



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations

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January 12, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ:

The call to discernment and prayer is fundamental to the Christian life. Catholic schools and parish religious education programs are given the great task and privilege of forming young people in holiness. These institutions play a key role in fostering a culture of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. By strengthening all vocations, such a culture fosters a revitalization of the Church's mission, helping us to recognize and appreciate the value of priestly and religious vocations in the life of the Church. Giving a young person the tools and guidance to discern one's vocation is a great gift that parents, Catholic schools, and parishes can give to this emerging generation.

To assist the Church's efforts to promote vocations among our young people, the Serra Club of Indianapolis is sponsoring the annual Vocations Essay Contest in cooperation with the Archdiocese's Vocations Office and Office of Catholic Education. The theme for the 2017 Vocations Essay Contest is:

How have you learned what it means to be a disciple through the ministry or witness of a man or woman in consecrated life, a priest, or a deacon?

It is my hope that the religious educators in our Catholic schools, religious education programs and Catholic home school families will take this as an opportunity to further promote priestly and religious vocations by encouraging their middle and high school students to participate in this contest. Indeed, the invitation to promote priestly and religious vocations is one that is issued to all of us. We are further called to continue deepening each of our own vocational calls, wherever it is that we might be on our journey of faith.

More information on rules, procedures and prizes is enclosed. Thank you and God bless you for your cooperation and assistance, and for the important ministry you provide our young people.

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Eric Augenstein

Director of the Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations