



Dear Parents of Diocese of Lansing families:

You have been on my heart and mind since I have taken this position as Vocation Coordinator for the diocese. I feel a call to reach out to you and encourage you in the most beautiful and important mission you have as parents, educating your children.

The mission of fostering vocations starts in your home. Parents are the #1 educators of our children. One website speaks of *the home that we live in as being the first seminary or convent*. Parents have the greatest influence on children's lives. We, in the vocations office, are supporters/encouragers of your mission to teach, guide, and foster your children's relationship with God and help them respond to His calling.

In light of this fact, I share a few thoughts of ways in which you can foster a culture of vocations in your home:

- 1) *Your* example of living your vocation to marriage, of prayer, of listening and being obedient to God's will is the greatest witness you have to give.
- 2) Encourage and teach them to pray and to be truly open to the call of the Lord. Fear not His voice since His will leads us to the greatest joy of our hearts.
- 3) Let them know that you support and encourage whatever the call of the Lord may be for them, that you also desire it. It is extremely hard for a child to walk freely towards his/her vocation without the positive support of parents.
- 4) Foster dialogue and questions they may have regarding vocations to married life, the priesthood, religious life, and consecrated life.
- 5) Encourage interaction with priests and consecrated religious; invite them over for a meal or events in your family's life.
- 6) Pray together as a family and include prayers for vocations: for those in vocations to be faithful beautiful witnesses to us all (possibly name some specific families, priests, religious, etc) and for those discerning vocations.
- 7) Encourage them to live the faith, faithfully participating in the Sacraments, church events, and live pure lives according to the Lord and His commandments.
- 8) Blessed John Paul II said that *our children belong first to God*; they are a gift. We are called to be stewards of this gift and work according to the will of the Lord, giving our

children back to God to be instruments of His love in the world whatever His calling may be for them.

I thank you and encourage you, dear parents. In dedicating yourselves to the beautiful mission of the family, you guide, guard, and communicate God's love through your witness. I leave you with encouragement from Blessed John Paul II:

"The family that cultivates a missionary spirit in its lifestyle and in education itself, prepares good soil for the seed of the divine call and, at the same time, strengthens the loving ties and Christian virtues of its members." (Pope John Paul II, May 22, 1994)

If you would like more support from us regarding fostering a culture of vocations, feel free to contact me any time.

God bless you!

Dawn Hausmann

Vocation Coordinator
Catholic Diocese of Lansing
228 Walnut St.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 342-2506