

Twenty Ways to Promote Vocations in Your Parish or School

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Mt 9:37-38, NABRE)

1. Publicly recite your diocesan vocations prayer at Masses on Sunday and at daily Masses.
2. Offer eucharistic adoration on certain days, and ask for prayers for vocations.
3. Send greeting cards to each of the seminarians of your diocese at the beginning of a new semester, holidays, exam times, birthdays, ordinations, etc.
4. Sponsor a poster, coloring, or essay contest with vocation-related themes for school-age youth, and put the results on exhibit.
5. Encourage your school newspaper or parish leaders to interview pastors, priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons for the school newspaper or parish bulletin, especially on how they discerned their call.
6. Create a page on your parish or school website with vocation information.
7. Host an altar server appreciation night and ask one of your parish or school priests to speak to the servers about serving the Lord.
8. Before a regular parish meeting, have your ministry or group get together a little earlier to say a decade of the Rosary for a specific priest, seminarian, sister, or religious novice from your parish community.
9. Create and display a photo collage of priests, brothers, and sisters who have been part of your community to show your community's gratitude for their service.
10. Include Vocations Awareness lesson plans and programs at each grade level of religious education. Each grade can do a special project and the reports can be combined into a resource booklet.
11. Print your parish or diocesan vocations prayer on refrigerator magnets and distribute to students, parishioners, and families.
12. Find out the ordination date of your parish priests and celebrate the anniversary within your parish or school.
13. Promote the lives of the saints through various media, e.g., in the bulletin, on the bulletin board, on posters, in a bibliography, etc.
14. Take a group from your parish or school to attend the ordination of a diocesan priest or deacon or the profession of vows of a religious sister or brother. Check out the diocesan vocations calendar for dates of upcoming ordinations.
15. Invite a priest, sister, or deacon to supper to discuss vocations around the family dinner table.
16. Sponsor a prayer breakfast with a vocation speaker.
17. Invite your diocese's vocations director to the parish for a weekend, for Masses and meals with parish families.
18. Ask 31 parishioners to volunteer to pray the Rosary or attend Mass for the intention of vocations, one on each day of the month, on behalf of your parish and committee.
19. Celebrate feasts of the saints—for example, attend Mass on October 1, the feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of missionaries and patroness of many vocations.
20. Offer intercessory prayers for vocations in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.