

FAITH HABITS      APRIL 13, 2008

Vocations Awareness Day.

Fellow Parishoners: We have a vocations crisis in our Archdiocese, and it is not only a crisis for priests and the religious orders! The crisis is that so few of us are listening to God. Each of us has a vocation into whatever we have chosen to do with our life.

Let there be no mistake; God has called each of us and all of us. He has called many of us to be married, and live that union to the fullest. Others are called to the life of a single person. Few are called to follow His footsteps into the world of ordained priests, deacons, or religious life. Certainly, God leads us into a decision that leads each of us into our particular vocation.

Then, what is the problem? We have not taught ourselves to listen to God. Through prayer, and a caring attitude, we must find the answers to increased vocations by listening to His call. It means that we place ourselves here; here I am, in this present moment, to hear what the Lord wishes to say to me, and then find ways to act upon His wishes!

We are not alone in this task regarding our own life. Jesus saw the need to make us both fishers and harvesters of men. Not only do we have tasks set out for us as individuals- to live a holy life, to be married, to be vowed, but each of us also has the task of helping others. And that also means that all others have the task of helping me and you. So we are never alone on the path that Jesus is calling each of us to walk.

What can we do? First, we must always be aware of what vocation our family and friends are headed for. We must always be ready to lend an encouraging word or listen to their concerns. Secondly, we pray. We storm heaven with our cries to enlighten people of every vocation – After all, it is recognition that all calls come from above, and that we are to open our own hearts to whatever God is calling us to. It is a part of the process of binding ourselves to listening. Thirdly, we train our children and grandchildren to listen to, and heed the voice of God. Each of us must teach the young that besides our own demands on them, the voice of society, even our culture, there is another voice which requires attentiveness, the discipline of listening, in order to hear.

Let us pray for all vocations each day because there is a crisis in our community – few are listening to the voice of God. Let us all overcome this by teaching ourselves and others to listen to God's call to our everyday life.

Ask God to continue to lead St. Mary Parish into a time of improved faith.

Dale Cousino