



MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY

FALL 2021 | SIXTH EDITION

Adoration for Vocations Initiative 2021

This year the Mother Teresa Vocation Society is launching a new initiative, Adoration for Vocations. Through the inspiration of Mother Teresa, the Advisory Council decided to promote prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, preferably at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but not to exclude praying a Holy Hour in your home, for the specific intention of increasing vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

We ask that members of the Mother Teresa Vocation Society consider offering one hour each week *to pray intentionally* for an increase in vocations. This involves an added sacrifice but one that will surely bear fruit. We ask that individuals make this a private commitment rather than signing up for another group.

To encourage you to commit to a Holy Hour, please go to www.depriest.org/mtvs and scroll to “Adoration for Vocations.” There you will find very inspiring videos by our ADW priests to instruct you on the significance of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The example of Mother Teresa inspires us! In the midst of her labors, she realized that prayer before the Blessed Sacrament was essential.

Please continue your faithful prayers and enjoy all the news and upcoming events included in this year’s newsletter!

Gratefully in Christ,
MARIS MORIARTY

*St. Teresa of Calcutta,
pray for us!*

DIACONATE AND PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION JUNE 19, 2021

My Journey to Diaconate Ordination

BY DEACON RYAN BRAAM

I can still vividly remember the first time I was in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a priesthood ordination. In 2015, I was 19 and had just finished my freshman year at Catholic University. I was invited to attend the ordination as I eagerly waited to hear whether I was accepted into seminary. And everything about the ordination enraptured me: the solemnity of the liturgy, the music, the smell of the incense, the grandeur of the Basilica, and the excitement of new priests.

As I began seminary, the priesthood ordination at the Basilica each year became a special moment for reflection on my own journey—God’s goodness and fidelity to me, the ways I had grown throughout the formation process, and the slow march closer to my own ordination. It was a certain sign of hope and encouragement for me, as I imagined how one day it would be me being ordained.

The incredible circumstances of this year’s ordination contributed even further to my gratefulness. Typically, transitional deacons are ordained at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. However, this year, six of my classmates and I were ordained deacons at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the same occasion as Father Nicholas Morrison’s ordination to the priesthood. To my surprise, the dream was



Newly ordained deacons with Cardinal Wilton Gregory, from left to right, Deacon Gerald Andrews, Deacon Ryan Braam, Deacon Kyle Vance, Deacon Carlos de Rodrigo Gutiérrez, Cardinal Gregory, Deacon Mattia Cortigiani, Deacon Grzegorz Okulewicz, and Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk

coming true a year earlier, which is something I never could have imagined.

However, my gratitude continued as I experienced the ordination ritual for myself. Whether begging for an outpouring of God’s grace while prostrate on the floor or having the grace given by holy orders manifested by putting on new vestments, each moment of the ordination was a significant moment for prayer—for thanking God for what He has already done and continues to do.



Father Nicholas Morrison as he processes from the altar following his Ordination to the Priesthood. Fr. Nicholas is in Rome at the Pontifical North American College to finish his fifth year of Theology.



Listening Is a Godly Act

BY FR. MARK IVANY

“When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you.”

JER 29:12

There is a lot of discussion of late within the Church on the importance of listening, and it could not come at a more critical time. Over the last number of years, advancements in communication technology have multiplied the amount of information being distributed and have simultaneously shortened the attention span of the receiver.

Pope Francis addresses this situation in *Evangelii Gaudium*, when he writes, “Today more than ever . . . we need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders. Only through such respectful and compassionate listening can we enter on the paths of true growth and awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal: the desire to respond fully to God’s love and to bring to fruition what He has sown in our lives.”

This is one of the many transformations that happen slowly over a man’s time in seminary formation. By being listened to on a deeper level in formation meetings, spiritual direction sessions, and in authentic friendships, these young men experience the restorative and empowering grace that comes from knowing that you have been listened to and are understood. Eventually the seminarian will come to desire to give that same gift to others and so enter the school of listening himself. This is the hope of the Church, that “the pastor will . . . make his life a ‘place’ for listening openly to God and to his brothers and sisters. In listening closely, respectfully, and without prejudice, the pastor becomes able to read the lives of others without being superficial or judgmental. He enters into the heart of the person and into the contexts of life that distinguish him, above all, into the internal and external obstacles that can produce, at times, problematic behavior. He will be able to interpret with wisdom and understanding all kinds of things that condition people and influence their lives. He learns how to offer spiritual and pastoral possibilities that are attainable and that respond to the life of the faithful and the socio-cultural context in which they are found.”

Thank you all for the important work of praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In Christ,
FR. IVANY

My God I am Thine for Time and Eternity

BY SR. MARIA JUAN ANDERSON, RSM

This is the first line of the Suscipe of our foundress, Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley, a prayer we pray as a community following every Holy Mass. It took on a deeper meaning for me on August 16, 2021, when I, along with four other Sisters, professed perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. This day marked the end of nine years of formal formation as a Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, and several years before that of praying and wondering about how Jesus was calling me to give my life to Him.

I grew up in the Diocese of Boise in Idaho, a land filled with glorious mountain views and lakes, which serve as reminders of our awesome creator, but without the visible witness of women religious in my parish or community. However, God is not limited by our deficiencies, and I am confident that the prayers of faithful people who love vocations (like all of you!) are one of the means God used to awaken in my heart a desire to be totally His. I had the joy of sharing



Sr. Maria Juan signs her handwritten vows on the altar during the Mass of Profession. Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM, Superior General, signs after Sister. The vows remain on the altar for the rest of the Mass.

more of my story at your annual Day of Recollection in 2018 how the Lord gently led me to know and love Him, and lit a fire in my soul that could not be quenched by anything other than Himself.

While my profession of vows marks an end to initial formation, it is clear to me that it is truly just the beginning. As I embark on the rest of my life, I ask for your continued prayers, that I may persevere faithfully, and that He may use me to bring His light to many hearts along my way to eternity. Thank you for your prayers and commitment to vocations.

Congratulations!

THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD AND THE VIRGIN OF MATARÁ

CELEBRATED

FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS AND RENEWAL OF VOWS ON THE
SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS, NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AT
HOLY COMFORTER – ST. CYPRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,

Eleven sisters professed First Vows and 30 sisters renewed their vows.
Sr. Mary Heart of the Trinity Baugher, former Administrative Assistant
to Fr. Ivany, professed her First Vows.

Quo Vadis Come and See Retreat

On **November 6-7**, high school juniors and seniors will come together to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Please keep these young men in your prayers.

Summer Assignment Takes Two Seminarians to Togo

BY MATT LUDWIG

Parish assignments are part of the training seminarians learn to put our lives completely at the service of the Gospel. This summer I lived at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Parish in Togo with Fr. William Ryan, an Archdiocesan priest from Washington. Every day was a new opportunity to see how the Gospel interacts with an entirely new culture.

At one point, we visited a sick, elderly woman who practiced voodoo. She had heard of Jesus Christ, His love, and His free offer of salvation to all because of the work of nearby Catholic catechists and priests who were giving their lives in service to the Gospel. This message had touched her heart and she wanted to be baptized. Knowing that the woman had about a week to live, the catechist started teaching her about the Catholic Faith.

A couple days later, we returned to baptize her. We destroyed her idols and the priest claimed her for Christ. She took the name Therese—a patron saint of missionaries. Shortly after her Baptism she died. We celebrated her funeral and the priest spoke to the largely voodoo village about the choice she had made—a choice for the Gospel. In her Baptism, Therese made herself available to God and had become a missionary herself.

Souls are saved because people make themselves available to God—Therese, the



Fr. Jonathan Togbe, Fr. Bill Ryan, Taylor Colwell, and Matt Ludwig following the celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Parish, Togo

catechist, and the priest all made themselves available to Him. Often the outcome is not this dramatic. Plenty of behind the scenes works, prayers, and sacrifices go unnoticed by all except for God.

For me, a young seminarian, to see the same Gospel message I am training to serve affect a woman from another part of the world—a woman who had lived a completely different life from my own in an entirely different culture—is foundational. There is no denying that the Gospel is addressed to all people in all parts of the world.

As St. Francis Xavier, perhaps the greatest missionary of all time, once said, “Many people are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is no one to make them Christians.” What was true 500 years ago remains true today. To make Christians, we only need to make ourselves available to God.

Matt Ludwig is in his second year of Theology at the Pontifical North American College, Rome.



Seminarians, deacons, and priests who participated in the September 18, 2021, Ride for Vocations. The Archdiocesan event is in its third year. Sacred Heart Church, La Plata hosts the event, beginning with the celebration of Mass and ending with a barbeque.



Missionaries of Charity were in attendance to witness the June 19, 2021, Ordination to the Priesthood and Diaconate. Restrictions for Covid 19 were still in place.

CONTACT US

MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY

prayerfully supports vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life for the Archdiocese of Washington. It is not necessary to be a member of MTVS to attend any of our events. For information on how you can become a member of MTVS,

Visit www.dcpriest.org/mtvs to learn more about the Mother Teresa Vocation Society.

Click on "Adoration for Vocations" to hear Archdiocese of Washington priests speak about placing ourselves in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and about the power of intercessory prayer at Adoration.

2021 – 2022

MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY EVENTS

September 5, 2021, Celebration of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Feast Day with the Missionaries of Charity
at Assumption Catholic Church

October 1, 2021, Holy Hour with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament
at St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill, hosted by the Young Adult Ministry

SAVE THE DATES

Monday, December 6, 2021, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Evening of Recollection
including Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, and Reflection
Fr. Tim Daniel, Presenter

Ascension Catholic Church, 12700 Lanham-Severn Road, Bowie, MD

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, Annual Day of Recollection
Fr. Mark Ivany, Celebrant and Presenter

Annunciation Catholic Church, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, DC

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 9:00 am (Mass) – 11:00 am, Morning of Recollection
Fr. David Wells, Celebrant and Presenter

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 201 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Evening of Recollection
Fr. John Dakes, Presenter

Jesus the Divine Word Catholic Church, 885 Cox Road, Huntingtown, MD



Please spend one hour a week to pray intentionally for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life!

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him." - Mother Teresa

"Without priests, we have no Jesus. Without priests, we have no absolution. Without priests, we cannot receive Holy Communion." - Mother Teresa

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Visit dcpriest.org/mtvs to hear archdiocesan priests speak on placing ourselves in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and learning more about the power of intercessory prayer at Adoration; and to learn more about Mother Teresa Vocation Society.

Sponsored by Mother Teresa Vocation Society

