

If you want to explore your specific Vocation...



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## Good Shepherd Sunday 2026

A day of prayer  
for Vocations to the  
Priesthood and  
Religious Life.

“Each of you has,  
in the words of  
St John Henry Newman,  
received a call,  
given a definite service  
in the life of  
the Church.  
Live the life of love  
faithfully in your  
daily lives.”

- Archbishop  
John Sherrington, in his  
*Homily for the Rite of  
Election*



## A summary of Pope Leo XIV's message for Vocations Sunday 2026

Each year on Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church pauses to remember something profoundly hopeful: God is still calling. He calls gently, personally, and persistently; not with noise or pressure, but with the quiet voice of the Shepherd who knows each of us by name.

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Holy Father reminds us that every vocation begins in the same place: the interior life. Before God asks us to do anything, He invites us simply to be with Him. Prayer, silence, and openness of heart allow us to hear the Shepherd's voice and discover the unique path He has prepared for us.

Saint Augustine once wrote, "Return within yourself; truth dwells in the inner person." That wisdom is as urgent today as ever. Our world is loud, our schedules are full, yet God speaks in the quiet. When we make space for Him in Scripture, in the sacraments, in Eucharistic adoration, in moments of stillness, we begin to see our lives with new clarity. We discover that God's plan is not a burden but a gift, not a restriction but a path to beauty and joy.

Pope Leo invites us to look at Saint Joseph, a man who trusted God even

when the road ahead was confusing. Joseph shows us that vocation is not a one-time decision but a lifelong journey of trust. God's call unfolds gradually, through prayer, through the people who accompany us, and through the circumstances of our lives and this is where the whole parish comes in.

A vocation does not grow in isolation. It grows in a community where faith is lived, where prayer is encouraged, where young people are supported, and where every person, married, single, ordained, or consecrated, discovers that their life has meaning in God's eyes. When our parish becomes a place of welcome, prayer, encouragement, we help God's call take root in hearts that may not yet know how deeply they are loved. So this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray for:

- young people discerning their path
- those already living their vocation
- families, teachers, catechists, and parishioners who help nurture faith
- ourselves, that we may listen more deeply to the Shepherd's voice

May we all rediscover the beauty of being called — and the joy of responding with trust.

## Looking for Green Shoots...

Since arriving in the Archdiocese, Archbishop John has encouraged both parishioners and priests, to look out for the green shoots, for signs of hope and rebirth within our Church. For many who attended the Cathedral on the 1st Sunday of Lent for the Rite of Election this was one such event. Over 200 people who had been preparing to either be baptised or received into the Church at Easter gathered with family friends and fellow parishioners to be presented to the Archbishop and formally enrolled. Many of these men and women were under 30 and it is not just converts, many of our parishes are also reporting an increase in interest from young people, particularly men, in coming back to faith.

One of the places to encounter green shoots when I was a teenager was the annual newsletter produced by the Vocation Director to promote vocations, especially to the Priesthood and Religious Life, on the 4th Sunday of Eastertide, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. I always found this a great encouragement, as we heard something about the work of vocations around the Archdiocese. When I was appointed Vocation Director, I thought it would be wonderful if we could restore this tradition because if we are to see an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, we need to create within our parishes a greater awareness of the call to holiness that we all have as baptised Christians. Only then can we make sense of, and foster specific vocations, to married life, the single life, the permanent diaconate, religious life or the priesthood.

Currently there are six men in formation for our Archdiocese, but there are also a number of conversations taking place with others who are considering whether God is calling them to the priesthood. Please pray for them and, if there is anyone you know who is thinking about becoming a priest, do encourage them to get in touch with the Vocation Director.