
10

Love.

The best and holiest thing any of us can do for our children is to love them. By loving them and expressing this love they will have the courage and faith they need to allow the Holy Spirit to work within them and guide them to receiving their particular vocation. So just love them.



If you know of anyone interested in exploring a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, contact:

Vocation Office
Diocese of Brooklyn
341 Highland Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11207
718-827-2454

e-mail: vocations@diobrook.org
www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations
www.BrooklynPriests.org

**A Vocation Prayer
for Parents**

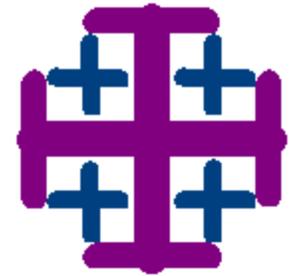
*Loving God,
You have given us the privilege
as well as the responsibility
of being loving parents.*

*In the name of Jesus,
we ask You to guide us as we
invite our children to hear Your
call to service and leadership.*

*May our children respond
with deep faith and generosity
to the needs of God's people.*

*Help us to be a source of
encouragement to our children
by our own desire to be
committed people who serve
with love and enthusiasm.*

Amen.



**What can I
do as a
Parent
to promote
vocations
to the
priesthood
and
religious life?**

**The Diocese of Brooklyn
Vocation Office**

1 Explain the idea of “vocation.”
Define the word “vocation” to your children. Stress how a vocation is different from a profession or career, and how it is distinguished from one’s lifestyle. Our vocation is *who we are*. Explain how through baptism we have each received certain gifts that we will use in living out the vocation that God has intended for us.

2 Share your vocation story.
Let your children know that you have a vocation - that of husband and wife, mom and dad. Share with them the story of how you fell in love and how you felt when they were born. Your children will treasure these stories and lead them to consider what their own vocation might be.

3 Create a peaceful atmosphere in your home.
The “busy-ness” of our lives can become overwhelming. The constant hunger for activity can prevent us from taking the time we need to sit in silence and stillness. Create an atmosphere in your home where the abiding presence of the Lord can be felt.

4 Show support.
Often times when a young person does express an interest in the priesthood or religious life, they do not receive support and encouragement from their parents. Explore how you would feel if your child were to express a desire for a church vocation. It could lead to a healthy and more productive dialogue with your child.

5 Read the Bible.
Read the Bible or other books of a spiritual nature to your children, or if they are old enough, encourage them to read on their own. Talk about the significance of what you have read. Keep the Bible in an accessible place in you home. Nothing nourishes a priestly or religious vocation like the sacred scriptures!

6 Serve in a parish ministry.
Consider becoming a lector, eucharistic minister, usher, religious education teacher or some other parish minister. Not only will you be helping your parish, but you will be setting an example for your children. It will make your family part of the parish family and inspire service.

7 Suggest a priestly or religious vocation for your child.
It takes a great deal of generosity on the part of a parent to suggest a vocation to the priesthood or religious life for your child. Some young people will not consider this as an option for their life unless they have been asked. Be generous. Ask.

8 Pray.
Provide opportunities for prayer in your home everyday. Make it a normal part of decision-making. Pray in particular for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Ask God to bless the priests and religious known to your children by name. Pray for those who are in formation for a priestly or religious vocation.

9 Speak positively about priests and religious.
Our words and attitudes make an enormous impression on our children. By speaking positively about priests and religious, you will foster a set of values that will promote the respect and gratitude that is due to those who serve God’s church so faithfully.
