



What is a Vocation?



"RESTLESS"

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You. - St Augustine -

WHAT DO YOU THINK ST AUGUSTINE MEANT BY THIS?



Christians believe that God has a unique plan for each person, a calling, specifically for each one of us. Another word for a calling is vocation. In the past, people only spoke about vocations when referring to priests or religious, like brothers or nuns. Now we understand that vocation is broader than that. You may have a calling to priesthood or religious life. Or you may be called to married life. You may be called to single life. Maybe you're called to be a doctor, or a teacher, or an engineer, or a salesperson, or an office worker. God's ultimate plan for each one of us is that we become saints, that we are holy and fulfil the maximum of his plan for us here on earth so we can enjoy eternal happiness with Him in Heaven. We achieve this by living out whatever calling God has for each of us, by offering up our lives for His greater glory. If you're called to be a teacher, be the best teacher you can be. If your vocation is to be a mom or dad, be the absolute best parent you can be! If your vocation right now is to be a student, be the best student you can be. God calls some people to priesthood or religious life. This is an amazing life of service to others! The idea can be daunting at first, but remember, whatever God is calling us to, that is His plan for the absolute maximum of our happiness!

DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LIFE THIS WAY? IF NOT, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF YOU DID?

THOMAS MERTON VOCATION PRAYER



MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.



FOLLOW ON ACTIVITIES:



- Pray for your local priest and don't be afraid to step up and help out where you can in your local parish!!
- If you know any Priests, Religious Brothers or Sisters, ask them to share their vocation story with you! Pray for them in their vocation!
- Watch: "Do we need priests?" on the *Paving the Way Home* YouTube Channel
- Check out *Vocations Ireland* website for information on priestly and religious vocations for men and women.

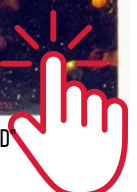


HOW CAN WE OPEN THAT DOOR?

NOTICE JESUS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, WHICH IS OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS. THE DOOR REPRESENTS OUR HEARTS. NOTICE THERE IS NO HANDLE ON THE OUTSIDE. HE KNOCKS BUT WE HAVE TO DECIDE TO LET CHRIST IN.



WILLIAM HUNT: "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"



Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan is Bishop of the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. Fr Billy Meehan & Fr Shane O'Neill are the Vocations Directors for the diocese.



DIOCESAN VOCATIONS

VIDEO



Priestly Vocations

BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF A PRIEST'S VOCATION / ROLE?



WATCH THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE VOCATIONS VIDEO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

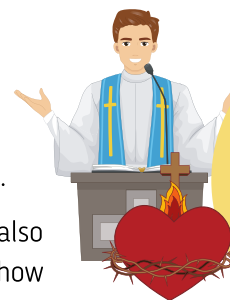
1

How does Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan define a vocation?

A vocation is a _____ from God to live a particular _____ in life.

2

Fr Shane O'Neill comments that as well as God giving us the vocation, he also gives us the _____ by which we discern what that _____ is and how we are to _____ it.



"THE PRIESTHOOD IS THE LOVE OF THE HEART OF GOD."
ST JOHN VIANNEY

3

All Christians by virtue of baptism are called to the **"common priesthood"**: imitating Jesus as priest, prophet and king. Ordained priests who can administer the sacraments are known as the **"ministerial priesthood"**. How does Bishop Alphonsus explain how a priest lives out his ministerial priesthood?



4

What initially discouraged Fr Billy Meehan from considering priesthood?

What did he decide he wanted to be after his Leaving Cert? _____

"YOU WERE NOT MADE FOR COMFORT; YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS!"
BENEDICT XVI

5

Fr Shane describes the essence of the vocation to priesthood as "nothing less than a man laying down his life for Jesus Christ." He explains that a man who serves Jesus as a priest lays down all of his faculties, g_____, a _____ and his entire _____ in service of Jesus and others.

6

What kind of gifts / talents / personality traits could a priest really use in the service of God and others today do you think?



ACTS 1:8
"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES."

7

According to Fr Shane, where does a priest's power come from?

8

Although taking the first step to answering God's call to priesthood might be daunting, what encouragement do John (seminarian) and Fr Shane offer at the end?

9

After watching the video, what do you think is the most challenging part of being a priest today?

10

After watching the video, what do you think is the most fulfilling part of being a priest today?

"DO NOT BE AFRAID. OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST!"
- ST JOHN PAUL II



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

Lord Jesus,
you have told us that
"The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his fields." (Lk 10:2)
We ask you, Lord, to send labourers into your fields, which are awaiting holy priests, heroic missionaries, dedicated brothers and sisters. We pray in particular for vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life in our Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. Enkindle in the hearts of our young people the grace and courage to hear and answer your call. May they respond with generosity, freedom and joy. May their lives serve as a witness to the fact that our deepest joy is to be found in you alone.
Grant that Christian families may encourage and affirm such vocations, and that they may desire to give to your Church helpers in proclaiming the Good News to the world of tomorrow.



For more info on vocations in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, check out the website at www.waterfordlismore.ie/priesthood/