

Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert

Prince Albert DIOCESE de Prince Albert
Vocations Commission des Vocations



Go, and make disciples of all nations.
Allez! De toutes les nations faites des disciples.
Matthew 28:19

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The deacons of the Diocese of Prince Albert: **Back row:** Dan Lamoureux, Lynn Ryan, Allan Hinger
Front row: Brad Taylor, Greg Bobbitt, Bishop Albert Thévenot, M. Afr., Brian McLane, Mike Hardwicke
Missing Ghislain Bellavance

WHAT IS A DEACON?

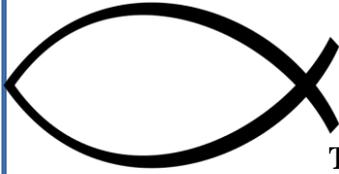
A permanent deacon is a man ordained—like bishop or priest—to serve as Christ Jesus who “came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). The word deacon comes from the Greek word for service: diakonia.

WHAT QUALIFIES a man to be a Deacon? Prayer. Humility. Service. Grace. Suffering. Love. A willingness to be changed and to offer his life in unpaid sacrificial service to God, to the Church, to any and all in need of God’s mercy.

HOW DOES a man become a Deacon? Through a process of discernment and formation that takes about four or five years. If a man is married, his wife and family must also come to embrace the joys and demands of having a husband and father who is a deacon.

IN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN, remember to raise the call to Church ministry? The process of answering God’s call begins in childhood. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, the attitudes assumed in childhood begin to influence the course of one’s life. A vocation or a talent will not grow to fruition unless it is nurtured in childhood and adolescence by a parent.

Career Fair 2017 – by Fr. Jim Kaptein



What does ICHTHUS mean? This was a question I asked over 200 times at a Career Fair in Prince Albert. For those of you who do not know, Ichthys is a Greek word meaning fish. However it is also an acronym for **I**ēsous **C**Hristos **T**Heou **U**ios **S**ōtēr meaning Jesus Christ Son of God Savior. Needless to say there were not many students who knew that. But because we had a few pictures of fish on our display board, they were able to surmise it meant fish. We had small plastic key chains in the shape of a stylized fish, and some recognized them as “The Jesus Fish” but when we told them why it is the Jesus fish—that it is an acronym for “Jesus Christ Son of God Savior” they were absolutely spellbound and enthralled.

This led to the conversation about why we are present at a Career Fair, and about God calling us to a special Vocation, and how, if we want to be truly happy, we need to respond to that call. When I told them that all the other booths at the career fair could help them get a career, but only by heeding the vocation God is calling us to, could you be truly happy; the students were completely hooked. I have to give the students a lot of credit, all but one student chose happiness over riches, and the one exception wanted both.

I want to thank Fr. Travis Myrheim, and Bev Robin, both members of the Vocations commission, for helping set up, take down, and talking to 550 of the 2,900 students who came to the career fair. I cannot guarantee that we will have 550 new priests and sisters in 10 years, but I can guarantee that there are 550 students who know that they are being called by Jesus in a special way. Let us all pray that the seed of this vocation will grow in each of them.



WHAT IS A SISTER? A Sister lives in a religious community that follows a constantly renewed tradition, patterned on the life and teaching of the founder of the community. The work she generally does will depend upon the ministries of that community as influenced by the needs of the Church and its people - for example: teaching, social work, administration, nursing, peace and justice ministry, etc.



If the lifestyle of a Sister sounds attractive to you contact the diocesan vocation office for more information.

How many of you remember being asked, “What do you want to be when you grew up?” I always wanted to be something exciting and powerful: An astronaut, a bulldozer operator, a professional cyclist. I now know that these were unrealistic and more importantly, they were not the plans God had for me. When asking our children and grandchildren what they want to be when they go up, we should not be asking them, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” We should be asking them, “What does God want you to be when they grow up?” When framing the question in this manner we are adding a whole new dimension to their future. It is no longer our own desires that factor in, but we factor in God’s desires. And in the end, we will never be happy if we reach our dream job, we will only be totally happy when we have reached the dream God has for us. Let us not challenge our children and grandchildren to a mediocre career choice, but let us challenge them to a worthwhile vocation.

Often seminarians are studying away from friends and family. Please make a point of writing each of our seminarians and thanking them for dedicating their lives to God.



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CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be “when they grow up”: doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, carpenters. They may talk about these roles, but do they ever talk about being a priest, sister or brother? You are the hand of God — you can encourage your children to consider Church ministry.

Have you ever asked your priest over for supper?

Most people are surprised when they ask their priest for supper and he says with great gusto, “That would be great!” In the past, most priests had a housekeeper who cooked all their meals for them. Nowadays this is not the case; which meant that when the priest came over to your house, it was usually because either he, or you, wanted something. Today this is not the case. Today’s priest is interested in getting to know you, and he cannot do this inside the confessional or at coffee after Mass. I have never heard a priest say, “You know someone invited me for supper, and I did not want to go,” or if he did go, said, “I had a terrible time.” Contrary to popular myths, priests are people too, and just like you, they have a need for friendship, and being a part of a family. And do not be scandalized if he would like a glass of wine or a beer.

During the evening the two of you will discover things about each other, and break down the barriers that separate you. Your children, or grandchildren will learn that the priest is not just someone who sits in the rectory and prays all day long, but they are someone who likes a good joke, enjoys fishing, golfing, and has been known to curse under his breath when his favorite sports teams performs poorly. And please do not say to him, “Father please come over anytime.” Think about how many people you have said that to, and nothing ever comes of it. If we want to develop a relationship, we need to be proactive.

Below is the top ten reasons why you should invite your priest over for supper.

1. Because he is hungry and doesn’t like to cook.
2. To show your children and grandchildren that the priest is not “God.”
3. Develop a relationship with him, which will in turn deepen your relationship with God.
4. Because he is hungry and he has had a long day.
5. Give him the opportunity to come over and bless your home.
6. Give you a chance to discuss some ideas you have about getting involved with a ministry.
7. So you can discover what Jesus meant in John 15:15 “I no longer call you servants, but rather call you friends.”
8. Because he is hungry and is tired of his own cooking.
9. So you can share with each other the places you have been
10. So you can see that he is a normal human being



WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE become priests, sisters or brothers?

Are they people who don’t relate well with other people?

No. They are people who love others — people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a streetwise teen. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high- tech, un-churched world.

Are you that kind of person?