



**World Day of Prayer  
for Vocations  
April 13, 2008**

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**FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE**

*Family Prayer Service*

**Leader:** We gather

**All:** "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

**Leader:** God calls each of us by name. As a sign of our willingness to listen to God's call let us each respond "Here I am, Lord!" when you hear your name called.  
*(Leader says each person's name aloud and the person responds.)*

**Prayer:** Jesus, we want to follow you. Help us to listen to your Word and to hear your voice in our hearts and in each other. We want to be near you forever. Amen.

**Reading** *A Reading from the Gospel of John (John 10:27-30)*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Sharing:** *How do you hear Jesus talking to you?  
What helps you follow Jesus more closely?*

**Prayers** *(Offer personal intentions)*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sign of Peace** *(Share a sign of peace with each person.)*

**Closing Prayer:** Dear God, Help me follow you in everything I do. Help me pay attention so I can hear your call. Be with me when I am in a situation where I have to make difficult choices. Let me learn from my mistakes. Let there be peace and love among us. Let me serve you in whatever way you want or need me to serve. Let me spread my faith in a mature way. But most of all let me act in your ways. Amen.

*--Taken from Dear God, Open My Heart (A collection of children's vocation prayers), p. 50  
Available from NCCV*

**Closing Song** (Optional) *"This Little Light of Mine", "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", "Hush, Hush Somebody's Callin' My Name", or a song of your choosing.*

## **Door Hanger**

*Materials needed:* Construction/poster paper (8.5" x 11") or pre-cut foam door hanger, crayons or markers or pre-cut foam letters.

1. Talk about how special each family member is. Affirm each other's gifts and talents.
2. Share about how God invites us to spread good news with others through our words and actions.
3. God calls each of us by name to follow Jesus. Design doorknob hangers or name plaques for bedroom doors.

## **Vocation Prayer Box**

*Materials needed:* Shoe box or a small gift box, plain paper, used magazine, old greeting cards, scissors, markers, glue.

1. Talk about the needs of God's family around the world.
2. Cover a box with plain paper. Cover the top separately so the box can be opened easily.
3. Find pictures and words from magazines that express loving service to others. Add decorations with crayons or markers.
4. Share what the pictures and words show about the Christian vocation.
5. Write down prayer intentions on slips of paper and put them in the prayer box. Remember to pray for these intentions regularly individually and as a family.

## **Vocation Conversation Starters**

*Go around the group and ask people to share their first response to a sentence starter. Let the conversation go deeper.*

1. When I reflect on my life I feel . . .
2. Sometimes I have a great desire to . . .
3. I am aware that I have special talents like . . .
4. These talents help me . . .
5. I want to make a difference with my life by . . .

## **Virtual/Real Visit to a Religious Community or Seminary**

- Check out what religious communities and seminaries are present within your diocese.
- Look in your diocesan paper to see if there are open houses or vocation fairs in which you could take part.
- Go on the web to learn more about them.
- If possible, call and see if you could visit them.

## **Personal Contacts**

- Invite your parish priest, sister, brother, deacon to dinner and converse about his/her vocation choice.
- Write a letter of appreciation to someone (priest, sister, brother, deacon, youth minister, parents, neighbor, teacher), thanking him/her for being a witness of Jesus.