

Vocation Awareness Week is Nov 5-11, 2023

Readings for Nov. 5, 2023

First Reading: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

In the last book of the Old Testament, the prophet sharply reproaches the priests and leaders of the Israelites for their laxity and indifference toward God their Creator.

The vocation angle: The “obedience of faith” is not just believing certain religious ideas are true, but shaping our entire lives in accordance with those truths. This gets very practical when applied to our vocations. If I give my whole life to God, what exactly does He want me to do? And if I am called to leadership in the Church, will I respond faithfully?

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

St. Paul tenderly recalls his hard work in Thessalonica, and rejoices in the people’s response.

The vocation angle: St. Paul loved the Thessalonians “as a nursing mother cares for her children.” Celibate priests, sisters, and brothers do not live loveless lives! Rather, like parents, they are filled with love toward their spiritual children, rejoicing when they grow into maturity in Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

The Pharisees preach but do not practice, lording over those they lead. Jesus calls us instead to humble service: “The greatest among you must be your servant.”

The vocation angle: In the Christian life, there are different calls, but not different classes. The Father assigns differing roles, but has the same love for each of His children. Thus the question is not, “How can I rise above?” but “Who can I humbly serve?” In the best marriages, spouses put each other first. The best priests make parishioners their priority. The holiest nuns and brothers “do small tasks with great love.” The key to discovering one’s vocation is casting aside the quest for status and focusing on service. After all, one of the titles of the Pope himself is “the Servant of the Servants of God.”

Ideas for a Vocation-Themed Story

- Tell a story of a moment when you realized the value of your priesthood, perhaps during Confession or the Anointing of the Sick.
- Describe how you were inspired by the example of a priest, brother, or sister when you were younger.
- Recount a wedding you witnessed that stood out because of the love and devotion of the couple.
- Describe how you felt when you were ordained and celebrated your first Mass.
- Tell the story of how a family was blessed by having a child who became a priest, sister, or brother.