

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Dear Pastors, Parish Catechetical Leaders, and Youth Ministers,

Peace this day in Christ. In today's world, there are many voices vying for young people's attention. It is vital that we aid them in hearing the Voice of the Lord, so they may respond to His plan for their salvation and grow as His life-long disciples.

Through goals brought about by the Diocesan Synod, many parishes are helping young people progress in their walk with the Lord. Aiding youth in developing a prayer life, connecting them to the Liturgy, and mentorship are just some of the areas where efforts to guide young people to Christ are bearing fruit.

Within the Lord's plan for each person is a call to a unique and particular vocation. Encouraging vocational discernment is a significant area where we must guide young people to hear the Voice of God. The Third Continental Congress on Vocations in North America (2002) along with the USCCB calls for the faithful to create a "culture of vocations". Such a culture fosters an atmosphere which incorporates the following actions:

- **To Pray:** to be holy, to be converted, to worship
- **To Evangelize:** to teach, to form, to catechize
- **To Experience:** worship, community, service, witness
- **To Mentor:** to accompany, to guide, to model
- **To Invite:** to discern, to choose, to commit

One tool that brings together all five of these actions is a Vocation Night. The aim of these evening gatherings is to help young people better hear the voice of God in their daily lives, and to introduce them to different paths to holiness, primarily vocations to marriage, priesthood, and religious life. The seeds planted and prayer habits learned from a Vocation Night will bear much fruit in the lives of youth even beyond vocational discernment.

In coordination with the Office of Vocations, we have enclosed a basic outline for hosting a Vocation Night at the parish or deanery level, along with additional ideas and resources for creating a culture of vocations within your parish. Feel free to adapt the sample as you see fit for your needs!

If you need further support in planning, implementing or promoting your Vocation Night, please contact the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry or the Office of Vocations.

Sincerely,

Bill Gavin