



## **Lenten Homily Resource for Promoting Vocations (Cycle A)**

This resource is designed to help priests incorporate the theme of vocations into their homilies throughout Lent.

### **First Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11 (The Temptation of Jesus)

**Vocation Theme:** Resisting Temptation in Our Calling

**Homily Outline:**

- Jesus overcomes temptation through obedience to the Father.
- Discerning a vocation to priesthood, consecrated life, and holy matrimony requires placing trust in God above the distractions of the world.
- Encourage reliance on prayer and scripture when facing challenges.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What distractions or temptations most often pull me away from loving and serving God and others in the way He is calling me?
- How can I strengthen my trust in God's call?

### **Second Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9 (The Transfiguration)

**Vocation Theme:** Hearing God's Call

**Homily Outline:**

- The disciples witness Christ's glory and are strengthened in their mission.
- Moments of clarity in discernment confirm God's calling.
- Encourage listening for God's voice in prayer.

**Reflection Questions:**

- How has God revealed His plan in my life?
- Am I open to recognizing His presence in my discernment?

### **March 19, Solemnity of St. Joseph**

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a

**Vocation Theme:** Fatherhood and the Call to Protect and Guide

**Homily Outline:**

- St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and obedience to God's call.



- Every vocation, especially sacramental marriage and priesthood, calls for protection, guidance, and self-sacrifice.
- Encourage the faithful to reflect on how they can imitate St. Joseph's trust and leadership.

**Reflection Questions:**

- How is God calling me to protect and guide those entrusted to me?
- In what ways can I imitate St. Joseph's faith and obedience?

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel:** John 4:5-42 (The Samaritan Woman at the Well)

**Vocation Theme:** Receiving and Sharing Living Water in Our Calling

**Homily Outline:**

- Jesus offers living water to the Samaritan woman, quenching her spiritual thirst and inspiring her to evangelize her community.
- Discerning one's vocation, whether to marriage, priesthood, or consecrated life, usually begins with a personal encounter with Christ, who satisfies our deepest longings.
- That encounter naturally flows outward: we are moved to share Christ's love with others in whatever vocation God gives us.
- Encourage openness to God's grace and the courage to witness to His love.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What spiritual thirsts / deepest longings in my life can only be satisfied by Jesus?
- How can I share the love and life I receive from Christ with the people around me?

**March 25, Solemnity of the Annunciation**

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

**Vocation Theme:** Saying Yes to God's Call

**Homily Outline:**

- Mary's fiat is the perfect example of responding to God's call with trust.
- Every vocation—priesthood, consecrated life, and sacramental marriage—requires a courageous "yes" to God.
- Encourage the faithful to listen for God's call and respond with openness.

**Reflection Questions:**

- How can I better trust in God's plan for my life?
- What fears hold me back from saying "yes" to God's call?



## **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41 (The Healing of the Man Born Blind)

**Vocation Theme:** Seeing God's Call Clearly

### **Homily Outline:**

- Jesus heals the man born blind, opening his eyes to both physical sight and faith in Christ.
- Answering God's call involves allowing Him to remove our spiritual blindness and illuminate His path for us.
- Encourage trust in God's healing power even amid doubt or opposition from others.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- What forms of spiritual blindness might be hindering my discernment?
- How can I support others to see and follow God's call in their lives?

## **Holy Thursday - Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood**

**Gospel:** John 13:1-15 (The Washing of the Disciples' Feet)

**Vocation Theme:** Servant Leadership in Vocation

### **Homily Outline:**

- On this holy night, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and institutes both the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood—two inseparable gifts that remain at the heart of the Church's life.
- The command "Do this in memory of me" is not only about the Eucharist; it is also the very charter of the priesthood.
- Priests, by the grace of ordination, make present the one sacrifice of Christ and give His Body and Blood to the faithful. Without priests, there is no Eucharist; without the Eucharist, the Church cannot be fully herself.
- Like Christ, every priest is called to humble, self-giving service—feeding the flock with the sacraments, accompanying people in their joys and sufferings, and leading them closer to Jesus.
- The Church continues to need generous, faithful men to answer the call to priesthood so that every community can be nourished by the Eucharist and the other sacraments for generations to come.
- Invite the congregation to pray earnestly for vocations to the priesthood and to be open to supporting (and even discerning) this call in their own families and parish.
- End with a concrete invitation: "Tonight, let us thank God for the priests who have served us, and let us ask the Lord to send more laborers into His harvest."



**Reflection Questions:**

- Do I regularly pray for an increase in priestly vocations so that the Eucharist remains available to all?
- How can our parish family better encourage and support young men who may be discerning priesthood?
- In what ways am I called to imitate Christ's humble, servant love in my own vocation and daily life?