

January 21, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Prayer for Vocations: The following is Archbishop Schnurr's prayer for vocations. He asks us to pray this often:

Almighty Father, you have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our Archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, and faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for his church. We commend our prayer for vocations to you, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



About the Gospel: As we listen to the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is at the Sea of Galilee and he calls future disciples from their boat and fishing profession to follow him. They leave their father in the boat to follow Jesus. This Gospel invites us to pray for vocations – disciples and future disciples will continue to answer the Lord's call to serve God by loving others wherever and whenever the Lord calls. Whoever we are and wherever we are from, we are called to live our lives joined to the life of God. Whatever walk of life we choose or profession or career or work, we are called to live our lives joined to the life of God and share God's goodness, love and grace with others. If we are single, married couple, permanent deacon, priest or religious brother or religious sister, we are called to live our lives in union and in relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Every baptized Christian and disciple is called to live together as one Body of Christ and as Jesus shared our humanity, we are to share his divinity and accept his values, will and ways in this life and in the next. This is the heart of every vocation and the motivation and purpose for every job, career and profession and every relationship and walk of life. Praise be to God, now and always!

CMA - It is time once again for the Catholic Ministries Appeal. This is an annual appeal, on part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. There are six specific areas of ministry in the Archdiocese that this fund supports: Campus, Hospital and Prison Ministries; Retirement for Archdiocesan Priests; St. Rita School for the Deaf; Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio; Seminary and Vocations; New Evangelization. Many of you will be receiving information about this in the mail from the Archdiocese. I ask for your prayerful consideration of your support and offer you our deepest gratitude for whatever you can do. Many, many thanks.