

Tips for Parents

Talk freely about your vocation as husband/wife/mother/father, how you came to that decision and how you feel about religious vocations.

Take part in parish activities as a family, give children a sense of the joy that comes from serving.

Talk positively and enthusiastically about the activities of priests and religious brothers/sisters. Speak with respect about priests and religious, especially where differences of opinion arise.

Talk openly about items in the news that speak of a commitment to values, service or church stances on issues.

Let the priests and religious in your parish know that they are welcome in your home. Invite them to visit with you and your children.

Keep an eye open for television shows/movies that present Gospel-centered role models. Watch and discuss them with your children.

Plan an informative and relaxed evening with a small group of parents, and a priest, brother or sister who can answer questions about the priesthood and religious life.

Speak of your life as a vocation.

Reference: <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/vocations/famfriends.htm>

Common Concerns of Parents

Many parents fear that the priesthood will not be a happy and fulfilling life for their son but recent research on vocational satisfaction in both secular and religious fields shows that just the opposite is true. A recent survey by the University of Chicago found that priestly ministry ranked higher than all other occupations in terms of both job satisfaction and general happiness. This research supports another survey of priests in a US diocese that found the following:

98% of our priests describe priesthood as life-giving.

91% of our priests report close friendships. 96% say relationships with married couples is vital.

100% of our priest say presiding at Eucharist is a great privilege. 98% love to preach. 100% find tending to the sick to be a profound experience.

91% say praying over the scriptures each day is important.

94% say they would recommend priesthood to a young man. 93% say they want to help foster vocations.

If Jesus calls your son to the priesthood, he will reward him for giving his life in this service. "Be Not Afraid"

1. Smith, T., 2007, University of Chicago/NORC.
2. <http://www.vocationonline.com/for-parents.cfm>

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocation

Almighty God,

You have made me to know you,
to love you and to serve you.
And thereby to find and to fulfill myself.

I know that you are in all things,
And that every path can lead me to you.
But of them all, there is one especially
by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me,
I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me:
into my mind,
to show me what you want of me:
into my heart,
to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind
and with all my strength right to the end.

Amen

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Free e-booklet:

CONGREGATIO PRO CLERICIS -

*Eucharistic adoration for the sanctification
of priests and spiritual maternity:*



www.clerus.org/clerus/dati/2008-01/25-13/Adoration.pdf

www.melbournepriest.com

www.corpuschristicollege.org.au

www.vocationcentre.org.au/forparents/links.shtml

www.vocationsonline.com/for-parents.cfm

www.rcan.org/vocation/pope2.htm

www.richmonddiocese.org/vocations/famfriends.htm

www.sperforum.com/site/print.asp?idarticle=2122

Priests of the Third Millennium (2000), by Timothy M. Dolan,
published by Our Sunday Visitor, ISBN 0879733195

Why Should I Encourage My son to be a priest? (2007), by
Fr. Andrew Carl Wisdom O.P., published by Liguori,
ISBN 978-0-7648-1518-8

Like to talk to someone about your vocation?

Contact Catholic Vocations

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melbournepriest.com

For Parents



My Son, a Priest?



CATHOLIC VOCATIONS



The Parents' Story...

We asked the parents of some priests and seminarians how they felt to have their son decide to become a priest and what impact it has had on their family and life...

"I think that it's probably the finest contribution a person can make to God and their fellow men. It's given our whole family, particularly the children, a greater appreciation of God and the Church. We also have a greater appreciation of the difficulties and challenges that priests face in doing their pastoral work. It's also made his brothers and sisters more conscious of their faith and helped them to take it more seriously. And that in turn has helped them to pass the faith on to their own children."

—*Father of a Priest*

"It is a pleasure and a great blessing to have a son who is a seminarian and who, by the grace of the Lord, will soon be a priest. I have always been very close to my son but now I feel a special bond and a deep emotion when I think about his new life. I am very proud to know that he will be priest and that he will help people during their best and worst hours. To any mother whose son is thinking about becoming a priest, I will tell them that nothing in this world can compete with this feeling."

—*Mother of a Seminarian*

"We were thrilled when he entered the seminary but we are even happier now because he has such an influence on his siblings (and their boyfriends!), his little brother looks at him like a hero. It's had such a positive influence on our family, it makes you think about your faith more, it has had a big influence on me. He's very close to his cousins and he will influence all of them as a priest. It has encouraged his siblings to think more about their faith and discuss it more. We are incredibly proud.

I would encourage parents to talk to their son if they think that is appropriate and ask, 'Have you ever considered the priesthood?'"

—*Parents of a Seminarian*

"I was very happy when my son went into the seminary. He always says to me, 'Your faith is a gift to you that you have passed on to me'. I'll journey with him and support him in every way. Those young men in the seminary have become my extended family, I pray regularly for them. Whenever I visit my son, other seminarians come up to me and say "How are you going?", some of them have come around to have a meal with me and some of them give me a call to see how I'm going and if there's anything they can do for me. He often says that he has made friends for life by living in the seminary, it's like when your son or daughter gets married and the other family becomes your family, its like that."

—*Mother of a Seminarian*

"I address parents as well. May faith and readiness never be lacking in your hearts, if the Lord should bless you by calling a son or a daughter to missionary service. May you give thanks to God! Indeed, see that this call is prepared through family prayer, through education rich in spirit and enthusiasm, through participation in parochial and diocesan activities, through involvement in associations and volunteer work. The family that cultivates a missionary spirit in its lifestyle and in education itself, prepares good soil for the seed of the divine call and, at the same time, strengthens the loving ties and Christian virtues of its members."

—*Pope John Paul II, Message on World Mission Day
Rome, Italy, May 22, 1994*

Questions for Parents

- To what vocation could God be calling your child?
Could it be to priesthood?
- If your son said 'yes' to priesthood, how would you respond?
- How do you measure success? In terms of dollars and power, or service and giving?
- Would you ask your son to consider priesthood?

V O C A T I O N S

Could God be calling your son?