2. The Priest and Vocations

It is always hard to promote vocations in a diocese and a Vocations Director seems to be the “lone ranger” who would receive no supports from his brother priests. For this reason it is important to involve the priests in the diocese to be the primary Vocation Directors. What would be their ideas and ways of promoting vocations in the dioceses? I had the privilege of asking almost all of the priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver to give me what each individual think or can do to actively encourage the young people of Vancouver to consider the vocation to the priesthood. These are there suggestions that we can apply to this particular diocese:

• We should nurture in ourselves a masculine spirituality, a spiritual father of the community and demonstrate it through our work. Young men need to see us pray. They need to see our love for Christ and our dedication to the Church.

• We have to take a bigger role with the altar servers, not just in training them but also in talking to them about the saints, teaching them the virtues, showing them how to communicate with God. We have to create an environment (vocations pilgrimages to different religious orders, Churches in the diocese, etc.) which will help them ask questions about the priesthood, and encourage those who see himself as a possible vocation to take a further step by discerning it in a seminary.

• Our happiness in the ministry must be shown in an outward way and our manners should be those of a Christian gentleman. We need to portray the image of joyful service and rid ourselves of the image of workaholic manners. We should be motivated to serve and pray to be a missionary disciple. We need to portray the image of joyful service and rid ourselves of the image of workaholic manners.

• We need to be seen around our youth so that they feel comfortable and can encourage their own children to come to the Mass. Or we could do normal things like everyone else: exercising, being involved in sports, etc.

• We should not be afraid to show our human side within parishes in the diocese.

• We need to be involved/involved in our youth ministry in our dioceses? I had the privilege of asking almost all of the priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver what would be their ideas and ways of promoting vocations in the dioceses? It would be a residential house of formation for men seriously considering a vocation to the priesthood. It would include such annual events as retreats and summer camps.

We priests have to play our role in promoting vocations. We could establish a ‘pre-sermon’ service, which would be a time set aside before the sermon itself for the priest to talk to the congregation about vocations. We could also need to give reflections on the priesthood and to relate our vocation stories.

2) Advokate Life & Education Services is looking for a motivated individual to ASSIST THE MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION with bookkeeping, payroll, and general administrative tasks. This is a part-time, permanent position with potential to move to full time. Deadline for applications is June 19th. Visit www.advokate.ca/get_vocation/employment-opportunities for more information or email info@advokate.ca.

Continued from 1st column

• We should have parish-based promotion of vocations, including such annual events as retreats and summer camps. There can also be days of prayer for vocations. We can put more emphasis on our vocation stories.

• On the personal side, we can make vocations a part of our daily prayer. We can ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and courage to invite young men to the priesthood and name them before Christ in prayer.

• We must talk honestly to the youth about priestly life. We need to let them know that it is possible to have a fulfilling and happy life being a priest while faithfully keeping our vows. We also need to give clear visions on the priesthood and their own vocation stories.

• We could establish a ‘pre-seminary house’, a house that provides deeper spiritual growth and a deeper love for Christ. It would be a residential house of formation for men seriously planning on entering the seminary, with well established rules of life. The candidates could be working still or going to college.

We priests have to play our role in promoting vocations. We need to look for those who can replace us to continue the mission of Christ building the kingdom of God. Jesus called us to be “fisher of Men” (Matt 4:19), and so we are obliged to fish.

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