



**World Day of Prayer
for Vocations
May 3, 2009**

FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

Family Vocation Candle(s)

Materials needed: Plain clear glass tea light candleholder, tea light candle, colored tissue paper cut into small pieces, paint brush, Mod Podge (*available at craft stores*), permanent marker & magazines (*optional*). Each person may wish to create a candleholder.

1. Start by putting Mod Podge on a section of the glass.
2. Place a piece of tissue in this space and smooth it onto the glass with your brush.
3. Apply a thin layer of Mod Podge on top of tissue.
4. Take another piece of tissue and overlay on an edge of the piece that is already there.
5. Continue steps 1–4 until holder is covered with tissue. Let dry for about 10 minutes.
6. You may wish to cut words or picture from magazine or write words with marker to add to the candleholder.
7. Apply another thin coat of Mod Podge and let dry.
8. Create a prayer space and place the candle there with a Bible, plant, cross, piece of material.

Create a Family Vocation Prayer

Talk together about what a vocation is. Every Christian person has a vocation that is the living out of the baptismal promises. Jot down words that you may wish to include in your prayer.

The following is a simple pattern of prayer that could help you write your prayer:

Begin by addressing God and giving God praise. (*Glory*)

Next tell God what you are thankful for. (*Story*)

Ask for God's help. (*Worry*)

End by praising God again (*Glory*)

Glory, Story, Worry, Glory is an easy way to remember a pattern for prayer. This is the same pattern as the Our Father.

Put your prayer into writing. Keep it where you will remember to pray it often. You may wish to print it out on special paper or decorate it and laminate it.

Family Prayer Service

Gather in a comfortable space. Choose a song. Light your vocation candle.

Call to Prayer (Leader) As we gather, let us remember:

The light of Christ surrounds us.
The love of Christ enfolds us.
The power of Christ protects us.
The presence of Christ watches over us.
And wherever we are, God is with us.
And all is well!

Reading 1 John 3:1–2 (*Take from the feast of the Good Shepherd*)

Reflect and Share What does it mean to you to be a “Child of God?”

Blessing (*Bless each other with the sign of the cross on the forehead.*)

Prayers of Intercession (*Offer personal prayers*)

Our Father and/or Family Vocation Prayer

Conversation Starters

Take time to share with your family about the Christian vocation. These open-ended sentences can be used as conversation starters.

- A person I really admire is . . .because. . .
- My baptism means a lot to me because. . .
- Married couples live a Christian vocation by. . .
- Single people make a difference in the Church by. . .
- If God calls me to be a (priest, brother, sister, deacon) I would. . .

Called by Name

There is a Catholic custom for parents to choose a religious name for their child/ren. Sometimes people also choose a Biblical or saint’s name for confirmation. Take time to find out about the saints after whom family members are named. Check on the internet and/or in books with the lives of saints. Talk about how the saint’s lives give witness to the Christian vocation. What qualities of that person do you want to live out also?

Personal Contacts

Invite your parish priest, sister, brother, deacon to dinner and talk about his/her vocation choice. Write a letter of appreciation to someone (priest, sister, brother, deacon, youth minister, parents, neighbor, teacher), thanking him/her for being a witness of Jesus.

Visit to a Religious Community or Seminary

Check out what religious communities and seminaries are present within your diocese. Look in your diocesan paper to see if there are open houses/vocation fairs. Go on the web to learn more about them. If possible, call and see if you could visit them.

Vocation Word Scramble

Unscramble these words that are related to Christian vocations. Find out what they mean.

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|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. mmtriyhao | 4. vsereic | 7. bmpiaic | 10. rbthore |
| 2. swvo | 5. ptsrei | 8. ngsiel | 11. llca |
| 3. lyho rorsed | 6. sstire | 9. nocaed | 12. ryrpae |