



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND IN
OREGON

Office of Vocations

"Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps." - 1 Pt 2:20b-21

Dear Brother Priests,

As we approach Good Shepherd Sunday (World Day of Prayer for Vocations) I would like to thank you all for your dedication to the people of God in the image of the Good Shepherd during these unusual and challenging times. Know that all your patience and suffering "for doing what is good," is a grace before God. The Father delights in your heroic efforts to keep the faithful connected to the Church during this period of personal sacramental separation.

Knowing that some of you have a captivated audience through on-line streaming of Mass, prayer and uplifting messages, the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), in union with the office of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV) of the USCCB, would like you to consider a simple initiative for Good Shepherd Sunday on May 3rd. Simply consider speaking to your parishioners about **"the goodness of the priesthood."** This can take any shape as you pray about your own priesthood in these particular times in the Church. Here are a few suggestions for considerations:

- In preparation for Good Shepherd Sunday pay attention to your own conversation with the Lord regarding the priesthood.
 - What are you grateful for in your priesthood?
 - Where has God been active in your priesthood these days?
 - How has social distancing affected your relationship with God?
- Consider sharing a personal story about how the pandemic has caused you to dive deeper in understanding your own priesthood.
 - Is there more attention on who a priest is, rather than what a priest does?
 - How has social distancing affected your desire to serve your people?
- Reflect on the goodness extended to you from the faithful.
 - How have you experienced your parishioner's response of faith?
 - What is the Lord doing in your parish?
- Consider speaking to the hearts of young people discerning God's will.
 - Is there a deep longing for the Eucharist? Mass? Adoration?
 - Jesus wants to meet that desire here and now.
 - We have been called to be patient and suffer for doing what is good. In this way we enter into the very life of Christ during these days at home and we become his own "beloved".

Thank you for your consideration. So far two young men have reached out with a desire to discern priesthood due to the inspiration they have witnessed on-line. Thank you for all you are doing as you strive to be a Good Shepherd to your people during these times!

Fraternally in the Lord,
Fr. Jeff Eirvin