

LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS



A Column by Fr. Tom

Prayer #3 – Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to Send More Workers

There is a small parish in Connecticut with about 300 active families. In the 50 years that this parish has existed, they have been blessed to have at least 2 priestly vocations, 3 men who became deacons and several women and men who have seriously discerned life in a religious order – all from this one small parish. [You may even be familiar with one of the priests.] What has made the difference in vocations for this parish? They pray as a community for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life *every day!* Prayer works!

Approximately two years ago, our parish began praying in earnest for an increase in vocations. We pray that we will receive similar results as the above parish as we continue to pray.

We have two components to our Vocations Prayer Ministry – the Vocations Prayer and the Vocations Chalice. One of the beautiful characteristics of this ministry is that everyone can be a part of it.

The Vocations Prayer is the Diocese of Palm Beach Vocations Prayer and we pray this prayer at the end of every weekend Mass. We also encourage everyone to pray this prayer every day. Here is the prayer:

*Father, you call each one of us by name
and ask us to follow you.*

*Bless your church by raising up dedicated
leaders from our families and friends
in the Diocese of Palm Beach, who will
generously serve your people as sisters,
brothers, deacons, and priests.*

*Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open
our hearts to hear your call.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.
Amen.*

The Vocations Chalice (a Chalice is the cup that the priest uses during Mass to hold the Blood of Christ) is a special chalice that is sponsored by our own Knights of Columbus Council. The Vocations Chalice is taken home by a family in our parish, who then prays with the Chalice throughout the week for an increase in vocations in our Diocese (maybe even from their own family). The Chalice comes with a book containing prayers for each day of the week. At the end of the week, the Chalice is passed to a new family who continues the prayer for the following week. We usually make this exchange at Mass, but under the current circumstances, the Chalice is received from and returned to the Parish Office, where all the materials are sanitized between families. Many have found their week of prayer with the Vocations Chalice to be a wonderful, prayerful, spiritual experience that is good for the whole family.

Every person has a special vocation from God – most to married life, some to single life, and some to a religious vocation. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers into the harvest. [MT 9:38]

