The 2018-2019 Playbook
A practical guide to promoting vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood

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HeedTheCall.org
http://www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest
## Deanery and Task Force Vocation Coordinators for the Vocation Office for Archdiocesan Priesthood

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Websites helpful for Vocation Promotion

In addition to [www.HeedTheCall.org](http://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.

**www.vocationministry.com**: Vocation Ministry
This website has resources for discerners, parents and teachers to help them promote vocations.
September, 2018

Dear Promoters of Priestly Vocations,

May our Lord increase in us our faith and hope so we can be sure that we “have the strength for everything through Him who empowers” us. At the time of writing this letter for the playbook it appears that we will have over eighty seminarians for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We are grateful to God for the success that he has granted us and we ask that we can get to the point that the number of vocations to the priesthood that we are fostering is enough to satisfy the need for pastoral ministry that our Archdiocese will have in the not so distant future.

Because of the good success that we had with the program in 2015, we are reengaging the Called By Name Program again this coming November. This program engages one of the most important steps in effectively fostering vocations, which is the invitation. The Church as a community is given an opportunity through the placement of cards in the pews to invite a man to consider if God is calling them to the priesthood. Through this type of invitation God can work powerfully through the life of the young men who God is “Calling by name!”

In 2015 the biggest question was how we follow up in fostering the potential vocation whose name is generated by the Called By Name Program. I recommend the following steps that would be best done by priests, but could also be done by anyone. This could also be done individually or in a group setting. This would be a process of accompaniment, which requires someone investing time to walk with the young man. This should be motivated to form him as a disciple and to “make him a priest”.

Evangelize:

It is important the someone teach our young people to pray. Many young people do not know how to pray. Over the last decade the CARA studies are very clear that the majority of vocations are cultivated by some combination of Eucharistic Adoration and Praying the Rosary.

One great starting point to work with guys highlighted by Called By Name or anyone else who you think may have a vocation, is to sit down with him periodically and teach him how to pray the Rosary and how to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Be a place where they can go to share consolations and a help during dryness. They will need someone to keep them motivated.

Spiritual Direction:

Once prayer has been engaged as a regular part of the young man’s life, you can ask him what are the movements that he is experiencing in prayer. The goal is to help him understand how God is speaking to him. Help him to see long-term movements of what God is saying to him. “I keep coming back to the idea of being a priest or a missionary or a doctor of whatever.” Try to help him not get caught up in highs and lows of the day, but focus on what God is doing over weeks or months or even years.

Discernment:

If the young man starts to manifest a pattern of the call to the priesthood which is persistent, that can be a sign of it being a call from God. He may not even like the idea. At that point he needs to be encouraged to actively discern. The rest of the playbook gives a whole array of opportunities for the young man to discern. There would be a primacy of trying to get
him to a Come and See Weekend. I thank all of you for the good work that goes in fostering vocations.

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy
Vocation Director
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.
In the Fall of 2015, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia initiated the “CALLED BY NAME” vocation initiative. As a follow up to that, the Vocation Office is reinstating the program this Fall and pursuing it with renewed vigor.

CALLED BY NAME is a parish-based initiative where parishioners are encouraged to pray for vocations and nominate young men in their parish - men that would be good and holy candidates for the diocesan priesthood. Many saintly priests experienced the call first through those in his life who saw in him goodness and a love for God and fellow man. Statistics have shown that it was in his home parish that a priest first has the idea of vocation mentioned to him. Perhaps you know a man who has a call to the priesthood!

Parishioners across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are asked to prayerfully consider, and on the last two weekends of November, nominate this man to your parish. Those nominated will be invited to a Holy Hour for Vocations and to further explore the discernment process with Fr. DeLacy, Vocation Director.

To find out if your parish is participating, or if you are interested in helping, contact your parish administration or contact Christopher Gallagher in the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778 or cgallagher@arch phila.org.

Timeline:

- Weekend 1 - November 17-18
- Weekend 2 - November 24-25
- Holy Hour for Vocations - January 6, 2019
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.

During this National Vocation Awareness Week, we ask you to pray to Our Lord, asking for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. Pray that they may be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith communities, and respond generously to God’s gift of a vocation.

In the subsequent pages are activities/events that a Parish/School/Program can implement to celebrate Vocation Awareness Week and promote vocations. In addition, the Vocation Office has scheduled several Vocation Awareness Events during, and in the weeks surrounding, Vocation Awareness Week for schools, families, parishes and communities. Additionally, beginning on Page 27, suggested ways that a parish/community/school can promote and encourage vocations are listed.
VOCATION AWARENESS DAY

Home school families, as well as students and staff of the Regina Academies and Martin Saints Classical High School are invited to visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for **Vocation Awareness Day** on **Thursday, October 25, 2018**! The day begins at 10:00 AM and will end following lunch at 1:00 PM. Come and celebrate vocations at the Seminary with some of the Philadelphia Seminarians, Fr. DeLacy, and the staff of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood.

Girls and boys in all grades are invited to join us! For more information, or to register your family or school for this event, please contact **Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org** no later than October 18, 2018.

NEWLY ORDAINED LUNCHEON

High School Campus ministers from throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are invited and encouraged to bring their young men to Mass and a Luncheon with the 2018 Newly Ordained Priests! A long-standing tradition in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this luncheon provides students an opportunity to meet and interact with the newly ordained priests. The Mass and Luncheon will be held in Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul and the proposed date is **Thursday, November 15, 2018**. Further details will be provided to each campus minister in September, 2018.
Meet the Seminarian Webinars

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!

We invite Grade School and PREP programs to join a few of the Philadelphia Seminarians for a Virtual Meet and Greet! The Vocation Office will be hosting Meet the Seminarians Webinars for students in Grades 5 to 8 enrolled in a Catholic Grade School or a PREP Program during Vocation Awareness Week! Classes are invited to gather online for an opportunity to interact with the seminarians, listen to a presentation, and have the opportunity to ask questions. The presentations will be approximately 45 minutes in length.

**PREP Programs (Grades 5-8):**
Tuesday, November 6, 2018:
4:45 PM and 6:30 PM (choose one time)

**Catholic Grade Schools:**
Thursday, November 8, 2018:
Grades 5/6 (9:30 AM) and Grades 7/8 (1:00 PM)

Additional information, including technical requirements and a registration link, are provided at [http://heedthecall.org/event/webinar](http://heedthecall.org/event/webinar). Classes are asked to register no later than **November 1, 2018.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Matour, Associate Director, Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

Visit [https://www.vianneyvocations.com/](https://www.vianneyvocations.com/) to view additional ideas and purchase bulletin inserts/packets to promote Vocation Awareness Week.
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 begins on either Friday evening or Saturday morning, and concludes on Sunday afternoon. The weekend 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 selected weekend so that a room can be reserved and the kitchen staff notified.

**2018-2019 Weekends for High School Men***:
Sat., December 8 — Sun., December 9, 2018
Sat., January 26 – Sun., January 27, 2019
Sat., February 16 – Sun., February 17, 2019

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

**2018-2019 Weekends for Post-High School Men**:
Fri., January 18 – Sun., January 20, 2019
Fr., February 22 – Sun., February 24, 2019
Fri., March 29 – Sun., March 31, 2019

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

**Suggested Packing List:**
- Clothes - Casual clothing for the weekend
- Suit, Dress Shirt & Tie for Mass
- Gym clothes for gym/outdoor sports
- Personal Toiletries
- Bible & Rosary
- To Save A Thousand Souls (one will be provided if you do not own one)

**What is Provided:**
- All Meals
- Single Room
- Sheets, pillow, blanket
- Towel, soap

Holy Thursday Chrism Mass
Thursday, April 18, 2019 – 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 no later than April 8, 2019 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.

2018-2019 Ordination Overnights:

Friday, May 10-Saturday, May 11, 2019 (High School Discerners)

Friday, May 17-Saturday, May 18, 2019 (Post-High School Discerners)

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

The Vocation Office Hispanic Task Force is sponsoring a Come & See Weekend for high school and adult Hispanic men the weekend of November 9-11, 2018.

This weekend is a great opportunity for men who are considering a vocation to come to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for a weekend of great talks, games, Eucharistic Adoration, reflections on priesthood, and vocation stories from seminarians, as well as Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminary community.

Please invite Hispanic men – high school age and above - to consider a call to the priesthood by attending this retreat. *For more information, or to register, please contact Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820 by October 30, 2018.*

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, April 7, 2019; Mass will begin at 12PM. *To register for this event, contact the Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820.*
High School Camp Reunion

All high school men who attended one or more of the following camps: Quo Vadis, Philadelphia Catholic Scholars, or Going Deeper, are invited to gather for community and fellowship at a **Vocation Office Summer Camp 2018 Reunion**.

This event will be held on **Sunday, September 30, 2018** at **5:00PM** at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and campers are invited to join the Seminary Community for Evening Prayer, followed by Pizza, basketball, and talks.

*To register, contact the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or Sue Matour at 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, 2018** at **7:00PM** in St. Martin’s Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

*For more information, contact the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or Fr. DeLacy at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.*
"Quo Vadis" means "Where are you going". Each summer the Vocation Office offers 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. Approximately 100 campers attend this camp each year, and the Vocation Office will continue to offer this program to impact young men from many diverse ethnic backgrounds throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**Dates for 2019:**

Monday, June 24th to Thursday, June 27th

Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville PA

**Registration Cost Per Camper:** Sliding Scale of $25 to $300  
*(Pay what you are able to afford)*

Please invite high school-aged young men to attend this retreat! Flyers, promotional materials and registration forms will be available at heedthecall.org/quovadis by late Fall 2018

Check out our Quo Vadis Promotional Videos!

[Quo Vadis Promo](#)
Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program (PCSP) is a residential, college-accredited summer program, offering young men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia a robust introduction to the great intellectual and spiritual heritage of the Church.

In discussion-based seminars, led by seminary and university professors, participants will study the great texts that have formed our cultural and intellectual inheritance – all in pursuit of emerging as well-formed Catholic men with a rich and integrated understanding of Catholic thought and life.

Combining rigorous study with a robust participation in the prayer life of the Church – as well as weekend cultural excursions – the PCSP brings young Catholic men into conversation with the riches of the Catholic tradition, inviting them to come to understand and live their faith more profoundly.

This Program will be held July 8-18, 2019 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. The theme for 2019 is “Truth, Beauty, Goodness”. More information can be found on their website at PhiladelphiaCatholicScholars.org or by contacting Fr. DeLacy in the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778 or fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.
Going Deeper

Initiated in 2018, the Going Deeper Camp is a unique opportunity for high school men in Grades 11 to 12 (incoming juniors to graduated seniors) or those with at least three years’ Quo Vadis experience, to delve deeper into their faith. Through a series of service opportunities, teens will live out Christ’s command to love and serve others.

The retreat will provide attendees with four days of activities, talks, corporal works of mercy, daily Mass and prayer, great food and fellowship as well as a visit to one of the Philadelphia shrines.

This event is held at the Spiritual Year Retreat House in Conshohocken and in 2019, will be held in July 2019. The registration fee of $100.00 includes all meals, lodging, and activities.

If you know of a young man who has attended Quo Vadis Camp, or is a junior or senior in high school, who would like to delve deeper into their faith, please contact Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org or 610-667-5778. Registration material will be available on the Heedthecall.org web site in early 2019.
**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 and in 2019, will be **Thursday, June 20th**. This is a great opportunity for junior high young men to visit the seminary! The cost for this event is $25.00 and includes lunch, activities, and a memento of the day.

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](http://Heedthecall.org) web site in early 2019.

**Seminarian Visits / Junior Retreats**

Each year, the Vocation Office in conjunction with the Philadelphia Seminarians, coordinates grade school 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 visits, seminarians are available for morning and/or afternoon classroom visits or assemblies, dependent upon availability. 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. **If you have not already scheduled a school visit or Junior Retreat and would like to do so, please call the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour ([smatour@archphila.org](mailto:smatour@archphila.org)).**
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, Declan Cole, at dcole@scs.edu or contact Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

Nights @ Overbrook

The Vocation Office hosts weekday visits for high school men to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. We encourage high school ministers as well as priests, deacons, youth ministers, and Parish Vocation Coordinators (PVCs) to gather a group of high school men to visit St. Charles Borromeo 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)

These events are scheduled on Tuesdays and numerous groups can visit on a given night. To reserve your space, please call (610) 667-5778 or email Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org) or Fr. DeLacy (fr.sdelacy@archphila.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tues., January 29, 2019</th>
<th>Tues., March 26, 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues., February 19, 2019</td>
<td>Tues., April 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., March 5, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 2019 Cassock Classic will be held
Saturday, April 13th, 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 heedthecall.org website in early 2019. Please be sure to register your team no later than Wednesday, March 27th 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. Consisting of a series of three weekend retreats aimed at forming men in the Catholic faith, the bi-annual retreat series culminates with an evangelization project.

The group is geared for faithful Catholic men aged 20 to 45. Regardless of a man's particular vocation, he can only fulfill it by being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Attendance at all three weekend retreats, held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, is required. The dates for the two retreat series are below:

**Fall Retreat Series**
- September 7-9, 2018
- October 5-7, 2018
- November 16-18, 2018

**Spring Retreat Series**
- February 1-3, 2019
- March 8-10, 2019
- April 12-14, 2019

The cost for each 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 contact Christopher Gallagher, Special Projects Coordinator at cgallagher@archphila.org or Fr. Stephen DeLacy, Vocation Director at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.
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:
  o Provide the meal (the number attending provided by the Priest or Parish Vocation Coordinators)
  o Provide the space for evening prayer and the meal
- All priests in the Deanery will be expected to invite men to this event
  o The men invited should be good candidates for the priesthood
  o Encourage priests to invite current seminarians from their parishes
  o Remind priests that they should not be alone with any minor at any time.
  o Ensure that the Liturgy of the Hours is provided.
  o Solicit one or two priests to give their vocation story(s).
  o Solicit one or two priests to share ‘the day in the life of a priest’.
  o Provide for a discussion and/or Q&A session
  o Be welcoming and inviting to ensure that everyone is having a good time.
  o Communicate what the next step would be for men discerning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Schedule:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00PM   Evening Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15PM   Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00PM   Vocation Story(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:20PM   Day in the Life of a Priest</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30PM   Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00PM   Depart</td>
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</tbody>
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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 or if Juniors or Seniors, the Going Deer 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 or if Juniors or Seniors, the Going Deer 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
- 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 4-10, 2018) found at heedthecall.org.
- 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
- Invite Middle School Students (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Host a Vocation Panel during Vocation Awareness Week with Priests/Religious/Sisters/Married Couple
- 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 or if Juniors or Seniors, to the Going Deeper 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 then 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
- 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 (November 4-10, 2018). Resources can be found at heedthecall.org.
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available at heedthecall.org.
- 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 high school men to participate in the Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
- 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
- Invite Middle School young men (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)
- Participate in the Meet the Seminarian Webinar on Thursday, November 8, 2018
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week (November 4-10, 2018). Resources can be found at heedthecall.org.
- Make use of the videos we have available at heedthecall.org.
- 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 (November 4-10, 2018). Resources can be found at heedthecall.org.
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available at heedthecall.org.
- 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, Going Deeper Camp, or Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
- 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 (November 4-10, 2018). Resources can be found at heedthecall.org.
- Make use of the videos we have available at https://heedthecall.org.
- 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 Guys to our Quo Vadis Camp, Going Deeper Camp, or Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
- 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 (November 4-10, 2018). Resources can be found at heedthecall.org.
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available at https://heedthecall.org.
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Encourage your teachers to show the Fishers of Men Video and encourage Discussion: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/priesthood/fishers-of-men.cfm
- 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 attend the Newly Ordained Mass & Luncheon.
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend
- Bring men to a Tuesday @ Overbrook
- Invite High School Guys to our Quo Vadis Camp, Going Deeper Camp, or Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
- 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
- Host a Theology on Tap type of event with a Vocation Panel with Priests/Religious/Sisters/Married Couple
- 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
- Pray the Prayer for Vocations daily; invite others to do so
- Host a Theology on Tap type of event with a Vocation Panel with Priests/Religious/Sisters/Married Couple
- 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.

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
See life from the seminarians’ perspective. Seminarians blog about Seminary Life, Pop Culture, Morality and Theology, Current Events, and Social Media. **WWW.SEMCASUAL.ORG**

**Follow Us on Social Media**

- **Facebook**: [www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest](http://www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest)
- **YouTube**: [www.youtube.com/c/HeedtheCall](http://www.youtube.com/c/HeedtheCall)
- **Instagram**: [www.instagram.com/phillypriest](http://www.instagram.com/phillypriest) - [www.instagram.com/qvphil](http://www.instagram.com/qvphil)
- **Twitter**: [www.twitter.com/philly_priest](http://www.twitter.com/philly_priest) - [www.twitter.com/qvphil](http://www.twitter.com/qvphil)
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 is 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](#)

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**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 the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heed the Call</th>
<th>Tolton: DVD available for purchase</th>
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<tr>
<td>Called by Name: Jose Serrano (English Version)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Called By Name: Jose Serrano (Version en Español)</td>
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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 Fr. 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
The Class of 2018:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood

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

April 2018

Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.
Thu. T. Do., L.H.C.

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 17 years old. Responding ordinands were scheduled for ordination 18 years later (at the age of 35).

**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 39 and 47 percent of all responding ordinands attended a Catholic school for at least some part of their schooling. Half of the responding ordinands (51 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish for seven years, on average.

**Education:** Nearly half of responding ordinands (45 percent) reported that they completed college or university undergraduate degree before entering the seminary.

**Commentary:**

More than half of those who entered 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: Two in three responding ordinands (64 percent) reported some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. One in five of those responding ordinands worked in education.

Finding:

Vocational Discernment: More than seven in ten responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic Adoration (73 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary. The same proportion of responding ordinands (72 percent) prayed the rosary, half (48 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, two in five (40 percent) went to high school retreats, one in three responding ordinands attended Lectio Divina (33 percent) and a quarter (27 percent) attended college retreats.

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. Among current Philadelphia Seminarians, almost three-quarters participated in Eucharistic Adoration or prayed the rosary before entering the Seminary.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in various activities before entering the seminary, half of all responding ordinands participated in parish youth groups (45 percent) before entering the seminary. About three in ten responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (28 percent), while approximately one quarter participated in Boy Scouts (24 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. Of note, almost 50% of current Philadelphia Seminarians attended a Parish Youth Group prior to entering the Seminary.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in parish ministries before entering the seminary, nearly three-fourths (74 percent) of responding ordinands served as altar servers. Nearly three in five (57 percent) served as lectors, and around half served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (46 percent). A third served in campus ministry/youth ministry (35 percent), as catechists (38 percent) or as confirmation sponsors/godfathers (31 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. Similar to national statistics, approximately three-fourths (73 percent) of current Philadelphia seminarian previously served as altar servers, while approximately 40 percent served as lectors.

Vocational Discernment: Half of responding ordinands (46 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 9. The more people we have inviting men to a Come and See Weekend, the more vocations we will have.

**Vocational Discernment:** Nearly nine in ten responding ordinands (86 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. Similar to national statistics, 84 percent of current Philadelphia seminarian reported that they were encouraged to pursue the priesthood by the parish priest, while over half reported being encouraged by a friend or another parishioner.

**Vocational Discernment:** One-half of responding ordinands (51 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:** There is a belief that parents are often the greatest discouragers of a vocation, but responding ordinands in both 2017 and 2018 indicated that this was not the case. However, these results 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.

Appendix 2:

Pastoral Council Meeting on Priestly and Religious Vocations

Opening Prayers: Select a Prayer for Vocation

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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