

Hello. I'm here today to talk about the **Vocations Chalice program** we're introducing to the parish this week.

The purpose of the *Vocations Chalice Program* is to encourage families to pray to promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The consecrated chalice is a tangible reminder of this special intention for the Church. The Second Vatican Council highlights the responsibility of the laity to pray for and support vocations. This urgent call has been strongly affirmed in the writings and addresses of both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a very special way. We hope that those who bring the cup home will continue to pray daily for vocations.

Here's how the program works:

Each week, at the end of one of the Masses, the priest will call forward the assigned family for the coming week to receive the Chalice from the previous week's family. Along with the Chalice, the family receives a packet containing information about the program and about vocations in general, instructions for the coming week, and a journal for recording any thoughts about the experience the family may wish to convey.

The family takes the chalice home and puts it in a place of honor.

Each day for a week, during prayer time, the family prays for an increase in and perseverance of vocations. Prayers and intentions for each day are provided in the packet.

The following weekend the family returns the chalice for the next family to take home.

We will start this program at one of the masses next weekend, the first weekend in Lent. If you would like to sign up to participate in this program, please see one of the members of the Vocations Committee in the gathering area after Mass today.

Thank you very much!