Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, you have given each of us gifts to use in the Body of Christ, to bring a New Hope and the Good News of Jesus Christ through our Catholic faith to all in New Hampshire.

Inspire young and old in the Diocese of Manchester to courageously follow your will as we live the unique vocation for which you have created us.

Please give us vocations to Christian marriage, to the religious life, and to the priesthood.

Give us the grace of responding quickly to your voice.

Support our bishops, priests, and consecrated people in their mission.

Confirm married couples and all families in your love.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all who follow your way.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "Yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.

Please visit **invisiblemonastery.com** to commit to pray for vocations and **liveinblackandwhite.com** for more information about vocations in the Diocese of Manchester.

Diocese of Manchester
Vocation Office
(603) 663-0196

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

PRIESTHOOD

WHY THE PRIESTHOOD?

"The faithful expect only one thing from priests: that they be specialists in promoting the encounter between man and God. The priest is not asked to be an expert in economics, construction, or politics. He is expected to be an expert in the spiritual life."

— POPE BENEDICT XVI

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST?

God made you for a unique purpose. Even before you were born, he knew your vocation. And if you are a faithful Catholic man, God may be calling you for a higher purpose—to become a Catholic priest.

PRIESTS HAVE A CRITICAL MISSION:

to bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people. They are spiritual fathers to thousands of Catholics. They live and preach the Gospel and offer the sacrifice of the Mass. Priests are living witnesses of Christ in the world—men of strong character who stand out in our secular culture.

A good priest is a spiritual hero,
a man who sacrifices himself
for the people of God.
Is Jesus calling you to be his priest?

A PRIEST ACTS IN PERSONA CHRISTI

Priests act in *'Persona Christi Capitas,'* which means "in the person of Christ, head of the Church." That's why the priest speaks in the first person at Mass, "This is my body, given up for you."

THE PRIESTHOOD IS A CALLING

Christ asks of some men to sacrifice their lives to follow him as his more intimate companions. It is a call inscribed in their nature and because of this, is a call that will bring them fulfillment.

WAYS TO DISCERN

1. **Prayer:** Prayer is a conversation with God—not just the formal prayers, but speaking from your heart, friend to friend with Jesus. Trust completely that God has a plan for you.

2. **Sacraments:** Feed your soul to be in union with God in the Eucharist. Be cleansed of your sins through Confession, so that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

3. **Mary:** Mary is the ultimate example of all vocations, as she set the example of how to answer the call. Are you open to listening to God's will for you? Pray to Mary, every day, specifically to know your vocation and to have the courage to follow it.

4. **Get Advice:** Do not discern your vocation alone, without the help of the Church. It's not just your vocation, but it's the Church's. Talk to a sister, priest, or deacon you trust.