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**Encourage cooperation among the different ministries in your parish.**

It is only by the cooperation of the entire community, with members responding to the vocation they received through baptism, that we will be able to create the proper environment to foster the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life - with the Holy Spirit leading the way!

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

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

e-mail: [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org)

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

[www.BrooklynPriests.org](http://www.BrooklynPriests.org)

[www.facebook.com/BrooklynVocations](http://www.facebook.com/BrooklynVocations)

**Bishop DiMarzio's Prayer for Vocations**

*Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of Your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization.*

*We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future.*

*Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to accept your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.*

*We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, Amen.*



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



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**1 Preach about vocations.**  
In the Gospels we read the story of how Jesus chose his first disciples. Their stories were as vital to the early church as your story is to the church today. Whether it is dramatic, ordinary, inspiring or mundane, share your vocation story and invite others to share theirs!

**2 Recognize altar servers.**  
There is an undeniably strong link between altar servers and a future in the priesthood and religious life. Giving altar servers recognition in some way during Mass is an excellent way to make them feel special and give an increased importance and holiness to their service.

**3 Spend time with youth.**  
Young people need to see priests as approachable and friendly. Attend their activities or find ways that they can be helpful to you. Consider offering them employment at the rectory. Friendships between youth and priests and religious can often aid in the discernment of a church vocation.

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**4 Extend an invitation.**  
Many people claim that they were never invited to explore a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Extend this invitation to young people whom you think might have a church vocation. Your invitation could make a difference in their lives.

**5 Visit Classrooms.**  
It is only natural that vocations should be addressed in an educational setting. Talk to the students about the meaning of “vocation” and encourage them to consider their own vocation. You will always be welcomed by the students, even if it is because it means a break from the usual classroom routine!

**6 Greet Parishioners.**  
The simple act of greeting parishioners after Sunday and daily Mass is an excellent way to promote a friendly, caring atmosphere in your parish. Such environments will serve as the foundation that is necessary for nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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**7 Pray.**  
Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. During the General Intercessions, include a petition for the increase of church vocations. Encourage Eucharistic adoration.

**8 Attend Project Andrew.**  
These evenings of dinner, prayer and conversation provide an opportunity for young men to learn more about the priesthood. This event has proven to be a positive experience for all those involved. It allows young men to share their thoughts, questions and concerns with priests and Bishop in an informal setting.

**9 Exhibit a love of priesthood.**  
It is encouraging to see a man who is enthusiastic about living out his priestly vocation. Your positive, prayerful attitude will help others recognize that the vocation of priest is worthwhile, valuable and fulfilling. Be an inspiration.

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