



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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January 11, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week. During this special time, we renew our prayers to the Lord of the Harvest asking Him to provide the Diocese of Raleigh with more priests and an increase of vocations to Religious Life. At the same time, we pray with renewed gratitude for the Priests and Religious Brothers and Sisters serving in our Diocese.

As we commemorate the Baptism of the Lord, we are reminded that, through our own Baptism, all of us are called to love and to serve God. Throughout this week and always, we pray daily for the grace we need to know God's will and to live a life worthy of the call we have received.

We are also encouraged to help our children and young people discover their vocations. As we walk with them as parents, teachers, catechists, youth ministers and faith formation leaders, let us strive to help them become aware of God's loving presence in their lives in order that they may hear and generously respond to His call.

To assist you in highlighting this special week in the life of the Church, the Vocations Office has provided materials and plans for your use as a family or as a class. The lesson plans and materials can be found on the vocations website (www.raleighvocations.org) and are available for a range of ages.

With the help of God's grace during this week of prayer for vocations, may we be renewed in our particular vocations and commit ourselves to encourage more individuals to surrender their lives in service of the Lord and His Church. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and your family and keep you always in His care.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh