

NOV. 2022

IDAHO VOCATIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Discernment Nourishment (for both men and women):

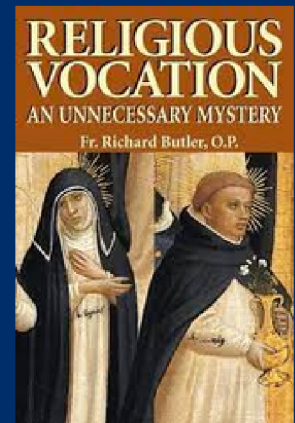
A true vocation is nothing other than a strong, unchanging will that the person who is called possesses, so as to want to serve God in the way and in the place where the Divine Majesty calls her."

-St. Francis de Sales

There are many persons who think about entering religious life, and even want to do so, but are afraid that they do not have a "vocation". This can sometimes cause them great worry. Fr. Butler writes: "The mystery, and consequent confusion, which has been added to the essential notion of religious vocation is unnecessary and dangerous." Fr. Richard Butler draws upon the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas, the universal doctor of the Church, to show that this approach to religious vocation is actually based on a misunderstanding of what a vocation is. He traces the proximate beginnings of this misunderstanding back to the early 20th century, and finds its origin in a mistake about the way that grace works in the soul. With a correct view of the cooperation between our free will and grace, the problem is solved. Though Fr. Butler speaks primarily about vocations to the religious life, he also gives the traditional guidelines for priestly vocations, as the Church itself has described them.

OTHER GREAT READS INSIDE:

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RELIGIOUS VOCATION: AN UNNECESSARY MYSTERY BY FR. RICHARD BUTLER

Read snippets from the book and find a link to order it below:

According to the tradition of the Catholic Church, religious vocation is not something uncommon, strange or extraordinary, nor does it require an introspective search for some special voice or attraction within oneself, but is simply a firm readiness to serve God in the religious life, supposing that there are no insuperable obstacles, and thus that one is capable of living such a life:

"Religious vocation is a divine invitation, extended to all by Jesus Christ, to the practice of the evangelical counsels in the religious state, to which a capable subject, under the impetus of grace, responds through generous devotion."

Nurturing a Culture of Priestly & Religious Vocations at Home

Lozas in religious life

This month's segment of "Nurturing a Culture of Priestly & Religious Vocations at Home" comes from a family in our diocese! Ruth Loza from Buhl (center) has entered the community Sisters of Mary Morning Star (Maria Stella Matutina) in Ghent, MN, joining her older sister Sr. Petra (formerly Margot) Loza (left). (Also pictured: Sebastian Loza, Bruno & Lindsey Loza)

The two young women are in a discernment and formation process, with several years before they take permanent vows. Let us pray for them as they seek to discover and to follow God's will.





The answers below are from their proud mother, Guadalupe:

Can you tell us a little about your relationship with God? Who is Jesus for you and your husband?

We come from active Catholic families. God has always been at the center of our lives. We are a family where Sundays are for Mass (no excuse), catechism and sacraments. We are a normal family with our struggles, but with the difference of asking Jesus and Mary for their protection and help. My husband Chon, although quiet much of the time, always supported my decisions. He went many nights without sleep because of his work, always giving our children the example of a good Christian. In serious problems, if it weren't for our faith in God, the story would probably be different, because as has been said, "There are things that we can't handle by ourselves, only with the grace of God is it possible."

How did you form the Catholic faith in your children at home? Did they eat together? Did they have fun together? Did they pray together?

Truly and sincerely I recognize that there are much better families than us in all aspects who have wanted to see in their family a priest or a religious daughter to no avail. God is mysterious, but faith is definitely instilled and cultivated in children to be disciples of Christ. It is very important to remember that we as parents are ahead, they are only following in our footsteps.

Your two daughters are discerning religious life in a convent. How do you feel?

I think many parents fear the spiritual war because it often seems very unbalanced when we consider our current culture. In this context, being privileged with children who are by their own decisions active leaders in the church, that is already a privilege. One daughter discerning religious life is a great blessing, but "two daughters in a convent" really means a lot to us!

What suggestion do you have for parents who want to love God and want their children to love him too?

You cannot give what you do not have. Ask and it will be granted. Prayers, offerings and daily sacrifices please God very much, 100%. It is his promise, we always want more of the best, let us not be afraid to ask for the sanctity of our children, that is why we were born.



Christ the Teacher

Seminarian Ian Willnerd
College IV, Bishop White

"Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, 'What do you seek?' And they said to him, 'Rabbi' (which means Teacher), 'where are you staying'" (Jn 1:38).

This passage shows that the disciples first identified Jesus as their teacher. As a seminarian on my own journey of discipleship, allowing Jesus to teach me, through the mystery of my own life, has opened for me to possibility of "staying" with him.

In seminary, I have been able to have a profound experience of myself as wounded for Christ's sake. That is to say that Christ, in His wisdom, has allowed me to experience my own finitude so that I might turn to him who is infinite and thereby glorify Him. He has done this precisely through the mystery of my own life. And it can hurt, but if I had the chance, I would not change a thing because my wounds have allowed me to encounter Christ as teacher; but what does He teach? He teaches me who he is.



He teaches me from the Cross. And it is there, at the foot of the Cross, that he asks me, and you, to stay.

Whenever I choose to stay at the Cross, I think of John. It was love that brought him there, but John's love for Jesus must have been excruciatingly painful to bear at the Cross. In that pain, Mary was given to John. She is the one who stays with me, and because of her I know that I am never alone.

I share this with you to remind you of what you already know: seminary is not easy. However, seminary is an incredible gift, and it is also a place of great joy. One of the greatest consolations that seminarians receive are the prayers and support of the people of God. I want to thank all those who have been praying for me, and please know that all of you are in my prayers.



Brother Jonathan installed to the ministry of Acolyte.

Bishop Peter Christensen installed Brother Jonathan, VS, to the ministry of Acolyte in August. Read about it below.



IDAHO VOCATIONS


In Case You Missed It...

Gene Fadness of the Idaho Catholic Register wrote a great article about the Seminarian Summer Mission Team and the five new seminarians. Find the link to read it below!



UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCERNING PRIESTHOOD



With Fr. Nathan Dail
For Men Ages 18 & Up
Online Discernment Group via Zoom
First Saturday of Every Month

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Monthly Discernment Group with Fr. Nathan and the Seminarians, for men ages 18+

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DIOCESAN-WIDE
FORTY HOURS
DEVOTION FOR VOCATIONS

NOVEMBER 6TH-12TH
NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Forty Hours Devotion is a special 40 hour period of continuous prayer made before the blessed Sacrament asking the Lord for Vocations in the Diocese of Boise.

Diocesan-Wide Forty Hours Devotion for Vocations.



Half Day
YOUTH RETREAT
Saturday - November 12

- Speakers - Activities - Rosary -

8:30 am Mass in Cathedral
9:15 am Meet at Riffle Center
12:00 pm Optional Bonus Activity

- Open to all youth ages 10 to 18
- Parents register children at start of event
- Snacks provided

This event hosted by CATHEDRAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS TEAM to promote discernment to the priesthood or religious life. For more information contact Lovetta Ruch rttarso@tms.com

Youth Vocation Retreat at St. John's Cathedral. November 12th, 8:30 am - noon



Vocation Director's Corner

Fr. Nathan Dail



This month we celebrate vocations awareness week. This is a tradition that is relatively new in the history of our Catholic Church. It began in the United States in the 1970s and although it was traditionally held on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, in 2014 the Committee on Clergy and consecrated life extended this time of intentional prayer for the promotion of vocations to an entire week in November so as to more easily engage Catholic schools and students in college.

What are some things we can do this month to promote vocations throughout the diocese of Boise?

I am requesting that every Catholic parish in the diocese commit to holding a 40 hours adoration devotion with the express intention of praying for more vocations in our diocese. Every vocation is the response of a total gift of the self to Father who gives Himself completely to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. One reason protestant communities do not have consecrated clergy or religious is because they do not have the Eucharist. The True Presence of Christ, the total gift of His Body to us in the Most Holy Sacrament calls forth the response of a total gift of our bodies as priests and religious.

If there is one common denominator in every authentic vocation I've witnessed it has been a deep love of Christ in the Eucharist. He is the Presence that so fills the heart that men and women are made capable of sacrificing the presence of family and friends in order to be given over completely to Him and the will of His Father. The more we spend time in His Presence and ask His intercession upon our diocese, vocations will follow. Please speak with your local parish priest and help him to organize this event in your church.

Another commitment during vocations awareness week would be to pray the daily Rosary, asking Mary to intercede for her priests. St John Paul II once wrote in his apostolic letter to priests, *“Every aspect of priestly formation can be referred to Mary, the human being who has responded better than any other to God’s call. Mary became both the servant and the disciple of the Word to the point of conceiving, in her heart and in her flesh, the Word made man, so as to give him to mankind. Mary was called to educate the one eternal priest, who became docile and subject to her motherly authority. With her example and intercession the Blessed Virgin keeps vigilant watch over the growth of vocations and priestly life in the Church... I appeal especially to families. May parents, mothers in particular, be generous in giving their sons to the Lord when he calls them to the priesthood. May they cooperate joyfully in their vocational journey, realizing that in this way they will be increasing and deepening their Christian fruitfulness in the Church and that, in a sense, they will experience the blessedness of Mary, the virgin mother: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’ (Lk. 1:42)”* Mary will help foster vocations both in the work of the parents and the receptivity of the children.

In this week of vocation awareness may we all allow those sacred words of Christ to reign more fully in our own lives, *“This is my Body given up for you.”* And may the Blessed Virgin sing her Fiat in our hearts as we hear the Lord speak to us, *“Let it be done to me according to your word.”*

Find us on Facebook and Instagram. I am pleased to announce that we have hired a marketing director for our social media presence online.

Help your sons and daughters stay connected with our seminarians by following their stories on Facebook and Instagram. It's my hope that in this way more young people can become familiar with the life of seminarians.