



# FIAT PRAYER SOCIETY

FOSTERING VOCATIONS THROUGH PRAYER

Dear Friend in Christ,

With the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** coming up on April 25, 2021, we thought this would be the perfect time to share some exciting news!

If there's one thing we've learned in the Office of Vocations, it's the importance of having prayer as the foundation of all that we do. If something is not supported through the prayers of the faithful, it has little to no hope of bearing fruit.

In our effort to continue to help young people hear and answer a call to a religious vocation, we know it takes the prayers of many people in order to do that. Though not all are called to this particular vocation, all are encouraged to pray so that the ones whom the Lord is calling hear and say "yes!"

The **Fiat Prayer Society** is meant to help with this. Our goal is to have more and more of the faithful assist in our vocation efforts through their prayers and sacrifices to help bring forth more "yeses." This is where the name of the society came from. "Fiat" is the Latin word for Mary's response to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation. Fiat means "let it be done" and because of her "yes," Jesus came into the world. Who better to imitate in following God's will than the Blessed Mother?

By deciding to be a part of this society, there are no dues and no meetings, simply your promise to join our efforts in praying. This is meant to aid other groups in the Diocese of Green Bay that also faithfully pray for more vocations.

If you would like to learn more, access additional resources, become a member, or promote in your parish, please visit [www.gbvocations.org/fps](http://www.gbvocations.org/fps) or contact the Office of Vocations. Need anything else to help get the word out and share in your communities? Let us know, and we'll make more support materials available on our website.

We thank you for your willingness to help in this important task. Please know of our prayers for you as well, and God bless you!

In Christ,

*The Office of Vocations*  
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Diocese of  
Green Bay

## WHY THIS? WHY NOW?

The Diocese of Green Bay is in dire need of priests. Our diocese currently has 59 diocesan priests for 157 parishes. Thankfully, we have 24 international priests, 11 priests from religious orders, and 15 pastoral leaders to help us lead our parishes. But according to Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), the Green Bay Diocese has the worst ratio of diocesan priests to parishes in the entire country — nearly three parishes for every diocesan priest.

## THE NEED FOR 30 BY '25

Our goal as a diocese is to call forth and form 30 seminarians to be missionary leaders in the priesthood by the year 2025. We currently have just twelve men in seminary formation, and seminary formation takes seven to nine years of study. The goal then is to almost triple the number of men in formation just so that we may begin to see three ordinations per year.

## WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP

God will provide for our needs, but he wants us to cooperate in his work. We need everyone to take on the mission of promoting vocations and inviting young people to see if God is calling them to the priesthood or religious life. *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest"* (Luke 10:2).

In the 16 counties of our diocese, there are 1,030,267 people with 356,566 identifying as Catholic. These numbers mean that we have only one priest for every 5,322 Catholics. Just one priest to provide baptisms, first communions, marriages, and last rites for 5,300+ people. Many of our hometowns are without a shepherd.

The Vocations goal to call forth and form 30 seminarians by 2025 is not just another initiative — it's a critical effort to ensure the future of our parish communities and the spiritual care of the faithful in the Diocese of Green Bay.

The Fiat Prayer Society is meant to get more people in our diocese engaged in praying for and encouraging vocations from our parishes. This isn't just the role of the Vocations Office, but of every person and faith community in our diocese. We invite you to partner with us in this effort and help foster vocations through prayer!

Photos courtesy of Sam Lucero, The Compass.



# HANDOUT & GUIDE

The main resource for the Fiat Prayer Society is a folded, four-panel handout that includes a welcome letter, the five prayer commitments, two prayers, and a tear-off registration postcard to mail in. So it's got everything you need to learn more, become a member, and fully participate in praying for vocations!

This is available in English and Spanish and is also accessible digitally at [www.gbvocations.org/fps](http://www.gbvocations.org/fps).

To request copies for your parish, small group, or apostolate, please contact the Office of Vocations at (920) 272-8293 or [vocations@gbdioc.org](mailto:vocations@gbdioc.org).



## SOUNDS GREAT, BUT HOW DO I SHARE THIS?

Parishes, ministries, and apostolates are encouraged to share and promote the Fiat Prayer Society through whatever channels they'd like. Below are some considerations and ideas!

- Do we want to share the Fiat Prayer Society with our entire parish to pray for a vocation to come forth from our own faith community?
- Do we want to share this with groups/ministries within our parish that are already praying for vocations (or those who might want to start!) and use this as a way to invite others to join them?
- How many copies of the Fiat Prayer Society handout do we want? Enough for our whole parish or just enough to get started?
- Are there people in our parish or ministry who are passionate about praying for and encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life that could be our best advocates for promoting this?
- How do we make praying for vocations and encouraging young people to consider the priesthood or religious life a regular part of parish life? How does this fit in to our mission as a parish?
- What's the best way to communicate that it's up to all of us to pray for and support vocations and to ensure the future of our parish community and the spiritual care of the faithful in our area?
- Should we promote this each year around the same time? (Diocese of Green Bay priesthood ordinations, National Vocations Awareness Week, etc.)
- What communication channels do we have available to us? (bulletin, e-newsletter, social media, website, video/livestream session, pulpit announcements, homily, etc.)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** You can find additional support and promotional materials for the Fiat Prayer Society at [www.gbvocations.org/fps](http://www.gbvocations.org/fps). Perfect for newsletter graphics and social media posts.

**WE CAN COME TO YOU!** Fr. Mark Mleziva, Vocation Director, and Fr. Adam Bradley, Assistant Vocation Director, are willing to come to your parish on a weekend, concelebrate Mass, and share more about our critical need for priests, the Fiat Prayer Society, and the importance of praying for vocations with your parish.

**WANT TO TALK IT THROUGH?** If you have additional questions, want to talk through your ideas, or need some help getting started, contact us at (920) 272-8293 or [vocations@gbdioc.org](mailto:vocations@gbdioc.org). We're grateful for your help in supporting vocations and want to help you succeed in this effort in any way we can!