

Letter to Parents and Guardians

This week, throughout the Archdiocese, we are celebrating *National Vocation Awareness Week*. This year's theme focuses on Discernment: listening and going where God is calling each of us in our lives. It is a process that continues throughout life, and it is an adventure that continually gives life that is more abundant. God calls us all to follow after Him into the wilderness, to embrace our call to "Go forth and spread the Good News!"

There are certainly many ways in which this happens in the world. Many experience that message and commission through the Sacrament of Marriage, where the life of the home is in fact the smallest, most intimate building block of the Church. Some experience the call to a service in the Christian community as priests, brothers or sisters. Some even remain unmarried "for the sake of the Kingdom."

In your role as parents and guardians, you have a specific challenge to help your children discern where God might be leading them in these vocations. Often we ask our children as they grow: "What do *you* want to be when you grow up?" During this week, we change that question to: "What does *God* want you to be?" There is a subtle, but distinct difference between these two questions.

You are to help your children come to an answer to this second question. In guiding your children to discover this answer, it is important to look at the talents and gifts that God has given each child, and to seek further how God might be asking you to help develop and enrich those talents for the sake of His Kingdom.

During this *Vocation Awareness Week*, may we all come to a deeper awareness of how we have been called by Christ to "Come, follow me!" In our response, He leads us closer to himself that we may all share in the joys of heaven.

For guides on discernment and how to recognize the gifts and talents that God sends forth, I invite you to visit www.cincinnati vocations.org, the website for the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

May God generously pour out His blessings upon you!

Sincerely,