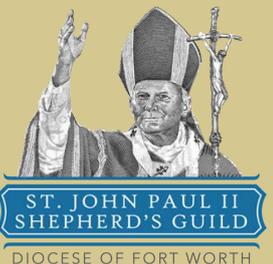
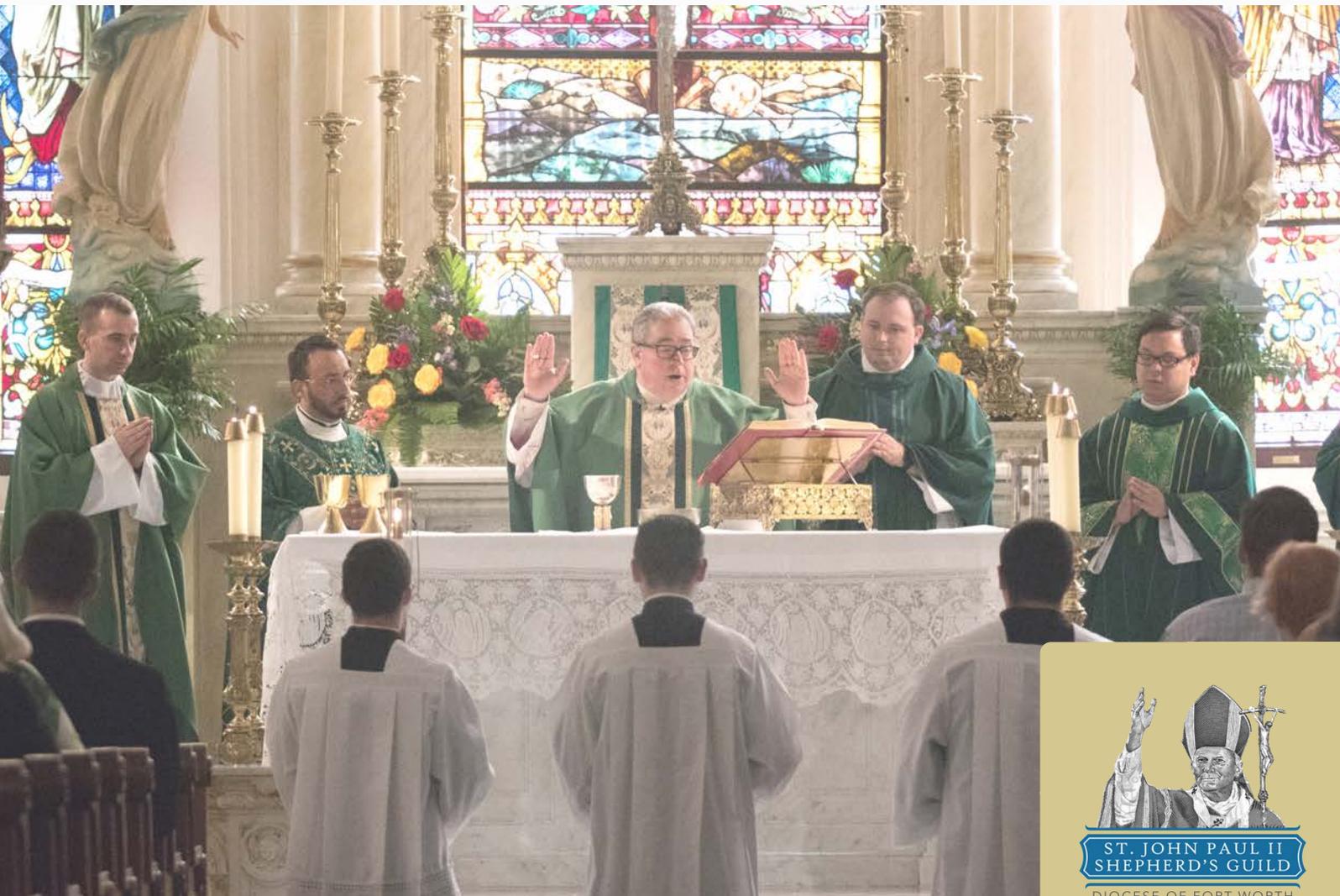


NOVEMBER 4-10, 2018

PRAY, INVITE, SUPPORT

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHEPHERD'S GUILD + NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



AN ACT OF LOVE FOR VOCATIONS

St. Teresa of Avila taught that "Prayer is an act of love." When we consider prayer in this way it's easy to add vocations to the priesthood to our list of prayer intentions!

The priestly vocation is often viewed as an expression of love. In John we learn that "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This vision of humility and surrender, by laying

down your life, is the perfect manifestation of love. In a seminarians response to Christ's call they prepare to completely and fully live their lives to serve others. Love is at the heart of their yes to God's call.

As we focus on vocations during National Vocation Awareness Week we are reminded about the importance of praying for vocations. When we center

our efforts on praying, we are powerfully taking part in the pastoral work of fostering and supporting those discerning, as well as seminarians and priests. Our prayers to Christ for vocations are too, "an act of love."

*Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2*

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider participating in one of the following prayer opportunities during National Vocation Awareness Week:

Thursday, November 8, 2018 + 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. + St. Peter the Apostle, Fort Worth + Adoration for Vocations

Friday, November 9, 2018 + 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. + St. Francis of Assisi, Grapevine + Adoration for Vocations

Sunday, November 11, 2018 + 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. + St. Philip the Apostle, Lewisville + Adoration for Vocations



AN INVITATION TO CONSECRATION

In Pope Francis' "The Joy of the Gospel" he emphasized the importance of building a culture of vocations: "The fraternal life and fervor of the community can awaken in the young a desire to consecrate themselves completely to God and to preaching of the Gospel," he said. "This is particularly true if such a loving community prays insistently for vocations and courageously proposes to its young people the path of special consecration."

Studies indicate that a personal invitation from a priest, parent or parishioner can plant the seed in a young man's heart about the idea of the priesthood. As in prayer, we have a pastoral role in inviting men to consider a vocation to the priesthood, but how?

FAMILIES

- Pray together as a family every day
- Befriend your parish priest or deacon
- Talk about vocations
- Strive to exemplify a holy marriage

PARISHIONERS

- Speak openly about the beauty and dignity of the priesthood
- Encourage attendance at a discernment event
- Encourage openness to God's will
- Be a role model to the call of holiness

HELPFUL RESOURCES

The Office of Vocations, Diocese of Fort Worth - <https://fwdioc.org/vocations>
 What is a Diocesan Priest? - <http://www.diocesanpriest.com/>
 Discernment Resources - <http://www.vocation.com/>
 Seminarian Daily Prayer List -
<https://www.advancementfoundation.org/seminarian-prayer-list.pdf>

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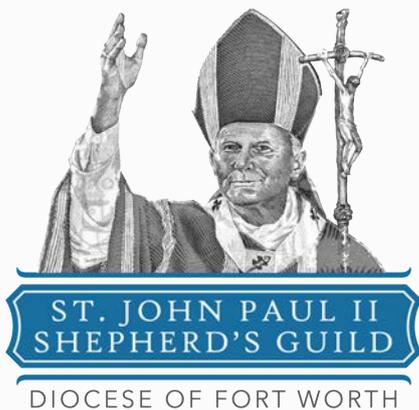
*Understand this well:
 there is something holy,
 something divine hidden
 in the most ordinary
 situations, and it is up to
 each one to discover it.*

— ST. JOSE MARIA ESCRIVA



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT

Join the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild to foster and support vocations



The mission of the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild is to provide financial support for the education of our Diocesan seminarians. St. John Paul II reminds us to "Thank the Lord for the gift of vocation, for the grace of priesthood, for priestly vocations." Gratitude for vocations can be expressed through the generosity of prayer and time spent learning about the process of priestly formation. An increase in prayer and education are integral parts of the mission of the Shepherd's Guild. Prayer and learning provide a way for members to participate more fully in the pastoral work of supporting and fostering vocations. Additionally, these prayer and learning opportunities open up avenues for more to join us in our mission of providing for the education of our seminarians and sustaining vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Shepherd's Guild members spiritually sustain our seminarians, foster future vocations for the Diocese through our prayers and financial support. All are welcome to join us in this vital mission.

Save the Date

Advent Celebration

Saturday, December 15, 2018

By Invitation Only, if interested contact

Elizabeth A. Becker for more information!

To learn more about the Shepherd's Guild visit

<https://www.advancementfoundation.org/sjp2-shepherds-guild>

Shepherd's Guild Coordinator - Elizabeth A. Becker

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