DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

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Questions for Discussion

Qualities of the Priest

1. After viewing the priests and seminarians in this film, what important characteristics are necessary in a candidate for the priesthood?
2. "A priest is a man of prayer." Why is prayer vital for a priest's life?
3. One young person said, "They are like teachers for us." How are priests like teachers? Healers? Leaders? Servants?
4. Why do you have to be a 'real man' to be a priest?
5. What sustains a priest in his vocation?

Ministry of the Priest

6. What were the different ministries you saw in the film? In what ways is priestly ministry lived out through this diocese/community?
7. What did the priest do for the victim in the accident scene?
8. This film had many images of the Eucharist. Why is the Eucharist so essential to priesthood?
9. Why would it be humbling for a priest to say "This is my Body" and "This is my Blood"?
10. What ways do priests bring people to Jesus Christ and vice versa?
11. What does it mean for a priest to be the *alter Christus* ('other Christ')?
12. One priest said, "It is an opportunity to stand for change, to effect change, in any part of the world, the Catholic priesthood is an instrument for change that the world needs today." How can the priest effect change in the world? How is the Catholic priesthood an instrument for change?
13. What 'mysteries of God' does a priest encounter/administer?
14. One seminarian in the film indicated that it is 'supernatural' to be a priest. What powerful gifts does a priest have?
15. "What most people go through in a lifetime, priests can experience in a day." How can this happen?

16. The priesthood has been a part of the Church since its beginning. How has the priest's role changed through time? In what ways is the role the same? How have the challenges changed or stayed the same?

17. What does it mean to be "fishers of men" in our modern day?

18. "Fishers of men" is one image of priesthood or discipleship. What are some other images of priesthood?

19. Jesus called fishermen, not the wisest or richest. Do you think they could have imagined what they would accomplish?

Vocations in the Present Culture

20. "Who is going to give the sacraments for the next generation?"

21. In what ways do you think that the priesthood is important for our world today?

22. In what ways is our culture counter to the Gospel? How can we transform this culture?

23. What are some of the difficulties in answering the call of God in this culture?

24. "There are probably guys who are being called and are not hearing it." Do you think this is true? What sorts of things might drown out God's call?

25. "We need men who are willing to give up their live for Jesus Christ… now." Why does the world need priests? Why is there a sense of urgency?

26. There was a priest in the film who was both a professional baseball player and an actor, both sought-after professions in our culture. How do you think society views his change in vocations? How do you view it?

Pope John Paul II: "Be Not Afraid"

27. "Do not be afraid." What do you think people today are most afraid of? Why is it important not to be afraid when following Christ?

28. Name all the Popes you saw in the film. What is apostolic succession? How does it relate to being 'fishers of men'?

29. What great messages did John Paul II give young people?

30. Did you ever attend World Youth Day? What did you experience?

31. "The world needs heroes." Who are today's heroes in your eyes? What do they proclaim, and what message do they have for us? Compare and contrast this with the priest.

Priesthood and Sacrifice

32. "The priesthood is a life of sacrifice, a life of service." What does this mean to you?

33. Does the thought of being a priest or religious bring up any fears? Do you think that the apostles had any fears or apprehensions? About what?

34. What things do you value in your life or hope for in your future that you feel you would have to sacrifice to follow this call to follow Christ?

35. Priesthood is a life of sacrifice. Why is this sacrifice so joy-filled for a priest?

36. A priest in the film says that priests have to 'give up their lives' for Jesus Christ'. What does this mean? What, specifically, does a priest have to give up? Do you think his life can be fulfilling or joy-filled even without these things?

37. What does celibacy mean to you? Why do you think a priest makes a vow of celibacy? How can celibacy be viewed as a gift?

38. Loneliness is a common concern for those discerning a priestly vocation. Did the priests in the film seem lonely to you? Why or why not?

Discernment Questions

39. Can you relate to anyone you saw in this film?

40. What gifts do you have that could serve the Church?

41. Name some good priests whom you want to be like. What about them made you think so?

42. Every Christian has a vocation. What is a vocation, and what are some ways to discern a vocation more clearly?

43. Have you ever thought that God was calling you to become a priest? In what ways?

44. How is the Catholic priesthood meaningful for you?

45. What draws you to the Catholic priesthood?

46. If you have felt called by God for this vocation, what obstacles prevent you from following that call?

47. Do you know someone who you think would be a good priest? Have you mentioned this to him? Has anyone mentioned this to you? If so, what did you think and how did you respond?

48. What gifts do you see in priests you know? Which of these gifts do you recognize in yourself or your friends? Can you see yourself sharing these gifts with others?

49. Why is silence important when discerning a vocation from God?

50. The vocation story in the film ends with the young boy one day becoming a priest. What do you think inspired him?