

St. Margaret of Cortona
Vocations Committee Meeting
October 23, 2023

In attendance: Father Jeff, Deacon Tom Rowlands, Sister Pat Pieper, Peter Hersha, Ermagene Kelly, Peg Kuhns, Mike Racanelli, and Jo Marie Wilson.

- The meeting began with a prayer.
- The minutes of the June 26 Vocations Committee meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- This coming Sunday, October 29, from 9:00 to 10:15 am in Kulp Hall, there will be a vocations panel discussion for students in grades 7 through 12. There will be five panelists, Father Jeff, Deacon Tom, Sister Pat, Parker Grove, and Peg Kuhns. They will discuss the vocations of the priesthood, the diaconate, seminary life, being a sister, being married, and being single. Each panelist will deliver prepared remarks and then there will be a question-and-answer session.
 - The focus of the remarks will be on the theme of how God has called you and how you have experienced that call.
- Father Jeff provided an update regarding the Traveling Crucifix Program. Per the discussion at the June meeting, he discussed this program during a homily. There have been a few requests since then to take the Crucifix home, but not all that many.
- Our next Holy Hour for Vocations will be Sunday, November 5, following the 10:30 Mass. This Holy Hour coincides with the start of Vocations Awareness Week. In addition to Adoration, praying the rosary, silent prayer and meditation, and benediction, Sister Pat will deliver a few remarks regarding vocations as a sister.
- Following up on the discussion at the June meeting, Father Jeff shared a document describing the four stages of formation and reviewed that document with the committee.
 - Father Jeff discussed the various timeframes for becoming a Priest. For example, for someone starting right out of High School, it will take nine years at least. For someone coming with a four-year college degree who did not major in Philosophy, it will take seven more years at least.

- Father Jeff shared the very good news that this year there are 37 seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus, which is more than last year. He also noted that eight young men are already in conversation about application for next year.
- The next meeting of the Vocations Committee will be February 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm.
- The meeting closed with a prayer.