

HOSPITALITY AND

Vocations

The Lord Jesus Christ based his salvific mission in the two main actions of hospitality: on the one hand, asking people to welcome him into their lives, and on the other hand, welcoming different kinds of people for them to join the Kingdom of God and become his followers. Both of them went hand in hand throughout his life on earth.

Vocations do not come just by our honest wishing to have more men and women enrolled in a seminary or religious house, but they come as the result of the whole parish community that welcomed the individual, nourished his/her faith and walked with him/her. This in turn, allows the person to be open and be able to welcome the voice of God that calls to a specific vocation in life.

Thus, vocations are the fruit of a Parish community that welcomes everyone, especially the young ones and gives them a place and role to fulfill. When young people feel that they can do something meaningful and positive for others, it is then when they are willing to commit their lives to a bigger project, which can be the priestly and religious life vocation.

REFLECT

The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. There are other doors that should not be closed either. Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community.

Evangelii Gaudium, 46-47

The parish is where vocations are first explored and nourished in the faith and where they come into contact with the clergy, men and women in consecrated life, and lay leaders who accompany them on this journey and encourage them into service. It is vital that the parish develop a culture of vocations to invite youth, young adults and adults to consider the calls to marriage, the priesthood, and consecrated life. [USCCB](#)

Draft of the Program of Priestly Formation, 6th Edition, n. 48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As Parish community, are the apostolic activities crafted in a way that clearly shows our desire to be open to welcome people by giving them opportunities to participate in the life of the Parish? Are young people welcomed, included and taken into account in those activities?
2. Do the Parish ministries have concrete strategies for both hospitality actions: 1) Going out to look for people, especially the young ones, and 2) Welcoming those who come to our Parish by making easy their way to find us and join us?
3. What are the concrete strategies that our parish is putting together to promote Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life? Do we talk about this topic in the different ministries, formations and homilies?

