



A special note:

- For more information on any of the other activities of the Vocations office, give us a call or return the reply card form below (both sides).
- If you know of someone that would like to receive this newsletter, please inform us.
- May these events and messages help you to hear God's call to follow Him.

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**Bishop Nienstedt's Prayer for Vocations**

Lord, God, we praise and bless your holy name. We ask that you give the Church of New Ulm holy priests, dedicated women and men religious, selfless deacons and zealous missionaries. Inspire in the hearts of our youth a spirit of generosity to commit their lives to the message and ministry of Jesus, your son. We ask all this through Him who lives and reigns as Our Lord, forever and ever. Amen. Mary, mother of the Church, pray for us.

## A Message from Fr. Craig Associate Vocation Director

Growing up in Minnesota, 'Land of 10,000 Lakes', I love the image of Jesus walking along Lake Galilee. But I am sure my family's summer camping trips, swimming hours on end and burying each other in the sand is part of the reason that this was the first image that came to mind when (then) Bishop Nienstedt asked me to be the new associate vocations director for New Ulm, along with Fr. Todd Petersen. And of course, it was here, by Lake Galilee, that Jesus called his first apostles and disciples. "Follow me." Maybe I'm not a fisherman, but I grew up on a farm near Green Valley and love most other sports, from our 3 times/week basketball games to the little-known 'rolle bolle'. Now a priest for 2 years,

2 months and 10 days (but who's counting?), I am the associate priest at St. Mary's in New Ulm. But, half my time (50%) is spent in vocations. And I am excited – because I believe Jesus is still calling men to follow him, not just on the shores of Lake Galilee, but right here, on the shores of Minnesota. Maybe you're wondering what it all means – even asking, 'Is He calling me?' That's what I'd like to help you figure out. So call me, email me, text message, MSN, whatever (note: I have not yet figured out telepathy, if you were wondering). Together, we'll hear Jesus' call, whatever it is, for you.

**From Fr. Todd:** Welcome to Fr. Craig Timmerman who is our new Associate Vocation Director. As he begins this unique ministry in the Diocese, we invite you to keep him in your prayers.

As we enter into the great season of Autumn, I encourage you to pray, asking God how you are called into the harvest as well – is He calling you to work for souls as a priest or religious???

### Operation Andrew Dinners:

We are again hosting three Operation Andrew Dinners. They will be held November 28<sup>st</sup> at St. Peter's in Canby, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary's in Bird Island, and December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The evenings begin at 6 pm. will consist of Evening Prayer, a nice meal, and a presentation on discernment. We will watch the DVD "Fishers of Men". This movie portrays vocations in a very exciting manner. All Junior High and High School students are invited to attend. In the past, the evenings have informed and entertained the participants. The evenings are informal. To RSVP, talk to your pastor or contact Fr. Todd (see my contact information below.)

### Prayer and Fasting:

Bishop Nienstedt continues to urge for prayer and fasting for vocations.

For more information on prayer, please fill out this form!>>>

Clip and Return to the Vocations Office:

I would like more information about:

\_\_\_\_\_ Upcoming Operation Andrew Dinners

\_\_\_\_\_ Trip to SJV/Seminary Visits

\_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Vocations Events/discernment materials

\_\_\_\_\_ A call to priesthood/religious life

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send this newsletter to the following people  
(Sheet enclosed)

## Vocations View

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## Speak, Lord, ...

### The Vocations Office...

The purpose of the Vocations Office of the Diocese of New Ulm is to provide vocations resources and raise vocations' awareness within the Diocese. If you want to talk to someone about how God is calling you to give your life to the Church, please contact us. Fill out the Reply card below (both sides) to receive more information on these opportunities or resources, or to no longer receive this newsletter.

## Seminary Visits:

As we did last year, the Catholic High Schools of the Diocese and the Vocations Office are arranging visits to St. John Vianney and various religious houses in the Cities. If interested, contact Fr. Todd and watch this newsletter, your bulletins, and the Prairie Catholic for more information.

## Vianney Visits:

The Seminarians and staff of St. John Vianney College Seminary will host a 'Vianney Visit' on November 15-17, 2007. Any young men (High School Junior or older) who are interested are encouraged to attend. Fr. Todd Petersen will make travel arrangements. St. John Vianney Seminary (SJV) is located on the beautiful campus of the University of St. Thomas. The Visit is intended for young men who are interested in learning more about the seminary or priesthood to see what SJV is about. In addition to meeting the men who are studying there and discerning their own calls to ordination, the guests will have an opportunity to attend Mass and pray, go to some of the UST classes, and tour the city of St. Paul. Past participants have enjoyed the visit, saying that it helped them to make a decision to answer God's call to further discernment. There is another visit in February.

### PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION

O Great Saint Joseph, you were completely obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Obtain for me the grace to know the state of life that God in His providence has chosen for me. Since my happiness on earth, and perhaps even my final happiness in heaven, depends on this choice, let me not be deceived in making it.

Obtain for me the light to know God's Will, to carry it out faithfully, and to choose the vocation which will lead me to a happy eternity.

**Website:** Watch our website ([www.ourmib.org](http://www.ourmib.org)) for revisions. If you have questions that you think the site should cover, email Fr. Todd. We apologize for our delays. In the meantime, check out our blog at [frtodd.blogspot.com](http://frtodd.blogspot.com) or our seminarians at [www.ourmib.blogspot.com](http://www.ourmib.blogspot.com).

## What is a Priest?

Priesthood is not a career. This might be the understatement of the century, but many would not fully understand what is meant. Once a priest, always a priest, even if the priest is physically or mentally incapable of offering even Mass. A priest is not simply a functionary, doing certain activities. Nor is it possible for one to be a priest for a limited time. Priesthood is not simply ministerial. Priesthood is a vocation – it is what the man becomes, not what the priest does. For this reason, the Vatican II Fathers declared that the priest differs in essence, not only in degree (*Lumen Gentium* ¶10). He is configured to Christ in his very being. A priest is made to be *alter christus* - 'another christ' or 'anointed one' (note the small 'c'). Through ordination, the man is 'ordered' to a new way of being.

There are many images of the priesthood: shepherd (from which we derive the term 'Pastor') doctor of souls, father, servant, or prophet. All fail to capture the full reality of who the priest is. The priest is the image of a bridge (*pontis* in Latin means bridge, which is the root of the word Pontifex – bridge-builder/high priest referring to the Pope). The priest stands as an intermediary between the Holy Trinity and humanity, done through being *in persona Christi capitis* – in the person of Christ as head. He strives to bring people to Christ through his way of life and his ministry. He seeks to bring the people to God in his personal and public prayers and in the celebration of the sacraments. But he also assists in helping his people see God in their lives through his preaching, presence, and pastoral charity. In the Catholic understanding, the priest is one who lays down his life and the natural goods of life (marriage, children, perhaps wealth and fortune) for Christ and His Church. The priest is 'ordered' or configured to serve the Church's needs. He celebrates the Eucharist, providing the Church with the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ. He welcomes new members into the Body of Christ in Baptism and preparing them for full membership and a fuller share of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. He lovingly welcomes sinful members back when they have strayed through the sacrament of Reconciliation. He prepares members for their final step of the pilgrimage of life through providing them Viaticum (the Eucharist that they will 'take with them on the way') on their deathbed. He anoints them for healing of body, mind, and soul. He witnesses marriage as a minister of the Church as the couples give themselves to each other and to God for their unity and procreation. A priest is not only the celebrant of the Sacraments, but in the end a sacrament in himself – he is to be a visible sign of the love of God.

**Prayer Cards:** We have various vocations-themed prayer cards available in our office, Contact us for some samples.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove my Name from your Mailing list: \_\_\_\_\_