

This last week we celebrated the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. His journey to ordination was not an easy one – he flunked out of seminary. It's an important reminder of the need to foster and support individuals on their journey in following God's call.

Vocations are paths of holiness, as God calls us unto Himself. Marriage is not just the default choice in life, but a beautiful unfolding of the life of grace – if it is God's calling, and to the one He has called you with. In the midst of a world with a very different understanding of marriage, forming our young people in the sacrificial love of Christ is essential, and seeking someone who will truly love God first.

In the same way, we should encourage our young men to be open to a calling to the priesthood or religious life, and our young women to consider the religious life as well. This past June Fr. Poje and I had dinner with eleven young men from the three parishes in high school or college who have talked to us at some point during the year about their openness to a vocation to the priesthood. Vocations to the priesthood and religious don't come from incubators, or other parishes or families. They come from our own. For me, everything changed when I stopped asking what I want to do with my life, and began instead asking what does God want me to do with the life he has given me?

As a parish family, we need to do more to support our young people in seeking and pursuing whatever their vocation is, as we also look for ways to build up and support our families. We will be forming a Vocations Committee to do just this, as a part of an archdiocesan initiative. If this is something you might feel called to, I would encourage you to reach out to my assistant, Ann, at ann@sjcissaquah.org.