



Fund Development Office
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Dear Friend,

May 2022

After being assigned to a new diocese, a bishop spent part of his first year visiting all the parishes in his care, spending a few days in each one. He met with members of parish organizations and many age groups, listening to their needs. Young adults asked for more young priests and religious sisters with whom they could better relate. Parents asked for more parish-based programs and services for their children of all ages. Elders expressed their concern that the parish not forget their needs either.

The bishop celebrated Mass in each church he visited. During his homily, he shared with the parishioners what he had learned and promised to address their concerns. But he also requested their help. He asked, "Will all parents present today promise me that you will pray that many young men and women of your parish will answer God's call to become priests or religious Brothers and Sisters? If you are willing to pray with me for this need, please raise your hands." Most adults responded enthusiastically and raised their hands high.

"I have one other request of you. How many of you will pray with me that one of your children or grandchildren will be called to religious life?" Very reluctantly, a few raised their hands. The bishop left with a heavy heart. When he visited our convent in the area, he told us that he encountered the same response throughout the diocese. It greatly saddened him.

During his meetings with young adults, the bishop asked them about choosing their vocation. Many agreed that it is a special call from God, and that not all are called; but he reminded them that marriage and the single life are also special vocations. He asked them to pray as earnestly about whether they were being called to marriage or the single life as they would about a religious vocation.

I echo the bishop's invitation to you to pray with our Sisters our daily prayer, "for women and men to accept the joys and challenges of bringing Christ to the world today and to live the consecrated life" (hopefully, as Sisters or Friars of the Atonement!). We know that you value religious life; your ongoing support of our Sisters is certainly proof. You might know of someone who is trying to make the right choice for their life. Would you consider letting them know that you are praying for them? It is important for them to know that others support them in their discernment. We truly appreciate how you support us who have chosen this life, through your contributions and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA
Development Director

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