



## ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

### Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations

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## Eucharistic Adoration, Pope Leo XIV on Vocations, & ArchIndy Vocations Office Structure

### I. THE CENTRAL ROLE OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN VOCATIONS

#### A. Why Adoration is Central

- The Eucharist is the “fireplace” of discernment.
- Christ is encountered personally, not abstractly.
- Vocations grow where Eucharistic devotion is strong.
- Luke 10:2: “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”
- “Every prayer counts”

#### B. What the Data Shows

- 75% of newly ordained priests say adoration played a major role.
- 70% prayed at least one hour per week in adoration beforehand.
- 65% identified adoration as the most impactful practice.
- Dioceses with regular holy hours show 2–4× higher vocation rates.
- Perpetual Adoration chapels show growth within 3–5 years.

#### C. How Adoration Helps with Vocations

##### 1. Promoting Vocations

- a. St. John Paul II: “The Church must pray constantly for vocations. This duty belongs to everyone.”

- b. St. Teresa of Calcutta: “If we want holy priests, we must pray for them without ceasing.”
- c. St. John Vianney: “If people want a priest, they get on their knees & pray.”

##### 2. Communal Participation

- a. St. John Paul II: “Every vocation is a gift to the entire Church.”
- b. Pope Francis: “Vocations are born, grow, and persevere in prayer.”
- c. St. John Bosco: “Your prayers and Masses are the seeds God uses”

##### 3. Clarifying Discernment

- a) St. John Paul II: “In the silence of adoration, God speaks to the heart.”
- b) St. Edith Stein: “It is in the silence that He will speak.”
- c) Bl. Carlo Acutis: “When we turn to the Eucharist, we become saints.”

##### 4. Sustaining Vocations

- a) St. John Paul II: “The Eucharist is the heart of priestly life.”
- b) Pope Benedict XVI: “Adoration is the spiritual energy that sustains us”
- c) St. Paul VI: “Only before the tabernacle will we find strength.”

##### 5. Strengthening Perseverance

- a) St. John Paul II: “If you stay close to the Eucharist, nothing will shake your vocation.”

- b) Pope Benedict XVI: "The Eucharist gives the priest strength to remain faithful."
- c) St. Peter Julian Eymard: "The Eucharist is the supreme remedy for every weakness."

## II. POPE LEO XIV ON VOCATIONS

### A. His 1<sup>st</sup> Wed Audience – May 21, 2025

- Parable of the Sower - God's Word (seed) is generously sown on all soils, all people.
- "We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love!"
- There is an urgency for receptive hearts rather than perfect soil.
- Vocations involve self-gift and even "dying to self" in order to bear fruit for the Church

### B. NCYC – Nov 21, 2025

- "As you discern your vocation, trust Jesus. He knows how to lead you to true happiness. If you open your heart, you will hear him calling you to holiness"
- "As Pope Benedict XVI once said, 'Jesus takes nothing away, and he gives you everything.' When we give ourselves to him, we receive far more than we could ever imagine"
- "Some of you may be called to the priesthood to serve God's people through the word and sacraments. If you feel that tug in your heart, don't ignore it. Bring it to Jesus. Speak with a priest you trust. Others may be called to consecrated religious life, to be witnesses of a joyful life completely given to God. If you sense this call, that gentle tug, do not be afraid."
- "It is not true that life is only about doing what feels good to yourself, makes you feel comfortable, as some people claim it. Sure, comfort can be nice, but as Pope Benedict XVI reminded us: 'We weren't made for comfort. We were made for greatness. We were made for God himself'"

### C. Address to Seminarians – June 25, 2025

- "I invite you to have boundless trust in the Lord, the Lord who called you, renouncing the pretense of being sufficient for yourselves or of being able to do it alone. And this applies not only to the seminary years, but to your whole life."
- Quoting Pope John Paul I: "Even the angels that Jacob saw in a dream were not flying, but climbing one step at a time; you can just imagine us, poor men without wings"
- "On the one hand [St Augustine] was eager to decide for Christ; on the other, he was held back by scruples and temptations."
- Celibacy as a charism "to be acknowledged, conserved and educated" that enables a deeper love and prophetic witness

## III. HOW THE VOCATIONS OFFICE IS ORGANIZED

### A. Director of Seminarians: Fr. Eric Augenstein

- a. Application, formation oversight, evaluations, placements

### B. Director of Vocations – Fr. Mike Keucher

- a. Outreach, retreats, promotion, events, recruitment, accompaniment, foster culture of vocations in arch

### C. Associate Vocation Directors

- a. Who: Fr. Adam Ahern, Fr. Tony Hollowell, Fr. John Kamwendo
- b. Role: Regional accompaniment, retreats, parish visits

### D. Support Staff

- a. Office & Event Coordinator - Greg Rader: Event coordination, administration, communication, logistics
- b. Fran Antone: Seminarian admin