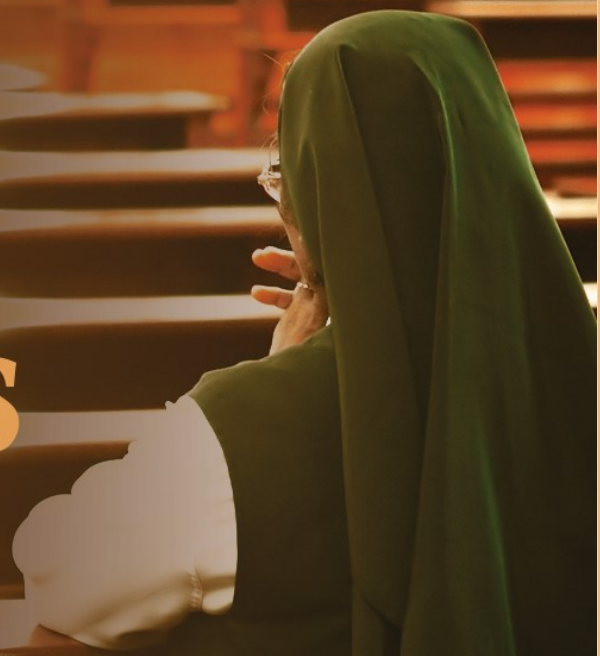


# National Vocation Awareness Week



**National Vocation Awareness Week Invites the Faithful to Pray for an Increase in Vocations in the United States**

**The Catholic Church in the United States will commemorate National Vocation Awareness Week, November 5-11.**

## **Vocation or Calling**

### **Question:**

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

### **Answer:**

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

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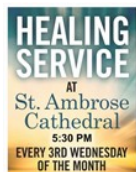
## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Good and gracious God,  
You call each person by name  
and invite them to follow you.  
On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations,  
may each person hear and respond  
to the call they have received.  
We pray for all discerning marriage,  
the chaste single life, consecrated life,  
or ordained ministries,  
that your Holy Spirit would guide,  
inspire, and strengthen them.  
May your Church and the world  
be enriched by the "yes" of your children.  
Amen.



**Bulletin deadlines** are moved up for Nov. and Dec. Bulletin for Nov. 19 due 11/9, Nov. 29 due 11/16, Dec. 10 due 12/4, Dec. 17 due 12/7, Dec. 24 due 12/13, Dec. 31 due 12/20 and Jan. 7 due 12/27. Thank you!

### St Ambrose Cathedral to Host Monthly Healing Service.



On November 15th, all are invited to attend a healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral beginning at 5:30 PM.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

**Know a few good Santas?** Make-A-Wish Iowa is gearing up for its winter fundraising season: Jolly Holiday Lights! They're hoping to have a volunteer Santa present in the outdoor Wish Shop each night during the season. Make-A-Wish is looking for a few good Santas who would be interested in volunteering for a few nights of their choice. Please have the Santas contact Kacie Ballard at 515-209-2578.

**Join Catholic Charities Connect** Are you interested in helping new refugee families as they make Des Moines their new home? Catholic Charities is happy to announce our new Catholic Charities Connect volunteer program! This unique opportunity pairs American and refugee families together to become family friends. Activities volunteer families can do through the program include: having a refugee family over for dinner, helping a refugee family practice English, assisting with grocery shopping, exploring Des Moines together and more. Catholic Charities Connect volunteer families will participate in an initial training and a routine monthly check-in with a Catholic Charities staff member. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Shalom Lule at [slule@catholiccharitiesdm.org](mailto:slule@catholiccharitiesdm.org).

### YOUNG CATHOLIC NETWORK EVENT

Join us on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at the Tea Room** for an evening of prayer, food & drink, networking, and a presentation from a local professional on living our shared faith today. Our featured speaker for November is Ardis Kelley, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines.

Register for this free event on the Diocesan Website.

Networking with complimentary drinks and appetizers starts at 6pm at the Tea Room (713 Walnut St Unit 600, Des Moines, IA). Ardis Kelley's presentation begins at 7pm. We encourage business casual attire at YCN events.

**Mozart's Requiem.** Join us Thursday, November 9th, 2023 at 7 pm for an evening of enchantment performed by the St. Augustin Choir with Members of the Choirs of the Basilica of St. John and the Diocese of Des Moines. Free Will Offerings accepted. St. Augustin Catholic Church, 545 42nd St. Des Moines, IA.



### Sign Language Available

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center (on the Drake Campus) is the home of the Catholic Deaf community. Sign language is available every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Sign language is offered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Visitors are welcome and appreciated at each parish to continue building this community and making the Gospel accessible to our sisters and brothers in Christ. For more information, contact Patty Origer at [poriger@dm-diocese.org](mailto:poriger@dm-diocese.org) regarding St. Catherine Masses or Emily Schmid at [eschmid@saintfrancischurch.org](mailto:eschmid@saintfrancischurch.org) for St. Francis of Assisi Masses.

### 3 Day Silent Directed Retreat

Come away to the quiet and be present to what God wants to offer you. Creighton University Retreat Center, located one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA is offering 3 Day Silent Directed Retreats at the times listed below. Retreats begin 6 p.m. supper the first day and end at 3 p.m. the last day. The cost is \$375 for room, meals and one-on-one spiritual direction sessions. Register at [creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats) or scan code: Choose one from these available dates:

- Thurs-Sun Jan 18-21, 2024
- Thurs-Sun Mar 21-24, 2024
- Thurs-Sun May 2-5, 2024
- Sun-Wed July 14-17, 2024



**Catholic Youth Camp \$175.00 credits available through St. John's.** Each week our Children's Collection at Mass is dedicated a special fund to help our families send their children to Catholic Youth Camp at the St. Thomas More Center in Panora. CYC is an opportunity for students entering 3rd-12th grade to be immersed in the beauty of the Catholic faith and grow in faith, build friendships and create memories. IF your family is registered at our parish and would like to receive a \$175.00 credit toward your child's CYC fee, Call Angela in the office BEFORE you register. She will give you a special code to be used at the time of registration. Registration begins Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at noon. You must have the code to get the credit.

