

# Suggestions for Key Leaders

A practical guide to promoting vocations  
to the Diocesan Priesthood



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

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# **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.

- Hang the Seminarian Poster in a prominent spot in your parish
- Attend the Clergy training for Parish Vocation Committees
- 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 a St. Andrew Dinner
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- Bring men to Tuesdays @ Overbrook
- Invite high school young men to the *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, the Going Deeper Camp or Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
- Host a Parish Holy Hour (<https://heedthecall.org/prayer-resources/> or <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-vocations.cfm>)
- Organize an event where men get to know you personally 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.

- Ask your Pastor if you can hang the Seminarian Poster in a prominent spot in your parish
- 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
- Assist with a Parish Vocation Committee
- Bring men to a St. Andrew Dinner
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- Bring men to Tuesdays @ Overbrook
- Invite high school young men to the *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, the Going Deeper Camp or Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program.
- Host a Parish Holy Hour (<https://heedthecall.org/prayer-resources/> or <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-vocations.cfm>)
- 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 see [Heedthecall.org/poster](https://www.heedthecall.org/poster) for videos of *Philadelphia seminarians*.
  - Write letters to the seminarians
  - Contact the Vocation Office for a copy of the Seminarian Poster or download from the website
- Invite Middle School Young Men (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.), held each Spring ([heedthecall.org/bbvc](https://www.heedthecall.org/bbvc))
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](https://www.heedthecall.org) or at <https://www.vocationawarenessweek.com/>
- 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, therefore, 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 Young Men (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.), held each Spring ([heedthecall.org/bbvc](https://heedthecall.org/bbvc))
- Host a Vocation Panel during Vocation Awareness Week or during the year with Priests/Religious/Sisters/Married Couple
- Host a Youth Night focusing on vocations during Vocation Awareness Week or during the year.
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- 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
- Invite high school young men to our *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, to the 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.
- 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
- Hang up the Seminarian Poster in a prominent place near your middle school classrooms
- Encourage your teachers to 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.), held each Spring ([heedthecall.org/bbvc](http://heedthecall.org/bbvc))
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](http://heedthecall.org) or at <https://www.vocationawarenessweek.com/>
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos that are available at [heedthecall.org](http://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 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
- Adopt a seminarian and pray for him *see [Heedthecall.org/poster](https://www.heedthecall.org/poster) for videos of Philadelphia seminarians.*
- Write letters to the seminarians
- Invite Middle School Young Men (grades 6-8) to attend Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.), held each Spring ([heedthecall.org/bbvc](https://www.heedthecall.org/bbvc))
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](https://www.heedthecall.org) or at <https://www.vocationawarenessweek.com/>.
- Make use of the videos we have available at [heedthecall.org](https://www.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.

- Hang up the Seminarian Poster in a prominent place in your school
- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Encourage your teachers to say the Prayer for Vocations before each class
- Make use of the Vocation Curriculum during, or in close date proximity to, Vocation Awareness Week. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](http://heedthecall.org) or at <https://www.vocationawarenessweek.com/>.
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available at [heedthecall.org](http://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 Tuesdays @ Overbrook.
- Invite young men (freshmen to seniors) to our *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, to the 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.

- Hang up the Seminarian Poster in your classroom
- 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. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](http://heedthecall.org) or at <https://www.vocationawarenessweek.com/>.
- Make use of the videos we have available at <https://heedthecall.org>.
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- 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
- Offer to help your School Minister/Director of School Ministry/Priest in the High School to bring men to a Tuesdays @ Overbrook
- Invite young men (freshmen to seniors) to our *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, to the 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.

- Hang up the Seminarian Poster in your Office or outside the Chapel
- Include an intercession for vocations in your School Liturgies
- 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. Resources can be found at [heedthecall.org](http://heedthecall.org) or [vocationawarenessweek.com](http://vocationawarenessweek.com).
- Encourage your teachers to make use of the videos we have available at <https://heedthecall.org>.
- 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
- Schedule seminarians from the Vocation Apostolate to visit the Junior/Senior Classes
- Invite men to attend the Newly Ordained Mass & Luncheon.
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- Bring men to a Tuesdays @ Overbrook
- Invite young men (freshmen to seniors) to our *Quo Vadis* Camp or if Juniors or Seniors, to the 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?**

- Hang up the Seminarian Poster in your Office or outside the Chapel
- Include an intercession for vocations in your Liturgies
- Use your initiative and creativity to build up a Culture of Vocations
- Say the Prayer for Vocations before each Mass
- 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 (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- Organize a group to play in the Cassock Classic

## **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
- Invite men to a Come and See Weekend (<https://heedthecall.org/comeandsee>)
- Organize a group to play in the Cassock Classic

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

- Pray 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