

A BEAUTIFUL VOCATION

Law enforcement officers serve a selfless calling and place the safety of their community above their own interests. A firefighter is prepared to run into a burning building to save a life. A military warrior is ready to shield the body of a wounded comrade with their own. Each of these callings has several things in common, among them are: sacrifice, selflessness, and devotion to a higher cause. Have you ever thought about the Carmelite or Poor Clare nuns? How about the monks of the Order of St. Benedict, or the Franciscan Friars? What about your parish priest? Each of these men and women have been called to a higher calling in a religious vocation: each is willing to sacrifice a secular life in service of God, each displays a beautiful and joyful devotion to their order or parish, and each is kindled with a genuine spirit of selflessness. Though their prayers, devotions and offering of the sacraments, our lives are immensely enriched by them.

Being willing to risk all to serve your community or nation and potentially save a mortal life is truly an heroic and selfless offering. However, the willingness to selflessly devote yourself to help Christ bring hundreds if not thousands of souls to eternal salvation is beyond measure. The one offering is extremely noble and exemplary, while the other offers an eternal and incomparable gift. As a sister, brother or priest, you, or someone you know could actually make the difference in someone's eternal life.

The Diocese of Knoxville is looking for a few good and selfless men and women. The Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul asks all parishioners to pray daily for an increase in vocations for the Diocese. We are building a Vocation Ministry that will bring many more Christian Warriors to God's calling as brothers, sisters and priests.

Our initial focus of parish-wide prayer is for vocations to the priesthood. We ask that you make a special devotion in your home by praying this prayer for priestly vocations as often as possible. In time we will explain more about the Vocation Ministry and how you can participate.

stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/vocations

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

to the Sacred Heart

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
fountain of love and mercy,
raise up holy priests after
Your Own Heart:
humble, pure, and
consumed with zeal for souls.

Draw young men to Yourself
and enflame their hearts with desire
to make You known through Word
and Sacrament, both in times of
tranquility and tribulation.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
we trust in You.

