

# DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

## Parish Vocation Enrichment Team Instructional Guide

Revised: July 2018

### Prayer

Any prayer with an emphasis on vocations may be used, but the vocations prayer of Pope John Paul II printed in the Guidelines is recommended.

### Introduction

- Introduce yourself and your role in the Diocesan Vocation Enrichment Team.
- Begin the instruction by thanking the members for their willingness to take part in this important task. Inform them that this they are taking part in helping with one of the greatest needs of the Church; the search for future ministers of the mysteries of God. It is each Christian's vocation to follow God, and some in a particular way as clergy or religious. The Vocation Enrichment Team will play a vital role assisting the discernment for these persons.

### PVET Mission

A Parish Vocation Enrichment Team is dedicated to fostering and sustaining vocation consciousness among all members of the parish community by proclaiming the message of Christ. There is a particular emphasis on supporting and nurturing those who desire, seek and commit to ordained ministry and religious life. The work of the Parish Vocation Enrichment Team is to be accomplished through prayer, worship, education, service and fellowship with the entire parish community.

### Areas of Mission

#### Plowing – Prayer and Worship

- The Lord tells us to ask for vocations (Luke 10:2). Prayer helps to make the heart of the individual open to God's calling, even for those who have not yet responded to the Lord's invitation. This area: Prepares a person's heart to receive God's call; Opens a person's heart to respond to the call God has already given; Fortifies a person's heart in responding to God's call.

#### Sowing – Education and Resources

- While all vocations come from God, programs and other resources can invite and encourage individuals to be open to God's call and respond "yes" if God is calling them to a Church Vocation. This area: Encourages someone to be open to a Church Vocation; Informs someone on what is involved in a Church Vocation; Invites someone to consider whether or not God is, in fact, calling him or her to a Church Vocation.

#### Reaping – Service and Fellowship

- Responding to God's call is the first of many steps towards a Church Vocation. This area: Involves those thinking about a Church Vocation with the parish and others who are also in discernment; Sustains the person who has begun formal preparation and encourages continued growth; Affirms those who are seeking or are already living out a Church Vocation.

### Structure and Membership

- Emphasize communication with parish clergy (especially the pastor) and pastoral council.
- The PVET should be no more than 10 members.
- One member should be the Team Leader, responsible for setting meeting dates and making sure activities are planned and carried out to accomplish the mission of the Team.
- A single Chairperson should represent each of the Areas of Mission.
- Members should consist of a good mix of people from the parish. See Guidelines for ideas.

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### **Goals and Objectives**

The PVET may develop short and long-term objectives related to the goals below based on the needs of the individual parish. The goals and objectives are to be evaluated annually by the Team and may be presented to the pastoral council annually for approval.

For particular goals per Area, see the Guidelines.

### **Focus and Boundries**

The PVET must work within boundaries set by the pastor and pastoral council. They may not "screen" individuals. Once an individual shows serious interest in a clerical or religious vocation, they should be referred to Diocesan Vocations Office.

The focus of the PVET is in promoting and encouraging women and men to discern God's call for their lives. We are not in the business of recruiting or trying to sell someone on the idea of a Church Vocation. We firmly believe that God gives a call, and we must listen and respond.

### **Tips, Activities, Resources**

Can be found in the Guidelines.

### **Quick Resources**

Diocesan Vocation Office - (727) 345-3452 – <https://www.dosp.org/vocations/>

USCCB Vocation Initiative – [ForYourVocation.org](http://ForYourVocation.org)

Vianney Vocations - <https://www.vianneyvocations.com/>

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