

A Quick Look at...

FOSTERING VOCATIONS

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from May 19, 2020

Key Points from Presentation:

- Never separate vocations from discipleship. To discern well, you must be a disciple of Christ!
- Vocations will come from youth groups, but many come from kids who weren't active in youth groups and seem to come out of the woodwork. Some are even people who aren't from Catholic families!
- As youth ministers, consider: Is our community welcoming enough for young men to be able to feel at home and tell his first step to priesthood? Is our community welcoming and supportive enough for young women to consider religious life? If not, how can we change that?
- Religious vocations can increase just by having young people interact with priests and religious, seeing them as real people who have real stories. Young women encountering religious sisters at DYC, young men seeing seminarians, following different orders online – this breaks down barriers and makes it a natural option for young people to consider.
- When it comes to having a seminarian at your parish, start by talking with your pastor. Would he feel comfortable hosting one? Is your parish community at a good point to help form someone? Remember, seminarians are still in formation.
- Youth ministry can be hugely influential in vocations just by creating a community that is focused discipleship and holiness – both for teens and for volunteers!

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Discerning Religious Life
by Mother Clare Matthiass
This is an awesome resource for women thinking about religious life.

True North
by Joel Stepanek
This is a very accessible book about the process of discernment.

Come and Follow Me
by Father Stefano Manelli
This is a little known but incredibly good for discerning the priesthood.

- Q&A with Father Brian Capuano -

1. **Could seminarians ever be made available to come speak about vocations at a youth ministry Sunday gathering during the school year?** *Absolutely. The best way to make this happen is to email the Vocations office and they will set you up with a seminarian who has the availability to do it.*
2. **What are ideas for promoting vocations in places where our students have never seen certain vocations?** *Start by contacting the appropriate groups that would work well with your community. If you've seen them on social media or at an event and think they would fit your community, reach out, and use platforms like Zoom if you cannot do something in person! Fiat and Quo Vadis are great experiences for kids who have an active interest in learning more about religious vocations. Contact the Office for Vocations if you need help contacting religious communities.*
3. **Do you have any tips or thoughts on altar server programs to promote vocations?** *Yes! It is a great way to promote vocations, giving an opportunity to ask them what they want to do in the long term. I encourage talking it up with the 2nd and 3rd graders, and that sets the stage for when they're older and thinking about vocations.*



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