

St. Martha Chalice for Vocations Program

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

We are all aware of the need for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and to the religious life. But sometimes we forget just how powerful praying for an increase in vocations can be!

In the Holy Gospel of Matthew, Christ says "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). Praying for vocations is **the** most powerful way to support vocations. A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women who he is calling in a very special way.

The Chalice for Vocations Program

The Chalice for Vocations program was designed to increase an awareness of religious vocations and to provide a focal point for prayer within the parish and its families. This program belongs to St. Martha Parish as a whole and every parishioner is invited to pray – parents with children at home or out on their own, married couples, adult singles – all are welcomed and challenged to join in the commitment to pray for an increase in vocations.

Pope Benedict XVI said, "Prayer itself, born in Catholic families, nurtured by programs of Christian formation, strengthened by the grace of the sacraments, is the first means by which we come to know the Lord's will for our lives. To the extent that we teach young people to pray, and to pray well, we will be cooperating with God's call. Programs, plans and projects have their place; but the discernment of a vocation is above all the fruit of an intimate dialogue between the Lord and his disciples. Young people, if they know how to pray, can be trusted to know what to do with God's call."

Within this program, parishioners volunteer to take the Chalice home and pray for vocations. The host family is provided with a binder of support materials for their prayer time, including prayers for all ages, meditations & scripture passages, as well as DVDs. The Chalice is presented to the host family each week at the following Masses.

January-May	SMCS Weekday All-School Mass
June-July	11:00 AM Mass
Aug-Oct	9:00 AM Family Mass
Nov-Dec	5:30 PM LifeTeen Mass

If you are interested in hosting the Chalice for Vocations, please contact Jane Miller at 281-358-3222 or email stmarthachalice@embarqmail.com .

Español St. Martha is also extremely blessed to have a Chalice in our Hispanic Community that is presented at the Spanish Liturgy on Saturdays at 7 PM. If you are interested in hosting the Chalice for Vocations in Spanish, please contact Nory Taliente by phone at 281-360-0902 or by email at nptaliente@hotmail.com .