

DIOCESE OF LIMERICK

VOCATIONS

FEBRUARY 2020

"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people."

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Six Ways to Discover Your Vocation

1

Prayer

Prayer is a conversation with God—not just saying prayers, but speaking to the Lord from your heart. Every day, read the Bible and talk with Jesus as if He were your best friend. Ask Him to reveal His plan for you: “Jesus, I want to want what You want. Here I am Lord; I come to do Your will.” Trust completely that God has a plan for you.

2

Sacraments

The soul is the window through which we can see God and hear His voice. If the window is dirty because of sin, it must be cleaned through Confession so we can be in union with God. When you receive Communion, ask Jesus to show you your vocation.

3

Good Information

It is impossible to discover your vocation without good information. What does it mean to have a holy Christian marriage? What do priests do? What is it like to be a religious sister or brother? Find good information, then take what you have learned back to prayer.

4

Our Lady

Mary is the ultimate example of openness to the will of God. Are you open to God’s will for you? Pray three Hail Marys every day, specifically to know your vocation and have the courage to follow it.

5

Go on Retreat

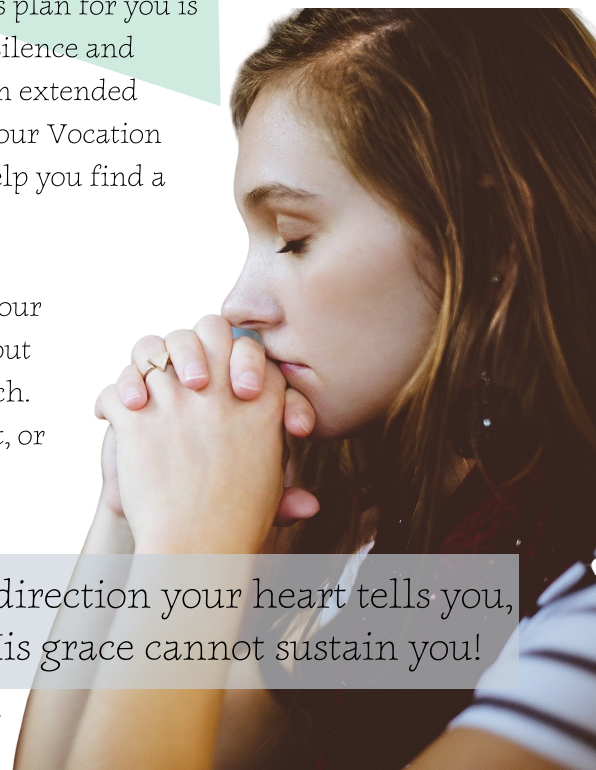
Miracles happen on retreats! One of the surest ways to discover God’s plan for you is to enter into silence and prayer over an extended period. Ask your Vocation Director to help you find a good retreat.

6

Get Advice

Don’t try to discern your vocation alone, without the help of the Church. Talk to a sister, priest, or deacon you trust.

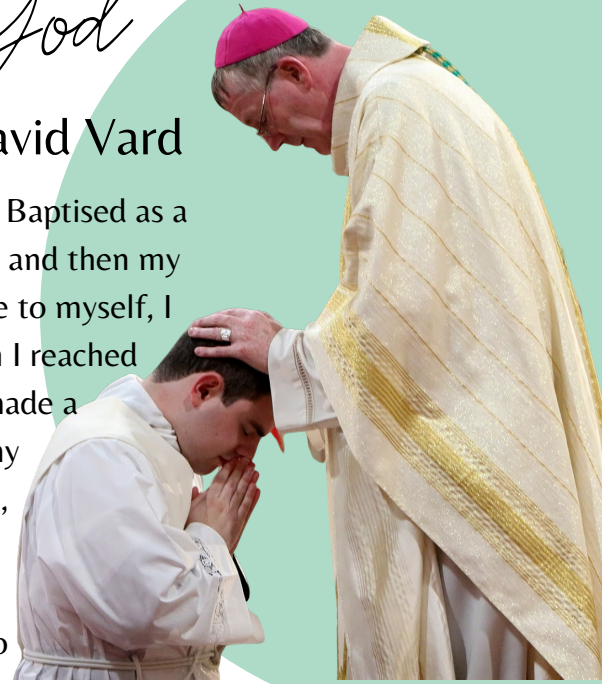
When the time comes, you must act! Move in the direction your heart tells you, confident that God will never send you where His grace cannot sustain you!



Finding God

The Vocation Story of Father David Vard

I hated going to Mass when I was younger. I am a 'cradle Catholic.' Baptised as a baby, made my First Holy Communion when I reached second class and then my Confirmation upon reaching sixth class. After that I made a promise to myself, I would never again need or want the Church. That all changed when I reached fourth year in secondary school. At the beginning of fourth year I made a promise to myself to say yes to every opportunity that may come my way. This involved setting up, and running, a mini company, writing, recording and editing a short film every week and also jumping out of a plane. My drive to say yes to everything was put very much to the test when towards the end of the year my principal asked me to



go to Lourdes as a helper with the parish of Newbridge, my home parish, or so I was told. I immediately turned it down. I did not want to go to Lourdes, I wasn't even sure what Lourdes was. All I knew was that it was a holy place and it was not for me. My mother, however, persuaded me! So off to Lourdes I went for five days to help push wheelchairs and assist people to the best of my ability. I was not going to find God, but God found me, or was waiting for me.

In Lourdes I discovered the true beauty of the Church. I did not see any visions or experience anything out of the ordinary. I saw how people cared for one another, how people were united in their faith in God. As I was discovering God, I also had a very honest conversation with my parish priest who was on the pilgrimage. During this conversation, together with other young pilgrims, we asked him honest questions, did he ever want a family? Did he ever have a girlfriend? Was he weird? I discovered that he was an

ordinary man who was following a call, and that call came from God. A strange thought came into my head, 'David, you could be a priest.'

Over the next year I learned more about the faith, I began to pray and attend Mass and get involved in the setting up on a youth group in my parish. During this year the idea of priesthood never left me and I found myself telling a local priest, who happened to be the Vocations Director. Following a period of formal discernment, I entered seminary in August 2010 at the age of eighteen and was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on the 25th June 2017.



Rosary for Vocations

The Luminous Mysteries are prayed while reflecting on them as “Mysteries of Vocation”, imploring the Immaculate Heart of Mary for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated religious life within the Church.

Leader: (1) Reflecting on the mission of John the Baptist being fulfilled as he Baptizes the Lord, the presence of the Father who is well pleased, and the power of the Holy Spirit who compels Jesus into His mission, all hold truth for meditating on one’s vocation. This mystery reinforces the essential significance of the mission of every Christian as their most personal of all gifts. Hearts closed to the call of the Lord will not know their mission, nor will they reach their fulfillment as persons made in God’s image, the image of Christ who was sent by the Father.

Leader: (2) The Mystery of the Wedding Feast at Cana draws our attention to the need for obedience to the voice of the Lord. Once His call is heard action is required. Our Blessed Mother clearly says to “Do whatever He tells you.”

Leader: (3) Faithful obedience to the Lord’s call establishes the Christian firmly in union with Jesus in the Proclamation of the Kingdom. This mystery can be prayed with the desire to know the charism through which one is to fall in love with Christ, and to know the apostolate in which one is to serve Him and His Church.

Leader: (4) The Mystery of the Transfiguration increases our confidence in the reality of Christ Who is calling us to embrace our vocation. He is divine, He is glorified, and trust runs deeply through the soul of anyone who may hesitate in fear at the knowledge of their vocation. It is Christ who comes and touches Peter, James and John after the glorious vision and says, “Do not be afraid”. Jesus calls us. He strengthens our call and He sustains us with love in our call.

Leader: (5) Jesus promises to be with us always and remains divinely present in the soul of every baptized person. He calls us as persons, body and soul, to a life of love totally given to another. In the Mystery of the Eucharist, Jesus is both Giver and Gift. In giving us His Body, Blood, soul and divinity, He shows the example of humble service and selfless gift. Through the Eucharist, He quickens and perfects our own attraction to love others, as He loves us.

Upcoming Events

February 2 World Day of Consecrated Life

February 11

DIOCESE OF LIMERICK
YOUNG ADULTS

THEOLOGY ON TAP

8PM AT BOBBY BYRNES

11 **PROVE IT!**
DOES SCIENCE DISPROVE GOD?
Fr. Conor McDonough, OP

FINGER FOOD PROVIDED

Contact vocations@limerickdiocese.org for more information

February 14-16

*Discernment
Retreat*

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF ST. CECILIA

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2020



OPEN TO SINGLE WOMEN AGES 18 - 30

February 22



Come and See
Vocations Afternoon
For women discerning a vocation.

**Sat 22 Feb
2-4pm**

Poor Clare Monastery
College Road, Cork
Email: vocationspoorclarescork@gmail.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL LIMERICK@OP-TN.ORG

March 24


Follow me... LIMERICK DIOCESE
VOCATIONS

TUES 24 MARCH 2020
ANDREW DINNER
FOR SINGLE MEN AGES 18-35
INTERESTED IN THE
PRIESTHOOD

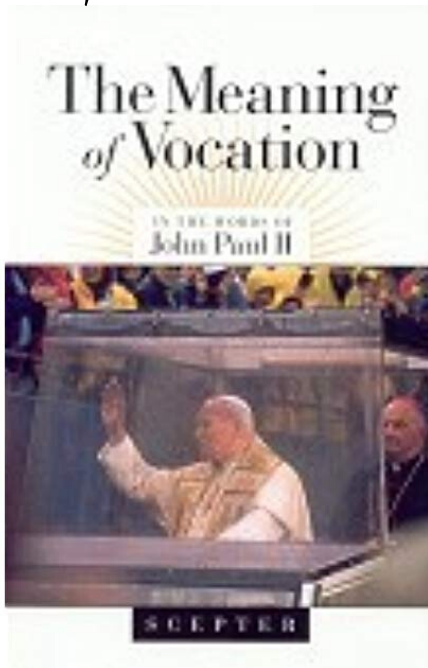
Join Priests of the Diocese for
an evening at the Cathedral House
to learn more about the priesthood

and I
will make
you fishers of men.
Matthew 4:19

To Book email
vocations@limerickdiocese.org



Recommended Reading



The Meaning of Vocation

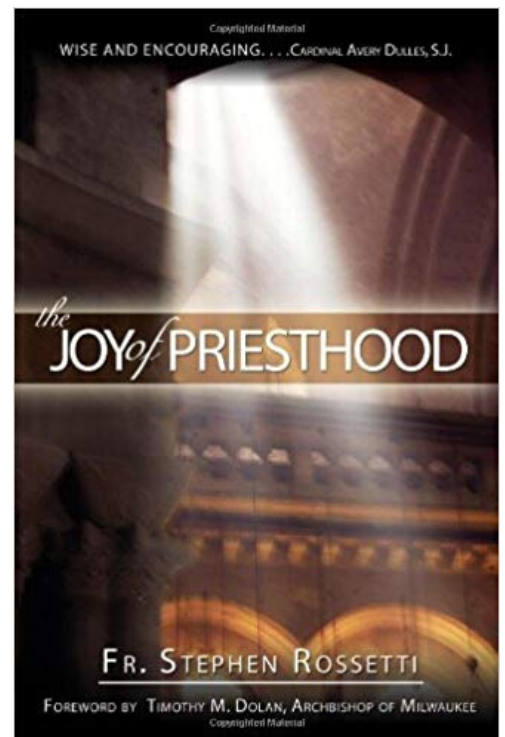
by St. Pope John Paul II

Over the years, the Holy Father has said much about the meaning of vocation and how Catholics should respond to God's call, but it has been scattered through dozens of addresses he has given all over the world. Now at last this compact compendium collects the Pope's choicest remarks on God's call and how you should strive to hear and obey Him. He helps you clarify what God is calling you to do, explains how and when God calls, and even helps parents face up to their children's vocations!

The Joy of Priesthood

by Fr. Stephen Rossetti

In the last few years, the priesthood has been challenged by crisis and tension. Addressing this crisis, licensed psychologist and director of the Saint Luke Institute, Fr. Stephen Rossetti stresses that psychology can be effective in enriching the lives of priests, and the priesthood itself, if it works with a basis of spirituality. Rossetti invites priests to recognize the dignity of their calling through honest and psychologically based self-assessment because happiness in the priesthood flows from both wholeness and holiness.



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VOCATION OFFICE

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