

## Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God, under the inspiration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, raise up men and women of our parish to the call to serve in the Diocese of El Paso.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith to serve in the ministerial priesthood, consecrated life, and lay ministry.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Suggested Scripture Readings

Gen.	12:14; 15:6
Ex.	3:11-12
Deut.	29:3
1 Sam.	3:1-10
1 Kings.	19:19-20
Is.	6:1-9; 6:8-10
Jer.	1:4-10, 17-19
Amos.	7:15
Mt.	12:1-8
Mt.	16:24-28
Mk.	1:16-20
Mk.	10:46-52
Lk.	1:26-38
Lk.	5:1-11
Lk.	18:18-25
Jn.	1:35-51
Acts.	9:1-19; 13:2-3
2 Tim.	1:6-13
1 Thes.	5:1

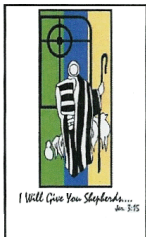
## Discernment of a Church Vocation to the Priesthood/ Consecrated Life



*“Even when I walk  
through a dark valley, I  
fear no harm for you are  
at my side”*

*Psalm 23:4*

For more information contact Sr. Rachel  
Vallarta, MJMJ or Berni Obregon at 778-3407  
Thank you.



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# Discernment

True Discernment is an art. Genuine Discernment is attentive Listening to God's Call to Love. Christian discernment frees us to serve and give of ourselves without reservation because we have been enlighten. This discovery about ourselves empowers us to participate fully in the Kingdom of God unfolding His manifold gifts bestowed upon us as priests, prophets and kings. We journey therefore deeper and deeper into a loving relationship with the Father ministering to His people in this Lifetime.

To discern a possible vocation to the **PRIESTHOOD** or **RELIGIOUS LIFE** we must take inventory of our hearts (awareness of what will be asked of us), develop prayerful life (participate in the Sacraments), get involved in ministry and pastoral work and seek the advice and wisdom of a spiritual guide (sister or priest).

Obviously Discernment is more than just thinking about it or something that makes me "feel good". At the heart, discernment involves concrete actions, sure steps although you're not sure about the direction or whether it is God's will. The fact that you are responding is already a step in the right direction.

# The Process

*There are several important elements that are key to help you through the process of discernment.*

- **Steadfast Prayer** as St. Paul invites us practice means that we nourish on a daily basis our quiet time with the Lord, we strengthen our hearts with the Eucharist and we look for opportunities to retreat.
- **Discern with Others** suggests that we talk with a priest or sister and share what you see, hear and feel the Lord is calling you to. Our monthly discernment group is an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn more about proper discernment.
- **Guidance of the Spirit** with the help of an experienced and solid mentor that person will keep us grounded in the truth and safe from our own deception and false fears.
- **Apostolic work** in the vineyard of the Lord gives us a glimpse of the Labor of Love we will partake in like the apostles who followed Jesus and witnessed his works of Mercy.
- **Evaluations** every six months to encourage and guide your discernment progress.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. How exactly will you help me as I am discerning?

The role of the priest or sister guiding those in discernment is that of a mentor, one who will listen and respond, support and challenge, invite and encourage.

## 2. What are some of the educational expectations for those in discernment, if any?

Since a solid education is required of any future priest or sister, an active school enrollment with above average grades is necessary.

## 3. How do I start a process of discernment?

Contact the Vocation Office and make an appointment to speak with the Vocation Director or Sister Rachel Vallarta, MJMJ regarding your interest in discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

**Meetings are held twice a month at the Vocation Office**

