

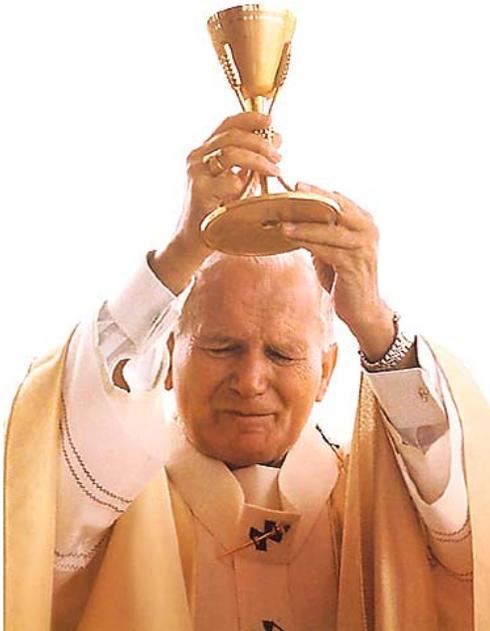
## WHAT IS A VOCATION?

A **vocation** is a call to that special walk in life ordained for us by God, *part of a great divine plan*. It is a *mystery that man accepts and lives in the depth of his being*, a gift and a grace, which we cannot truly grasp or understand.

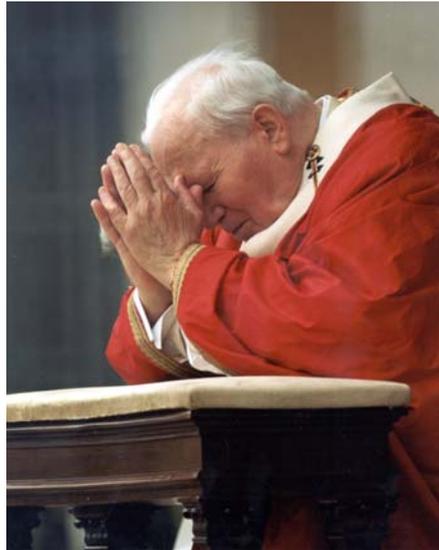
God, Who loves us, Who is love, is also “He Who calls”. Therefore in the presence of a vocation we can only adore the mystery, respond lovingly to the initiative of love, and say ‘yes’ to the call. At the heart of every vocation there is always Jesus, Who Himself explained, “*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit*” (John 15:16).

The response depends on the generosity of the heart of the one called, because He Who calls always leaves freedom of choice: If only you would listen to the Lord, the great Friend. He looks you in the eye and He speaks to your heart in the intimacy of personal prayer.

*(Quotations from Pope John Paul II on Vocations)*



Contact the  
**VOCATION OFFICE**  
to schedule a visit or  
for information about  
upcoming discernment  
opportunities.



**VOCATION OFFICE**  
Diocese of Brooklyn

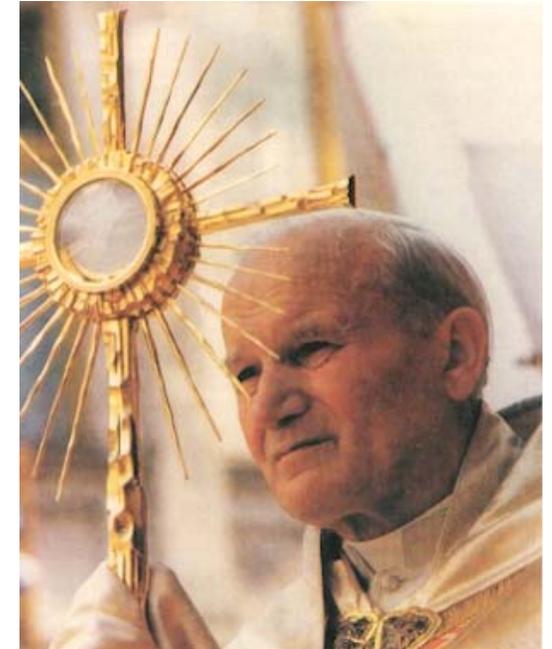


**Rev. Kevin Sweeney**  
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Brooklyn, NY 11207

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**Website:** [www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations](http://www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations)

**DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN**  
**POPE JOHN PAUL II**  
**HOUSE OF DISCERNMENT**



*"The story of my priestly vocation?  
It is known above all to God.  
At its deepest level,  
every vocation to the priesthood  
is a great mystery;  
it is a gift which infinitely  
transcends the individual."*

"Gift and Mystery" Pope John Paul II

# *Pope John Paul II House of Discernment*

## **Mission Statement:**

The desire to encourage vocations to the priesthood is always a primary concern in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. We are and have been blessed with a seminary system that has served the diocese faithfully for many years and continues to form, prepare, and train men for the priesthood. Recognizing the changes that have taken place in our culture and society and the challenges of the New Evangelization in our diocese, we see the need to provide even more guidance and assistance for some men who are considering a vocation to priesthood. We are aware that there are some men who are in college or working full time and who feel that they may have a vocation. Some of these men may not have a traditional Catholic upbringing or education and often identify the need for extended training and guidance before they feel ready to apply for the seminary. There are men who would like to explore the possibility of entering the seminary, but are not yet ready to “leave everything behind” and enter the seminary program.

For these reasons the diocese has decided to open a House of Discernment that will provide a supportive and prayerful community of faith to young men who are in college or working and wish to seriously discern whether God may be calling them to the priesthood. Our goal continues to be that a man who is ready and able to apply for the seminary would do so. The House of Discernment will seek to help men discern whether or not they wish to apply for and enter a program of priestly formation in the seminary.



**Location:** 341 Highland Boulevard; Brooklyn, NY 11207  
(adjacent to Carmelite Monastery)

**Personnel:** Rev. Kevin Sweeney, Director  
Msgr. Vincent Keane, Spiritual Director

**Eligibility:** Men from 20 to 40 years of age, either working full-time or a full-time college student (or, possibly working and studying part-time), who wish to seriously discern a possible vocation to priesthood. Candidates for residence are usually recommended by a diocesan priest, must be interviewed by Fr. Sweeney and Msgr. Keane, have a psychological evaluation, and agree to the “terms” of being a member of the Discernment House community.

**Length of Stay:** Residents of the Discernment House would normally live in the house for one year. Every resident would be in spiritual direction and meet with Fr. Sweeney on a regular basis in order to evaluate whether it is beneficial for them remain as a member of the community.

**Relationship with Seminary:** Members of the Discernment House community would not be considered “seminarians” of the diocese. A relationship would be fostered between the seminary community (faculty and seminarians) and the members of the Discernment House community.

**Relationship with priests and parishes of the diocese:** The Discernment House community, like the seminary community would rely on the prayerful support of the priests, religious, deacons, and laity of the diocese. The members of the Discernment House would be involved with a parish in such a way that his parish involvement would help him in discerning his vocation.

✂ *If you would like more information  
about the Discernment House,  
please complete and return the  
information below:*

**PLEASE PRINT:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Parish/Community**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Referring priest** \_\_\_\_\_

**Priest's phone** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**Diocese of Brooklyn  
Vocation Office  
341 Highland Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11207**

Or phone: 718-827-2454

Or fax: 718-827-2167

Or e-mail:  
**vocations@diobrook.org**