



Praying for Vocations throughout the Diocese

On the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis highlighted a critical point: “Behind and before each vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life there is always someone’s strong and intense prayer: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.”

I unknowingly echoed his words in my May 5th column: “Most of the priests who break the Bread of Life for us in the Diocese of Baker heard God’s call far from Eastern Oregon—in Nigeria, Tanzania, Poland, India, Sri Lanka, Malta, or Mexico. But we should not think that God fails to call men from our midst to take up the priestly ministry. He is ever ready to give us indigenous priests, but He wants us to ask Him with persistence proportionate to our need. Throughout the diocese we must unceasingly beg the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His vineyard.”

Toward this end, with the considerable assistance of the Serra Club, we now have throughout the Diocese a coordinated program of Eucharistic Adoration for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Each day of the month a specific parish is committed to a holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for this vitally important intention. Perhaps this collective spiritual effort of ours will make us more conscious of the young men and women in our midst who need our encouragement to

hear the Lord’s call.

I encourage you to contact your parish to find out what day and time your community is offering Eucharistic Adoration for vocations.

There is one thing more you can do—as an individual or as a family: take a moment each day or each week to say Pope Francis’s prayer for Vocations:

God our Father, you made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The patron of parish priests, Saint John Vianney, provides an apt description on the inner workings of Eucharistic Adoration: “When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His. We shall go to Him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other.” What better way is there to unleash the blessing of vocations from within the Catholic community in Eastern Oregon?