I'm a Parochial Vicar, Sunday Assistant, a Resident Priest, or Senior Priest. What should I be doing?

Parish priests are the most significant vocation promoters for the priesthood.

The strongest candidates who come through the Vocation Office each have a close relationship with a priest who guides him through the process and is willing to advocate for him when necessary.

Below are some concrete steps that you could take to foster priestly vocation.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Ask your Pastor if you can say the Prayer for Vocations before each Mass
- First and foremost, invite men to consider if God is calling them to the priesthood
- Consider starting a Parish Vocation Committee
- Bring men to the St. Andrew Dinner held at the Deanery level
- Invite men (High School age and above) to the Come and See Weekends
- Bring men to Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite High School Guys to the Quo Vadis Camp
- Refer men, College age and above, to Father DeLacy for Forged by the Fire
- Organize an event where men get to know you as a person and what your life is like.
- Make it known that you will be happy to speak to guys about what God is doing in their lives.

I'm a DRE/CRE. What should I be doing?

DRE's are often the oil that keeps the Church running. You can be very strong leaders in fostering a Culture of Vocations in your parish.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
 - Say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
 - Adopt a seminarian and pray for him
 - Write letters to the seminarians
- Bring Junior High School Students to the Saints A.L.I.V.E. Youth Rally
- Invite Middle School Students (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Encourage your catechists to make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity, to Vocation Awareness Week (November 5-11, 2017):
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Encourage your catechists to make use of the videos we have available.
- Encourage your catechists to invite young men they think would be good priests and the young women they think would be good sisters to consider if this is where God is leading them.
- Invite Priests to speak at your program.
- Think Outside the Box - let us know your ideas!

I'm a Youth Minister. What should I be doing?

Youth Ministers often know the middle school, high school, and college students the best in their parishes and so are invaluable in fostering priestly vocations.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations at each gathering/youth night
- Bring Junior High School Students to the Saints A.L.I.V.E. Youth Rally
- Invite Middle School Students (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Bring High School Students to Youth Ministry Night during Vocation Awareness Week (November 5, 2017)
- If unable to attend the Vocation Office-sponsored event, host a Youth Night focusing on vocations during Vocation Awareness Week or during the year.
- Invite men to the Come and See Weekends
- With or without your Priest bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Organize an event where men get to know you as a person and what your life is like
- Refer men, College age and above, to Father DeLacy for Forged by the Fire
- Invite High School Guys to our Quo Vadis Camp
- If you attend a Youth Rally such as Steubenville where there is an Altar Call for Vocations, please consider inviting these men to attend a Come and See Weekend and/or Quo Vadis.
 - As much as 20% of all vocations to the priesthood in recent years have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference. This can be a powerful catalyst for fostering vocations.
- Invite Priests to be speakers for your Youth Nights
- Invite seminarians to speak for your Youth Nights

I'm a Grade School Principal. What should I be doing?

Principals often have more headaches than they deserve. I hope this is not the case for you!

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Encourage your teachers to say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Bring Junior High School Students to the Saints A.L.I.V.E. Youth Rally
- Invite Middle School Students (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week which is the beginning of November.
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available
- Encourage your teachers to invite young men they think would be good priests and young women they think would be good sisters to consider if this is where God is leading them
- Invite Priests to speak in your school.
- Think Outside the Box - let us know your ideas!

I'm a Grade School Teacher/Catechist. What should I be doing?

Teachers and Catechists often time you are the only one instructing your students in the faith. May God give you great success.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Bring Junior High School Students to the Saints A.L.I.V.E. Youth Rally
- Invite Middle School young men (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week, which is the beginning of November.
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Make use of the videos we have available.
- Invite your Pastor, Parochial Vicar, or a seminarian to speak in your classroom.
- Think Outside the Box - let us know your ideas!

I'm a High School Administrator. What should I be doing?

Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to do your job well.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Encourage your teachers to say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week which is the beginning of November
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available
- Encourage your teachers to invite young men they think would be good priests and young women they think would be good sisters to consider if this is where God is leading them
- Encourage your School Minister/Director of School Ministry to schedule a Junior Retreat which is focused on Vocations
- Encourage your School Minister/Director of School Ministry/Priest in the High School to bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook.
- Invite High School Guys to our Quo Vadis Camp
- If you attend a Youth Rally such as Steubenville where there is an Altar Call for Vocations, please consider inviting these men to attend a Come and See Weekend and/or Quo Vadis.
 - As much as 20% of all vocations to the priesthood in recent years have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference. This can be a powerful catalyst for fostering vocations.

I'm a High School Theology Teacher. What should I be doing?

Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to do your job well.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week which is the beginning of November
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Make use of the videos we have available
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Encourage your teachers to invite young men they think would be good priests and young women they think would be good sisters to consider if this is where God is leading them
- Offer to help your School Minister/Director of School Ministry/Priest in the High School to bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite High School-aged men to our Quo Vadis Camp
- If you attend a Youth Rally such as Steubenville where there is an Altar Call for Vocations, please consider inviting these men to attend a Come and See Weekend and/or Quo Vadis.
 - As much as 20% of all vocations to the priesthood in recent years have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference. This can be a powerful catalyst for fostering vocations.

I'm a High School Minister/Director of School Ministry. What Should I be doing?

Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to do your job well.

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Encourage the faculty to say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week which is the beginning of November
<http://heedthecall.org/category/resources/school>
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available
- Encourage your teachers to invite young men they think would be good priests and young women they think would be good sisters to consider if this is where God is leading them
- Schedule a Junior Retreat which is focused on Vocations
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite High School Guys to our Quo Vadis Camp
- If you attend a Youth Rally such as Steubenville where there is an Altar Call for Vocations, please consider inviting these men to attend a Come and See Weekend and/or Quo Vadis.
 - As much as 20% of all vocations to the priesthood in recent years have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference. This can be a powerful catalyst for fostering vocations.

I'm involved with College Ministry. What should I be doing?

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations before each Mass
- Bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Organize a group to play in the Cassock Classic
- Refer men to Fr. DeLacy who you think would be good candidates for Forged by the Fire.

I'm involved with Young Adult Ministry. **What should I be doing?**

- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Prayer the Prayer for Vocations daily; invite others to do so
- Bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Organize a group to play in the Cassock Classic
- Refer men to Fr. DeLacy who you think would be good candidates for Forged by the Fire.

I'm a Seminarian. What should I be doing?

- Prayer the Prayer for Vocations daily
- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Encourage men on your apostolate visits to attend a Vocation Office event
- Offer to attend a Steubenville Youth Conference if your home parish or parish assignment is attending.
 - As much as 20% of all vocations to the priesthood in recent years have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference. This can be a powerful catalyst for fostering vocations.
- Offer to help with a Come and See Weekend
- Be a resource for discerning men

Resources for Discerners & Families

Do you know a man who is discerning the priesthood but is looking for answers?
How about a family who is looking for how they can support their son's vocation?

Check out these great resources for discerners and their families.



VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
HEED THE CALL

WWW.HEEDTHECALL.ORG

The Heed the Call website is a great place for a discerner to explore the idea of a vocation and get some of their questions. Please direct your discerners to our website. The website includes:

- [Vocation Story Videos](#)
- [Q & A Videos for Discernment](#)
- [Information on our Events](#)
- [Contact information for all our Vocation Coordinators](#)

Heed the Call YouTube Channel

The Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood has an official You Tube Channel which has a variety of priests and seminarian's vocation stories, several promotional videos for the various programs offered by the Vocation Office, and several Q&A Videos offered geared toward our discerners. Check out the newest video series on discernment which will be available in late Fall 2017.

[Click Here for the Vocation Office You Tube Channel](#)



the blog at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
www.semcasual.org

See life from the seminarians' perspective. Seminarians blog about Seminary Life, Pop Culture, Morality and Theology, Current Events, and Social Media.

WWW.SEMCASUAL.ORG



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www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest



www.youtube.com/c/HeedtheCall



www.instagram.com/phillypriest
www.instagram.com/qvphilly

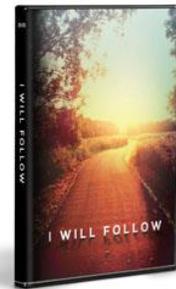


www.twitter.com/philly_priest
www.twitter.com/qvphilly

Video & Book Resources

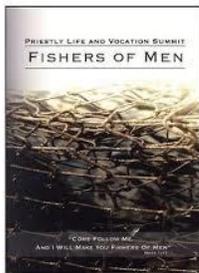
I Will Follow is a short film created by Ascension Press to encourage men to consider a vocation to the priesthood. It is an excerpt from *Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*, which presents the Mass and the priesthood to Catholic teens. You may also check this video out at:

[Click Here for More about *I Will Follow*](#)



Altaration addresses head-on one of the biggest problems we all face: how do we get Catholic teens to appreciate the awesome beauty and mystery of the Mass...and to actually look forward to attending and participating?

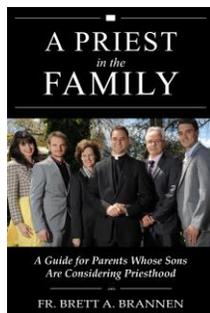
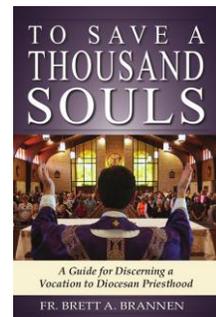
[Click Here for More about *Altaration*](#)



Fishers of Men is a video created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It highlights various priests and has a great message on the importance of the Priesthood in our lives and the need for men to follow Christ's call to become fishers of men. For more information, [Click Here for More about Fishers of Men](#)

To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood is the definitive guide for men considering the priesthood. Using powerful and entertaining stories, the book explains in down-to-earth language how to carefully discover God's call.

[Click Here for More about *To Save a Thousand Souls*](#)

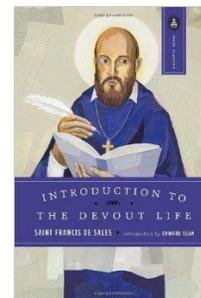


“My son, a priest!? Won't he be lonely? What about celibacy? Isn't he too young? I just want him to be happy!” These and dozens of other questions and concerns are common among parents of would-be priests. With his gift for storytelling and down-to-earth wisdom, Fr. Brett Brannen addresses a wide range of issues in ***A Priest in the Family: A Guide for Parents Whose Sons are Considering Priesthood.***

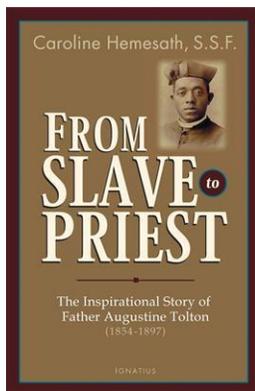
[Click Here for More about *A Priest in the Family*](#)

All Christians struggle to discern God's call on their life, but God does call all to live a Christ-centered life. ***Introduction to the Devout Life*** by St. Francis of Sales attempts to help Christians discern what it means to be a child of God in a secular world. We can glorify God in a secular world, and be a testimony to the world of God's abounding grace and love.

[Click Here for More about the Introduction to the Devout Life](#)



From Slave to Priest



Born into a black Catholic slave family, Fr. Augustine Tolton (1854-1897) conquered almost insurmountable odds to become one of the very first black priests in the United States. By his early death at 43, this pioneer black priest left behind a shining legacy of holy service to God, the Church and his people. Tolton's cause of canonization has been officially opened by the Archdiocese of Chicago as announced by Cardinal Francis George.

[Click Here for More about From Slave to Priest](#)

Joyful Films

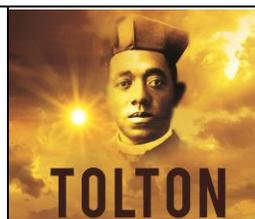


The Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood contracts with Bill Rose, Proprietor of Joyful Films, to create thought-provoking and inspirational videos about vocations and the priesthood.

To view the Heed the Call or Jose Serrano films click on the links provides. To purchase a Tolton DVD or a copy of the Heed the Call or Jose Serrano DVD's for you in your parish, school, or home, please contact Claudia in the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778, or cjimenez@archphila.org.



[Heed the Call](#)



Tolton: DVD available for purchase



[Called by Name: Jose Serrano](#) (English Version)

[Called By Name: Jose Serrano](#) (Version en Español)

Radio Shows Dedicated to Vocations Work



WFJS 1260 AM (Mercer, Burlington, Hunterdon, Somerset, Philadelphia, Bucks & Montgomery Counties)

WFJS 89.3 FM (Monmouth, Ocean & Middlesex Counties)

WGYM 1580 AM (Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem & Camden Counties)

WSMJ 91.9 FM (Cape May County)

Vocation Hour

The Vocation Hour with Father Stephen P. DeLacy, Director of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood, is a monthly radio program that promotes vocations and the work of the Archdiocese. It features interviews with priests, seminarians, parents of seminarians and other engaging guests.

Listen to Father DeLacy on the 1st Friday of Each Month @ 4:00PM

Encore (recording) on the 2nd Saturday of Each Month @ 2:00PM

Listen to the Archives of the Show on our website at:

[Click Here for our Archive of Father DeLacy's Radio Shows](#)

or on the Holy Spirit Radio Website at:

[Click Here for The Vocation Hour on Holy Spirit Radio](#)

Vocation Boom Radio

[Click Here to Listen to Vocation Boom Radio Recordings](#)

Vocation Boom!
Here I am.

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC**

***The Class of 2017:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood***

**A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**



April 2017

**Michal J. Kramarek, Ph.D.
Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.**

A Selection of the Findings with Commentary

[Click Here for the C.A.R.A. Report in its entirety!](#)

Appendix 1:

Selected Findings and Commentary from CARA Report

Finding:

Age: On average, responding ordinands first considered priesthood when they were 16 years old. On average, responding ordinands were scheduled for ordination 18 years later (at the age of 34).

Commentary:

When to engage in Vocations: When someone is 16 years old they could be a sophomore and/or junior in high school. Previous studies have shown that the junior year of high school is a critical time when young people are considering what to do with the rest of their lives. It would be ideal if as part of every parish's youth ministry there was focus on helping high school juniors discerning God's will.

Do we respond immediately when God Calls?: The response time seems very long. In vocation work you often hear of a high school man expressing that God is calling him to the priesthood and in many cases parents, priests, youth ministers, and/or high school teachers, etc. say you are better off getting a college degree before entering the seminary. There could be a variety of motivations why people suggest this course of action. By way of exception this could be the prudent advice, but in general, it seems to be a failure to focus on what God wants.

Implicit in the first commandment of "having no other gods" is that our God needs to be the first priority. Does that not mean that if the call is being manifested by God, then the response should occur as close as possible to the time the man receives the call? Since Philadelphia has always been committed to a college seminary program and with our ongoing conversation with Neumann University reinforcing that commitment, it seems that if the call to the priesthood manifests when the man is in high school, he should go to college seminary. I don't think it is a good idea to teach our young people to procrastinate responding to God's call.

Finding:

Education: Between 40 and 50 percent of all responding ordinands attended a Catholic school for at least some part of their schooling. Three in five responding ordinands (59 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish for seven years, on average.

Education: Two in five responding ordinands (43 percent) reported that they completed college or university undergraduate degree before entering the seminary.

Commentary:

The majority of those who enter into the seminary did not graduate from a college or university. This finding reinforces the commentary above – we should encourage our high school men who receive the call to the priesthood to enter the college seminary.

Finding:

Work: More than half of responding ordinands (57 percent) reported some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary.

Finding:

Vocational Discernment: Four in five responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic Adoration (77 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary, around seven in ten (69 percent) prayed the rosary, almost half (46 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, two in five (38 percent) went to high school retreats, and about three out of ten attended college retreats (34 percent) or participated in Lectio Divina (29 percent).

Commentary: If we want to see an increase in vocations, we should ensure that our ministries emphasize Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, Retreats, and Lectio Divina as much as possible.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in various activities before entering the seminary, half of responding ordinands participated in parish youth groups (48 percent) before entering the seminary. About three in ten responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (34 percent) and Boy Scouts (31 percent).

Commentary: Parishes can assist in fostering vocation by providing dynamic youth ministry, providing information on campus ministry to graduating high school seniors, and encouraging boys to participate in the Boy Scouts, by completing their religious recognitions through the Catholic Committee on Scouting, and becoming Eagle Scout.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in parish ministries before entering the seminary, four in five (75 percent) responding ordinands served as altar servers. Half (52 percent) served as lectors. Two in five served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (43 percent). A third served in campus ministry/youth ministry (35 percent), as catechists (34 percent) or as confirmation sponsors/godfathers (32 percent). One in four served as a cantor or in some other aspect of music ministry (27 percent).

Commentary: The more we can encourage young men to be altar servers in middle school, the more we will see an increase in vocations. A recommendation is to have a plan to keep men serving at the altar while in high school, by transitioning them to be lectors, serve as the master of ceremonies, or only allowing high school servers to use the thurible. Another option is to have a “ceremony crew” of high school men be the ceremony crew for special occasions.

Vocational Discernment: Half of responding ordinands (47 percent) reported participating in “Come and See” weekends at the seminary or the religious institute/society.

Commentary: A Come and See Weekend is a unique opportunity for men to visit the seminary and experience the life of a seminarian. Please see the Come and See Weekend dates we offer on page 8. The more people we have inviting men to a Come and See Weekend, the more vocations we will have.

Vocational Discernment: Four in five responding ordinands (82 percent) reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently, the parish priest, friend, or another parishioner). On average, four individuals encouraged their vocation.

Commentary: Vocations are fostered by invitation. Everyone can foster vocations effectively, while the parish priest is the most effective at fostering vocations.

Vocational Discernment: One-half of responding ordinands (48 percent) indicated that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a friend/classmate or a family member (other than parents).

Commentary: Parents are often believed to be the greatest discouragers of a vocation, which is not the case for the class of 2017. These results, however, reveal that if someone is considering the priesthood, there needs to be very intentional support by parish and school communities because the man will definitely experience discouragement during his discernment process.

To see the report in its entirety please visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/upload/ordination-class-2017-cara-report.pdf>

Appendix 2:

Pastoral Council Meeting on Priestly and Religious Vocations

Opening Prayers: Select a Prayer for Vocation

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-for-vocations.cfm>

Heed the Call Video (6 Minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpYjkXzmYpU&t=7s>

Vocation Story: (7 Minutes)

Invite a priest or religious present to share their vocation story.

How is our parish doing in fostering priestly and religious vocation: (15 minutes)

- How many Priests and Sisters have come from the parish? How recently?
 - If recent, what were the reason for his/her vocation? What can be learned and what can be duplicated?
- What are the reasons it is hard to foster vocation in our parish?
- Is there a process in the parish that would form a disciple to the point of being willing to be a priest or religious? Why is that not happening?
- Optional video on Celibacy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAWzyzH1J6Y>

What is our plan for fostering vocations? (15 minutes)

Let's look at the playbook program by program and discuss what we can participate in. What are the concrete steps we will take

The Power of the Invitation: (15 minutes)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Q67p2mrywY&t=29s>
- What are the qualities of a good priest?
- What young men have those qualities who we should invite to consider the priesthood?
- How should we invite them?
- What are the qualities of a good religious?
- What young men and women have those qualities who we should invite to consider the religious life?



Man is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life even in its temporal phase.

(Pope John Paul II)

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