

# **Parish Vocation Cross – Traveling Cross**

## **Packet Contents**

### **Announcement**

This page contains a brief explanation that introduces the parish to the Parish Vocation Cross Program

### **Explanation**

This page should be distributed to all parishioners when the program is introduced. Then it could be made available (possibly near the sign up sheet) so that parishioners can easily find a reminder of the procedure.

### **Sending Forth**

This page is for the presider of the liturgy after which the cross is being given.

### **Sign up Sheet**

This page is used for parishioners to indicate their willingness to participate. It might be helpful to ask the parish secretary to call mid-week prior to remind parishioners of their commitment, especially if they sign up months in advance.

### **Prayer Sheet**

This page is used for parishioners as their prayer before the Vocation Cross.

## **Parish Vocation Cross – Traveling Cross**

### **Announcement Introducing the Parish Vocation Cross Program**

Today we as a parish are being invited to become a part of a new program being initiated in many parishes throughout the country. It is called the Parish Vocation Cross.

#### **This is how the program will work:**

Each Sunday a family, couple, or individual will be called forward at the Mass to receive the vocation cross and a special prayer written to accompany it. In taking the cross they commit themselves to pray during the week, in the name of our parish, the vocation prayer in thanksgiving for all those generously sharing in Church ministry and in particular for the gift of sisters, brothers, priests and deacons. They are also asked to pray for an increase in holy vocations

All of you are invited to participate in this program. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. We encourage you to sign up for one of the weeks and then to attend the designated Mass that week to receive the cross.

It is our hope that this experience will encourage each of us to take seriously our vocation as a member of the Body of Christ and encourage ALL of us to pray for the gift of vocations to priesthood and religious life (not just the family with the cross for the week!).

We believe the Spirit is calling forth men and women from our faith community to these roles of service. May our prayer help inspire young women and men to be attentive to the movement of the Spirit within them and to step forward in faith and with generous hearts to wherever the Spirit leads them.

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## Explanation for Parishioners

On behalf of the parish community we thank you for your participation in the Parish Vocation Cross Program. Here are some details regarding your participation.

### **Receiving the Cross:**

Be sure to attend the Mass at which the cross will be distributed.

After the closing prayer of the Mass you will be invited to come to the altar to receive the cross and the special vocation prayer. You may return to your place after you receive it.

### **Prayer during the week:**

We encourage you to pray the Vocation Prayer with your family at a convenient time each day during the week. You might also use this as an opportunity to talk together about priests, sisters and brothers you have known and admire.

### **Returning the Cross:**

It is very important that you return the cross on time so that the next participants will be able to receive it on schedule. Please return the vocation cross to the sacristy prior to the Mass designated as the one after which the vocation cross is given.

QUESTIONS? Please call the parish office.

THANK YOU AGAIN for this ministry of prayer in the name of our parish.

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### Sending Forth of Those Praying for Vocations at the Sunday Liturgy

*(The family, parishioner who volunteered is asked to come forward to receive the Cross and suggested prayer.)*

The family, parishioner volunteering to pray for vocations this week is asked to come forward.

(pause)

We ask you to represent our parish this week in praying for our priests and religious and for an increase in holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Receive the Vocation Cross and recall the instruction Jesus gave when he said, "Pray to the Master of the harvest to send laborers *for* the harvest."

Thank you for your prayers this week; we hope that many of our fellow parishioners will also join in this prayer.

May our efforts be pleasing to the Lord and may God answer our prayer.



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## Prayer Sheet

### 1. Make the Sign of the Cross.

### 2. Pray for Priests - (from U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Dear Lord, we pray that the Blessed Mother  
wrap her mantle around your priests  
and through her intercession  
strengthen them for their ministry.  
We pray that Mary will guide your priests  
to follow her own words,  
“Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).  
May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,  
Mary’s most chaste spouse.  
May the Blessed Mother’s own pierced heart  
inspire them to embrace  
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.  
May your priests be holy,  
filled with the fire of your love  
seeking nothing but your greater glory  
and the salvation of souls.  
Amen.

### 3. Pray for Vocations (from Vocation Office).

Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
graciously listen to our prayers  
for priests and religious.  
Give us generous hearts  
to respond to your call in our lives.  
Lift up courageous men and women  
willing to follow after your heart  
as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons  
Help us to share our faith  
and to encourage young people  
to explore religious vocations.  
Guide all people, Lord,  
in your ways of compassion, truth,  
and peace, that we may find happiness  
in fulfilling our vocations.  
Amen.

### 4. Pray for your own family and your parish.

### 5. Make the Sign of the Cross.