Dear Parishioners,

This weekend celebrates “World Day of Prayer for Vocations”. While we celebrate all vocations in the Church – from marriage to single life and priesthood to consecrated women – this Sunday we are invited to focus specifically on priestly and consecrated religious vocations. After all, these are the two that are least chosen and least understood.

There are 64 priests in our diocese. About half (47%) of them are retired or on leaves of absence. Five (<0.1%) are Latino or African men who moved here to serve us permanently. There are also an additional five religious priests from India, Saint Meinrad and the Vincentians who are here serving on temporary assignments.

There are also three communities of consecrated religious women in our 12 counties: the Benedictines, the Daughters of Charity and the Poor Clares. The average age of each of these communities is likely above 55 years old, and one of them is certainly higher.

These aren’t happy statistics. They are true, though. When I think about them, it makes me wonder ‘what happened?’

What happened to seeing the celibate life as just as fulfilling as marriage? What happened to encouraging our children and grandchildren to become religious sisters or brothers, or priests? I’m sure many of you remember times where you saw a nun on a daily basis and when there were two and three priests for each parish.

People have their ideas on what happened to cause the numbers of women and men considering a celibate vocation to go down: the development of culture hyper-focused on sexual expression, Catholic couples having fewer children and therefore ‘wanting grandchildren’ more than wanting a priest or nun, clergy sexual offenses, etc. But I’m not sure what the real answer is on ‘why’ we have fewer now than before.

But here’s what I also know. We ordained four priests last May for our diocese. It was the largest class in decades! Several women from our diocese have entered consecrated life at the Passionists in Whitesville, KY and in other communities in the past two decades, too. There is now a House of Discernment where dozens of young men have gathered to pray and enjoy time with one another as they are open to the call of Christ in their lives.

So, whatever the reason there was a decline, perhaps a shift to level off (and maybe even reverse the trend) is coming. Will you help us pray to sustain it in our parish?

Even better – will you encourage your son or daughter to be open to the call of Christ in his or her life?

Peace,

Fr Tyler

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**STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING**

April 26, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
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Please remember, if you are donating to St. Vincent dePaul, checks should be made to St. Vincent, not to Corpus Christi.
Thank you to all who participated or spread the word about our blood drive. The Red Cross collected 105 pints of blood, with the potential to save 315 lives!

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- Condolences — Thoughts and prayers to Amy Schlachter, on the loss of her mother, Rita Hoefling.

- Grounds Crew
  
  May 3 – 9:
  
  #4 – Jim Powers

Please keep all of the children who would have received their First Communion this weekend, in your prayers.

- The last day of school for the 2019-2020 school year will be May 14th. Thank you to everyone for their support during this extended learning time. We will be doing a virtual Field Day and a virtual Academic Banquet. Details coming this week.

THE LINK

- The Saint Wendel Men’s Club will host their 13th Annual Grillin’ & Chillin’ 5K Run and Cruise-in on Saturday, June 6. Come and start your day with a 5K Run and Leisure Walk beginning at 8:00 am through St. Wendel! Register at: bit.ly/GrillinChillin5K. The cruise-in is open to all makes and models of cars and trucks. Registration for the cruise-in is free and will be from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Awards at 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy German bologna, smoked chicken, bratwurst, burgers, and ice cream. Please contact Chris Herr at 812-455-0844 for more information.

- Job Opportunity - The Daughters of Charity have an employment opportunity for a part-time cook. This position will be located at a local Sisters’ residence and will be Monday – Thursday 3pm-6pm. Cooking experience and food safety knowledge is required. If interested, please contact Amber Schiff via email at amber.schiff@doc.org or by phone at 812-217-1556.

- FREE Online Conference for Families