

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is characterized by the Gospel of the Good Shepherd, in the tenth chapter of St. John, which we read every year. *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one"* (10:27-30).

Jesus wants to establish a relationship with his friends that is a reflection of His relationship with the Father, a relationship of mutual belonging in full trust, in intimate communion. To express this deep understanding, this relationship of friendship, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd with his sheep: he calls them, they know his voice, they respond to his call and follow him.

Jesus, referring to his sheep, says: *"My Father, who has given them to me ..."* (Jn 10:29). This is very important. It is a profound mystery, that is not easy to understand. If I feel attracted to Jesus, if his voice warms my heart, it is thanks to God the Father, who has put in me the desire of love, of truth, life, beauty ... and Jesus is all this to the fullest! This helps us to understand the mystery of **vocation**, particularly the call to a special consecration. Sometimes Jesus calls us, invites us to follow him, but maybe we don't realize that it is Him, just like young Samuel.

I would like to ask you: Have you sometimes heard the voice of the Lord which through a desire, a certain restlessness, invites you to follow Him more closely? Have you heard it? Have you had any desire to be an apostle of Jesus? Ask Jesus what he wants from you and be brave! Be brave, ask Him!!! Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community ... That's why Jesus said, *"Pray the Lord of the harvest (that is, God the Father) to send out laborers into his harvest"* (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.

Let us invoke the intercession of Mary who is the woman who said "yes." Mary said "yes" all her life! She has learned to recognize the voice of Jesus since she bore him in her womb. Mary, Our Mother, help us to know better the voice of Jesus and follow it, to walk the path of life!

Pope Francis

World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 21, 2013



Many people are hearing the call to give everything, and are seeking vocations to priesthood and religious life that is joyfully lived. They have discovered that true happiness is realized in doing the Lord's will and have come to recognize the invitation of the Lord in the silence of their hearts. Pope Francis has encouraged us to listen attentively for this invitation and to respond to it generously. We have planned many discernment events throughout the year to encourage our young people to listen attentively to the voice of the Lord. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and at our website to get more information.

If you have heard the Lord's invitation in your heart, please consider reaching out to me at vocations@diobrook.org or by phone (718) 827-2454. I am happy to help you in any way I can. The Lord desires to reveal his plan for your life, and will give you the grace to respond with a generous and joy-filled heart! Allow me to end with the words of St. John Paul II, "I plead with you - never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid".

Rev. Sean M. Suckiel
Director of Vocations

VOCATION OFFICE

Diocese of Brooklyn

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Websites:

www.BrooklynVocations.org
www.BrooklynPriests.org



BrooklynVocations

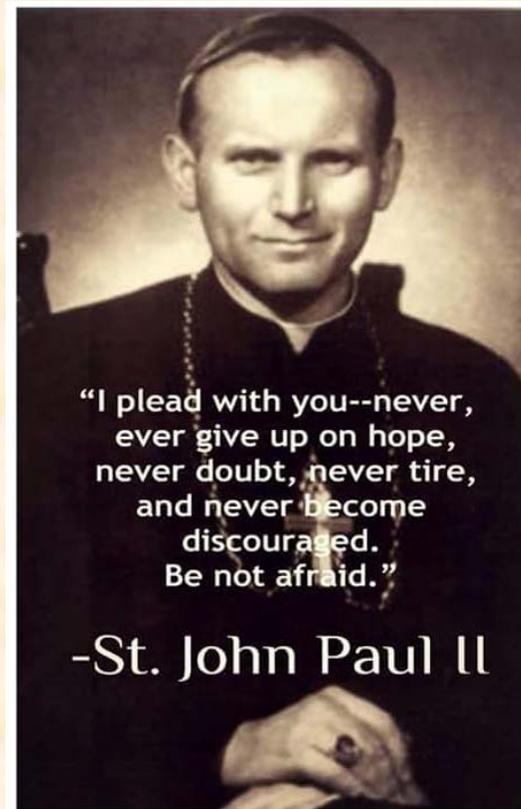


brooklynpriests

DIocese OF BROOKLYN

VOCATION EVENTS

2016-2017



VOCATION OFFICE
Diocese of Brooklyn

341 Highland Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11207
718-827-2454
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DISCERNMENT EVENTS FOR MEN

PROJECT ANDREW

www.BrooklynVocations.org/project-andrew

An evening of prayer and fellowship for young Catholic men who are considering the Priesthood.

Fall 2016 dates to be determined

EVENINGS OF FRATERNITY

www.BrooklynVocations.org/eof

An evening for young Catholic men, consisting of a Holy Hour, conference and dinner.

Saint John Paul II House of Discernment
341 Highland Blvd; Brooklyn, NY 11207

3rd Monday* of the Month
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

(* except February; none in January and April)

Sep. 19 Oct 17 Nov. 21 Dec 19
Feb. 27 * Mar 20 May 25

JEREMIAH PROJECT

www.BrooklynVocations.org/jeremiah-project

A monthly overnight high school discernment group.

Cathedral Seminary House of Formation
7200 Douglaston Parkway; Douglaston, NY 11362

1st Weekend* of the Month
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

(* except December and January)

Sept 30/Oct 1 Nov 4/5 Mar 31/Apr 1
Feb 3/4 Mar 3/4 May 5/6

FRATERNITAS

www.BrooklynVocations.org/fraternitas

Monthly fraternal group for middle school students.

Cathedral Preparatory School and Seminary
56-25 92nd Street; Elmhurst, NY 11373

3rd Saturday* of the Month
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

(* except January and April)

Sep. 17 Oct 15 Nov. 19 Dec 17
Feb. 11* Mar 18 May 20

RETREATS FOR MEN

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION RETREATS

Discerners from the three, tri-state dioceses come together for a silent retreat weekend, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY.

Immaculate Conception Center
7200 Douglaston Parkway; Douglaston, NY 11362

October 21 - 4:00 to 6:30 PM
October 28 - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
December 16 - 4:00 to 6:30 PM

SILENT RETREAT WEEKEND

Discerners from the three, tri-state dioceses come together for a silent retreat weekend, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY.

December 2 - 4, 2016

NEW YORK STATE VOCATION RETREAT

Discerners from the eight diocese in New York State come together for a three-day retreat, held in Syracuse, NY.

January 3 - 5, 2017

BISHOP DIMARZIO'S VOCATION RETREAT

www.BrooklynVocations.org/bishops-vocation-retreat

The retreat, open to men who are high-school seniors and older, will include Mass, communal and private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, interactions with the seminarians, and presentations designed to help participants discern their vocation and consider whether God may be calling them to the priesthood. Advance registration is required.

March 24 - 26, 2017

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

Join seminarians from the Brooklyn, Rockville Centre and New York dioceses for the Triduum liturgies, held at St. Joseph's Seminary and the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation.

April 13 - 15, 2017

STEUBENVILLE NYC 2017

Teens will learn what it takes to be great in this life. Teens will come to experience a relationship with Christ that can radically transform everything in their life. The goal of every Steubenville Conference is for teens to open their hearts to Jesus Christ who desires their lives to be fulfilling, exciting, and joyful!

St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway; Jamaica, NY 11439

July 2017

YOUTH EVENTS

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR AND FELLOWSHIP

www.BrooklynVocations.org/hhf

An evening of prayer and fellowship for junior high and high school students, with praise and worship music, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and refreshments.

3rd Friday of the Month
from 7:30 to 10:00 PM

Brooklyn Location:

Most Precious Blood Church
70 Bay 47th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11214

Queens Location:

Immaculate Conception Center
7200 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, NY 11362

Sep. 16 Nov. 18
Jan. 20 Mar. 17
May 19

Oct. 21 Dec. 16
Feb. 17 Apr. 21



www.facebook.com/dobholyhourandfellowship

BROOKLYN CATHOLIC EVENTS

April 29, 2017 - Brooklyn Catholic Youth Day



www.facebook.com/faithformationdob

RELIGIOUS LIFE

DISCERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES:



Many religious communities sponsor their own "Come and See" retreats or days of prayer and reflection. For an up-to-date listing of these events, visit our website at:

www.BrooklynVocations.org/religious-life-events

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

CHRISM MASS:
April 11, 2017



PRIESTLY ORDINATION:
June 3, 2017

