

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for November 12 2017

Vocations: It is very good news that our seminary numbers are up. Interest in the priesthood has grown so much that we are looking to expand our seminary capacity. Halleluiah! We need to remember, however, that the seminary is a place of discernment, meaning that those enrolled are praying about priesthood. It is unlikely that all of them will be ordained, and those ordinations are still some years ahead. I do believe that the end of the priest shortage is in sight. I am filled with hope. Continue to pray. I am sure that the very fact that we have been praying so consistently is cause for the success we see. Continue to look for signs of vocations in our young people, both men and women. I have encouraged several to think about priesthood and religious life. Mine, however, are certainly not the only eyes. Also remember that when we pray for vocations, everyone has a vocation. Vocation includes all of the ways we serve. More on that next week...

Readings for next week: Proverbs 31:10-13,16-18,20,26,28-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection: Many would object to the image of a perfect wife serving her husband and children. Some would even denigrate the woman who chooses to dedicate herself to the home for not making better use of her abilities. We might even have found the phrase, "Just a homemaker" on our own lips. It may be that we are simply recognizing that every road to perfection does not lead through the home. A woman's talents and inclinations may take her into many areas of service. It is also possible that the idea of 'woman as servant' has itself become abhorrent. This is a more frightening thought. God gives his gifts freely that we may give freely. To give is to serve. Neither man nor woman has ever received a greater call than the one to service, or a greater blessing than God's own praise, "Well done, my industrious and reliable servant".

1. Evaluate your own performance as a servant to those you love.
2. Name gifts that you have not placed in service to others. Consider ways to do so.

Prayer: Father, we ask your blessing upon all those who have loved and served us in faith. Bless our mothers and fathers and teachers, and all who have taken the time to comfort and hear us. Reward their service, Lord, with a share in your glory.