

## **Welcome to the Vocation Pathway of Divine Child Elementary School!**

This pathway was created to be a source of information for you and your family regarding religious vocations and to help you cultivate a “culture of vocation” within your family. It was created by the D.C. Parish Vocations Committee of the Education Commission. It is our goal to support parish members of every age to be involved in calling forth the next generation of Church leaders and we would like to extend a direct invitation to parish youth to consider a life of service to the Church.

### **Archdiocese of Detroit Sources:**

The official website of the Archdiocese of Detroit for vocation information (descriptions of religious vocations, contact information for the various religious communities within the Archdiocese of Detroit and outside the Archdiocese of Detroit, the dates of upcoming discernment weekends, and so much more) can be found at <http://www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/Vocations+2234/Vocations+-+Welcome.htm>.

A Guide for Parents to Nurture Vocations, Beatitudes for Nurturing Vocations in the Family, and Concrete Examples From the Earliest Years to the Primary Level, From Intermediate to Junior High Level, and From High School to Young Adult Level. can be found at <http://aodonline.org/AODOnline/Vocations+2234/Vocations+-+Guide+For+Parents.htm> .

Have you ever seen an issue of *Vocare*? It is the official vocations newsletter for the archdiocese of Detroit. Check out an interesting issue of *Vocare* and share it with your family and friends at <http://aodonline.org/AODOnline/Vocations+2234/Vocations+-+Vocare+Newsletter.htm> .

Encouraged to pray for vocations but don't know where to find any prayers? Your answer lies in <http://www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/Vocations+2234/Prayers+-+Vocations+Prayers.htm> .

### **USA Council of Serra International**

The USA Council of Serra International is an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA. More than 11,500 Serrans in over 300 clubs nationwide collaborate with their bishops, parishes and vocation directors to fulfill this mission. Through this ministry, Serrans work to further their common Catholic faith. You can find out more about Serra at [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org).

### **VOCATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Coming Soon! Pope John Paul II's Blessed Monstrance for Vocations will be coming to DC on June 8!** Pope John Paul II's blessed monstrance for Vocations will be travelling throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit June 1-14. It will be spending the day at Divine Child Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please watch “The Infant” for more details.

**Monthly Eucharistic Adoration – Day of Prayer for Vocations** You and your family are invited to join the parish community the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month any time between 9 a.m. (after 8:30 a.m. Mass) and 7 p.m. (before Mother of Perpetual Help Novena). Please come and spend a few minutes or an hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament and pray for vocations to the priesthood or religious life.

**Special Year for Priests** Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010 as the Year for Priests. The Holy Father has declared St. John Vianney the Universal Patron of All Priests on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the saint's death. The USCCB created this website to commemorate this special year. See <http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/> Please check out how our students are celebrating the year for priests at [DCES Students Celebrate the Year for Priests.doc](#).

**National Vocations Awareness Week (January)** begins with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. From the universal call to holiness at Baptism, each one of us receives a special vocational calling from God. NVAW was celebrated January 10-16, 2010. Click on the links below to see some ways DC parish celebrated: [NVAW - 7th Grade Vocations Day Highlights.doc](#), [NVAW - RE Prayer Quilt.doc](#) , and [NVAW Family Take Home Page 2010.doc](#).

**World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life (February)** In 1997, John Paul II called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal Church. In the United States we celebrate this on the Sunday after the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. For more please see [World Day for Consecrated Life .doc](#).

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations (April)** In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. For more please see [World Day of Prayer for Vocations.doc](#) and [Prayer for Vocations.doc](#).

**Priesthood Sunday - (October)** Priesthood Sunday is a special day celebrated the last Sunday of October. It is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. Priesthood Sunday sends a message that the parish priest, as the instrument of Christ's ministry on earth, is loved and respected by those in the parish community. Thank you Father Bilot, Father McDonnell, and Deacon O'Donnell for all you do for us. We appreciate you!

### **SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL FOR NUTURING VOCATIONS IN CHILDREN\***

Books make perfect stocking stuffers for Christmas or Easter Basket fillers that promote our Catholic Faith and plant the seeds of vocations in our children, grandchildren, and

Godchildren. Never let a Birthday go by without some form of religious book or article relevant to your child's state in life. The following are a few examples:

Holy Habits – Sr. Agnes Paper Dolls. Includes 10 different habits, history, mission, and how to join each Order, and more.

Kids Explore America's Catholic Heritage by Young Writers Workshop (ISBN 0819842087). Excellent resource for every Catholic family with young children. This book was written and illustrated by kids! Sections include History, Saints and Sainly people, growing up catholic, Praise and celebration: A look at the mass and catholic worship, God's powerful acts of Love: Miracles, God is Calling which includes information on **Discovering Your Vocation**, Faith in Action, Hands-on fun, and Our Vision for a better tomorrow.

All Things Girl Series – Girls Rock! by Teresa Tomeo, Molly Miller and Monica Cops (ISBN 978-0-9818854-3-8). Aimed at the tween girl market ages 8-12. Simple truths from JP II's Theology of the Body and Mulieris Dignitatem are used to develop virtues amidst every young girl's concern for fashion, beauty and friends. Sections include High Class, Feminine Genius, Take it from Teresa, **Vocations**, Great Women, Feminism vs. Femininity, Celebrate Being a Girl, Virtues to Live by, You've Gotta have a Plan, and A girl like me. The vocations section defines what a vocation is and discusses the options of marriage, consecrated life, or single. This series is a must for the tweens in your life!

All Things Guy: A Guide to Becoming a Man that Matters by Teresa Tomeo, Molly Miller and Monica Cops. Aimed at boys ages 9-13 the sections include: Dignity; Virtues and More; Media and Men that Matter; **Vocations**; Family and Friends; Body; Know Your History; Boys in the Kitchen; Strong Catholic Men Today; and Basic Combat Training (building a prayer life). Mixed in with the messages on dignity, virtues, and becoming a "Man that Matters" are mazes, puzzles, games and activities that drive home the authors' point in a really fun way for boys this age.

Love & Life – A Christian Sexual Morality Guide for Teens by: Coleen Kelly Mast (ISBN 0-89870-106-6). A 22 Chapter hands-on workbook that you and your young teen will have fun reading and learning together. A parent guide is also available for this series. There are 4 Units: Getting it together including a chapter "You're special and you don't need to prove it", God's gifts, The Great Race including chapters entitled "Hurdles on the Track to Holiness", "The chastity Generation" and The Call which includes a chapter "Let me Get that Call" which **discusses celebrate love, consecrated religious life, and marriage in "God is Pro-Life and Pro-Love."** This is a great workbook to do on summer vacation.

**INSTILL A LOVE OF GOD AND AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE** \* with religious books, subscriptions, apparel, board games, Catholic radio, and EWTN which will help strengthen your vocation in life.

Blessings Every Day: 365 Simple Devotions for the Very Young (Little Blessings) by Carla Barnhill (ISBN 0-8423-5410-7). Children's Devotional for ages 2-5. Start your

children from the earliest ages to learn about God's great love for each of us and His wonderful promises and timeless truths. You and your child or grandchild will really look forward to reading this beautiful book everyday.

Catholic to the Max ([www.catholicposters.com](http://www.catholicposters.com)) This is an excellent website for all things Catholic! Don't just buy any t-shirt for your child, take the opportunity to make a statement about your faith, evangelize, and help spread the good news with a Catholic to the max t-shirt! You will find cool t-shirts, hoodies, posters, books, music and great gift ideas! It's worth checking out!

Eucharistic Adoration Coloring Book by Katherine Sotnik (ISBN 9781586171025). Have fun with your child coloring the monstrances and angels as you introduce the wonderful practice of Eucharistic Adoration. Follow up with a visit to our church for our Monthly Eucharistic Adoration – Day of prayer for vocations on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month!

Saint Joseph Coloring Books or picture Books by Rev. L. Lovasik S.V.D. & Rev. J. Winkler, OFM Conv. Magnificent series of religious books for children, superbly illustrated and simply written to help all children to better understand the Catholic Faith.

Loyola Kids Book of Saints by Amy Welborn (ISBN 0-8294-1534-3) Featuring more than 60 saints from all over the world. This book explains how saints became saints, why we honor them, and how they can help us even today. Great for night time!

For the Children Words of Love and Inspiration from His Holiness Pope John Paul II (ISBN 0-439-14902-9) Scholastic Press Callaway 2000. Phenomenal excerpts and beautiful pictures have been taken from various speeches and letters from the Great Pope in his travels around the world. This is a timeless treasure of hope and love!

Living Faith for Kids Daily Catholic Devotions is a great way for children ages 8-12 to develop a habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus and the Church. The daily Catholic prayers and devotions are based upon one of the mass readings. Order online at [livingfaith.com](http://livingfaith.com). One year subscription is \$12.00.

Catholic Board Games –Catholic-opoly, Bible charades, Bible Edition of Apples to Apples, and the Bible Edition of Scattergories are all great ways to learn about our Catholic Faith with family and friends while still having a great fun time!

Catholic Radio – Foster a true love for our faith while you gain a greater appreciation of Church teachings by listening to 990 A.M. Listen to it in your car and house!

Eternal Word Television Network ([www.EWTN.com](http://www.EWTN.com)) Fantastic programming for everyone! Children will especially want to tune into My Little Angels, Knights of Saint Michael, The Friar, and Truth in the Heart. Kids check out their website [EWTNKids](http://EWTNKids). “Tweenage” girls - you'll want to check out their new television series on Catholic spirituality entitled “All Things Girl” with Teresa Tomeo, Cheryl Dickow, Molly Miller, and Monica Cops. Families – make sure you tune in Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. for EWTN

Cinema where you can see such movie greats like Saint Rita, Saint Faustina, and Saint Giuseppe Moscati. Break out the popcorn and make a night of it!

Altar Servers - Encourage your sons and daughters to be altar servers and become a part of the action!

### **COOL WAYS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONS**

**Purity Rings** - What do the Jonas Brothers, Hilary Duff, Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez and Jordin Sparks all have in common? They have all made it cool to wear purity rings and all have made a vow to themselves to remain virgins until marriage. Purity rings help encourage abstinence, chastity, and purity. Different styles can be found at <http://www.purityrings.com>, and [www.LimogesJewelry.com](http://www.LimogesJewelry.com).

**Pray for a priest wristband.** Kits are available for individual, family, and group use at <http://pray4apriest.com>. Black wristbands also available at <http://www.adoremusbooks.com/prayforpriestersrubberwristbandbr4p.aspx>.

**“Pray for Priests” magnets** for refrigerators or cars can be purchased at <http://www.aquinasandmore.com/catholic-gifts/Pray-For-Our-Priests-Car-Magnet/sku/55234> or <http://www.serraboston.org/resources/pray-for-priests-magnets>.

\* Books and religious articles if not specifically listed can be found at A. Mateja Church Supply located at 30762 Ford Rd. in Garden City, MI 48135 (734-513-2950), Amazon, Leaflet Missal ([www.leafletonline.com](http://www.leafletonline.com)), Ignatius Press ([www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)), or at your favorite search engine on the internet.

### **WEBSITES FOR CATHOLIC TEENS**

Best Catholic Links: Youth & Young Adults ([www.catholicity.com](http://www.catholicity.com)) Links for you to access all things Catholic from summer camps, to Catholic teen novels and magazines!

Disciples Now ([www.disciplesnow.org](http://www.disciplesnow.org)) The place for Catholic teens on the web.

Membership is free! Disciples Now can help you come, see and live our awesome Catholic faith! Disciples Now is a place for you to ask questions, get answers and talk with other teens. They have informative articles on youth culture, Church teaching, music and current events. Use what you find in this community to strengthen the good that you do where you already live and witness.

For Your Vocation ([www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org)) This new Web site is an initiative of the Bishops of the United States, and is meant to be a resource for men and women in discernment, as an aid for promoting a vocation culture within the home, and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders and vocation directors.

[Life Teen - for Catholic Teenagers \(www.lifeteen.com\)](http://www.lifeteen.com) An international Catholic ministry who believes that Eucharist-based ministry has the power to transform teens, transform parishes, and transform culture. There is the Edge – a parish based middle school youth ministry program. This site has informative articles, video games, music, movie and video game review, and much more.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR VOCATION. WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!**