



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

is for the purpose of....



Fr. Michael

Vocation Story: It started at a very early age. I remember this one Sunday when I got to go upstairs in the choir loft with my 3 older brothers and my dad, who sang in the choir. I was maybe 4 years old. I remember seeing Mass for the first time, the priest walking down the aisle. I was very intrigued by it. By the time I was in the 2nd grade making First Communion, I remember being very observant of the priest and the consecration and the elevation of the Host. I'd say already by second grade there was a thought of being a priest. I got to know a lot of Capuchin priests and brothers during my high school years at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary and was attracted to their friendship and some of their spirituality, so I entered the Capuchin order. However, after 9-10 years as a Capuchin priest, I realized that parish ministry was my calling and joined the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Currently, besides being Pastor here at St. John's, I am the Dean of the Milwaukee Southwest Deanery. Our diocese is divided up geographically into deaneries, and the priests within the deanery get together 4 times per year to discuss common problems, check on each other's health, etc. I also meet with Archbishop ListECKI four times a year to report to him on the deanery. Due to the pandemic, this is my 8th year of serving in this role.

Favorite Saint: One favorite is St. Ignatius of Loyola. His life is a great example of this saying: Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. By his conversion he gives great hope to all who have sinned and for those who desire to grow close to God. My other favorite is St. Anthony of Padua. He is patron of lost articles. I call on St. Anthony often to find something I have misplaced. Recently, I was looking for a key. I looked in every logical place. When I didn't find the key I just said to myself: "that is the way it's going to be". But a few weeks later I really needed that key, so I called on St. Anthony. When I went to my basement, I saw a box sitting on the shelf and for no particular reason, opened it and found the key. How or why the key was there, I have no clue but "Thank you St. Anthony"!

Most meaningful area of Ministry: Administering the Sacraments. People's gratitude and the way they express their gratitude is always very meaningful to me.

Other Favorites: Gardening (flowers and vegetables), Christmas music (all year round)

Deacon Steve

Vocation Story: I got involved in the sports memorabilia business right out of high school, and that developed into a career for me. I also took up coaching basketball and always seemed to be drawn to service work. I was very familiar with the role of deacons because my Father is also a Deacon (Class of 1975) and witnessed his service to the Church. After a time of prayer and discernment, it became clear to me that God was calling me to this life as a single Deacon. I entered the Diaconate program in 2012 and was ordained in 2016. I am blessed to be part of St. John the Evangelist and St. Augustine parishes.

Favorite Saints: I have always been inspired by St. Veronica and her courage to step out of her comfort zone, wipe the face of Christ in the middle of chaos and risk...her love for Christ could not be silenced. What opportunities do we have "to wipe the face of Christ"? St. Tarcisus gave his life as a young boy to protect the sacred presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and inspires me to grow in my love and reverence towards the Eucharist.

Favorite Psalm: Psalm 62:5-8 truly says it all for me. God is all we need in our lives. We don't have to have everything figured out. Give it all to God and don't worry.

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.

Favorite prayer: The Magnificat" Turn to Mary and she will lead you to know God's will, and to a deeper love for her son.

Favorite devotions: The Rosary and Holy Face Devotion

Suggestions for vocational discernment: Ponder 1 Samuel 3:7-11. Also, pray to Mary—she will help us "do whatever He tells us".

....following Our Lord's instructions to:
"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest"
(Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Please enjoy these vocation stories of God's "laborers" in our midst