



**VOCA TIONS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

**Bulletin Announcements**  
*"You are a Priest Forever" Psalm 110*

**December 20, 2009, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

Our Lord's coming is near, fulfilling the plan laid down since the foundation of the world. He comes as the priest of the New and Eternal Covenant, and from His humble beginnings in the manger at Bethlehem, He will come to rule the world from the Throne of the Cross. As we approach *Vocation Awareness Week* from January 10-16, 2010, let us pray for one another that we might all come to recognize our vocation, and especially that the young men and women called to lay down their lives in imitation of Christ for the sake of their brothers and sisters might have the courage to do so joyfully.

**December 27, 2009, Holy Family:**

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life grow in families. Just as Jesus was raised in a family and was taught to pray and serve His Father in the midst of a family, let us make our families 'holy' by centering everything we do on Christ, so that our homes may be houses of prayer. Then, as we prepare to send our children and grandchildren into the world, we may do so knowing that they will be about their Father's business in spreading the Kingdom of God with all that they say and do. During the upcoming *Vocation Awareness Week*, January 10-16, 2010, may parents be courageous in offering their children to God, the Father, and allowing Him to choose them to serve as priests and religious.

**January 3, 2010, Epiphany:**

The coming of the Messiah was so splendid that travelers from far distances came to witness this miracle, and all creation bowed down in worship of this newborn King of the Jews. During the upcoming *Vocation Awareness Week*, from January 10-16, 2010, let us be aware of the manifestations of God coming to us through the young people in our midst whom He has set aside to serve in a particular religious vocation as a priest, brother or sister.

**January 10, 2010, Baptism of the Lord:**

Iconographers have traditionally represented the descent of Jesus into the waters of the Jordan River for Baptism by John as if He were entering a tomb; for from this moment on, His life is marked by the shadow of the Cross. Even though He knows the struggles that will be His, Jesus still willingly embraces the mission He has been given by the Father for the salvation of the world. To be called to the priesthood and religious life in this day and age involves a life of sacrifice for the salvation of one's brothers and sisters in Christ. During this *Vocation Awareness Week*, let us all pray that those who are called might have the courage to lay down their lives so that Christ's love may shine forth in all that they do.