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509 547-7587

**Parish Office Phone** 509-586-3820  
Fax 509-586-3558

Email: [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Bulletin: [receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Website: [www.stjoseph-kennewick.org](http://www.stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**St. Joseph School Office** 509-586-0481  
**Principal:** Catherine Valiant, [principal@sjske.org](mailto:principal@sjske.org)  
**Children's Center** 509-586-1428  
Director: Rachel Cobb, [director@sjske.org](mailto:director@sjske.org)  
School website: [www.sjske.org](http://www.sjske.org)

## WEEKEND MASSES

- **Saturday Vigil:**
  - 5:30 pm (English)
  - 7:00 pm (Spanish)
- **Sunday:**
  - 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:30 pm (English)
  - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (Spanish)

## WEEKLY MASSES

- **Monday - Friday:**
  - 6:30 am and 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **Thursday:**
  - 7:00 pm, Small Church (Spanish)
- **Last Thursday of the Month:**
  - Holy Hour at 6:00 pm followed by Bilingual Mass at 7:00 pm, Small Church.
- **Saturday:**
  - 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **First Friday Mass:**
  - 7:00 pm, Small Church (English)

## CONFESSIONS

**Saturdays** | 3:30 -5:30 pm | Big Church  
**Thursdays** | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Small Church  
**First Friday** | 6:30 -7:00 pm | Small Church

## BAPTISMS

“As a rule an adult is to be baptized in his or her parish and an infant in the parish of the parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise.” (Canon Law 587 and 2) If you are a parishioner who attends St. Joseph and would like to baptize your child in another parish, you will need a letter from the pastor of St. Joseph giving you permission to do so. If you are not a St. Joseph parishioner and want to baptize your child in this parish, you need to get permission from your pastor to baptize your child here. The parents and sponsors must attend a class before the Baptism of the child.

## PRAYER CHAIN

To put someone on the Prayer Chain:  
Email [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
or call the Parish Office at 509-586-3820

## Parish Staff

**Pastor**  
Fr. Jose Herrera

**Parochial Vicar**  
Fr. Ricardo A. Villarreal  
Fr. Christian Melendez

**In Residence**  
Fr. Riccardo Keolker

**Deacons**  
William Mich  
Juan Garcia  
Herman Farias  
Gustavo Valdivia  
Mike Palmieri

**Pastoral Assistant  
for Administration**  
Ric Gamez

**Receptionist**  
Nancy T.  
[reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Office Assistants**  
Tina D.  
Rosy M.

**Religious Education Coordinators**  
Maria R.  
[rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Nancy M.  
[rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Bookkeepers**  
Jessica “Jessie” T.  
Sonia P.

**Music Directors**  
Bonnie L.  
Luis A.



While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. LUKE 24:51

## INQUIRING ADULTS-OCIA

*Order of Christian Initiation Of Adults*  
OCIA is for all adults older than 18 years of age in need of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation. We welcome your interest in exploring the Catholic faith and invite your participation in our year-round OCIA process. Call the Parish Office for more information.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing is the proper Sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness, before surgeries, or anyone over the age of 59. Through the Sacrament of Anointing, the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ's messianic work of healing. If you need the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the Parish Office.

## MARRIAGE

Please contact the priest of the parish where you want to celebrate your wedding ceremony to discuss your situation and set the date in the parish calendar. Do this at least six months prior to the day you are planning to marry.

## FUNERALS

Death is something that awaits all of us and our loved ones. Yet we often avoid thinking about it. Please let the Parish Office know how we can help with the farewell to your beloved family member.

## MISSION & CORE VALUES

Our mission and sacred purpose as the parish of St. Joseph is to fully live our Catholic faith, which is rooted in Jesus Christ and the teachings of His Church, to nurture and build our parish so that every parishioner can know, love, and serve God in this world and encourage others to do the same.

### *Our core values include:*

**Hope**—rooting our ministries and actions in prayer; joyfully carrying them out with competence, care and confidence in God's promise of salvation.

**Liturgy**—maintaining the highest of ministry standards to bring glory to God through the rites, ceremonies, prayers, and sacraments of the Church.

**Community**—caring about and addressing the needs of others.

**Evangelism**—telling others the good news about Jesus.

**Giving**—practicing stewardship as a way of life by sharing of our time, talents, and treasure to support the mission and ministries.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’ ACTS 2:38 The word “repent” means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within – a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God’s help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

Collection for April 19, 2026

Sunday Offering	\$16,571.44
Building Fund	\$416.00
School Donation	\$339.00
Religious Education	\$449.01
Youth Group	\$150.00
Holy Day	\$57.00
St. Vincent	\$75.00
Easter	\$330.00
On-line Giving	\$3,332.34

For online giving scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://pushpay.com/g/stjosephkennewick>



We sincerely appreciate your continued financial support of our parish, as you are able. If you prefer to send your offering by mail, please address it to Saint Joseph Parish, 520 South Garfield Street, Kennewick, WA 99336. If you currently use offering envelopes, and you wish to transition to on-line-giving or bank bill pay, please contact the Parish Office, so we can ask the envelope publishers to quit sending them to you. Thank you for your generosity.



Prayers

**For our Armed Forces:** Christian Fraga, Ramon Vargas, Ian Dimmick, Christy Hylden, Andrew Jacobsen, Alexander Araujo, Tyson Kaas, Christian Shink, Juan Borrego, Estrella Gomez, Erick Miller, Eric Sheldon, Justin Dennis Byerly, Wyatt Beaton., Daniel Arokiam, Cristina Garcia, Noah Szendre.

**For our sick:** Johanna Stephens, Bill Murray, Drew Schreiber, Gil Gloria, Elaine Himes, Lois and Rick Rutherford, Jan Billings, Rory Valdes, Silvia Rodriguez, Kathleen Barone, Monica Moore, Lourdes Nelson, Jessica Floeter, Billy Sickles, Nestor Barba, Elizabeth Torres, Kim Davis, Kathy Ramirez, Bill Roe, Donna Whitehead, John Curran, Bob and Mary Ross, Alberto Carranza, Danika Whitsett, Jerry Mikkelsen, Kelly Freeman, Gus Perez, Jim Nicacio, Arlene Callahan, Dominic Nicacio, Luca Nicacio, Phyllis Pelletier, Nancy Park, Marlene Madrigal, Sherri McKie, Hugo Garcia, Vanessa Nicacio, Carol Smith, Patty Brown, Zara Husan, Raquel Cardoza, Samuel Quintanilla, Pat McKie Szacik, Carmen Nava, Mike Draper, Peter Braun, Yolanda Quintero, Hazel Meister, Sandra Sckieryczynski, Kolton Hansford, Joanne, Armandino Gamino, Ana Espinoza, Sara and Johnny Howard, Father Kurt Hadley, Sara Melgarejo, John Lyczkowski, Lexie Day, Maria Barrientes, Randy Walker, Carina Ambriz, Tucker Shaw, Dick Petersen, James Meyer, Miguel Garcia.

**For our recently deceased:** *Liduvina Pachecho, Patrocinio Gonzalez.* Kindly ring us when your ailing loved one finds healing, so we may open space for others on our list of prayers for the sick.



RECONCILIATION TIMES

Thursday: 6 pm-7 pm Small Church  
 Saturday: 3:30 pm—5:30 Big Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Openings: Tue 3 AM, Sat 4 PM



The Adoration Chapel is open to visitors. Please consider accepting the invitation to sign up for regular weekly hours. Please call to obtain personal codes for entry.  
**Carol at 509-582-5011** or, for Spanish, call Sandra at 509-802-8716.

“God, You have scattered the darkness with Your light & have poured Your light into our hearts so that we might look upon the radiant face of Jesus Christ; nourish in us the desire to contemplate Your beloved Son.” (Liturgy of the Hours Vol. IV)

Welcome to our Parish Community!

If you’re new to St. Joseph, we extend a warm welcome to you—whether you’ve traveled from another part of the country, from around the globe or simply from a different parish. Your presence enriches our liturgical celebrations in a wonderful way. If you wish to join our Catholic community, please complete a registration form available on our website.

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday, April 27th</b> 6:30 am † Ezequiel Rivera 8:30 am † Fr. John Vogl	<b>Saturday, May 2nd</b> 8:30 am † Sal & Laurie Pennella 5:30 pm John P Warner (B-day) † Personal intention
<b>Tuesday, April 28th</b> 6:30 am † Ezequiel Rivera 8:30 am Donna Kennedy (Anniversary)	7:00 pm † Almas del Purgatorio (Poor Souls) Familia Estrada Jimenez † Consuelo Garcia & Antonio Hernandez
<b>Wednesday, April 29th</b> 6:30 am † Ezequiel Rivera 8:30 am † Laurie & Sal Pennella	<b>Sunday, May 3rd</b> 9:00 am Rick and Sue Mitchell 11:00 am † Joseph Coughlan † Caroline Adams † Raymond Polichetti
<b>Thursday, April 30th</b> 6:30 am † Joseph Ginter 8:30 am Catherine C Warner (B-day) 7:00 pm † Arturo Ramon Tijerina	Pedro J. Trujillo Meraz (B-day) Belen Trujillo Valdovines (B-day) † Fidelina Segura 5:30 pm No intentions for this Mass 7:00 pm No intentions for this Mass
<b>Friday, May 1st</b> 6:30 am † Ezequiel Rivera 8:30 am † Sean Kennedy 7:00 pm † Personal intention	



Scan QR code to request online!

Saint Joseph Parish Day Trip

**The Grotto** - The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother  
 Saturday, June 20

Departure: 6:00 am in front of the Big Church  
 Approximate return: 11:00 pm

Father Jose Herrera will celebrate Mass at noon in the Chapel Of Mary, located at the Grotto.

Price	
Adults & Teens 13+	\$95
Seniors 65+	\$85
Children 3-12	\$75

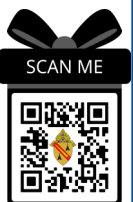
Under 2 (Transportation & Entrance) Free

This price covers transportation and admission to the Grotto. We recommend packing a sack lunch for the day. For dinner, we will make a stop after our visit to Mt. Angel Seminary. Please note that meals are not included. Participants are responsible for their own dining.

For more information, please contact Nancy at the Parish Office: 509-586-3820 Ext 101

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal Is Now Underway!

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) benefits the entire Diocese of Yakima by funding programs that exceed the capacity of individual parishes. If you have already contributed, thank you for your generosity! If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, we encourage you to do so; every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. To date, we have received pledges totaling \$130,226 and payments amounting to \$104,570. Our goal is set at \$200,248. Donations can be made using the envelopes mailed to you, those available in the pews, on-line at [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org), or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your support, and may God bless you for your generosity!



**A NOTE FROM  
SERRA CLUB OF THE TRI CITIES**

"Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026, Good Shepherd and World Day of Prayer for Vocations: " Beloved, if you are patient when you suffer for doing good, this is a grace before God...because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His footsteps...You had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your Souls." (from First Peter 2: 20-25) Pray for an increase to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated life. Perhaps you can be the answer to your fellow parishioners' prayers by becoming a priest, permanent deacon, brother, or sis-



**Discalced Carmelite Seculars**

Are you hard core? Want to take it to the next level? Joining the Discalced Carmelite Seculars is more than a prayer group; it's a life commitment and belonging to the Discalced Carmelite Order which produced doctors of the Church like St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Therese of Lisieux, and intellectual and spiritual powerhouses like St. Edith Stein and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. "Seculars" means we are still lay people as members of the Order: married or single, living in the world. If you love prayer and are feeling the call to "go deeper," come join us for the Discalced Carmelite Seculars **Open House on Saturday, May 16th** for the **8:30am** Mass in the **Small Church** and informational brunch to follow in the parish Annex. For more information call or email Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or [nuxoll4@charter.net](mailto:nuxoll4@charter.net)

XLT Encounter the LIVING JESUS like never before  
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When and where?

**Wednesday, April 29 | Event begins at 6:30 pm**

Tri-Cities Prep High School

After-event social with snacks and fellowship time!

Questions? Contact: Kenny Van Houdt—[kvanhoudt@tcprep.org](mailto:kvanhoudt@tcprep.org)

**STRENGTHENING  
THE CHURCH AT HOME**



Today, our diocese will participate in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this appeal. For more details, visit <https://www.usccb.org/home-missions>. You can also conveniently give online by scanning the QR code.

**CALLED BY NAME**

For those of you discerning your life's vocation, be open to God's call to the priesthood or religious life. God's calling is a beautiful gift – be courageous and open to his call! Jesus came so that we might have life and have it to the full – do not be afraid. If God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, respond generously. Please think of the men you know and believe might have a calling to the priesthood. While God is the one who calls, he often uses our voices. Please help us reach out to these individuals and share their name(s) and contact information so that a letter of encouragement can be sent to them. Simply Scan the QR code to share their contact information.



St. Joseph School invites you to scan this QR code or visit our website to see our latest edition of our **Mustang Messenger Newsletter**. Whether you are a graduate, a parent (past or present), or a friend of St. Joseph, you are part of community rooted in faith, tradition, and lifelong connection. This page is your gateway to stay connected, give back, and help us carry forward the mission of Catholic education for generations to come.  
[www.sjske.org/alumniandfriends](http://www.sjske.org/alumniandfriends)



Pilgrimage to Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary with Fr. Tian

When: October 19-31, 2026  
Cost: \$5,690 | \$600 deposit

For more information, please contact:  
Juan Ignacio Zurita 786-656-0594  
Scan QR code to register



**Traveling Vocations Crucifixes**

Courtesy of Serra Club of the Tri Cities, St. Joseph Parish has two Traveling Vocations Crucifixes—one at the 9:00 am Mass and one at the 1:00 pm Mass. Sign up to take a Crucifix (box includes the Crucifix, Rosary, and prayer cards) home for one week and pray for vocations—all vocations, but especially vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Vowed Religious Life. We pray that more men and women will hear God's call and say "yes". Remember, without priests, we would not have access to the Holy Eucharist and other Sacraments.

- 4/26 Beth and Jose Arroyo
- 5/3 Gabe Esquila
- 5/10 Tom & Pat St. Hilaire

With questions or to sign up, please contact Elizabeth Robas, 509-591-1339, or Irma Valdivia, 509-366-4422.



**2026-2027**  
Continuing Formation and  
Sacramental Preparation

Registrations open in May  
For more information, contact our  
Religious Education Coordinators

For English Classes: Nancy Murray at 509-586-3820 Ext. 107  
[rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

For Spanish Classes: Maria Rodriguez 509-586-3820 Ext. 105  
[rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**CHURCH MISSION CONGRESS**  
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026  
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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509-965-7117  
[info@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:info@yakimadiocese.org)  
[yakimadiocese.org](http://yakimadiocese.org)



Save the date Saturday, May 16!  
Join St Joseph Catholic School for our legacy golf tournament! We're teeing up for fun and fundraising. Become a sponsor, build a team, or both! Details and registrations at [www.sjske.org/golf-tournament](http://www.sjske.org/golf-tournament)



**"Respecting our Past, Serving in the Present, Growing for our Future" Program**

Thank you for celebrating Commitment Sunday with us this weekend. Your commitment to our parish through our

"Respecting our Past, Serving in the Present, Growing for our Future" Program will continue to bring life to our community. If completing your Commitment Card was not possible at Mass, you can still complete and mail your card directly to the church. If you didn't receive a brochure last week, feel free to pick up a Commitment Card from the foyer, online by scanning the QR code or visit our parish website at <http://www.stjoseph-kennewick.org> to complete yours today. Our goal is 100% participation! Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Joseph Parish!



**Sacrament Reception Dates 2026**

**Yakima Jubilee Confirmations**  
Saturday, May 23, 2026

- Noon, HAPO Center, Pasco (Bi-lingual)

**First Communion**

Saturday, May 2, 2026

- 10:00 am, Big Church (English)



DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

PLEASE JOIN US

# RED MASS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2026 @ 7 P.M.

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

IN HONORING THE LEGAL PROFESSION



SPECIAL GUEST AND SPEAKER  
SARAH WIXSON



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[YAKIMADIOCESE.ORG](http://YAKIMADIOCESE.ORG)



### SAVE THE DATE

Parish Mission, October 5-10, 2026,  
St. Joseph's Parish, Kennewick, WA:  
"To Live as a Favorite Son/Daughter of God and  
No Longer as an Orphan"

Dynamic retreat master Father Philip Scott F.J. is coming to St. Joseph's Parish to give a parish mission from October 5 -10, 2026! Monday through Wednesday will be in English, and Thursday through Saturday will be in Spanish. There will also be a talk in English each morning after the 8:30am Mass on the theme, "God ALONE suffices."

Family of Jesus website: <https://familiadejesusperu.org/>  
For more information, please contact Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or [nuxoll4@charter.net](mailto:nuxoll4@charter.net).

The Yakima Diocese invites you to join the first professional Mass of 2026. The **Red Mass** is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 29th at 7 pm at St. Paul Cathedral**. The Red Mass is celebrated for judges, attorneys, public officials, paralegals and everyone associated with the legal profession. The invited speaker is Sarah Wixson, attorney with Stokes and Lawrence from Yakima, Washington. A reception will follow after the mass.



### World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 26, 2026

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life.

2026 marks the 63rd Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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**06** | **DILLON HALL** | **5:30 PM**  
**JUNE, 2026** | **520 SOUTH GARFIELD ST. KENNEWICK, WA 99836** | **10:30 PM**  
**Dinner 7-8 pm**

SILENT AUCTION • LIVE AUCTION • ODD OR EVEN • DESSERT DASH • NO HOST BAR

HELP US RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR PARTICIPANTS' ATTENDANCE AT THE 2026 STEUBENVILLE NW YOUTH CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE, WA.  
AYÚDENOS A RECAUDAR FONDOS PARA APOYAR LA ASISTENCIA DE NUESTROS PARTICIPANTES A LA CONFERENCIA JUVENIL STEUBENVILLE NW 2026 EN SPOKANE, WA.



Scan the QR Code to purchase tickets.  
Para comprar entradas, escanee el código QR.

**EVENT FOR 21+ ONLY**  
**EVENT TICKET PRICE:**  
\$35.00 Adults (21+)  
\$25.00 Seniors (65 +)  
\$245 \*Table of 8

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DIocese of Yakima

# SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

## Mass

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is often praised as the first Native American saint. Jake Finkbonner, whose miraculous cure at age 5 was the second miracle leading to her canonization.

**SAUTURDAY, JULY 18, 2026**

**10:00 AM - Bilingual Mass**  
**Grand Opening** of the Saint Kateri Shrine  
Followed by a picnic

St. Joseph Ahtanum Mission  
17740 Ahtanum Rd  
Yakima, WA 98903



Contact Information:  
(509) 965-7117  
[info@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:info@yakimadiocese.org)



First  
Friday  
Holy  
Mass

### First Friday Mass

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

May 1, 2026  
Reconciliation 6:30 pm  
Mass 7:00 pm | Small Church



The Women of St. Joseph are pleased to share that they raised **\$25,257.05** during last week's Yard Sale! The Women of St. Joseph extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated items, volunteered their time, or visited to make a purchase. Here's to many more successful events in the future, strengthening the bonds of community and compassion.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for their generous support during our breakfast fundraiser, which benefited our Religious Education Confirmation Youth. The funds raised will help create beautiful floral arrangements for our confirmation reception. Thank you once again to the Knights of Columbus and everyone who participated and supported this significant event.

## COME DANCE!

# DANCE & SHINE

**SATURDAY, MAY 9**  
**5.00 PM TO- MIDNIGHT**

**DILLON HALL**  
520 SOUTH GARFIELD ST.  
KENNEWICK, WA

**\$20**  
ENTRANCE  
PER PERSON



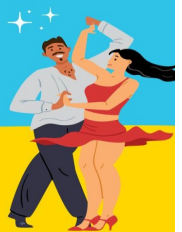
Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets or stop by the Parish Office in person.

EVENT FOR  
ADULTS 21+  
ONLY.

FEATURING  
**CONSIGNA ALTERADA**  
LIVE MUSIC



**canela cantina**  
MOBILE BARTENDING



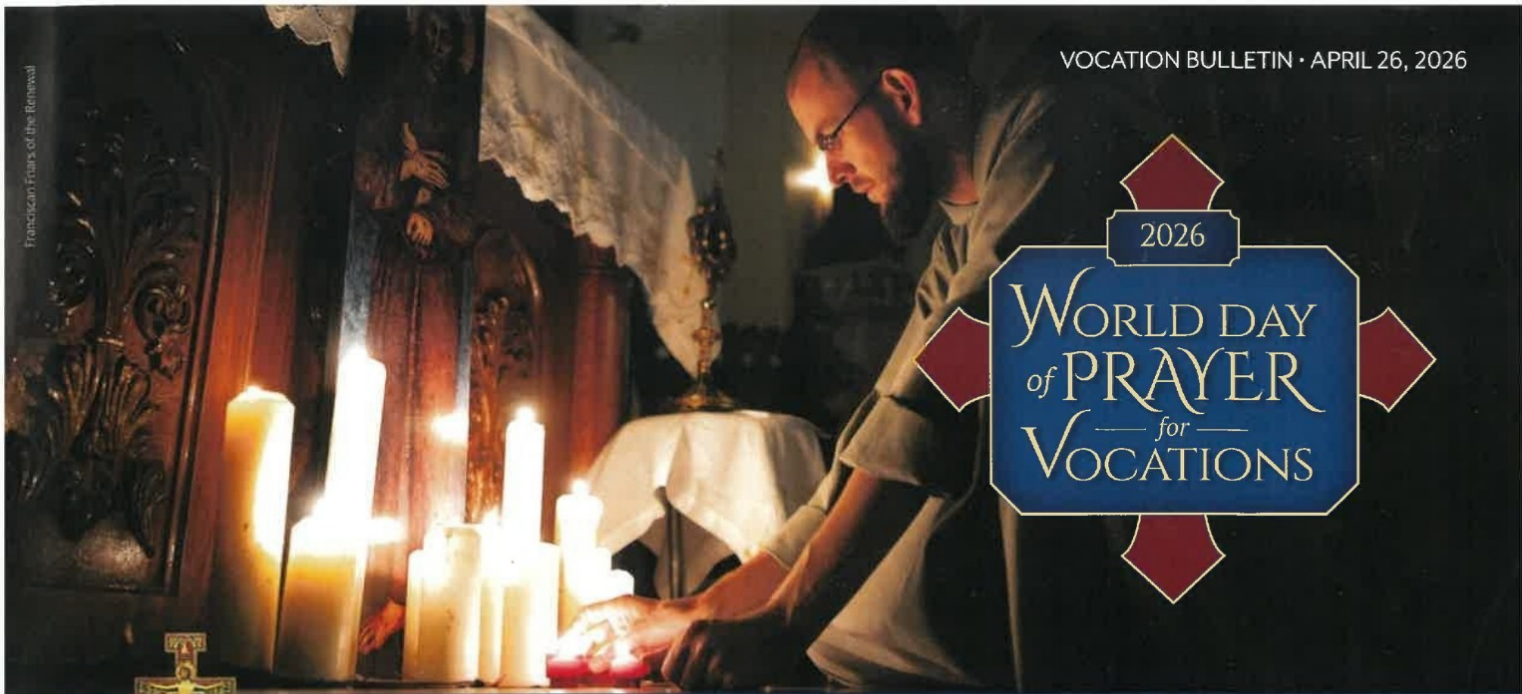
Proceeds from this event will support our Pilgrims attending the World Youth Day in South Korea 2027.



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"TAKE COURAGE!  
I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."  
JOHN 16:33

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal



2026

**WORLD DAY**  
of PRAYER  
— for —  
**VOCATIONS**



JUBILEE YEAR • 800 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS • 1226-2026

**Masthead photo:** A young friar prepares for *transitus*, the Franciscan tradition of celebrating the entrance of their patron saint into heaven. In 2026, the feast will take on special significance, as Pope Leo has declared a special jubilee year recognizing eight centuries of Francis of Assisi's profound influence on the Church.

CALLED BY NAME

**'THEY SAW SOMETHING IN ME THAT I COULDN'T SEE IN MYSELF'**

“When I first became Vocation Director, I discovered something remarkable,” said Fr. Jordan Dosch, a priest of the Diocese of Bismarck. “I was looking through our archives and discovered an old ‘Called by Name’ list from about fifteen years earlier.” The list was from a campaign during which the bishop asked people to suggest young men who might make good priests. “As I looked at this long list of hundreds of young men, I saw my own name.”

“What’s amazing to me is that when my name was submitted, I was in junior high, and wasn’t even thinking about the priesthood—I barely even understood what it was. But someone saw something in me that I couldn’t yet see in myself.”

As Fr. Dosch examined the list, he saw more names he recognized. “I checked closely, and almost all of our young priests were on that list,” he said. “And some names were on the list ten times, which is a pretty good clue!”

Fr. Dosch says lay people have an important role to play in calling forth priestly vocations. “Every young Catholic guy has to struggle at some point with whether God may be calling him,” he said. “So when you see a devout young man and ask, ‘Have you ever considered the priesthood?’ it might confirm something that is already stirring in his heart.”



Daughters of Mary of Nazareth

**The Romance of Religious Life**

Many women say, “I could never be a nun. I want a guy to sweep me off my feet. I want walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, and warm embraces.” And yet there are thousands of religious sisters who are head-over-heels in love with Jesus Christ, who relish being His bride, who will do anything to please Him, and who are too romantic to choose any other kind of life!



*Fr. Jordan Dosch is currently studying canon law in Rome. He is pictured here with two deacons at their ordination in St. Peter's Basilica.*



Zuzana Vrhinska

## A TRADITION FOR MOTHERS



At a priest's ordination, the bishop anoints his hands with sacred chrism and wipes them with a cloth that in older rites was called a *maniturgium*. Following an ancient and beautiful tradition, a priest may give this fragrant, oil-soaked cloth to his mother after his first Mass. She carefully preserves the cloth, then at her burial, her hands are tied together as in prayer by the *maniturgium* as a sign that she has offered her son to God and the Church.

## AN INDISPENSABLE VOCATION

# WHY WE NEED BROTHERS



Dominican Friars of St. Joseph

With today's shortage of priests, one might assume that any man entering a religious community would naturally go on to be ordained. Historically, however, this has never been the case. Religious life—marked by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience—has always been recognized as a vocation in its own right, distinct from Holy Orders.

Religious brothers play a unique and essential role in the Church. Free from the demands of sacramental ministry, they are often able to devote themselves fully to works requiring long-term presence and deep personal engagement. For example, the Brotherhood of Hope, a community of all brothers, focuses on campus ministry in secular universities.

In contemplative communities such as the Cistercians, monk-brothers live in seclusion and austerity, centered on prayer and labor. Through this hidden fidelity, they bear powerful witness that God alone deserves our complete devotion because, in the end, our common vocation is union with Him in heaven.

Religious brotherhood is a vocation that deserves renewed attention by the faithful and serious consideration from young men discerning God's call.



Diocese of Savannah

## Vocations Summer Camps

Vocations-themed summer camps—often run by priests and seminarians—are a staple in dioceses across the country. They offer a mix of prayer, friendship, and fun... and, occasionally, a lifelong calling. When telling their vocation stories, quite a few priests will tell you: *it all started at camp!*

## PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

By Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priest; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. *Amen*

