

St. Margaret of Cortona
Vocations Committee Meeting
June 17, 2024

In attendance: Father Jeff, Deacon Tom Rowlands, Peter Hersha, Ellyn Dekker, Peg Kuhns, Mike Racanelli, and Jo Marie Wilson.

- The meeting began with a prayer.
- The minutes of the February 12 Vocations Committee meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- Father Jeff shared a document from Serra International entitled "Vocation Statistics: Why We Work for Vocations." The data, which covers over 50 years, from 1970 to 2022, is alarming.
 - The number of Diocesan and Religious Priests has dropped from 59,192 to 34,344.
 - The number of Religious Sisters has dropped from 160,931 to 36,321.
 - The number of Catholic Weddings has dropped from 426,309 to 97,200.
 - The number of Priestly Ordinations has dropped from 805 to 451. The one bright spot in the data is that the number of Priestly Ordinations has leveled off. There were 442 ordinations in 2000, 459 in 2010, and 451 in 2020.
- Our most recent Holy Hour for Vocations was Sunday, April 28, following the 10:30 Mass. Attendance was low, but the committee felt that these holy hours were still good to do.
- Father Jeff proposed that our parish implement a program that is in use by the Serra Club of North Columbus. We would call it the "31 Club for Vocations." The idea is that members of our parish would be invited to sign up for one day a month. There is no limit on how many people can sign up for any given day, but the goal is to have at least one person signed up for each of the 31 days. Many people choose to sign up for their birthday number which makes it easy to remember. On that day each month each participant commits to either:
 - Attend Mass
 - Sit and pray for a Holy Hour for Vocations in the Church
 - Pray the rosary at home for vocations

Father Jeff will obtain and create a large board that will contain a grid showing 31 days, with space for people to sign up for each day. This board will be placed in the back of the Church. Father will promote this initiative via remarks during a homily, in the bulletin, and in a FlockNote.

- Sr. Pat was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but she sent an email which the committee discussed. She will be honored for her 70 years as a sister during the September 7-8 weekend masses with a reception (to be organized by Jo Marie Wilson) following one of the Sunday masses. She would like to say a few words. Fr. Jeff will speak with Sr. Pat about the exact details of the weekend, but he will suggest that she say a few words after communion at all three masses on "A Sisters Perspective of Religious Vocations."
- The Parish Stewardship Fair will be after the masses on September 21 and 22. Peter Hersha will organize a table so the Vocations Committee will be represented. Committee members are asked to volunteer to staff our table and to offer their ideas on materials or other content our table should contain.
- The next meeting of the Vocations Committee will be October 28, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Rectory Conference Room.
- The meeting closed with a prayer.