



IDEAS TO CELEBRATE VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK (VAW)
IN YOUR PARISH

- *Advertise VAW in your parish bulletin***
- *Lead the congregation in praying the Prayer for Vocations after Mass each morning (this prayer is enclosed). Insert this prayer in the missalettes or hymnals for the week.*
- *Have a group of people lead the rosary for vocations before or after morning Mass.*
- *Choose one day during VAW to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for vocations. For two consecutive weekends before VAW encourage parishioners to sign up for an hour of Adoration. Expose the Eucharist after morning Mass and conclude with Benediction in the evening. Even if a parishioner can't sign up for an hour, encourage them to stop into church that day to pray for vocations.*
- *Institute the Traveling Crucifix Program, The Elijah Cup, or use a statue of Mary, a statue of the Sacred Heart, or a statue of a saint, for family prayer in the home. Contact the Office of Vocations for more information on these programs.*
- *On Sunday, Jan. 13 plan to preach on your own vocational journey, the beauty of the priesthood and religious life, the need for more vocations, the need for the laity to actively foster vocations.*
- *Invite a seminarian to come to your parish and speak to the religious education classes, your school, or even to speak to the people at the end of Mass.*
- *Visit your school or religious education classes during the week and speak to them about vocations.*
- *Be creative: have vocation materials available in the church; ask the youth group to create posters encouraging people to respond to the Lord's call to the priesthood and religious life and hang these posters where parishioners can see them.*

****Sample Bulletin Announcement:** Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated January 13-19. Each one of us has been given the responsibility to foster vocations in the Church. During this week pray especially for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Also, during this week, think of someone you believe would make a good priest or religious and encourage them to think about it.

Above are just some ideas to help you celebrate VAW. However, I might suggest that you select a small group of people in your parish to act as a Vocation Committee and have them brainstorm ideas on how to celebrate this week as well.