



## **PRAYERS FOR DISCERNMENT**

Please choose one or more of these prayers to pray daily with your students throughout Vocation Awareness Week and the rest of the year. Many saintly men and women are represented below and the wisdom in their words should be praised and pronounced every day of our lives. May you be empowered by their words.

### **DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS**

God our Father, we beg you to stir into flame the call to the priesthood which you have placed in the hearts of many men in the Diocese of Providence. With expectant faith we pray for a new springtime of priestly vocations. Raise up for us priests according to the Heart of Christ, your Son.

We ask your blessing upon each of our diocesan seminarians. Grant them the grace of perseverance and a deep desire to follow Christ with an undivided heart.

Bless our Bishop and priests. May they continue to be faithful stewards of your holy mysteries, and through their example may many men be inspired to follow you as priests.

We entrust this prayer to Mary, the Mother of Priests. May she obtain for us priests after the Heart of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Pray one Hail Mary for an increase in vocations.*

### **A Prayer for Discernment (Vasily Drosdov Philaret)**

O Lord,  
I do not know what to ask You.  
You alone know my real needs,  
and You love me more  
than I even know how to love.  
Enable me to discern my true needs  
which are hidden from me.  
I ask for neither cross nor consolation;  
I wait in patience for You.  
My heart is open to You.  
For Your great mercy's sake,  
come to me and help me.  
Put Your mark on me and heal me,  
cast me down and raise me up.  
Silently I adore Your holy will



and Your inscrutable ways.  
I offer myself in sacrifice to You  
and put all my trust in You.  
I desire only to do Your will.  
Teach me how to pray  
and pray in me, Yourself.

**Discernment Prayer (Sisters of Notre Dame)**

Walk with me, good and loving God, as I journey through life.  
May I take Your hand and be led by Your Holy Spirit.  
Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond generously to Your call.  
For I believe You desire my deepest joy,  
And it is only in Your company  
That my soul will be satisfied  
And my life will find its meaning and purpose. Amen

**Prayer of Discernment said Before the Crucifix (St. Francis)**

Most High, glorious God,  
Enlighten the darkness of my heart,  
And give me right faith,  
Certain hope,  
And perfect charity,  
Wisdom and understanding,  
Lord, that I may carry out  
Your holy and true command. Amen.

**Prayer for Abandonment (Ven. Charles de Foucauld)**

Father,  
I abandon myself into Your hands;  
Do with me what You will.  
Whatever You do may I thank You:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only Your will be done in me,  
And in all Your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into Your hands I commend my soul:  
I offer it to You with all the love of my heart,  
For I love You, Lord,  
And so need to give myself to You,  
To surrender myself into Your hands,  
Without reserve and without boundless confidence,



For You are my Father. Amen.

**Prayer to Know One's Vocation (Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus)**

Lord, my God and my loving Father  
You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You,  
And thereby to find and fulfill myself.  
I know that You are in all things,  
And that every path can lead me to You  
But of them all, there is one especially  
By which You want me to come to You.  
Since I will do what You want of me,  
I pray You, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind,  
To show me what You want of me; into my heart,  
To give me the determination to do it,  
And to do it with all my love, with all my mind,  
And with all my strength right to the end. Amen.

**Prayer for Vocations (Pope John Paul II)**

Holy Father, look upon this humanity of ours,  
that is taking its first steps along the path of the Third Millennium.  
Its life is still deeply marked  
by hatred, violence and oppression,  
but the thirst for justice, truth and grace  
still finds a space in the hearts of many people,  
who are waiting for someone to bring salvation,  
enacted by You through Your Son Jesus.  
There is the need for courageous heralds of the Gospel,  
for generous servants of suffering humanity.  
Send holy priests to Your Church, we pray,  
who may sanctify Your people  
with the tools of Your grace.  
Send numerous consecrated men and women,  
that they may show Your holiness in the midst of the world.  
Send holy laborers into your vineyard,  
that they may labor with the fervor of charity  
and, moved by Your Holy Spirit,  
may bring the salvation of Christ  
to the farthest ends of the Earth. Amen.

**Prayer for Vocations (Pope John Paul II)**



Oh Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless all our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women in religious life, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world, which You love and wish to save.

We especially entrust our community to You; grant us the spirit of the first Christians, so that we may be a cenacle of prayer, in loving acceptance of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Assist our pastors and all to live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to Your call and are preparing to receive holy orders or to profess the evangelical counsels.

Look with love on so many well-disposed young people and call them to follow You.

Help them to understand that in You alone can they attain to complete fulfillment. To this end we beseech You to sustain our faith with the certainty that the Father will grant what You have commanded us to ask.

**Prayer to Do God's Will (Thomas Merton)**

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me  
Nor do I really know myself,  
And the fact that I think I am following Your will  
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
Does in fact please You.  
And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this,  
You will lead me by the right road  
Though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust You always though,  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for You are ever with me,  
And You will never leave me to face my struggles alone. Amen.

**Prayer for Discernment (Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus)**

God our Father,  
You have a plan for each one of us,



## DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE

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You hold out to us a future full of hope.  
Give us the wisdom of Your Spirit  
So that we can see the shape of Your plan  
In the gifts You have given us,  
And in the circumstances of our daily lives.  
Give us the freedom of Your Spirit,  
To seek You with all our hearts,  
And to choose Your will above all else.  
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of St. Ignatius**

Dearest Jesus teach me to be generous  
Teach me to love and serve You as You deserve,  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest  
To labor and to look for no reward,  
Except that of knowing that I do Your Holy Will. Amen

### **Prayer of St. Therese of Lisieux**

May today there be peace within.  
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.  
Let this presence settle into your bones,  
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us.

### **Prayer for Discernment**

Lord I know that You love me and that You have great plans for me. But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk



forward one day at a time. As I explore the various options which lie before me, help me to listen openly to others, and to pay attention to what is in the depth of my own heart. In this way, may I hear Your call to a way of life which will allow me to love as only I can, and allow me to serve others with the special gifts You have given me. Amen.

**Prayer to Follow the Call of Christ (St. Columban's Mission Society)**

Lord, I thank You for the gifts You have given me,  
Especially for life, love, family and friends.  
Help me to know myself better and to know my talents,  
As I pray, study and decide on my life's work.  
Help me to see and understand the path You open for me.  
Help me choose a life's work which will develop all my potential  
And enable me to respond fully to Your love for me.  
In whatever way You are inviting me to follow You  
Give me a generous heart to respond to Your challenging call  
And the strength to follow You wherever You lead me. Amen.

**Prayer to Know One's Vocation (St. Columban's Mission Society)**

Loving God, You have called me to life  
And gifted me in many ways.  
Help me to become all You desire of me.  
Lead me to choose the path of life You have planned for me.  
Open my heart to listen to Your call  
And guide me with Your Holy Spirit  
That I may have the courage to respond to You.  
Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others  
The desire to make the world a better place. Amen.

Thanks to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for producing these documents.