

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0258 • 916/733-0195

OFFICE OF PRIESTLY &
RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

To: Pastor, Director/Coordinator of Religious Education, Knights of Columbus, Newman Center,
Parish Vocation Committee, Principal, Religious Women and Men, Youth & Young Adult Ministers

From: Fr. Mauricio Hurtado ^{FMH} Director of Vocations Deacon Dan Haverty
Seminarian Formation Coordinator

Date: October 16, 2026

Subject: National Vocation Awareness Week Information

National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated in our country, **November 1-7, 2026**. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation.

The following is the suggested bulletin ad:

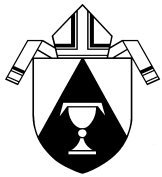
Prayer for National Vocation Awareness Week- November 1-7, 2026:

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen (www.usccb.org)

Please see additional resources enclosed.

Office of Vocations Monthly Calendar: For a monthly calendar with opportunities to promote vocations, please visit: <https://www.scd.org/vocations/events-month>

Thank you for your prayers and support for vocations. If you have any questions, please contact us, or visit our webpage (www.scd.org/vocations).



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0258 • 916/733-0195

OFFICE OF PRIESTLY &
RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Resources for National Vocation Awareness Week:

The following are other tips and ideas for you:

- 1) **Holy Hour for Vocations during National Vocation Awareness Week:** We encourage Parish Vocation Committees to organize a Holy Hour for vocations for the youth at your parish with the support of your pastor. If there is not a Parish Vocation Committee ministry at your parish, we invite the religious education program, youth ministry and/or altar server ministry to consider organizing this event.
- 2) **Rosary for Vocations:** We encourage Parish Vocation Committees or religious education programs and youth ministry to organize a Rosary for Vocations.
- 3) **Priests,** this is an opportunity for you to share your vocation story. Young people love hearing, why you are a priest!
- 4) **Vianney Vocations Bulletin Insert** (enclosed)
- 5) **Prayers of the Faithful:** You may include the following intentions in the prayers of the faithful:
 - For young people in our community that they may respond generously with open hearts and willing spirits if the Lord calls them to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord. (USCCB)
 - For men and women to be open to God's call to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as priests, deacons, or consecrated persons, we pray to the Lord. (USCCB)
 - That, through the intercession of all the saints, the Lord will grant holy men and women of our community vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord. (Serra Spark website)

You may find more resources at:

- USCCB (United State Conference of Catholic Bishops): <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week>
- NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference): <https://www.nrvc.net/national-vocation-awareness-week>
- Vocation Ministry: www.vocationministry.com
- Vianney Vocations: www.vianneyvocations.com

Seminarians from the Diocese of Fall River, MA pray together before the Blessed Sacrament.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



FR. SCOTT BORBA COSMETICS KING ORDAINED A PRIEST

Scott Borba seemed to have everything. As a co-founder of e.l.f. Cosmetics, he helped build a globally successful beauty brand. His career brought wealth, red carpets, television appearances, and a glamorous Hollywood lifestyle. But something was missing.

Scott had actually sensed a call to the priesthood as a boy growing up in a Catholic family in California. At age ten, he believed God was asking him to become a priest—but he resisted. “I am not that guy,” he remembers thinking.



In 2007, Scott Borba published Makeup for Dummies as he worked to build a global skincare brand. In 2021, he left the beauty industry to enter St. Patrick's Seminary in San Francisco and later volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity. In 2026, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fresno, California.

Years later, even extraordinary success could not satisfy him. “I always wanted more,” he told CBS News. “It was never satisfying enough.”

After the death of his father and a period of deep personal struggle, Borba finally surrendered his life to God. One night, overwhelmed by the direction his life had taken, he prayed for God’s help to become the man he had been created to be. That prayer changed everything.

Borba eventually left his former life behind, entered seminary, and was ordained a priest this year. His story offers a powerful reminder: It’s never too late to answer God’s call.



JUBILEE YEAR ✝ of SAINT FRANCIS

800 YEARS OF SAINT FRANCIS

Few saints have transformed the Church quite like St. Francis of Assisi. The son of a wealthy merchant, Francis walked away from comfort, status, and ambition to embrace a startlingly simple vocation: to live the Gospel without compromise. His captivating witness inspired both men and women to embrace radical poverty for the sake of Christ.

Within years, the Franciscan movement swept across Europe, calling the Church back to poverty, joy, prayer, and love of Christ. Eight centuries later, Franciscans still carry the mission of their founder. Yet Francis himself never set out to build a religious movement; he simply said “yes” to God to embrace a radically simple vocation.

OUR BRAND-NEW PRIESTS

ORDINATION INSIGHTS

While the number of active priests in the U.S. continues to decline due to deaths and retirements, annual ordinations have remained relatively steady for the past three decades—generally between 425 and 515 per year. That stability follows a steep decline from the much higher ordination numbers of the 1960s and 1970s.

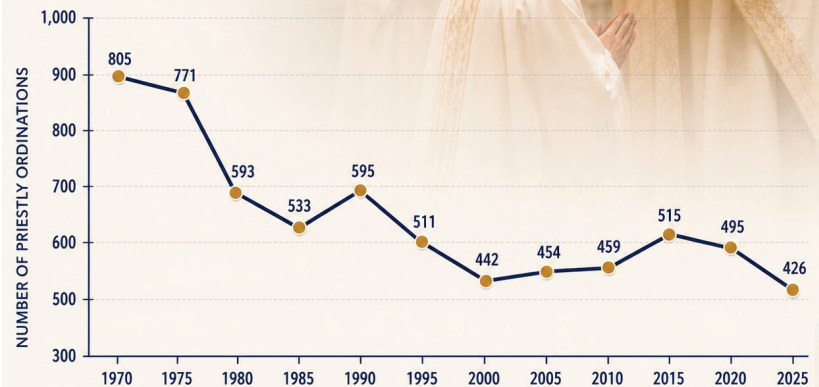
This year's CARA survey of the 2026 ordination class offers a revealing portrait of America's newest priests. On average, they first considered the priesthood at age 16 and were ordained at 33. Nearly half (45%) attended a Catholic elementary school, 38% attended Catholic high school, and 34% attended a Catholic college.

Only 7% were converts to the Catholic faith, with 93% baptized as infants. Interestingly, 28% said they have a relative who is a priest or religious.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

IN THE UNITED STATES

1970-2025



SPECIAL FEATURE: THE INTERSECTION OF SPORTS & VOCATIONS



SHARING THEIR JOY

THE SUPERFAN SISTERS

The San Antonio Spurs may have the NBA's most heavenly cheering section. For more than 20 years, the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco—affectionately known as the “Spurs Nuns”—have worn team jerseys over their habits and cheered from the sidelines. During the 2026 NBA Finals, they even prayed courtside with superstar Victor Wembanyama—and probably prayed for the disappointed fans, as the Spurs went on to lose the finals. For the sisters, basketball is more than fun: their Spurs fandom helps them connect with young people and share the joy of their vocation.

WHITE SOX HONOR POPE LEO

Only in Chicago could a baseball game look like a bishops' conference.

On August 11, nearly 41,000 fans packed Rate Field as the White Sox celebrated their most famous fan: Pope Leo XIV, a Chicago native and lifelong Sox supporter. Fans received black-and-gold “pope hats”—miters emblazoned with the Sox logo—turning the stands into a sea of honorary pontiffs.

Dominican Sister Mary Jo Sobieck threw out the first pitch and the fifth inning featured something rarely seen at a ballpark: a stadium-wide Sign of Peace. The Sox even made a \$14,000 donation to the Midwest Augustinian Province, Pope Leo's religious order.

The White Sox lost to Cincinnati—but with 41,000 popes in attendance, perhaps winning wasn't everything.

